FOREIGN MINISTRY
SRI LANKA

Director General - South Asia <dgsa@mfa.gov.lk>

2636: MOST URGENT: Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices

1 message

High Commission of Sri Lanka - New Delhi <slhc.newdelhi@mfa.gov.lk> Fri, Oct 2, 2026 at 1:10 AM
To: IT Division <cypher@mfa.gov.lk>, Director General - South Asia <dgsa@mfa.gov.lk>, Varuni Muthukumarana <lanka.varuni@mfa.gov.lk>
Cc: Nirosha Herath <nirosha.herath@mfa.gov.lk>

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find the attachment.

Grateful if you could kindly confirm receipt of this email.

Thanks & Regards,

High Commission of Sri Lanka

27, Kautilya Marg,
Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi - 110021

slhc.newdelhi@mfa.gov.lk
23010201 / 23010202 / 23010203
https://www.hc-newdelhi.gov.lk
https://x.com/SLinIndia
https://www.youtube.com/@SriLankaHighCommissionNewDL
https://www.instagram.com/slhcnewdelhi
https://www.facebook.com/SLNewDelhi



---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: <cirdap.knowledgeupdate05@cirdapknowledge.org>
Date: Fri, Sep 18, 2026 at 6:03 AM
Subject: Invitation to Participate in CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices
To: <cirdap.knowledgeupdate05@cirdapknowledge.org>

Dear Esteemed Partners,

Greetings from the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

CIRDAP is pleased to announce the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices, jointly organized by CIRDAP and DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, RIS, India.

The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of health professionals, public health practitioners, policymakers, researchers, ICT specialists, rural development practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders to adopt scalable telemedicine and digital tools for low-resource rural settings.

The training will focus on telemedicine and digital health, rural digital infrastructure, regional good practices and case studies, clinical service delivery models, policy and regulatory frameworks, regional cooperation, financing, and sustainable scaling of digital health services. It will also provide opportunities for knowledge sharing, cross-country learning, and networking among participants across the Asia-Pacific region.

The three-day online training programme will be held from 1–3 December 2026, with two interactive sessions each day. Participation is FREE of charge.

We are pleased to invite interested participants from CIRDAP Member Countries and other countries to participate in this valuable capacity-building programme.

Last date for registration: 20 November 2026

Registration Link: https://forms.gle/ZPdYigWbZuir8wX77

We would highly appreciate your kind support in disseminating this information among relevant government officials, health professionals, university faculty, researchers, NGO representatives, hospital managers, ICT specialists, and rural development practitioners in your respective networks.

Please find the Training Programme Brochure attached for further details on the programme, resource persons, objectives, schedule, expected outcomes, and registration process.

We look forward to your active participation and continued cooperation in promoting inclusive, accessible, and sustainable rural health care across the Asia-Pacific region.

With warm regards,

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General
CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh

If you do not wish to receive further notifications, please reply to this message to unsubscribe.

---

2 attachments

cirdap.pdf
3481K

2636.pdf
199K

විදේශ කටයුතු, විදේශ රැකියා සහ සංචාරක අමාත්‍යාංශය

வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள், வெளிநாட்டு வேலைவாய்ப்பு மற்றும் சுற்றுலாத்துறை அமைச்சு

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM

මගේ අංකය / எனது இல / My No: FA/SA/IND/02/01 (training)

ඔබේ අංකය / உமது இல / Your No:

දිනය / திகதி / Date: 19.10.2026

Secretary
Ministry of Health and Mass Media,

Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices

1. Reference to Fax No. 2636 dated 01 October 2026 from the SLHC/New Delhi, forwarding a self-explanatory email communication from the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh, on the above (**Annex I**).

2. Accordingly, SLHC/New Delhi has informed of the invitation extended to Sri Lanka to participate in the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), "*International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices*", jointly organized by CIRDAP and DAKSHIN-Global South centre of Excellence, RIS, India, scheduled to be held from **01-03 December 2026** with two interactive sessions each day. The participation is free of charge.

3. The aforesaid programme will focus on telemedicine, digital health services, regional good practices etc. and it is aimed to strengthen the capacity of health professionals, public health practitioners, policymakers, researchers, ICT specialists, rural development practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders to adopt scalable telemedicine and digital tools for low-resource rural settings.

4. For more details regarding the programme, resource persons, objectives, schedule, expected outcomes, and registration process, please see the brochure. **(Annex II)**

5. Registration is requested to be done **on or before 20 November 2026** via http://forms.gle/ZPdYigWbZuir8wX77.

6. It would be appreciated if this information could be disseminated among appropriate stakeholders to encourage participation from Sri Lanka.

7. For your consideration and action as deemed appropriate, please.

Assistant Director/South Asia & SAARC
for Secretary

Tel. No. : +94 112 325 925
E-mail : dgsa@mfa.gov.lk

FAX / E-MAIL
HIGH COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA, NEW DELHI
(Tel: +91 112 3010201, Fax: +91 112 379 3604, E-mail: slhc.newdelhi@mfa.gov.lk **)**

Addressed to	:	Secretary/ Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism **(Attn: DG/ South Asia & SAARC)**
From	:	High Commission/ New Delhi
Signature & Designation	:	Minister Counsellor *for* High Commissioner
Date	:	01 October 2026
No. of pages including this page	:	01 + 01 Annex

MOST URGENT
High Commission of Sri Lanka
New Delhi

Msg. No: 2636 Ref. No: SLHCND/MISC

Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices

1. Please find enclosed herewith a copy of self-explanatory email communication of 18 September 2026, received from the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh, inviting its Member Countries and other countries to participate in the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), a three-day International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices, jointly organized by CIRDAP and DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, RIS, India, scheduled to be held **from 01 – 03 December 2026** with two interactive sessions each day (**The Participation is FREE of Charge**).

2. The said programme aims to strengthen the capacity of health professionals, public health practitioners, policymakers, researchers, ICT specialists, rural development practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders to adopt scalable telemedicine and digital tools for low-resource rural settings.

3. Further details on the said programme, resource persons, objectives, schedule, expected outcomes, and registration process are provided in the attached brochure.

