



## Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific

In 1987, the first Bangladesh-CIRDAP Ministers' Meeting on 'Rural Development in Asia-Pacific' was held in Dhaka with participation of several ministers from the Asia-Pacific countries and representatives of various donor agencies. The meeting adopted a Dhaka Declaration, which underlined that economic growth with equity through people's participation as the basic element for alleviation of rural poverty. It reaffirmed that rural development is central to national development and a fundamental process for political, social, economic and institutional transformation of agrarian societies.

After 20 years the CIRDAP member countries felt that there have been sea changes in the contemporary national and international policy context and that CIRDAP may require repositioning itself in new policy perspectives, approaches, dimensions and strategies of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation (RD & PA) to remain contextual and relevant to the member countries. In this context, it was decided to review the existing RD policies and programmes in CIRDAP Member Countries, evaluate CIRDAP from its institutional and strategic perspectives. Hence, the Second Ministerial Meeting is being organised in January 2010 to discuss and deliberate upon the emerging issues relating to RD and PA in the Asia-Pacific region to provide guidance and direction to the new mandate for CIRDAP. The meeting will deliberate on the overview of RD policies and programmes in CIRDAP Member Countries and redefining the role of CIRDAP at regional level.

The Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific will be held on 24-28 January 2010 in Dhaka, Bangladesh and will be hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh **and with support from the Government of Japan**. The theme of the meeting is Working Together for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods. Rural Development Ministers and/or their representatives from all 14 CIRDAP member countries and from Asia-Pacific countries like Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, China, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan are expected to attend the meeting as well as representatives from major UN and other donor organisations.

Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Ministerial meeting on 27 January 2010. This meeting will be preceded by the CIRDAP Executive Committee and Governing Council meetings and a Regional Policy Dialogue on 'Sustainable Rural Livelihoods' during 24-26 January 2010. The meeting is expected to adopt a Dhaka Declaration on Rural Development.

### *Schedule of the Meeting*

**Executive Committee Meeting on 24 January 2010** [to be attended by members of Executive Committee (EC) of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) (Secretaries)]

**Governing Council Meeting on 25 January 2010** [to be attended by the members of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC) of CMCs (Ministers)]

**Donors Meeting** in the afternoon of **25 January 2010** (to be attended by all CMCs, Non CIRDAP Countries and Donors representatives)

**Regional Policy Dialogue on 26 January 2010** (to be attended by all CMCs, Non-CMCs and donors representatives)

**Second Ministerial Meeting on 27-28 January 2010** (to be attended by all CMCs, Non-CMCs and donors representatives and to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh)

**Dhaka Declaration and Field Visit on 28 January 2010** (Press conference for the Declaration)

All programmes will be held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel except the Fourth Regional Policy Dialogue on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010, which will be held at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka.