

Document No. TC-25

**Report of the
Twenty-Fifth Regular Meeting of
CIRDAP Technical Committee**

**26 – 29 July 2009
Tehran, Iran**



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Twenty-Fifth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee

INTRODUCTION

The Twenty-Fifth meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee, (hereinafter referred to as TC-25), was held at Tehran, Iran from 26 to 29 July 2009.

TC members from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) attended the meeting. Professor Dr. Y. Kaida, IRD expert (Japan) and Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Member, CIRDAP Evaluation Committee also attended the meeting. The list of participants of the TC 25 is at Annex 1. Diplomats from Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar based in Tehran attended the inaugural session.

INAUGURAL SESSION

The inaugural ceremony was held at the Second Building of Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Thaleghani Street Tehran, Iran, on Sunday 26th July 2009. His Excellency Dr. Jafar Khaleghani, Deputy Minister, Planning, Economics and International Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran inaugurated the meeting.

While welcoming the delegates of the TC-25, Dr. Khaleghani mentioned that he had a meeting with a delegation of CIRDAP and he became convinced about the importance of CIRDAP's mandate and its critical role in the Asia Pacific Region for the upliftment of the lives of rural masses.

He also spoke about the current development challenges faced by Iran in the areas of agriculture and rural development. He further said that Iran also has many success stories and innovative practices in rural development and agriculture to share with the brethren in CMCs. This distinct knowledge that has to be gathered from West Asia may require the establishment of a CIRDAP sub-regional centre. He also mentioned that Iran has agreed to explore the procedure and process for the establishment of the said Centre in Iran.

Besides, H.E. mentioned that an important CIRDAP training course on “Participatory Techniques for Planning & Management of Rural/Community Development”, which was expected to be held in Iran in May 2009, was postponed. He requested Director General, CIRDAP and the concerned office at the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture to ensure that this training course is held at an early date, with participation of all CIRDAP member countries.

H.E. Dr. Khalaghani also said that development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in CIRDAP Member Countries is one of the high potential areas for rural

development. East and South East Asian countries are well ahead of the South and West Asian Countries in this field. CMCs can share and learn from one another's achievements and experiences. He suggested that CIRDAP may organise a training course on this topic. He pledged the support of the Government of Iran to this event.

Furthermore, he said that the project proposal of CIRDAP for Iran, titled "Reduction of Post Harvest Losses, Improving Storage Methods and Technologies" is an interesting one. Experiences of Iran on reduction of post harvest losses can be shared among the CIRDAP member countries. He also said that his Government may consider financing the Project.

TC-25 meeting is held before an important event, as it precedes the Second Ministerial Meeting of CIRDAP. The outcome of this meeting will certainly be fed into the forthcoming Second Ministerial Meeting in November. H.E. Dr. Khaleghani said that this makes TC-25 task even more challenging and more critical.

Mr Babu Ram Shrestha, Executive Director LDTA and Chairperson of CIRDAP Technical Committee TC-24 expressed his thanks on behalf of CIRDAP technical Committee and on his behalf to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran and Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture for hosting the meeting. He said that during the TC deliberations CLIs could make their views on the important agenda of CIRDAP evaluation report which will be presented and discussed under agenda items. He also said that all major policy issues brought up here could be taken up in the donors and second Ministerial meeting. He requested other members of TC to maintain their support to the center that will always inspire the promotion of existing friendly relations among CMCs.

While welcoming the delegates of the meeting Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP introduced CIRDAP and outlined the recent activities of CIRDAP. He said that there has been sea of changes in rural development policies and programme at national and international level since its inception. Keeping these developments in mind, the Sixteenth Governing Council meeting in Manila in 2007 decided to hold the Second Ministerial Meeting to deliberate on these issues and renew the mandate to CIRDAP.

He also mentioned that he had very fruitful discussions with H.E. Dr. Khaleghani, in which His Excellency mentioned that Iran has a rich body of research knowledge in agriculture and rural development that can be shared with other countries. He gave a very clear vision and commitment to engage more effectively with other countries of the Asia-Pacific region through CIRDAP.

He requested the Technical Committee to give policy recommendations for the next EC and GC. This meeting is even more important to give final shape on several

important policy issues on the future course of action of CIRDAP, as this is the only opportunity to think collectively on the important agenda items to be placed in the Second Ministerial Meeting in January 2010.

Dr. Gholam Hossein Agahaya, Director General of Agricultural and Rural Development Planning and Economic Research Institute (ARDPERI) proposed the vote of thanks. He thanked the Hon'able Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture for sparing time to grace the occasion. He also thanked for choosing Iran for the TC-25 meeting.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Agenda Item-1

Election of Chairperson

- 1.1 After calling TC-25 to order, the TC-24 Chairperson, Mr. Babu Ram Shrestha called for the nomination of the Chairperson for TC-25.

The name of Dr. Gholam Hossein Aghaya was proposed by the delegate from Afghanistan and was seconded by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia and India. Dr. Aghaya Director of Agricultural and Rural Development Planning and Economic Research Institute (ARDPERI), Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of TC-25.

- 1.2 The outgoing Chairperson of TC-24 from Nepal congratulated the new TC Chairperson and wished him success.
- 1.3 The newly elected Chairperson of TC-25 from Iran thanked Nepal for its role during TC 24 period and the delegates for electing him. He requested for their active support during his tenure of office.

Agenda Item-2

Adoption of Agenda and Time Table

- 2.1 TC-25 adopted the programme and agenda, which is at Annex-II.

Agenda Item-3

Follow-up Action on the Suggestions of the 24th Technical Committee Meeting

- 3.1 Special Officer, CIRDAP briefly presented the report on actions taken on the suggestions of TC-24.

3.2 Philippines requested to correct the name of CIRDAP Contact Ministry and Link Institutions in the Philippines as follows:

CIRDAP Contact Ministry: Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);

CIRDAP Link Institution: Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Development (BARBD). This is to be corrected on CIRDAP Website as well.

3.3 Iran said the name of CLI is: Agricultural and Rural Development Planning and Economic Research Institute (ARDPERI)

3.4 Vietnam said that CLI of Vietnam is: Rural Development Center (RUDEC).

3.5 DG, CIRDAP said that CIRDAP has developed specific proposals to engage more effectively in some countries. If these proposals are funded it will be necessary to create separate steering committees consisting of all heads of CLIs for the following:

a) for reconstruction of Afghanistan CLI.

b) for strengthening of national and local institutions for good governance in Pakistan through training, faculty development and exposure visits

3.6 Pakistan Suggested that CIRDAP should send a written proposal regarding establishment of a steering committee and its mandates and tasks to be performed. The proposal so sent will be processed by Pakistan and acceptance or otherwise will be intimated to CIRDAP.

3.7 Nepal said that LDTA intends to develop a website to share the knowledge generated and best practices with CMCs and requested CIRDAP and all CLIs to assist.

3.8 Nepal also said that it is seeking help from NIRD for strengthening LDTA. He also called upon other CLIs to provide training in the areas of strengthening the capacity of its faculties.

3.9 He also proposed that CLIs should help CIRDAP to organise activities. He offered Nepal to undertake one training programme on cost sharing basis. It will bear local expenses while CIRDAP should bear the international travel and technical expenses. In addition, all other CLIs were also requested for the same, so that every CLI shall have good understanding on each others development programmes.

3.10 Nepal mentioned that CIRDAP should also conduct regional research in the following themes:

a) effect of climate change in the Hindu Kush mountain region

b) developing the local government institutions to meet current challenges

- 3.11 Thailand mentioned that currently FAO/IFAD have climate change as one of their priority areas. Therefore CIRDAP may prepare proposals and forward for the consideration to these organisations.
- 3.12 DG, CIRDAP referring to the comments from Thailand mentioned that the approaches adopted by the donors and CIRDAP are quite different. For example, FAO and IFAD have their own regional and country offices through which they implement programme activities. Similarly, they work with NGOs and private consulting firms. However, CIRDAP is always works through government institutions such as CLIs. This is one way of strengthening their capacity.
- 3.13 India welcomed the initiative taken by CIRDAP in IT and explained that the NIRD is in the process of upgrading its existing Website into a GIS enabled National Portal in interactive mode. This will enable the institute to conduct a census and map out a training profile. This will also get hyperlinked to the websites of the networked institutions and associates. The different centres of the NIRD will be allotted their own space on the Portal which they will be using for various purposes including long term evaluation of the courses and creating a two way flow of information. This Portal will develop into the main highway for communication. The NIRD proposes that the CIRDAP and all CLIs could also get hyperlinked through their respective websites into order to expand its reach. (Full Text of Written Submission from India is in Annex-III).
- 3.14 NIRD also has developed disaster mitigation and project monitoring through GIS application at its IT Centre. This can be shared with other CMCs.
- 3.15 Iran mentioned that its intends to facilitate GI System and website networking facilities to be shared by CMCs.
- 3.16 Pakistan appreciated the extensive work done by NIRD in these areas. Pakistan also informed that NCRD is developing a website that will be launched by the end of 2009.
- 3.17 Indonesia mentioned about extensive RD programmes that has been carried out in the country and the experience that can be shared to other CMCs.
- 3.18 Iran referred to the achievement of the country in Rural Development as indicated by significantly improved indicators in rural areas. CIRDAP may assist in taking those successful experiences to CMCs.

Suggestion-1/TC-25

If the projects are funded, it is appropriate to create steering committees consisting Heads of CLIs for (a) facilitating reconstruction and rebuilding of

Afghanistan; (b) Capacity building for national and local level good governance in Pakistan

Suggestion-2/TC-25

All CMCs may explore possibilities to conduct training programmes based on their strength on cost sharing basis.

Suggestion-3/TC-25

CIRDAP should explore possibilities for establishing a GIS section at the ICT Centre of CIRDAP international Conference Centre.

Agenda Item–4

Director General’s Report on CIRDAP Activities

- 4.1 Director General CIRDAP presented a summary-report of activities of CIRDAP.
- 4.2 Afghanistan referring to their low participation in CIRDAP’s training programme, mentioned that, until Nov. 2007 there was no institution designated as CLI in Afghanistan. Similarly, Afghanistan participants also have to face many difficulties in obtaining visa as most of the CMCs do not have embassies in Afghanistan.
- 4.3 Pakistan said that CIRDAP may consider to organise an exclusive training of trainers (TOT) for CLIs faculty to develop their capacity.
- 4.4 Thailand mentioned that some of Thai participants had difficulties in getting reimbursed the cost of air tickets they have purchased to participate in CIRDAP training programmes, when the programmes were cancelled. Such experience might have discouraged many potential Thai participants to attend CIRDAP programme. Thailand also said that CIRDAP send details of training programmes early to facilitate selection of suitable candidates.
- 4.5 Philippines mentioned all training programmes should be followed up with an impact assessment and feed back. This could be utilised for improvement of such programmes by identifying the training needs etc.
- 4.6 Philippines also mentioned that CIRDAP should prepare a directory to tap training resource personnel in CLIs that could be utilised for its programmes. CIRDAP website should be made an interactive platform for web based learning/training programmes to share knowledge and experience among CLIs. Pilot Project Division also could use Philippines experience in Participatory Approach in Community Development.

- 4.7 Indonesia mentioned that CIRDP should request training participants to prepare an Action Plan as a follow up of implementation of the training they received when they go back to their countries.
- 4.8 Nepal said that pilot projects division may be renamed as Action Research Division as it may serve not only for problem solution but also on how to deliver results.
- 4.9 LDTA is a government autonomous organisation hence in order to avoid confusion and overlapping whenever nominations are called for Training of trainers, CIRDP may send them directly to LDTA.
- 4.10 Sri Lanka mentioned that Agri-business may be considered as an important area for training. This training programme may cover supply chain management, agri-business management and agro-entrepreneur development.
- 4.11 Prof. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, member CEC, CIRDP said that one of the main task of CIRDP should be to rebuild its image. CIRDP activities and outputs should be made easily available in the public domain. He also said that there is a need for training impact assessments, transparency in participant selection, balancing of resources and accountability etc. More interaction among CIRDP programme divisions could add to the vibrancy of the organisation. Since Action Research Division remain little inactive for some time, it should gear up with some activity.
- 4.12 India also explained that CIRDP needs to deepen its engagement with its members and prospective member countries in a more compulsive mode. It needs to conduct a complete Training Need Assessment, Research Need Assessment and need profiling individually for each country. Even the countries which have overcome their poverty may still have areas where they need to engage further with CIRDP. This will bring greater value to the endeavour of CIRDP consolidating its engagement with the existing clientele and enhancement of its base.
- 4.13 Iran expressed willingness for a collaborative action research programme with CIRDP.

Suggestion-4/TC-25

CIRDP, in collaboration with AIRD, should design a broad action plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development.

Suggestion-5/TC-25

Pakistan suggested that CIRDAP should design a special Training of Trainers in HRD for CLIs faculties.

Suggestion-6/TC-25

CIRDAP Training programme requires to be followed up with an impact assessment to ascertain impact of the training and to improve future training programmes.

Suggestion-7/TC-25

A directory of resource persons with specialisation available in the CMS should be prepared.

Suggestion-8/TC-25

CIRDAP web-site should be made more interactive.

Suggestion-9/TC-25

Agricultural products marketing and Agri-Business may be one of the priority areas for training and research.

Suggestion-10/TC-25

CIRDAP output should be made available on public domain.

Agenda Item–5**Discussion on the Programme Activities of
CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs)**

- 5.1. The Chairperson requested the honorable delegates to make brief presentation on the activities of their respective CLIs. Accordingly, the 14 member country delegates attending the TC-25 meeting presented the programme activity reports of the CLIs. The summary of country papers presented are as follows:

AFGHANISTAN**Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD)**

According to Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Strategy of ANDS Comprehensive Rural Development (CRD) has been prioritized as a core approach toward socio-economic development. It is a multi-sectoral approach which not only includes economic change, but also requires development of human resources and social structure. Effective implementation of CRD requires

intensive research activities and training to wide ranges of institutions from local level to various categories of government and non government institutions.

MRRD as leading ministry in executing CRD has realized the importance of learning institution to provide support in both areas; training and education to stakeholders as well as research activities and policy inputs in rural development issues to policy makers in Afghanistan. Therefore, in line of MRRD mandate the Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) has been established to fulfill these gaps. In January 2007, AIRD become the link institute of CIRDP (Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific) in Afghanistan. There are three sections in AIRD:

Training and Education

The objective of training and education programme is to enhance the professional capacity of MRRD's officials and empower local Governance Institutions in implementation of CRD programmes with special focus on (a) Rural Development Planning, (b) Rural governance and (c) Rural Development Management. The target groups for the training programmes are social workers (two persons per districts) and the 38000 Community Development Councils members.

Research and policy

The rural development and poverty alleviation programmes are implemented by several ministries of the government, NGOs, civil societies and private sectors. But it is difficult to understand holistically the achievements and issues of this programmes. Because there is no comprehensive mechanism for knowledge generation, policy coordination and political support at national level. Therefore, the objective of Research and Policy unit of AIRD to plan and execute comprehensive studies and research on rural development issues to guide MRRD to review its strategy towards the rural development in Afghanistan. The beneficiaries of research and policy units are government policy makers, donor agencies, national and international institutes.

Publication and Information dissemination

Providing information is the key input in the planning of rural development programmes. AIRD will play a key role in the provision and dissemination of information to the rural development stakeholders at grassroots national and regional levels. The objective of this unit is to promote the dissemination of research finding and the report of MRRD's programmes, CRD and poverty alleviation at national and international levels.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), the link institute of CIRDP in Bangladesh, is a national organization under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. Its nature of work is purely academic. Research, Action Research and training are its three major functions.

In 2008-09, BARD undertook 25 researchers to address issues mentioned in Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), Millennium Development goals (MDGs) and Rural Development Strategy of the Government.

Among the Action Research, the Comilla Model or Comilla Approach to Rural Development has brought about tangible positive changes in the rural scenario of Bangladesh. Among the research achievements in action research are:

- (i) The Comprehensive Village Development (CVDP) Model accepted by the Government is being replicated under the first phase (2005-09) in 21 Upazilas (Sub-districts). Under the next phase (2009-14) this is to be expanded to 61 Upazilas.
- (ii) BARD tested a model of channeling micro-credit to small farmer and landless people through national commercial banks during 1976-2006. It proved very effective in generating employment and income in both on farm and off farm sectors. On the basis of it, Government has established Small Farmers Development Foundation (SFDF).
- (iii) BARD in collaboration with international Development Research Centre (IDRC), and Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS), Philippines, has experimented a Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS) with view to devising and developing a poverty monitoring system at local levels by involving local government and other stakeholders.

The clientele list of BARD training activities ranges from the high level officials of national and international organizations to grassroots level beneficiaries. BARD regularly conducts Rural Development Attachment Programme for civil servants of all cadres, and Foundation Training Courses for Bangladesh Civil Service (Health Cadres) officials, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Engineers and Agricultural Scientists under national Agricultural Research System (NARS). The academy organizes, on an average, 150-180 courses for around 6000 participants a year.

Among the areas identified for future interventions by BARD are: efficient use of biomass as 'compost' and 'biogas', entrepreneurs development in agro-industry; and agricultural products marketing.

LAO PDR

Extension Projects under the National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

The policy of Agriculture and Forestry Sector

In July 2006 the Eighth Party Congress introduced new development strategies covering 11 priority programmes and 111 projects within which the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) elaborated a policy framework of 4 Key Goals and 13 Measures for the agriculture and forestry sector. The four goals are: (1) Food production and security; (2) Commodity production; (3) Stabilization of shifting cultivation; and (4) Sustainable forest management.

The agricultural policy thus tends to support in the best possible way, and according to the best priority sequence, farmers livelihood approaches which aim at achieving household and commodity food security, as well as channeling the available land and capital resources into livestock, fisheries and diversified cash crop farming system, according to market demand.

Organizational Set-up

According to administrative line of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service (NAFES) is established as an implementing institution, the same as the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI).

Roles and Duties of NAFES

The National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service (NAFES) focal roles are management and implementation of the extension service and information management to ensure that lessons learnt /success from research lead to an effective implementation in village clusters across the country.

The Lao Extension Approach (LEA)

The NAFES has developed the Lao Extension Approach (LEA) for implementing the extension activities related to the agriculture and forestry sector and was officially recognized by the Government as a consolidated national approach to extension in September 2005.

The Lao Extension Approach is focusing on the staff into the grassroots, participatory system, multi-party relation and ensure sustainability through setting up production groups and on-the-job training and non-discrimination of village development groups, village, production groups, farming households and gender.

Internalization of Community Support Programme (CSP) into the LEA

In the past, there were lots of government funded projects, donor-supported project and loan projects who adapted the Lao Extension Approach to the specific circumstances and conditions of their projects and have the system widely used across the country.

Outcomes of the practical implementation of CSP in the six provinces, nine districts and 34 target village in the northern area has shown that the basic principles of CSP have relevance to the ones of Lao Extension Approach or LEA.

According to the mind shift above, the development of the LEA is still in process. Through the implementation of the projects subordinated under NAFES, besides of the Lao Extension for Agriculture Project (LEAP) that develop extension system in Lao, extension methodology and approach in other fields have also been developed i.e. for poverty alleviation, shifting cultivation stabilization, food security, Commodity production, forest management, and rural development.

MALAYSIA

The Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA)

The Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA) was established in 1996 under the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia. It is a training and research institution that bridges the gap between the world of academic studies and development practitioners or implementers. It is also the Malaysian international centre for research and training in non-formal education and rural management programmes. Accordingly, INFRA's programmes and activities are focused on management of rural development.

INFRA's programmes activities are divided into three (3) main areas which are:

Local Training Programme

Local training programme consist of courses targeted to the local grass root leaders. These courses are in the field of leadership, rural management, human development, information technology, and training of trainers. As at June 2009, INFRA has conducted a total of 106 series of courses with the participation of 4,933 grass root leaders throughout Malaysia.

Village Action Plan

- a. Since 2007, INFRA has reviewed the various approaches applied to the target groups. From studies and questionnaires conducted, it was found that the formal classroom approach was not the most effective. To address this issue, INFRA has introduced a new module called Village Action Plan. This module applies the bottom up approach in village development planning.
- b. The Village Action Plan envisions empowerment as an alternative approach towards development. It emphasizes the provision of autonomy to enable local communities to make their own decisions, transforming them into independent segments of society, democratizing participation and advocating bottom up approach.
- c. Empowerment in the preparation of the Village Action Plan means giving the villagers the autonomy to draw up their own village development plans. Village representatives will utilize their experience and expertise to implement what they have planned. This plan will be the development plan for the village for the next 3-5 years. The village leaders will then submit these plans to the respective government agencies at the District, State, and Federal level for further action.

International Training Programme

INFRA's participation in providing training under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme started since 1998. Since its implementation in 1998, INFRA has implemented 22 series of training courses which involved 511 international participants.

Research Programme

Apart from the training programmes, INFRA also gives focus on researches in the area of rural development. In line with our mission to be Malaysia's international reference center, our research team conducts a number of activities which includes:

- Conduct in house researches in the field of rural development poverty programme implemented by ministry;
- Collaborate with local universities to carry out impact study on the execution of rural development policies; and
- Analyze feedback and training impact through which action will be taken to improve the effectiveness of INFRA's training programme

Conclusion

Apart from its role in providing training to the local grass root leaders, INFRA is keen to share the experience of Malaysia in developing the rural areas with other developing countries. INFRA believe that the shared knowledge will be beneficial to all parties involved.

MYANMAR

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

This paper describes the present agriculture and rural development activities especially for the emphasis on the implementation of agriculture and rural development programmes which are being initiated from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The Government of Myanmar, while taking measures to establish a stable macro-economic environment has also been cognizant that rural development depends on education, health as well as other infrastructure development and thus has put special emphasis on those areas.

Being a national economy of Myanmar is mainly based on agriculture sector in which majority of rural people are highly engaged for their livelihood in this respect, Government of Myanmar has given agriculture sector as a top priority by laying down effective policies and strategies over the time.

Moreover, the main objective of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is to increase of crop production. And also Ministry has planned for the targeted yields of ten principal crops such as paddy, sugarcane, long staple cotton, maize, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, black gram, green gram, and pigeon pea to fulfill the said objective.

Furthermore, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has already formed a Rural Development Supporting Committee in November 2008 with the objectives of poverty alleviation, improvement of livelihoods, socio-economic development and improved living standard of the rural people through increasing their crop productivity.

Moreover, in community level has already formed water user group, land utilization group and farmer participation group such as 10 members group (called *Sele Su*) and 5 members group (called *Nga U Su*) to effective management for the implementation of their farming and increase crop production.

In this effort, during the last two decades, total net sown area in Myanmar has increased from 7.89 million hectares in 1988-89 to 11.87 million hectare in 2008-09. For practicing the multiple cropping systems, the cropping intensity has increased from 120% in 1988-89 to 171% in 2008-09.

Moreover, sufficient water utilization throughout the year is also necessary to increase the cropping intensity. Similarly, the irrigation infrastructures have increased from 138 in 1988-89 to 223 dams and reservoirs in June 2009. During the same period a total of 322 pumping stations have been established and water supply for an irrigable area of 0.19 million hectares provided.

Increased cropping intensity has in turn, led to an increasing reliance of machinery in agriculture from land preparation to harvesting and drying. The farm machinery factories under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation established since the early 90s, continue producing and are striving to meet the expanding demands of farm machinery.

Development of agriculture research; improvement of the agricultural technology and technical skill of extension personnel; and dissemination of the technical know-how to farmers remain essential for sustainable development of agriculture. Department of Agriculture Research is the only research institution in the Ministry. The research work at the department is fully oriented to increase crop production.

NEPAL

Local Development Training Academy (LDTA)

History of this Academy is traced back to 1952 A.D. In that year, a Rural Institute was set up with a view to developing rural development oriented extension workers to initiate and implement development activities under Tribhuvan Rural Development Programme. This programme could be considered as the first integrated development approach used in Nepal.

From 1960-1986, eleven training centers on the regional basis emerged under the fold of a Development Board with the main objective of strengthening the then local government institutions and supporting rural, urban and women development programmes through training as well as research activities.

From among those eleven training centres, LDTA thus emerged as an autonomous institution in 1993 with the aim of promoting local development by enhancing managerial and administrative capabilities of local institutions (governments) such as Village Development Committees (VDCs), Municipalities and District Development Committees (DDCs) .

Local Development Training Academy (*An Institution for Capacity Building*) Established as an autonomous institution in 1993 under special Act with the aim of promoting Local Development through the enhancement of managerial and administrative capability of Local Bodies and other Local Development Organizations.

Goals

In line with the mission, LDTA has set three fold Goals:

- Effective and efficient service delivery system ensured at the local level by rendering training and consultancy services.
- Conducive Policies (Re) Formulated in the areas of local-self governance through research feedbacks.
- National and International level Knowledge and Experiences shared on Local Self-Governance.

Objectives

- Leadership and Managerial Capabilities of Local Representatives enhanced.
- Managerial Capabilities of the employees of local authorities upgraded.
- Quality of training through training needs assessment improved.
- Timely feedbacks on the performance of local authorities provided.
- Continuous feedbacks on the Local Problems and Potentials provided.
- Regular information on the concurrent issues of Local Governance disseminated.

PAKISTAN

Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration

Generally known as National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD), is an apex institution under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. It was established in 1979 and became functional in 1983. It was renamed in 2000 as Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration (AHKNCRD&MA) to honor Mr. Akhtar Hameed Khan for his selfless devotion to the cause of Rural Development in Karachi and Comilla.

Charter/Objectives

- Training of mid level officials/ functionaries of nation building departments
- Training of local government trainers
- Special focus on orientation Training Courses

- Assistance to local government and rural development training institutions in curriculum planning and training programmes.
- Liaison with national and international organizations & NGOs in the fields of training and research, environment, local government, rural development & municipal issues.
- Training of elected representatives of local bodies.
- Research programmes mainly on the following themes:
 - Human Resource Development.
 - Role of NGOs in Socio-Economic Development.
 - Integration of Environmental Concern in development
 - Gender & Development Issues.
- Rural Poverty Alleviation through Micro Finance.
- Management of Rural Development Projects.
- Project Proposal Writing.
- Monitoring & Evaluation of Projects.
- Local Government System- Issues & Problems
- Role of lady Councillors in development.
- Role of CCBs at gross root level.
- Library Management Skills.

Focus of Training

- Local Government System
- Training Methodology
- Project Planning and Management
- Micro Entrepreneurship
- Human Resource Management
- Poverty Alleviation through Micro Finance
- Women Empowerment

PHILIPPINES

Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development [BARBD]

Department of Agrarian Reform [DAR]

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) was instituted as a social justice programme strategy that aims to eradicate poverty in the countryside. The Department of Agrarian Reform, the lead agency in the CARP

implementation, adopted the Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) development framework that envisions for a better quality of life of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). An ARC is a barangay at the minimum or a cluster of contiguous barangays¹ where there is a critical mass of farmers and farm workers awaiting the full implementation of agrarian reform (BARBD, undated). Under the ARC development framework, provision of basic social services (BSS) is one of the key components.

To intensify programme operationalization, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) issued Memorandum Circular No. 6 series of 2006 otherwise known as “Implementing Guidelines on community-based Basic Social Services Systems Development through Participatory Governance in Agrarian Reform Areas (ARAs)”. This policy framework defines DAR’s scope and limitations in facilitating the provision of BSS interventions while enhancing BSS-related collaborative efforts at the community level with concerned stakeholders. Thus, health and nutrition, potable water supply and sanitation, housing, lifelong learning, and alternative energy source were identified as priority focus for BSS interventions.

The Community-Managed Potable Water Supply and Sanitation (CPWASH) project was introduced as one of the mechanisms to raise ARBs’ awareness and appreciation on the relationship of water, health and poverty as they are closely linked to each other. Water influences health through direct consumption for drinking, sanitation and for its use in food and nutrition in the households. Good human health and environmental health contributes to poverty reduction and vice versa, with water being a key element to both. Poverty causes natural resources degradation, influencing environmental health, which in turn creates more poverty. The sanitation aspect of the project is based on ecological sanitation (ECOSAN) approaches, wherein alternative technologies for conventional sewage disposal systems are adopted to ensure ecologically and economically sound sanitation systems.

The project generally aims to enhance ARB households’ access to potable water and sanitation services by improving the water supply and sanitation situation in AR communities through low-cost, culturally acceptable and appropriate technologies that can be managed and sustained as an enterprise by the community.

Specifically, the project endeavors to achieve the following:

¹ Barangay is the smallest administrative division in the Philippines composed of around 50 to one hundred families historically. See the web.

- Install low-cost water supply technology and sanitation systems that address the ARBs requirements in four ARCs;
- Demonstrate that pro-poor and low-cost technologies will provide ARB households access to safe drinking water supply and sanitation which would eventually enhance local livelihoods in the area.
- Influence LGUs to support WASH by prioritizing the establishment of infrastructure for the delivery of basic sanitation and safe water in 10 project sites through provision of counterpart funds for the project and provision of technical support for the sustainable use of the facilities.
- Capacitate selected officers/members of CBOs, DAR and LGU staff through coaching/mentoring and other forms of capacity building activities for sustainable operation and maintenance of the PWSS facilities and ably manage it as one of the community-based enterprises.
- Document the project processes, learning and insights for possible adoption of the model in other ARCs in greatest need of potable water supply and sanitation services.

Consistent with the DAR's BSS operational framework which promotes partnership building/collaborative implementation of BSS, the technical expertise of Philippines Centre for Water and Sanitation (an NGO) and participation of selected local government units (LGUs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the project areas were tapped. Its intent was to reinforce local capacity building and maximize resource utilization at the community level towards improved ARB households access to basic services.