4. Registration is requested to be done **on or before 20 November 2026** via **https://forms.gle/ZPdYigWbZuir8wX77**

5. Appreciate if the above information could be disseminated among the relevant authorities and encourage participation from Sri Lanka, please (ENDS).

FOREIGN MINISTRY
SRI LANKA

SLHC New Delhi <slhc.newdelhi@mfa.gov.lk

Invitation to Participate in CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices

1 message

cirdap.knowledgeupdate05@cirdapknowledge.org Fri, Sep 18, 2026
<cirdap.knowledgeupdate05@cirdapknowledge.org> 6:03 A
To: cirdap.knowledgeupdate05@cirdapknowledge.org

Dear Esteemed Partners,

Greetings from the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

CIRDAP is pleased to announce the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices, jointly organized by CIRDAP and DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, RIS, India.

The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of health professionals, public health practitioners, policymakers, researchers, ICT specialists, rural development practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders to adopt scalable telemedicine and digital tools for low-resource rural settings.

The training will focus on telemedicine and digital health, rural digital infrastructure, regional good practices and case studies, clinical service delivery models, policy and regulatory frameworks, regional cooperation, financing, and sustainable scaling of digital health services. It will also provide opportunities for knowledge sharing, cross-country learning, and networking among participants across the Asia-Pacific region.

The three-day online training programme will be held from 1–3 December 2026, with two interactive sessions each day. Participation is FREE of charge.

We are pleased to invite interested participants from CIRDAP Member Countries and other countries to participate in this valuable capacity-building programme.

Last date for registration: 20 November 2026

Registration Link: https://forms.gle/ZPdYigWbZuir8wX77

We would highly appreciate your kind support in disseminating this information among relevant government officials, health professionals, university faculty, researchers, NGO representatives, hospital managers, ICT specialists, and rural development practitioners in your respective networks.

Please find the Training Programme Brochure attached for further details on the programme, resource persons, objectives, schedule, expected outcomes, and registration process.

We look forward to your active participation and continued cooperation in promoting inclusive, accessible, and sustainable rural health care across the Asia-Pacific region.

With warm regards,

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General
CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh

If you do not wish to receive further notifications, please reply to this message to unsubscribe.

cirdap.pdf
3481K

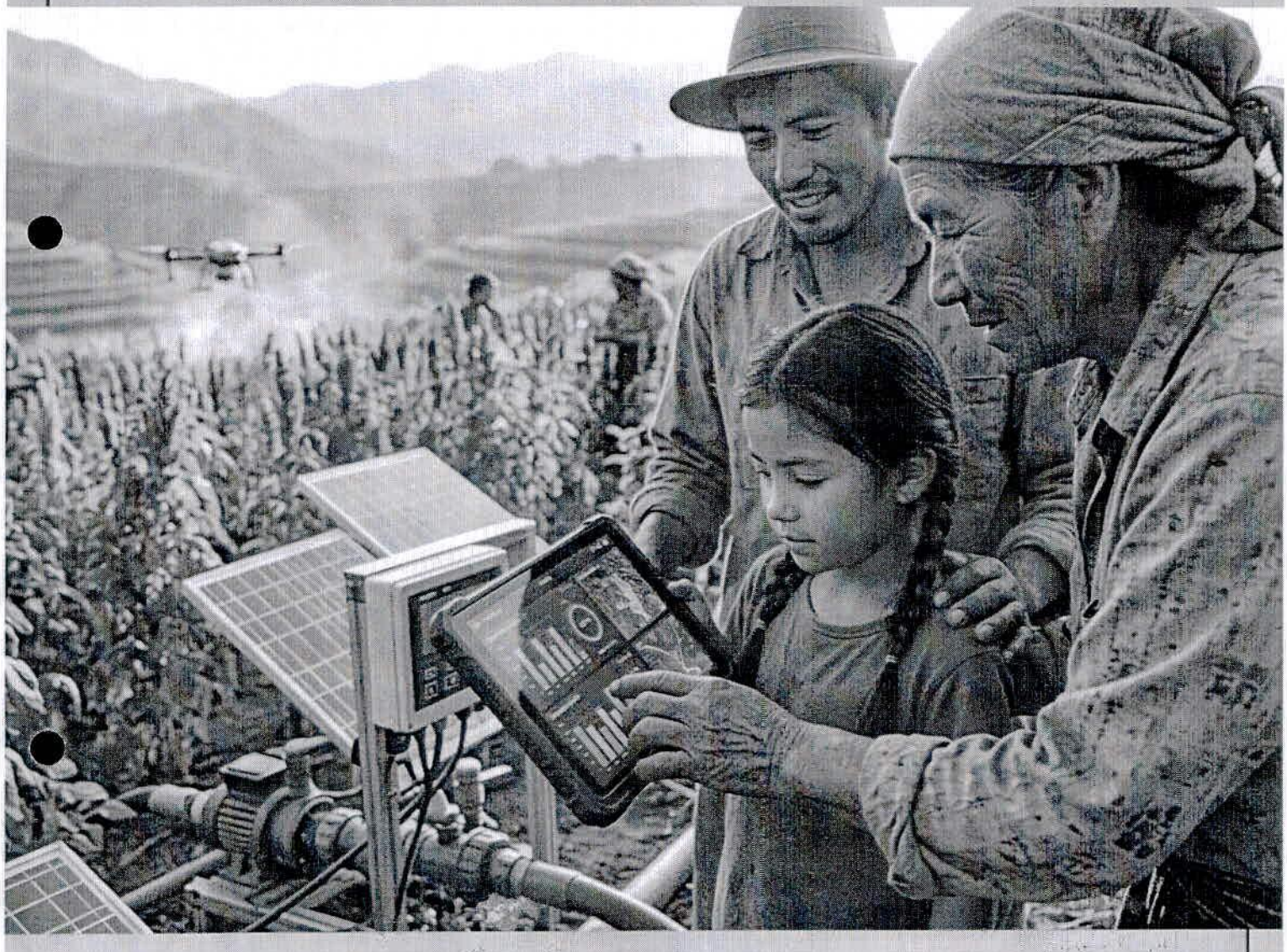
2026

SSION OF SRI LANKA

VOICE OF CIRDAP

Empowering The Rural Communities

Issue 24, August 2026



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

An Intergovernmental & Autonomous Organization Working For Strengthening Integrated Rural Development Systems for 15 Asia and The Pacific Countries.

www.cirdap.org

Village Immersion Programme for Rural Development Professionals — Connecting with Roots

Dear Partners,



I am delighted to share that the former Chairperson of the Governing Council of CIRDAP and Honorable Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh, H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, has been elected as the 23rd President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. CIRDAP extends its warmest wishes for his grand success in this new responsibility. CIRDAP remains deeply grateful to His Excellency for his wholehearted support in expanding CIRDAP's membership and strengthening its resources.

