

**Report of the 26th Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP
held on 11-14 December , 2010 in Kabul, Afghanistan.**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-Sixth meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee, hereinafter referred to as TC-26, was held at Hotel Intercontinental, Kabul, Afghanistan from 11 to 14 December 2010.
2. The inaugural ceremony of the meeting was held at Pamir Hall of Hotel Intercontinental at 9 a.m on Saturday, 11th December 2010. His Excellency Mr. Jarullah Mansoori, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, inaugurated the function. Mr. Wais Ahmed Barmak, Eng. Atiqullah Khawasi, Deputy Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan graced the occasion. Mr. Mohammed Golam Quddus, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of 27th CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC- 27) graced the inaugural session as special guest attended in the technical sessions.
3. TC members from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting. Professor Dr. Y. Kaida, IRD Expert (Japan), representatives from several donors and development partners such as World Bank, European Union (EU), JICA, UNDP, Embassy of Iran, etc attended the inaugural programme. Besides, High Government Officials from the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD) and representatives from the Civil Society Organization (CSOs) also attended the inaugural session. The list of participants of the TC 26 is at Annex-1.
4. His Excellency Mr. Jarullah Mansoori, Minister of MRRD and Chief Guest, welcomed the delegates and participants to Kabul, which is the historic capital of Afghanistan. While thanking CIRDAP for organizing CIRDAP policy body meeting for the first time in Afghanistan, he reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to the objectives of CIRDAP. He outlined some of steps initiated over the last ten years in Afghanistan for rural development and explained the formidable challenges faced in carrying forward the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Comprehensive Rural Development Approach. He said that the emerging scenario demands new initiatives, policies and programs. He expected AIRD would take up

several policy research, evaluation and impact studies, and capacity building and skill development programs. Outlining the apex role to be assigned to AIRD, he called upon CIRDAP and CMCs to actively participate, collaborate and cooperate by exchanging the professional and technical talents available in the CMCs. He called upon the CMCs to broaden and intensify the cooperation between Afghanistan and CMCs and acknowledged the support received from CIRDAP and NIRD. He also thanked the international community for their support and impressed upon them to generously continue the support for the institutional development of AIRD.

5. Mr. Mohammed Golam Quddus, Secretary, RDCD of the Government of Bangladesh and Chairperson EC-27 expressed appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan for excellent support in hosting the meeting. He commended the past and on going contribution of CIRDAP in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation. He strongly endorsed the recommendations of the EC-27 Sub-Committee and suggested all CLIs/CMCs consider for undertaking one research/action research and one training programme each in collaboration with CIRDAP. He reiterated his Government's generous support in building the International Conference Centre. He urged upon all CMCs to provide state of the art facilities so that it becomes a symbol of regional solidarity and cooperation of 15 member countries.
6. While welcoming the delegates, Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP provided a brief account of the activities of CIRDAP and expressed his hope for further enhancing cooperation and collaboration among the member countries. He expressed his appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan particularly the MRRD for hosting TC-26 Meeting for the first time in Afghanistan.
7. DG, CIRDAP lauded the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan for rebuilding the local institution and wished CIRDAP to join hands for providing support to MRRD and AIRD in their endeavor. He expressed his hope that the Government of Afghanistan would consider the proposal submitted by CIRDAP on 'Development of Participatory Local Governance System in Afghanistan'.
8. Citing the findings of the CIRDAP Evaluation Report, DG, CIRDAP expressed his hope that strengthening the capacity of CLIs may improve the professional services to rural development policies and programmes in the respective countries. In this context, he appreciated the Strategic Planning Workshop of AIRD being planned after the TC Meeting and showed his keen interest to participate in the workshop and contribute knowledge and experience to strengthen the mission of AIRD.
9. Mr. Abdul Rahman Shekib, Acting Executive Director of AIRD extended vote of thanks. He thanked the Honorable Minister, Deputy Ministers, Ministry of RRD and Secretary RDCD, Government of Bangladesh for sparing their valuable time to grace

the occasion. He also thanked CIRDAP for choosing Afghanistan as venue of the TC-26 Meeting.

10. The text of the inaugural addresses of the Chief Guest, Special Guest, Director General, CIRDAP are given in Annex-2.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Agenda Item – 1: Election of Chairperson

11. Due to some unavoidable circumstances, TC-25 Chairperson could not attend the meeting. In his absence, DG, CIRDAP called for the nomination of the Chairperson of TC-26. TC-26 delegates unanimously elected Mr. Abdul Rahman Shekib, Acting Head of AIRD, Ministry of RRD, and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the Chairperson of TC-26. His name was proposed by the delegate from Pakistan and was seconded by Nepal.
12. The newly elected Chairperson of TC-26 took over the charges and thanked the delegates for electing him. He requested for their active support during his tenure of office and also assured that he will make all out efforts to make his tenure a success.