Unlike the usual mode of basic social services provision, the project was conceptualized to be managed by the community through the partner CBO as an enterprise. This has been emphasized since the project was introduced to the prospective partners, such as the community and the LGU. Community participation is highly encouraged in the whole process of project implementation. As such, the project processes integrate approaches, such as, participatory water resource inventory, community identification of PWSS technologies based on their needs and requirements and hands-on construction of the facilities, among others, that will facilitate transfer of technology to the beneficiaries.

SRI LANKA

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI)

Established in 1972, the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) is mandated to undertake, coordinate and foster socio-economic research in the agrarian and rural development sectors. HARTI commenced 29 research studies in 2008, out of them 12 studies have been completed in 2008. Up to June 2009, 03 research studies were completed.

Major Activities 2008 - 09

Selected programmes are shown under the categories of evaluation research, action research, policy research and exploratory research.

(A) *Evaluation Research*

- (i) *Evaluation of the National food Production Drive*: The present government is launching an island wide food production drive under the theme of "Let us grow and build the country" for a three year period from 2008-2010.

The evaluation was carried out for three major components: increased home garden, cultivation of abandoned paddy lands and promotion of organic fertilizer use.

- (ii) *Assessment of Runoff Rainwater Harvesting Intervention in Sri Lanka*: The objective of the study was to assess the intervention and performance of the existing Runoff Rainwater Harvesting (RRWH) systems considering the increasing water scarcity in the dry areas in order to use the RRWH system as a tool to minimise the effect of drought disaster.

(B) *Action Research – Farm village development programme*

The purpose of this activity is to translate the recommendations made in various studies carried out by HARTI to actions. The specific objectives are to 1) promote use of available resources in the village to increase productivity, income and employment of the people, 2) examine better methods and mechanisms to mobilize people for more productive economic activities, 3) promote involvement of women in economic activities, 4) investigate for establishing a sustainable area-based organizational mechanism to take responsibility for planning, implementing and monitoring and 5) evaluate the development activities, coordinate and build linkages between village and outside. At the outset an action programme was prepared with the participation of the village people.

(C) Policy research

Evaluation of the Fertilizer Subsidy Policy in the Paddy Sector: In 2006, the Government of Sri Lanka introduced a new scheme for fertilizer subsidy for paddy sector which consumes nearly 50 percent of the chemical fertilizer. Under the new scheme the quantity of fertilizer is limited to the fertilizer recommendations made by the Department of Agriculture and eligible farmers are limited to those who have less than 5 acres. A study was carried out to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the new scheme.

(D) Exploratory research

Food habit changes in Sri Lanka: The present government removed the wheat subsidy and hence prices of wheat flour and wheat flour based products increased. For the first time in 2007, the wheat flour price went up beyond the rice price. In this context, a study was undertaken to examine the current food consumption patterns of different communities in Sri Lanka.

(E) Marketing Intelligence and Food Information Project

Sri Lanka entered the open economy in 1977. With this change one of the major roles of the government is monitoring the market operations. The HARTI was assigned to undertake this task. The Institute established a market research unit (Later it was renamed as Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness division) in 1979 with the technical and financial assistance from the USAID and in 1993, it further strengthened its activities with the technical and financial assistance from the UNDP.

(F) Training Programme for capacity building

Human Resources and Institutional Development Division of the Institute undertakes training activities. There are two training programmes: Marketing extension for extension staff and Participatory Rural appraisal (PRA) for planners.

(G) Identification of new ideas/projects for future collaboration with CIRDAP

- Development of rain-fed farming
- Agribusiness development
- Improvement of production and marketing efficiency
- Enhancement of rural incomes through profitable cropping and farming systems
- Farm household income survey

- Mapping of Groundwater
- Ecotourism

VIETNAM

Rural Development Centre (RUDEC)

In view of the tough challenges faced when Vietnam gradually integrates into the world market, it is necessary for rural stakeholders as well as policy makers to pay more attention to key issues like poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood for rural inhabitants, productivity and quality improvement for agricultural products, etc.

To meet the increasing demand of the rural stakeholders and policy makers for a prestigious partner in rural development, the Rural Development Centre (RUDEC) was established in 2006 as part of Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD). It has the following objectives:

- Sticking close on localities to catch policy demand of rural stakeholders and together pilot models for rural development commodities, and institutions, etc;
- And providing consultancy on policy and strategy for the Communist Party and the State, the government, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;

Together with an interdisciplinary and professional research-development team, the Centre wants to bring sustainable development to Vietnamese agriculture and rural development.

The functions of Rural Development Center include research on rural development, application, information, training, consultancy and transferring rural development technology as well as performing self-control and self-responsible operation mechanism of an independent non-productive scientific unit. It has many challenges in the policy sphere. They are as follows:

Challenges in national rural development policies

- Lack of fair preferential for different investors to rural areas, particularly the private sector in investment policies as well as unclear boundary of areas having preferential policies. Presently, the preferential areas are often identified as disadvantaged and/ or mountainous areas while they should include other rural areas, particularly poor areas in the delta.
- Whether the support hit the right target of the poor's difficulties and bring equal preferential to different groups of the poor and poor communes or not; whether resource allocation and approaches are appropriate or not; whether

life quality of the households has significant changes or not; whether rural people have better access to public services or not.

- The land policies have not well settled the land relationship/ ownership in rural areas. There are several limitations like a lack of protective regime for agricultural land, redundancy of agricultural labour. Questions need to be answered are: What land policies can facilitate agricultural development effectively and sustain ably; What solutions can help diversifying agricultural production; What administrative interventions of local authorities are; How the land and labour market are fragmented; How land safety can be ensured and whether there is a land market or not, etc.

Challenges in local rural development policies

- Local rural development policies often overlap each other. There is a lack of a coordinator body in rural development. The provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) pay attention mostly to agricultural production (90% of its activities aim at agriculture).
- Unequal investment policy for rural areas: Most of the funds are invested in rural infrastructure while investments for science, technology and economic development are limited; most of the investments is for agriculture while investment for aquaculture and salt production remain limited, etc.
- Difficulties in policy implementation due to land and planning issues have great influences on investment and economic development decision of local people
- It is necessary to have policies to create livelihood and employment for farmers who lost their production land to the urbanization process.
- The beneficiaries do not have active role in management and monitoring the implementation of rural development policies. They are only received the information top-down and do not take part in policy discussion and make contribution to the policy implementation.
- Consequently, it is necessary to have appropriate policy research to meet the new demands and solve above mentioned problems.

Research programme for developing theoretical and practical foundations to propose rural development policies

In order to meet the programme objectives, we focused on identifying and clarifying the following contents:

- Study the major contents of rural development policy theory and different opinion of rural development
- Study international experience on rural development policies (policies of Japan, Korea, China and some European countries like France and the Netherlands) in the industrialization process and experience lesson for Vietnam
- Synthesis and analysis of the national policies during the last five years including the land policies, financial policies, poverty alleviation policies, etc. and the national rural development programmes and projects like Programme 135, Programme 134, etc.
- Description of present condition of Vietnamese rural areas and an overview picture of: i) rural economic activities of different areas (rural economic structure, agricultural economic structure) and agricultural commodity chains over the country; ii) rural household economy (rural household economic structure, types of rural households, farm development trend, households' accessibility to services); iii) rural inhabitants' life (income, poverty, living condition, employment and contribution of rural people); iv) organization, resources and activities of commune's governmental system; v) basic information of rural infrastructure
- Development of rural development policy proposal via the Agriculture, Farmer and Rural area project

INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN and THAILAND made PowerPoint presentations

Comments:

- 5.2. The CLI reports covered the vision, mission and activities of the respective institutions. The common points raised were as follows:
- A close linkage between CIRDAP and CLIs needs to be established. IT technology can be used to exchange ideas and knowledge. It should be more interactive.
 - Disseminate the good practices and training modules.
 - Capacity development of professionals of CLIs is urgently needed.
 - Conducting research and training needs assessment of CLIs.
 - Enhance regional cooperation on several new areas such as climate change, rural sanitation, pandemic disease, rural energy, water resources and so on.