CIRDAP has recently concluded an international training Programme on Artificial Intelligence for Rural Development, which was very well received by Rural Development professionals across the region. The handbook released on this occasion will be of great help to beginners in AI for Rural Development and is available on the CIRDAP website. Is this not the right time to experiment with an AI Village in order maximize the benefits of AI for rural communities?

CIRDAP would like to actively promote a Village Immersion Programme for all Rural Development Professionals. The purpose is to equip Rural Development professionals with a deeper understanding of fast-changing rural realities so that systems—from policy to practice—remain grounded in real conditions on the ground.

It is proposed that the Programme be operationalized under CIRDAP, whereby every professional must spend two days in a village, residing in the home of a villager, in a country other than his or her country of origin, every year. The stay will be facilitated by link institutions in member countries on a rotational basis, covering the entire region.

This exposure will enrich professionals with multi-dimensional insights into rural development issues and help them design more effective capacity-building programmes, research activities, and advisory servic for member countries. Every such visit and stay will make professionals more mature, pragmatic, and solution centric.

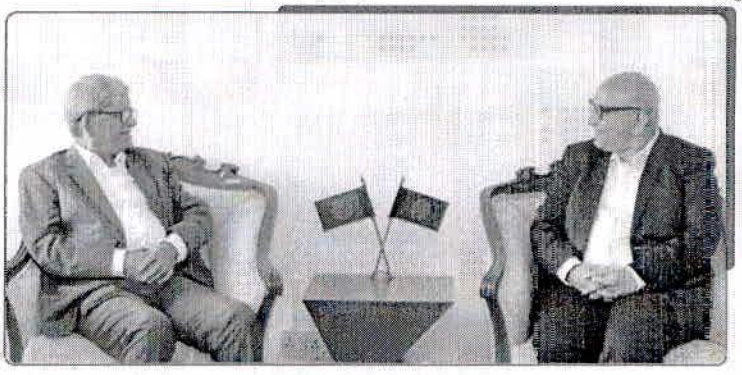
During the stay, professionals will not only observe but also learn by experience—through discussions with villagers and by collecting critical information on the socio-economic conditions, problems, and prospects of the village. CIRDAP aims to promote this concept across member countries so that professional's function more practically, guided by lived realities rather than preconceived notions.

The stay can be combined with official visits to the village to minimize expenditure. Preferably, the arrangement should be facilitated by reputed rural development institutes, including NGOs.
With warm regards,

With Warm Wishes

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General, CIRDAP

CIRDAP Extends Congratulations to H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, 23rd President of Bangladesh



The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) extends its warmest congratulations to H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, has been elected as the 23rd President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



A distinguished statesman, H.E. Alamgir previously served as Chairperson of CIRDAP's Governing Council representing Bangladesh, a role through which he contributed meaningfully to the Centre's mission of advancing integrated rural development across the Asia Pacific region. His election to the nation's highest office is a moment of great pride for CIRDAP and its wider family of member countries.

On behalf of the entire CIRDAP community, we convey our best wishes to H.E. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir for a successful and impactful tenure. We also extend our heartfelt wishes to the people of Bangladesh for continued peace, progress, and prosperity in the years ahead.

CIRDAP and Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), Fiji Conclude International Training on Artificial Intelligence for Rural Development

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Development Forum, Fiji, successfully concluded a three day International Online Training Programme on Artificial Intelligence for Rural Development, held from 18 to 20 August 2026.



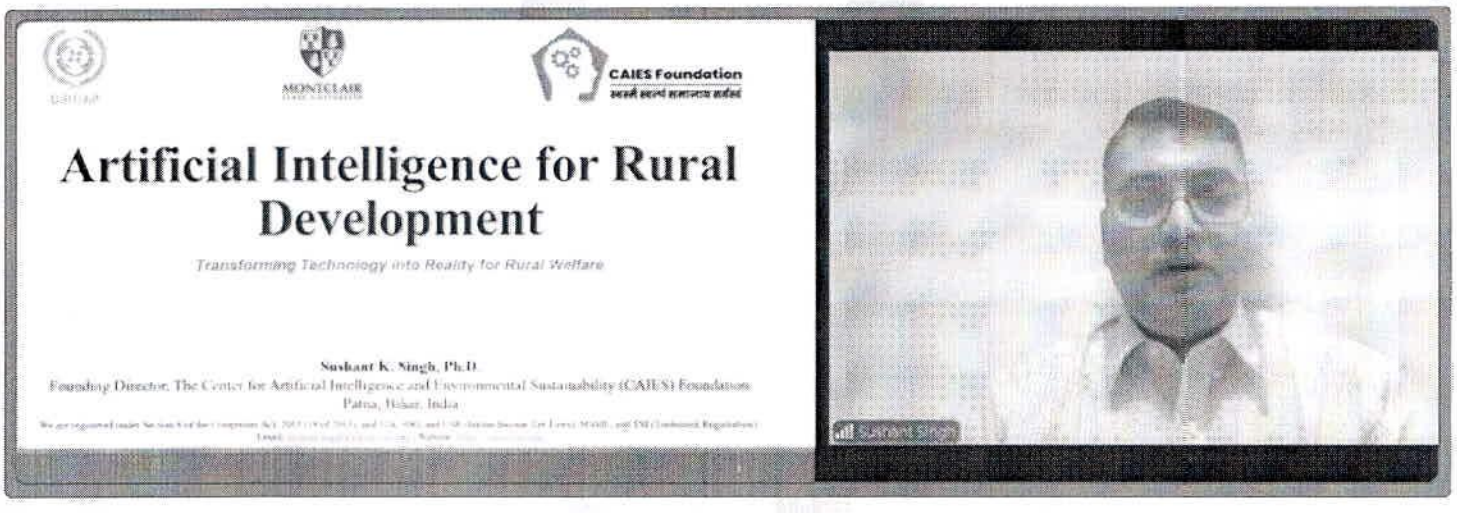
The programme, themed "Artificial Intelligence for Rural Development: Transforming Technology into Reality for Rural Welfare," was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, with Henry Galuvakadua representing the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum. A special highlight of the inauguration was the release of a new publication, the Handbook on Artificial Intelligence for Rural Development, designed to serve as a comprehensive guide for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.