Agenda Item – 2: Adoption of Agenda and Time Table

13. The meeting adopted the agenda and programme of TC-26 which is given in Annex-3.

Agenda Item – 3: Follow-up Actions on the Suggestions of the 25th Technical Committee Meeting

14. Dr. Majibar Rahman, Special Officer, CIRDAP briefly presented the follow-up actions taken on the suggestions of TC-25.
15. The Pakistan delegate informed that NCRD is making efforts to seek fund from the Commonwealth Secretariat for organizing a collaborative training programme on “Micro-Finance”. CIRDAP may like to provide technical support if funding is approved. He emphasized that CIRDAP should organize special training courses on “Training of Trainers (TOT)” for the faculty members and resource persons of CLIs. NCRD also offered short courses for the trainees of Afghanistan which can be cost effective if the trainees travel by road and stay in the hostel.
16. Delegate from India pointed out that impact of “Climate Change on Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods” is an important issue to be taken up by CIRDAP. He suggested that CIRDAP should mobilize resources from donors for taking up training and research activities.

17. International Technical Assistance Centre (ITAC) of the UNESCAP may be approached for seeking scholarship to organize training courses for the rural development officials of CMCs.
18. Sri Lanka suggested that CIRDAP should formulate a common questionnaire for impact evaluation. CIRDAP should also develop a proposal for capacity building of the CLIs.
19. Indian delegate appreciated the suggestion put forward by SO, CIRDAP that the CMCs may join hands to collaborate each other to intensify the programme coverage to include more participants of the training programme being conducted by NIRD/CIRDAP.

Agenda Item – 4: Presentation of Follow-up Actions on the recommendations of EC-27, GC-17, Dhaka Declaration and EC-27 Sub- Committee Report.

20. Director General, CIRDAP presented the follow up actions on EC-27 meeting and GC-17 meeting held in Bangladesh on 24-25 January 2010. He also briefed about the Dhaka Declaration proclaimed during the Second Ministerial Meeting. Recommendations of the EC-27 Sub-Committee and the PWB of CIRDAP for the year 2010-2011 were also presented in the meeting.
21. The delegate from Pakistan emphasized to realize the contribution of CMCs towards Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) where only six countries have already contributed as of today. He suggested for giving a cut off date to CMCs for the contribution to RCF, as payment is overdue by years.
22. The delegates welcomed the suggestion of the EC Sub-committee to club the EC & TC meeting so that decision making process can be expedited for the benefit of the Centre.
23. CLIs should seriously consider cooperating with CIRDAP to expedite the partnership development with the regional organizations like SAARC. CIRDAP may like to prepare proposals in this regard and submit to concerned authorities.
24. Three Decades old Operation Manual of CIRDAP needs to be updated immediately incorporating amendments made from time to time to match with the changing context and need of the Centre. For the purpose, the CIRDAP authority may like to hire a consultant for short-term as suggested by the sub-committee.
25. As CIRDAP does not have any source of core funds, it needs to find ways and means to mobilize resources from the donors, regional organizations and countries like Japan, China, South Korea, and Australia. The delegates suggested CIRDAP to write letters to these countries for support with copies to CMCs/CLIs that would be followed up through Diplomatic channel.
26. Referring to the collaboration with donors, the delegate from Afghanistan mentioned that Afghanistan could be a forum of CIRDAP and international organizations to

collaborate, because they need services of CIRDAP for several projects. This can be an excellent initiative for CIRDAP.

27. While presenting the EC-Sub Committee Report, DG CIRDAP reported that in order to look into the PWB 2010 –2011 and the operationalization of CEC Report, among others, the EC 27 and GC 17 constituted a Sub- Committee headed by EC- Chairperson from Bangladesh and members from India, Iran, Pakistan and Philippines. The Sub-Committee met in May 2010 in Bangladesh and discussed all issues. Report of the Sub-Committee was circulated to the Members of the Executive Committee with copy to all TC members for their comments. After incorporating the comments and suggestions from CMCs, the report would be placed before the GC-17 Chairperson, who may seek approval of GC by circulation.
28. EC-27 Sub-Committee scrutinized the PWB for the year 2010-2011 and recommended to reduce the income from 2,206,116 US dollar to 1,901,124 and expenditure reduced from 2,275,688 US dollar to 1,954,943 US dollars respectively to make it realistic.
29. Thailand endorsed the revised PWB for 2010-2011, as proposed by the Sub-committee.
30. Sri Lanka also endorsed the suggestion made by Sub-committee to increase annual membership contribution. We need to share knowledge and experience to address rural development issues such as improvement of food marketing, increase of farm incomes, expansion of on and off farm employment and empowerment of farmers.
31. DG CIRDAP also explained the efforts made to expand member countries during the Second Ministerial Meeting. All Asia Pacific countries mentioned in Annex-1 of CIRDAP Agreement were invited by GC Chairperson to attend the Second Ministerial Meeting and to join CIRDAP, which was followed through the diplomatic channel of Bangladesh. DG CIRDAP personally contacted the Ambassadors /High Commissioners of those countries. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, convened a meeting with all Ambassadors /High Commissioners of CMCs and Non CMCs including Australia, Japan, China, South Korea in the office of the Foreign Ministry with the presence of Minister for Local Government Rural Development and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. Finally, Republic of Fiji joined CIRDAP as fifteenth member.