- Regional level research programmes should be conducted through CIRDAP. The Research Division should be strengthened.
 - Donors should be encouraged to help capacity building of the national RD institutions.
- 5.3. Afghanistan enquired about the rural development indicators developed by the Philippines and its possible use by other CMCs. The delegate also asked about the utilisation of NGOs for capacity building in agrarian community development programme with out utilising local government institutions.
- 5.4. The Philippines responded by saying that agrarian community level development assessment (ALDA) has 6 major components, that is land tenure improvement, organisation maturity, farmer income improvement, infrastructure, gender development and basic social amenities. She said in the Philippine context it serves the purpose. With regard to NGOs for capacity development she said that the project areas are situated in remote areas where government services cannot penetrate. Under the circumstances only NGOs are willing to work there.
- 5.5. DG CIRDAP said CIRDAP tried to replicate ALDA model in Bangladesh but it failed. It appears that this require further research. If all the CLIs are interested and donors are willing to fund that could be carried out.
- 5.6. TC-25 appreciated the valuable contributions made by CLIs. The chairperson said that he was deeply impressed by the country reports. They contained practical approaches and models introduced by the member states on rural development and poverty alleviation. They also provided a common ground for exchange of experiences and pooling of our efforts. He said that some of the programmes presented in the country reports where not literally CIRDAP programme activity, but this is not a weakness, rather strength and a considerable potential, which should be capitalised upon. He requested CIRDAP secretariat to suggest how best this can be achieved.

He opined that to ensure commonality of goals and approach of such national initiatives with those of CIRDAP programmes, as rightly mentioned by Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahamed, a regional rural Development monitoring system be set up in the context of CIRDAP. This may help CIRDAP and its member countries be continuously abreast of the mandates and performance of the member countries. Such a system may also help the member countries learn from the available experience in a more effective manner.

To further enrich the country reports in the future meetings, the secretariat should prepare uniform format and annotated outline for country reports and circulate to the member states well before the meeting, he said.

Suggestion-11-TC-25

Rural Development (RD) and Poverty Alleviation (PA) policies are broad and multi-disciplinary policies. Therefore they need professional services such as developing operational guidelines, training the functionaries, monitoring progress and feedback to the policy makers for their good implementation. Therefore, strengthening national level rural development institutions, which are the CLIs of CIRDAP, should get the priority attention and adequate resources from the government.

Suggestion-12-TC-25

The government may also request donors to join hands with the government to strengthen CLIs at the national level and CIRDAP at the regional level in order to provide better services to RD and PA policies.

Suggestion-13-TC-25

Some countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, among others, are undertaking a massive policy restructuring. They require special attention and support from other CMCs.

Agenda Item–6

**Presentation by IRD Expert:
CIRDAP Evaluation Report 2008**

- 6.1 Prof. Kaida presented the background, methodologies, objectives, mission, findings, recommendations of CIRDAP Evaluation Report.
- 6.2 DG, CIRDAP said that engagement of CIRDAP in Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation could be made if it is supported by CMCs. If donors are dissatisfied with their results of the interventions in development activities, CMCs and donors should join in hand to develop CLIs. This way CIRDAP could become the convergence point between donors and CMCs.
- 6.3 DG, CIRDAP further said that CIRDAP approach in multi-county research is by engaging CLIs, where as this is not so with donors. They prefer to work with

- private consulting firms and NGOs. But ultimately their report may remain unutilized by the concerned department of the government. That is why we are requesting donors to join with government for strengthening CLIs and CIRDAP Secretariat.
- 6.4 Pakistan opined that several criteria has to be fulfilled if regional organisation is to be successful. It requires effective implementation of approved plans, it should be self sufficient financially and have funds and have efficient net working.
- 6.5 Nepal said that valuable recommendations have been made by CEC to make CIRDAP a vibrant organisation. He queried whether CIRDAP is a research and training institutions or facilitating intuitions?
- 6.6 Philippines said that main consideration of TC-25 is to agree on the vision and mission of CIRDAP which will determine the kind of organisation it would assume in the next five year period. Philippines also pointed that the mission and vision of CIRDAP needs to be agreed upon by CMCs.
- 6.7 Malaysia takes note and wishes to thank the CEC and CIRDAP for following through the task laid down by the GC-16 in Manila on establishing the CIRDAP Evaluation Committee.
- (a) The CEC has done a commendable task put upon them but it was regrettable that the initial proposal to have the FAO and IFAD in the CEC did not materialize. Their input would have been invaluable.
- (b) In principle, Malaysia agrees to the proposal put forth by the CEC related to its Vision, Mission and Objectives, structural set-up, the more comprehensive role to be played by the Technical Committee (TC) as a country liaison on specific programmes and activities of CIRDAP, and strengthening CIRDAP, both professionally and financially. Malaysia also supports for CIRDAP
- (i) To realign itself with contemporary issues related to RD & PA;
- (ii) To make best use of the existing institutional linkages and networking as well develop new ones;
- (iii) To play a more aggressive role as the 'spokesman' for CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). Whilst CMCs can be faced with different priorities and commitments, CIRDAP can be more focused on the issue of RD & PA i.e. at the regional cooperation level;
- (iv) Strengthen CIRDAP's ICT capabilities, though incrementally.
- (c) However, on the proposal for the establishment of SOCWA, this has to be studied carefully and should only be considered on a more serious note once

CIRDAP situation is strengthened. With the current limited resources, it may be unwise to spread it even more thinly, even though the proposal involves a block grant from Tehran.

- 6.8 India suggested that the CLIs continue to be principal agents of CIRDAP and there should be sufficient space allowed to them to grow in this bi-lateral relationship. There should be no competition with the CLIs and the relationship needs to be nurtured with long term goals so as to create a win- win situation.

India suggested that in many countries CIRDAP needs to engage with other agencies. This should, however, be with consent of the CLI and should be devolution of tripartite relationship.

India suggested creation of a Corpus Fund for CIRDAP. This Corpus Fund should have its own Rules and should be operated with the consent of the EC. Proposal for creation of the Corpus Fund should be brought before the EC/GC as a part of the review process.

- 6.9 Nepal suggested that CIRDAP should be developed as the networking organisation.

Suggestion-14/TC-25

CMCs should actively support by joining hand with donors to strengthen CLIs.

Suggestion-15/TC-25

CIRDAP should device differential strategies to work with different CMCs.

Suggestion-16/TC-25

Pakistan suggested that CIRDAP should be developed as more proactive, vibrant organization with elaborate networking with CLIs.

Suggestion-17/TC-25

India suggested that there should be an action plan for implementation of the recommendations. For generating resources donor should be convinced. At the same time possibility for Corpus Fund/Endowment Fund should also be explored.

Suggestion-18/TC-25

CIRDAP should develop an operation strategy to implement CEC recommendations.

Suggestion-19/TC-25

CLI has been changed in some countries such as Iran, Philippines and Vietnam. Delegates are suggested to inform CIRDAP officially by the appropriate authority.

Agenda Item-7
Operationalisation of CIRDAP Evaluation Report-2008:

7(a) Management Capacity Building of CIRDAP Secretariat;

7(a).1 Mr. Shahadat Hossain, Finance Officer CIRDAP, presented the Agenda which was to review the Management Capacity of CIRDAP.