The training was led by Dr. Venkatamallu Thadaboina, Programme Officer (Learning) at CIRDAP, together with Sushant Kumar Singh of CAIES Foundation, Patna, Bihar, India, served as Course



Directors and key resource persons. Sessions covered the foundations of artificial intelligence for rural development along with data readiness, governance, and predictive planning.

Over three days, participants engaged in interactive sessions daily, exploring how artificial intelligence can transform agriculture, climate resilience, healthcare, education, and welfare delivery in rural contexts.



The programme brought together 249 delegates from 12 countries, including policymakers, researchers, academicians, and development practitioners, along with representatives from government agencies, academia, non governmental organizations, and technology institutions.

Key themes covered during the training included the foundations of artificial intelligence and global policy trends, rural data readiness and predictive planning, applications of artificial intelligence in agriculture, climate, healthcare, and education, deployment architectures suited to low connectivity environments, responsible artificial intelligence and ethical governance, community engagement, and an actionable capstone exercise for field level execution.

The programme reaffirmed that artificial intelligence is not a luxury for rural development but a necessity. By equipping participants with knowledge, frameworks, and practical tools, the initiative has laid a strong foundation for inclusive and sustainable rural transformation.

CIRDAP Initiates Pilot Project on CIRDAP We Library for Promoting All Books to All - At No Cost to Rural Communities



A quiet corner within the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific has just become a little louder with the sound of turning pages. CIRDAP has officially inaugurated the CIRDAP WE Library, a unique initiative designed to nurture a culture of reading, knowledge sharing and learning among CIRDAP staff. The library was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, on 30 July 2026 at the CIRDAP premises.

Established on a simple yet meaningful idea of All Books to All at No Cost, the CIRDAP WE Library encourages staff members to contribute and borrow books across a wide range of subjects, creating a shared collection that benefits everyone.

The idea for the WE Library was inspired during the World Rural Development Day celebrations on 6 July 2026, with a simple question: What if every book, once read, could continue its journey by reaching another reader? That vision grew into the CIRDAP We Library.

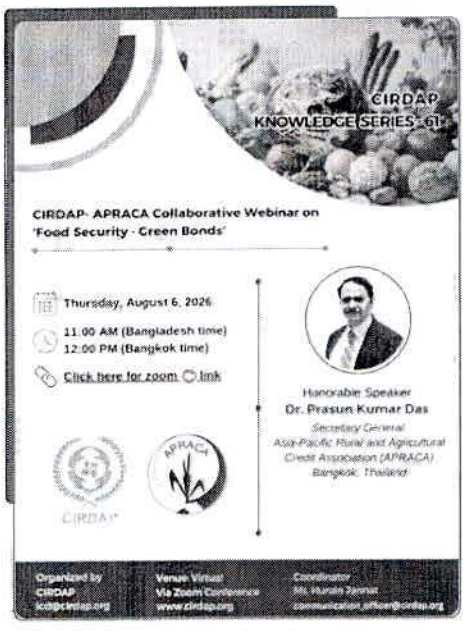


The inauguration programme began with opening remarks by Dr. Usharani Boruah, Librarian, followed by an interactive session where staff members shared ideas, reflections, and feedback, reinforcing the spirit of collective learning that the library represents and concluded by the remarks from DG CIRDAP.



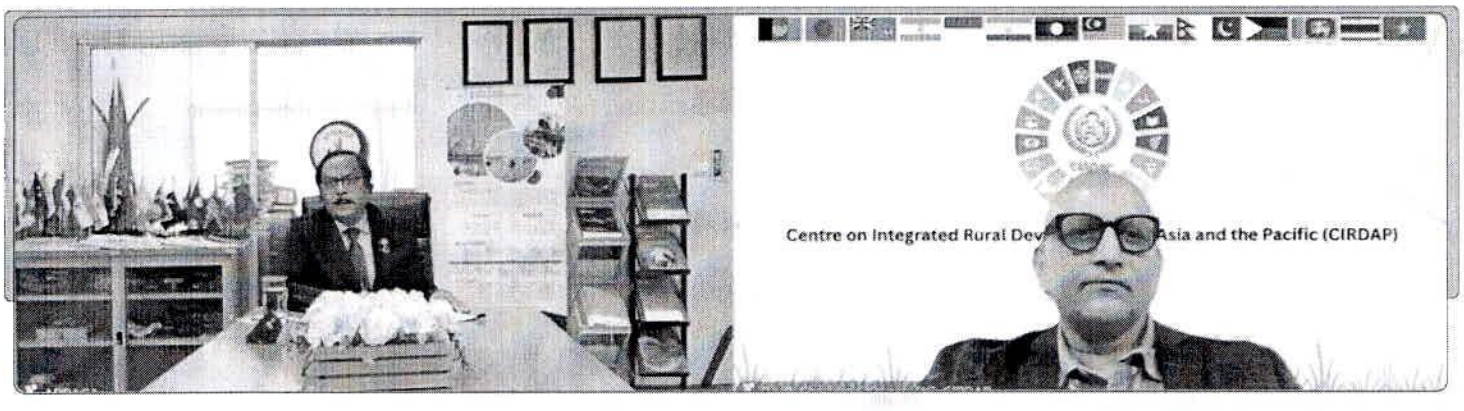
There is a deeper purpose behind this initiative. CIRDAP exists to serve rural communities across Asia and the Pacific. While the We Library begins within the organization, its heart already looks outward. Since the Centre works closely with rural communities across Asia and the Pacific, there is hope that this culture of sharing might one day reach beyond the office, over time, some books may find their way to village reading corners and community libraries and schools in the villages.

Even a small box of books reaching a village reading corner could spark the same joy being celebrated today. The CIRDAP We Library stands as a small but meaningful reminder that a love for reading, once nurtured, has a way of multiplying.



CIRDAP, in association with the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), Thailand, organized a webinar titled "Food Security, Green Bonds" on 6 August 2026, under the CIRDAP Knowledge Series, as the 61st webinar of the series.

The session featured Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General of APRACA, Bangkok, Thailand, as the esteemed speaker. In his presentation, Dr. Das shared valuable insights into the growing challenges facing global food systems, including climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and rising food demand. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, approximately 673 million people worldwide suffer from hunger, while more than 2.3 billion people experience moderate or severe food insecurity. He noted that traditional public financing alone is insufficient to meet the substantial investment needs required for a transition toward climate resilient and sustainable agricultural production, making innovative financial instruments increasingly important.

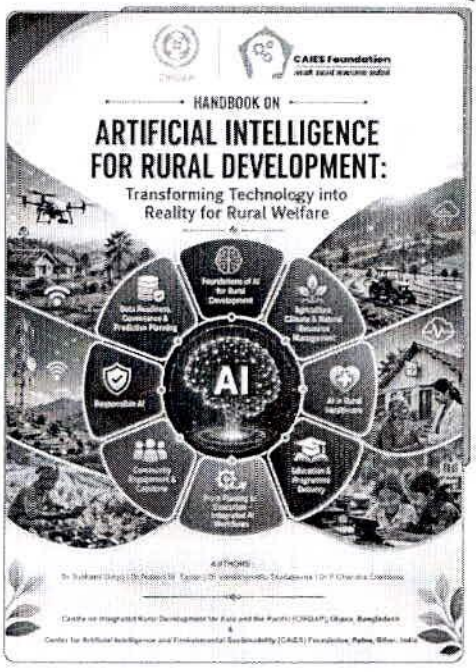


Green Bonds were highlighted as an effective mechanism for mobilizing private capital in support of environmentally sustainable and climate smart agricultural investments. Food Security Green Bonds, as thematic instruments, are designed to finance projects that simultaneously enhance food security, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability, channeling investment into climate smart agriculture, sustainable irrigation, and renewable energy for agriculture, efficient water management, sustainable fisheries, agroforestry, soil restoration, and resilient rural infrastructure. Such bonds offer governments, development banks, and financial institutions an opportunity to attract institutional investors while contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

The webinar was chaired by HE. Dr. P Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, and brought together policymakers, development practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders from across CIRDAP Member Countries. The webinar provided a valuable platform to explore innovative financing mechanisms for resilient rural development and to promote investment opportunities across CIRDAP Member Countries. An interactive question and answer session followed the presentation, with discussions underscoring the need for stronger regional collaboration and knowledge sharing on sustainable agricultural financing.
The full session is available for wider access on the CIRDAP YouTube Channel.

CIRDAP Launches New Publication on Artificial Intelligence for Rural Development

CIRDAP is pleased to announce the launch of its new joint publication with the CAIES Foundation, Artificial Intelligence for Rural Development: Transforming Technology into Reality for Rural Welfare.



The handbook highlights the potential of AI in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, education, water management, food security, disaster preparedness and rural development planning. It also examines important issues including data privacy, algorithmic bias, digital infrastructure and community trust.

Authored by Dr Sushant K. Singh, Dr Robert W. Taylor, Dr Venkatamallu Thadaboina and Dr P Chandra Shekhara, this publication explores how Artificial Intelligence can be translated into practical solutions to address pressing challenges in rural communities.

Designed for policymakers, agricultural scientists, rural development professionals, NGOs and technology practitioners, the publication aims to bridge the digital gap and promote inclusive, sustainable and people centered rural development through responsible use of AI.

Read the full publication here: Click here

CIRDAP and GLAD Myanmar Host Knowledge Series Webinar on Climate Informed Seasonal Flood Forecasting

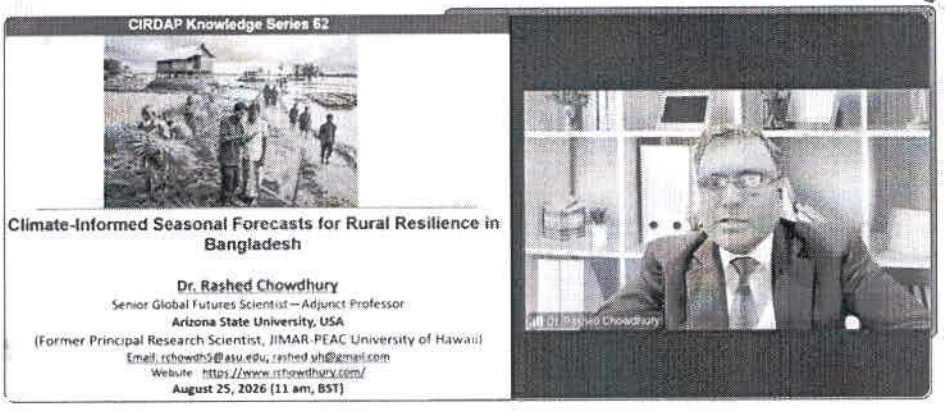


Under the CIRDAP Knowledge Series 2026, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific CIRDAP, in collaboration with GLAD, Myanmar, organized CIRDAP Knowledge Series 62, a webinar on Climate Informed Seasonal Flood Forecasting for Strengthening Rural Livelihood Resilience in Bangladesh.

The webinar featured Dr. Rashed Chowdhury, Applications Scientist and Independent Consultant, Water, Climate, and Society, and Adjunct Faculty at Arizona State University, USA, as the esteemed speaker.

The session highlighted the high vulnerability of rural communities in Bangladesh to seasonal flooding, which poses significant risks to agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods. While existing flood forecasting systems provide valuable short term warnings, the webinar emphasized the importance of seasonal forecasting to support agricultural planning and rural development decisions several months in advance. emphasized the importance of seasonal forecasting to support agricultural planning and rural development decisions several months in advance.

Dr. Chowdhury discussed the potential of integrating large scale climate drivers, including the El Niño Southern Oscillation, Indian Ocean Dipole and Madden Julian Oscillation, to improve seasonal predictions of monsoon rainfall and flood risks. Such climate informed forecasts can support better crop planning, resource management and disaster preparedness, thereby strengthening the resilience of rural communities and reducing climate related losses.