7(a).2 Seven presentations from CIRDAP Secretariat were made under this agenda. Before the presentation, Bangladesh raised a point of issue that since the CEC Report is a draft, whether operational strategy should be discussed and recommendations be drawn at this stage. He suggested that it would be better to constitute a sub-committee by the TC to study and examine the report before operational issues are discussed.

7(a).3 Pakistan had a different opinion to the point raised by Bangladesh saying that there is no need to appoint a sub –committee to examine the Report. It had already been examined and written comments were sent by Pakistan. In any case it was a draft report for GC to adopt. As such the draft report may be discussed and approved for adoption by GC in January 2010.

7(a).4 DG, CIRDAP informed that the CEC Report was presented to the members of GC/ EC, which has constituted the CEC, at Malaysia in April 2009. Subsequently, the report was circulated to all CMCs with a copy to CLIs and requested to give their valuable comments and suggestions by the end of June 2009. The comments received from CMCs and CLIs have been incorporated and the report has been revised accordingly. Therefore, it is almost a final report.

7(a).5 CEC was appointed by the GC with a given mandate. Therefore, constituting any sub-committee by TC may not be appropriate. Further more, the report has to be taken up at the forthcoming Second Ministerial Meeting and, in view of short time available, steps are taken to speed up the process.

7(a).6 India said that in Malaysia, EC member of India i.e. Secretary Ministry of Rural Development, India had suggested the CIRDAP to prepare a Plan for Operational strategy to implement the CEC Report.

7(a).7 In view of this, Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia and other members agreed for discussion on this agenda item.

Suggestions-20/TC-25

After obtaining considered opinion of TC-25 members, the Chairman decided to proceed with this agenda item. However, he requested the Secretariat to include the above comments in the report.

7(b) Capacity Building of CIRDAP Link Institutions;

7(b).1 Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training, CIRDAP presented this item.

7(b).2 In his presentation, Dr. Singh flagged critical issues relating to capacity building of CLIs. Among the designated CLIs by the CMCs, 8 CLIs are either government Departments or Bureau, not an academic institute. They may be lacking professionalism and may not be in a position to provide academic inputs in policy formulation to their respective government. The purpose of academic institution is be a 'Think Tank' for the country and conduct policy research and capacity building of critical functionaries responsible for planning and implementation of rural development programmes.

Moreover, CLIs are at variance in terms of structure, composition, expertise and specialization, infrastructure, budgetary allocation etc., Hence, it calls for strengthening and institutional capacity building of CLIs. CMCs may consider to formulate consortium of few institutions or CIRDAP Link Committee (CLC), including training and academic institutions.

It was pointed out that there is absence of information and relevant data with regard to CLIs for analyzing capacity building requirements. For the purpose, the existing capabilities vis-à-vis the required capacity as per country's' training and research requirements and gaps are necessary information for analysis. Thus, it was proposed to conduct a scoping study to ascertain relevant information and analyze the capacity building aspects of CLIs.

7(b).3 The working paper was already circulated to the CLIs. Only Pakistan sent its comments.

7(b).4 Philippines commenting on the issue that all Link Institutions are not academic institution and they may not have professional services such as policy research and therefore, their suitability as CLIs, said that the selection should consider the type of beneficiary that an organisation is serving including the services rendered. Designated CLIs have vested by the confidence of the respective Governments to present the rural and development concerns.

7(b).5 Philippines also said that the definition of capacity building is not only about training as mentioned in the working paper but also include aspects such as on the job training, web based learning etc. Hence, this term should be inclusive of all this meanings.

Philippines mentioned that the assessment of capacity building requirement is prerequisite. This may include expertise available, and infrastructure requirement etc.

7(b).6 Thailand said that there is not any Ministry, department or institutions for rural development in the country. Therefore, Thailand government has designated National FAO Committee be CIRDAP's CLI. National FAO Committee may not be engaged on all aspects of recommendations proposed by CEC/CIRDAP Secretariat.

7(b).7 Philippine said that the working paper does not mention about strategic partnerships for capacity building.

7(b).8 Afghanistan said that the proposed steering committee for his country may find it difficult to travel to and operate there. Already several assessments for capacity building have been carried out by his organisation and project proposals have been prepared. Hence, this committee may not operate at the expense of those efforts.

7(b).9 Director General said that the steering committee will be activated only if projects are granted by the donor agencies and hence this issue may not arise. The steering committee will operate on project to project basis and not in general country wise.

Suggestions-21/TC-25

There is a need for capacity building of CLIs and for that different strategies may be designed on the basis of specific needs of each CMC.

Suggestions-22/TC-25

The proposed Steering Committee may cover more than one country with regard to capacity building of CLIs.

Suggestions-23/TC-25

It was suggested that all CLIs join hands with CIRDAP; they can help each other bilaterally and jointly. They may exchange their available training modules, materials to each other. Further, it was reemphasized to have a Training for Trainers programme for faculties of CLIs.

7(c) Action Research in CIRDAP: Way Forward;

7(c).1 Presented by Mr. Hosssein Shahbaz, Director, Pilot Projects

7(c).2 Afghanistan commented that before preparing action research project proposals for countries a feeling about the ground situation should be taken into account.

7(c).3 Delegate from Pakistan urged to include Pakistan in the proposed project "Reduction of Agricultural Losses".

7(c).4 Philippines said that it is necessary for the project proposals to be consistent with CIRDAP vision with more attention to the participatory aspects.

7(c).5 Philippines also opined that there should be a time frame for the proposed action research projects.

7(c).6 DG, CIRDAP said that in reality CLIs are the implementation agencies of action research projects.

7(c).7 As some member countries needed clarification on the criteria and procedures for selection of CIRDAP projects, the chairperson asked the secretariat to prepare an explanatory note on the subject and circulate to the CMC within two months.

Suggestions-24/TC-25

Action Research project proposal should be participatory approach oriented.

7(d) Sharing of Rural development knowledge and best practices through IT net working among CLIs;

7(d).1 Mr. K.A.S. Daynanda, Director, ICD presented this item.

7(d).2 Philippines while appreciating the array of network services proposed, suggested that CIRDAP also, should prepare an inventory of information needs of CLIs.

7(d).3 DG, CIRDAP informed that already a large body of knowledge is available at CIRDAP. Better ways and means have to be found for extensive utilisation of this wealth of knowledge.

7(d).4 India said that not only the hardware, but also the software that is going to be used equally important. He mentioned about difference between Microsoft software and open software. In India, he said, some states are saving millions due to use of open software.

Suggestions-25/TC-25

CIRDAP should prepare an inventory of information needs of CLIs.

7(e) Financial Status and Resource Mobilisation;

7(e).1 Mr. Shahadat Hossain, Finance Officer CIRDAP presented the Agenda.

7(e).2 Thailand pointed out that there was no agreement in Lankawi, Malaysia about increase of membership contribution. The proposal to increase of contribution of CMCs by 25% is difficult due to present economic crisis. Moreover, the budget in 2010 has already been approved by the Thai parliament. The implementation of the decision to increase the contribution would be deferred at least 2 years.

7(e).3 The present membership contribution to CIRDAP by CMCs is considered adequate. Therefore Pakistan does not support further increase.

7(e).4 Indonesia mentioned that increase in membership contribution should be discussed with related or line ministries.

7(e).5 Philippines mentioned that no work plan has been drawn to justify the utilisation of General Fund. Salary structure and scheme for pay scale of staff are not clearly spelled out in the proposal.

7(e).6 DG CIRDAP mentioned that due to low pay structure of professional staff, CIRDAP could not attract right professionals.