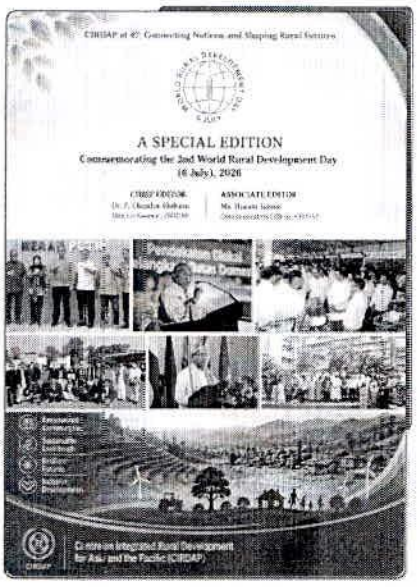
The session was chaired by Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Director Research, CIRDAP, and brought together policymakers, development practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders from CIRDAP Member Countries. The discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening regional cooperation, scientific knowledge sharing and the use of climate information to support resilient rural livelihoods.

The webinar contributed to CIRDAP's continuing efforts to promote knowledge exchange, evidence based approaches and climate resilient rural development across the Asia Pacific region. The webinar recording is available on the CIRDAP YouTube Channel for wider access.



Launch of Championing Rural Transformation: A Special Edition by CIRDAP for World Rural Development Day 2026

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) has launched a Special Edition commemorating the 2nd World Rural Development Day (WRDD), observed on 6 July 2026, marking both an important global occasion and CIRDAP's 47th Foundation Day.



The Special Edition highlights CIRDAP's longstanding commitment to integrated rural development and its efforts to strengthen regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, innovation and partnerships for the sustainable transformation of rural communities across Asia and the Pacific.

The publication reflects on the significance of World Rural Development Day, officially recognized by the United Nations in 2024, and its special connection with CIRDAP.

Established on 6 July 1979, CIRDAP has spent 47 years advancing inclusive and sustainable rural development through collaboration among Member Countries and development partners.

A key feature of the Special Edition is the publication titled "Championing of Rural Transformation:
Perspectives from Policy Makers, Administrators, Experts and Partner Institutions of CIRDAP Member Countries." The book brings together perspectives and experiences that demonstrate the diverse approaches, innovations and partnerships contributing to rural transformation across the region.The publication was edited by Dr. P. Chandra Shekara and Ms. Hurain Jannat.

The Special Edition also reinforces the vision of World Rural Development Day as a platform for collective action, knowledge exchange and renewed commitment to rural communities. It calls for stronger partnerships and broader participation across Asia and the Pacific and beyond to ensure that rural communities remain at the heart of inclusive growth, food security, climate resilience, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Read the full Special Edition: Click Here

CIRDAP Signs MoU with Participatory Rural Development Initiatives Society (PRDIS), India, to Strengthen Rural Development Cooperation



The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Participatory Rural Development Initiatives Society (PRDIS), India, on 13 August 2026.

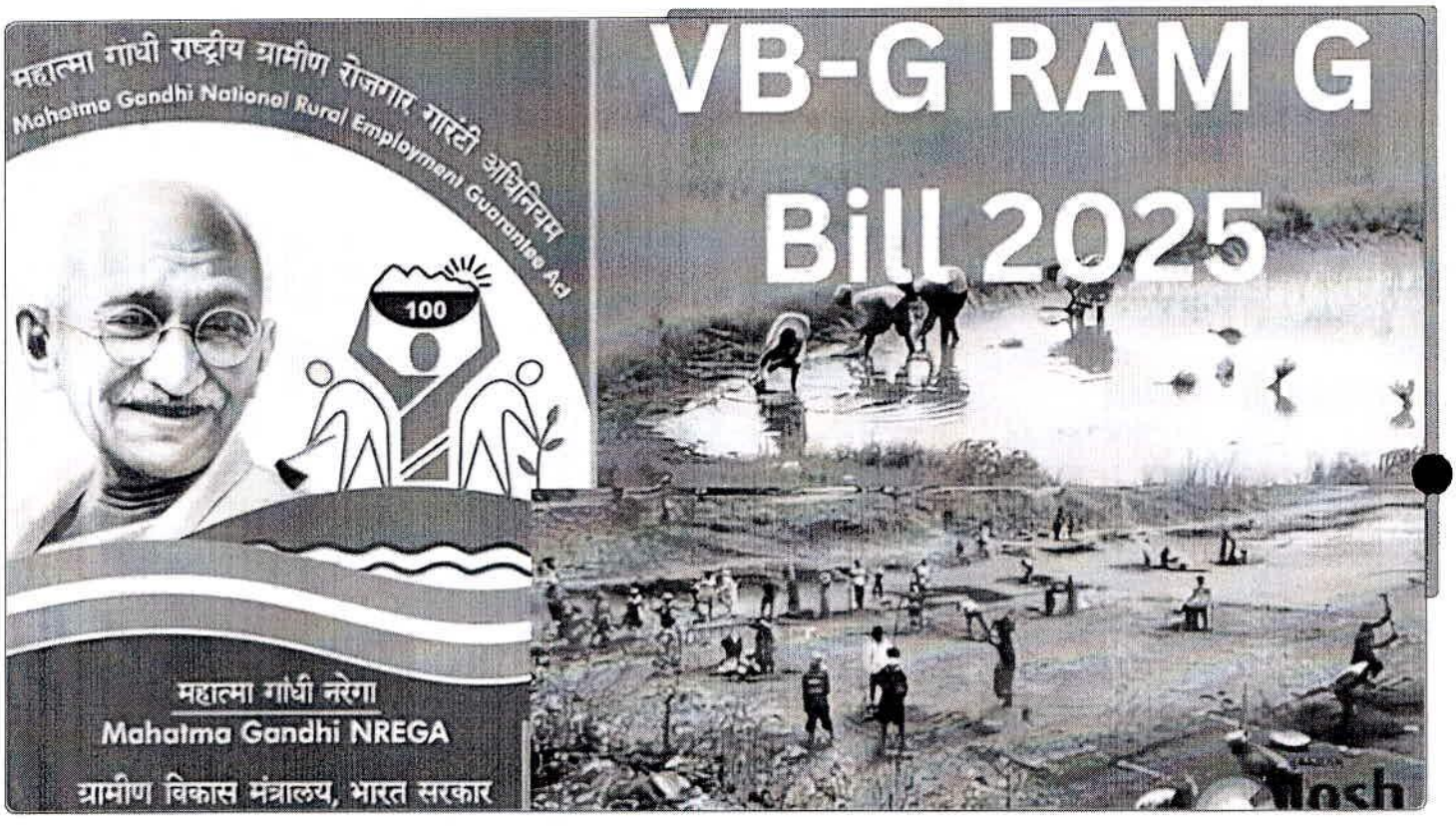
The MoU reflects a shared commitment to strengthening knowledge exchange, capacity building, technological innovation and collaborative initiatives for sustainable rural and community development across the Asia Pacific region. A key initiative under the partnership is the establishment of a CIRDAP We Library in a selected village to promote access to knowledge and learning opportunities at the grassroots level.

The MoU was signed on behalf of CIRDAP by Mr. FAM Zakirul Huq, Head of Administration, and on behalf of PRDIS by Prof. Sarvareddy Venku Reddy, President and Executive Director.

The signing ceremony was honoured by the presence of H.E. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, along with representatives from both organisations.

This partnership marks an important step towards advancing institutional cooperation, promoting innovative solutions and facilitating knowledge sharing for the benefit of rural communities, farmers, entrepreneurs and development stakeholders across Asia and the Pacific.

India continues to strengthen its flagship rural employment programme with the rollout of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin Act 2025, effective from July 1, 2026. Building on two decades of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the new framework extends guaranteed wage employment from 100 to 125 days per household, marking a significant step toward inclusive and resilient rural development.

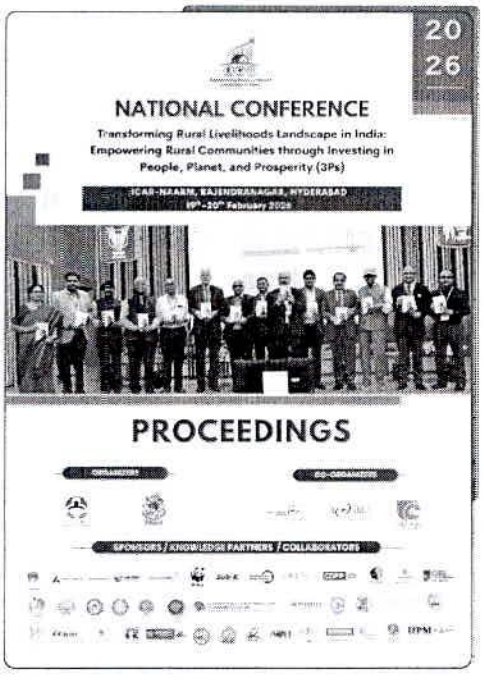


The Act is structured around three key pillars that offer a replicable model for the wider Asia Pacific region. Water security works, including groundwater recharge, harvesting structures, and flood drainage, are helping communities build climate resilience, exemplified by a canal project in Assam that channelled rainwater to farmland while generating over a thousand days of local employment. Core rural infrastructure and livelihood assets are improving market access, storage capacity, and income diversification, supporting the creation of more than 86 lakh durable community assets. Digital governance tools, including biometric attendance systems, geo tagging of assets, real time dashboards, and mandatory social audits, are ensuring transparency and accountability at every level of implementation.

Women's participation has been a defining feature of the programme, rising steadily from 48 percent in FY 2013-14 to 58.15 percent in FY 2024-25, with 440.7 lakh women engaged in the scheme. Nearly all wage payments, close to 100 percent, now move through electronic and Aadhaar linked systems, reflecting a strong shift toward transparent and timely disbursement.

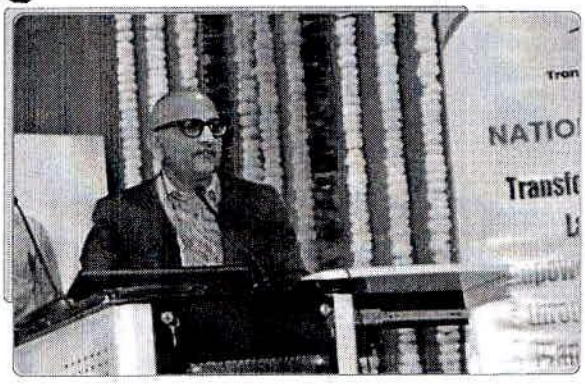
Anchored in decentralised Gram Panchayat planning, the Act positions rural employment as a strategic engine for sustainable growth. With an interim allocation of nearly 95,700 crore rupees to states and union territories, the government has ensured continuity of ongoing works and a seamless transition to the enhanced framework, aligning rural livelihood security with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Landscape in India: Empowering Rural Communities through Investing in Planet, People and Prosperity (3Ps)"
Featuring DG CIRDAP's Keynote Address on Rural Livelihoods

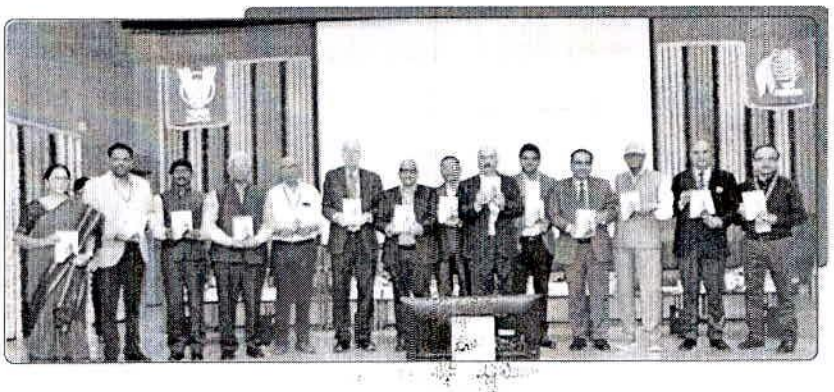


The Institute for Livelihood Research and Training (ILRT) and Participatory Rural Development Initiatives Society (PRDIS) have released the Proceedings of the National Conference on "Transforming Rural Livelihood Landscape in India: Empowering Rural Communities through Investing in Planet, People and Prosperity (3Ps)," held at ICAR–NAARM, Hyderabad, India, on 19 and 20 February 2026. The organisers have shared the Proceedings for wider reference and stakeholders are encouraged to access and disseminate them within their professional networks. Those facing any difficulty accessing the document are welcome to reach out for assistance.