7(e).7 In the past, Japan, South Korea and other countries were approached by DG CIRDAP. It was not considered by these countries as invitation was not extended by the Governing Council. Hence the Chairperson of GC has extended invitation to attend to second ministerial meeting and to join CIRDAP.

7(f) Emerging New Frontiers for CIRDAP's Engagement: Some Highlights;

7(f).1 This agenda item was presented by Prof. Momtaz Uddin. Ahmed.

7(f).2 Afghanistan mentioned that some of the issues mentioned may have to be adopted to suit the special situation prevailing in Afghanistan:

a) Action research may find a suitable replacement for poppy cultivation. If poppy cultivators are to be alienated from this livelihood, a suitable alternative has to be found. Other wise they may drift back to the fold of Taliban.

b) Conflict related issues have to be taken up in the context of nation building.

- c) For rehabilitation of post conflict countries Iran may be a success story. In this respect, he suggested that perhaps, "A Policy dialogue on reconstruction of Iran" may be considered in the near future.
- d) As per Paris declaration "Managing for development results", a monitoring mechanism for rural development may have to develop by CIRDAP.

7(f).3 Bangladesh made several comments in the context of presentation:

- e) CIRDAP's objective is to assist national action and hence it should not undertake remote preferences.
- f) TC/ EC/ GC should not deal with multi-ministerial issues as those may lead to conflict of interest with the ministries/departments involved in rural development within the country. As a result, GC member may find it difficult to take decision at higher policy level.
- g) CIRDAP is in shortage of resources; hence it should not be over ambitious.
- h) Trade policy issues do not seem to be relevant to CIRDAP mandate.
- i) CIRDAP should not be engaged with land redistribute policies as they are political issues.

7(f).4 India commented that:

- j) CIRDAP countries are acting on the basis of self interest. Hence, agendas of CIRDAP should be relevant to CMCs
- k) Small strength need not become an obstacle to think big and act big for an organisation. DG NIRD said that small organisations operating at global level inducting partners become capable of engaging on different development issues at much high a levels. NIRD is working with several such organisations. Hence India is supporting broad basing of CIRDAP operations.
- l) He also suggested that each CMC should have a steering committee that could work with a CIRDAP steering committee.
- m) NIRD is planning to take up the issue of rural conflict resolution. There is a need to track success stories in this area that could be replicated in CMCs.
- n) All organisations goes through a process of change. With the passage of time they may engage new partners and shed some of the old partners as the need arise to deal with a new situation.

7(f).51 Sri Lanka appreciated the project proposal prepared for the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. He also said another new frontier of research may be agricultural marketing.

7(f).6 Nepal said that subjects relevant to core strengths of CIRDAP could be under taken with CLIs and optional issues may be dealt with the assistance of donors.

7(f).7 Pakistan and India asked about CIRDAP's plans to deal with human trafficking issues.

7(f).8 Pakistan also reiterated that CIRDAP should concentrate on the core issues only.

7(f).9 Prof. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed said that macro economic development, rural development and poverty alleviation issues go hand in hand for the development of a country. Hence all activities of CIRDAP should have a bearing on the bigger scene. Further with globalization, involvement of civil societies, and other private sector stakeholders, it is necessary for CIRDAP to enter into strategic partnership with the relevant stakeholders.

Trade issues are very important for developing countries. At Doha round of negotiations continuous efforts are being made by the developing countries to demand for more and more concessions from the developed countries. Hence there is no way CIRDAP can ignore trade issues, he said.

7(f).10 DG, CIRDAP said that under this agenda CIRDAP is only preparing its vision. This report will be used at the donor meeting.

Suggestions-26/TC-25

CIRDAP should prepare project proposals accordingly and submit the same to the donors meeting to be held in October, 2009.

7(g) Country Specific Project Proposals

7(g).1 Dr. Majibar Rahman, SO, PRMU presented this agenda item.

7(g).2 Prof. Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed said that country proposals have missed out gender issues.

7(g).3 India said that rural markets, empowerment of elected women local-self government representatives, political economy in development and human trafficking are important issues.

7(g).4 Philippines raised three different areas such as agrarian reform; product development and marketing; and rural enterprise and sustainable diversified livelihood development.

7(g).5 Nepal asserted on peace building at community level and inclusive democracy and Rural Development; Performance based resource allocation under fiscal federalism.

- 7(g).6 Iran mentioned that action researchers in CMCs should have a separate forum
- 7(g).7 Vietnam prioritized on marketing of agriculture products of geographical indication and building new village models.
- 7(g).8 Sri Lanka focused on marketing and livelihood improvement in rural areas
- 7(g).9 Pakistan provided a new project proposal on rural water supply and sanitation.
- 7(g).10 DG, CIRDAP said since donors usually work with projects and hence these ideas could be developed further as proposals and forward the same to donors and CIRDAP.

Agenda Item–8

Rural Development Report-2009: Changing Rural Livelihoods in the Market led Policy Context in CIRDAP Member Countries

- 8.1 Dr. Majibar Rahman Special Officer, CIRDAP introduced the agenda and outline of the Rural Development Report 2009
- 8.2 DG, CIRDAP requested kind cooperation of CLIs to forward their comments on Rural Development Report 2009 to CIRDAP with in three weeks, so that it can be edited and printed in time for the donor's meeting in October 2009.

Agenda Item–9

Preparation for the Second Ministerial Meeting in Bangladesh

- 9.1 Director General CIRDAP, presented the agenda. The main points of the presentation was as follows:

GC 16 decided:

- Review RD policies and experiences in CMCs
- Evaluate CIRDAP from strategic and institutional perspectives
- Organise Ministerial Meeting to reaffirm the agenda

Country studies found:

- Emerging issues such as food security, energy security, meeting MDGs and so on.
- Very little regional cooperation for sharing experiences, expertise and ideas

CIRDAP Evaluation recommended

- CIRDAP is relevant – needs capacity building
- CIRDAP policy bodies to be utilised
- CIRDAP mechanism be functional

A donors meeting proposed in October 2009, in which

- Donors be requested to join hands with CMCs
- Capacity building of RD institutions at the national level
- CIRDAP could be the converging point at the regional level

Ministerial Meeting

- Government of Bangladesh will host the meeting
- Dates changed to 24-28 January 2010 due to some unavoidable reasons
- GC Chairperson will notify all countries soon.

9.2. India appreciated the initiative taken by CIRDAP for engagement with land issues. However, land was a sensitive subject and was rooted to the soil as well as to the traditions and culture of the nations. He suggested that firms in the west have undertaken a commoditization of land while the same was not the case in the CIRDAP countries. Hence, the formulation of policy paper should be best done by a team internal to CIRDAP and pledged the support of his institution.

Suggestion-27/TC-25

CIRDAP should invite CLIs to join hands with CIRDAP in preparing and presenting policy paper on access to land by the poor.

Agenda Item–10

Other Matters

10.1 No issues under any other matters were raised and discussed.

Agenda Item–11
Venue of the Next TC-25 Meeting

- 11.1 Vietnam agreed to host the next TC-26 meeting and was unanimously adopted.
- 11.2 The members appreciated the Government of Iran and Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture for efficiently handling the arrangements and the hospitality extended during their stay in Iran.

Agenda Item–12
Adoption of the Report

- 12.1 The report has been adopted by the Technical Committee 25 (TC-25).

Teheran

29 July 2009

(Dr. Gholam Hossain Aghaya)
Chairperson
Twenty-Fifth Technical Committee, CIRDAP and
Director,
Agricultural and Rural Development Planning
Economic Research Institute (ARDPERI)
Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture
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