Conference Proceedings:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k_zcYF9Ra4qmcGW-b7wsLrs-lL-3e3TC/view



Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, CIRDAP, attended the conference as Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. He situated the discussion within the dual reality of the Asia Pacific region, home to more than half the world's population and a principal engine of global economic growth, while also facing acute structural vulnerabilities including climate instability, demographic transitions, unplanned urbanisation, and tightening fiscal space. He called for a shift from training centric interventions to lifelong learning ecosystems, and highlighted community driven models such as India's National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, and Kerala's community based health systems as examples of durable socioeconomic transformation.



He further positioned environmental investment as a macroeconomic imperative rather than a discretionary commitment, citing examples such as community managed mangrove restoration in Bangladesh and renewable energy transitions across the region. He outlined four strategic priorities for sustainable prosperity:

supporting green MSMEs, scaling community renewable energy, mainstreaming agroecological farming, and institutionalising community based disaster risk management frameworks. He concluded with a call for a shift toward regenerative, people centred, and resilient development pathways aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reaffirming CIRDAP's commitment to this vision.

The conference culminated in the release of the Hyderabad Declaration on Transforming the Rural Livelihood Landscape.

CIRDAP - Voice of Rural Communities

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is an Intergovernmental, Regional, and Autonomous organization. It was established on 6 July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors. The Centre came into being to meet the felt needs of the developing countries at that time as an institution for promoting Integrated Rural Development in the region.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the date of 6 July as the World Rural Development Day, which is also the foundation day of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the pacific (CIRDAP), as a recognition of the organizations significant role in sustainable rural development endeavors in its member states in the Asia-Pacific region. The World Rural Development Day will be celebrated every 6 July as to inform and to remind everyone on his/her role and responsibility for collaborative actions on integrated rural development to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

From the original six members, CIRDAP has now grown up as a Centre of 15 member countries. The member-countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host Country), Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of CIRDAP are to:

- Assist National Action;
- Promote Regional Cooperation;
- and Act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion: Integrated Rural Development (IRD) through Research, Action Research, Pilot Project, Training, and Information Dissemination. Amelioration of Rural Poverty in the Asia-Pacific region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP.

The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four Areas of Concern:

- Agrarian Development;
- Institutional/ Infrastructural;
- Resource development, including human resources;
- Employment.

Within these Areas of Concern, the thematic areas identified are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. Health, Education and Nutrition); Employment generation through Microcredit support, Infrastructure Development and Local resource mobilisation; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for Sustainable Rural Development.

Operating through designated Contact Ministries and Link Institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes Technical Cooperation among nations of the region. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of Integrated Rural Development Programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.

Voice of CIRDAP – Monthly E-Bulletin of CIRDAP

Voice of CIRDAP (VoC) is a monthly newsletter published by CIRDAP. The purpose of the VoC is to highlight various facets of IRD in the Asia-Pacific region and activities of CIRDAP with stakeholders.

The designations employed and the presentation of materials in VoC do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of CIRDAP concerning the legal status of any country, city or area, or of its authorities or boundaries. News items, viewpoints on IRD and related issues are welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor.

Attention To The CIRDAP EXPERTS

CIRDAP would like to seek the support of the CIRDAP Experts for their greater involvement in enriching the lives of Rural Communities on CIRDAP platform.

Experts are invited to contribute in the following ways:

1. Provide updated information as indicated below. This reply will be treated as Experts renewed interest in CIRDAP Activities:
Name, Designation, Office, Contact detail, Photo, Country, No. of years of Experience, Areas of Expertise in Integrated Rural Development (Mention only FIVE important areas) and Complete CV.

2. A monthly e-bulletin 'Voice of CIRDAP' has been started by CIRDAP which is reaching 1.18 lakh stakeholders covering member countries every month. Experts are requested to give at least one Innovation on Rural Development with good photos in not more than one page for publication.

3. Please provide 2-3 minutes **video on any innovation, experience in Rural Development** which would be added to newly created CIRDAP YouTube Channel.

4. CIRDAP will be very happy to process/forward any of your national/International projects on Rural Development to funding agencies through **Project Facilitation Centre of CIRDAP**. If approved, the project will be led by the expert who prepare the project.

You are requested to send all the above information to Dr. Venkatamallu Thadaboina, Program Officer (Learning) and CIRDAP Email: ***po_learning@cirdap.org***

Facebook X Youtube Linkedin

Subscribe and Follow us in Social Media

and support us to the RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CIRDAP Member Countries



Chameli House
The Headquarter of CIRDAP



Editorial Board

Chief Editor : Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, CIRDAP
Associate Editor : Tahsina Tabassum Sajuti, Executive Assistant Research, CIRDAP
E-Bulletin Design : Arif Azam, IT Expert, CIRDAP

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road, GPO Box 2883, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
PABX: +88-02-41053923, +88-02-41053924 Office of the DG ||
Phone: +88-02-41053925 || E-mail: icd@cirdap.org
Website: www.cirdap.org

To Follow Us on Social Media

Website LinkedIn Facebook X

Zimbra **secretary@health.gov.lk**

Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices

From : Ministry of Foreign Affairs -Sri Lanka <cypher@mfa.gov.lk> Mon, Oct 19, 2026 03:58 PM

4 attachments

Subject : Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care in Asia and the Pacific Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Good Practices

To : secretary@health.gov.lk

Cc : 'Director General - South Asia' <dgsa@mfa.gov.lk>

Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine and Digital Tools for Rural Health Care

Please find attached document

Information Technology Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Republic Building

Colombo 01

Sri Lanka

Telephone *: 0094-11-2323015*

Fax *: 0094-11-2446091, 0094-11-2333450*

Ministry Web *: http://www.mfa.gov.lk*

Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS), International Online Training Programme on Telemedicine.....pdf
102 KB

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka Mail - 2636_ MOST URGENT_ Invitation to the CIRDAP-DAKSHIN (RIS).pdf

301 KB

2636.pdf
199 KB

cirdap.pdf
3 MB