Decision 1/TC-26: CIRDAP Secretariat is requested to finalize the EC Sub-Committee Report by incorporating the comments and suggestions from CMCs, and place before the GC-17 Chairperson, through EC 27 Chairperson, as early as possible.

Agenda Item – 5: Presentation of Director General’s Report on CIRDAP activities.

32. DG CIRDAP, in his report mentioned that this is the first policy body meeting in Afghanistan and this is also first time of Fiji participation in TC meeting. His report covered the major activities accomplished by CIRDAP programme divisions since last TC meeting.
33. The delegate from Pakistan enquired about the status of the establishment of the Regional Office for South-West Asia (SOCWA) as decided in the Technical Committee in Tehran.
34. DG, CIRDAP informed that a proposal has been submitted to the concerned authority in Iran for the feasibility study of SOCWA. However, no response has been received from Iran as yet.
35. The delegate from Pakistan also questioned on the performance of SOCSEA. He also pointed out that if SOCSEA cannot perform well then what would be the benefit to establishing another sub-regional office.
36. DG, CIRDAP informed that in spite some problems for developing SOCSEA, the evaluation committee looked positively on its potentialities and recommended to strengthen SOCSEA and also consider establishing a sub-regional office in West Asia.
37. The delegate from the Philippines noted that the DG’s report covered only on physical progress of the Centre but no financial progress was reported which should have been an integral part of the report. It seems that the program activities stand alone without any future vision. She suggested CIRDAP may consider to bundle with the performance among divisions for better result and impact. She also suggested synchronizing divisional activities to operationalise CIRDAP Mission and Vision.
38. DG CIRDAP pointed out that, as there is no core fund of CIRDAP to develop its annual program activities in synchronized manner, the projects are taken as and when they are funded. Hence, activities may look disjointed.
39. The delegate from India suggested that Action Research needs a dedicated mechanism for at least 3 to 5 years duration. Hence, CIRDAP may develop a model on Action Research that could be evaluated by CMCs to take up for replication.
40. The delegate from Fiji thanked DG, CIRDAP for appreciating and thanking Fiji to be 15th Member of CIRDAP. He noted that Fiji would be more interested on short courses and field attachment of trainees in the CMCs to gather knowledge on best practices.
41. Sri Lankan delegate commented that the Director General’s report has paid more attention to training. In addition to the Training Division other divisions such as Research Division and Pilot Project Division are also involved in organizing workshops and meetings. Research Division needs to identify rural development issues faced by the CIRDAP member countries and develop regional studies and submit them for donor

funding. The same is true for Pilot Project Division. Development agencies such as IFAD, JICA, World Bank call for research proposals and project proposals. CIRDAP needs to submit proposals. By undertaking funded projects CIRDAP can raise funds.

42. A complete text of the Director General's report is given in Annex-4

Agenda Item – 6: Presentation of the recommendations of CIRDAP Evaluation Committee (CEC) and the issues raised by EC/GC during the last meeting, thereof.

43. The IRD Expert presented the revised operational strategies of CEC recommendations, incorporating the issues raised by EC-27, GC-17 and the Sub-Committee. He requested TC delegates to give idea to move forward.

44. Delegate from Pakistan commented that the CEC Report has been discussed in several forums. The revised report has been circulated to all countries. Therefore, concrete actions need to be taken.

45. Delegate from India suggested that the next EC/GC may endorse the comments and suggestions made so far and give clear guidelines to move forward.

46. Delegate from Philippines suggested to encourage the next EC/GC to take a concrete decision to move forward.

47. Delegate from Malaysia requested to look into the comments made by CMCs more closely. Presenting the same operational plan in the next meeting may not generate results.

48. Commenting on the Sub-Committee Report, the delegate from Sri Lanka said that rural development is multi dimensional. Hence there is no one ministry for rural development in a country. Rural development cannot be achieved without agricultural development, which is a prerequisite for rural upliftment. Agricultural Ministry is mainly responsible for rural development. In this background we strongly believe that there is no need to change the Ministry.

49. On the capacity building of CIRDAP Link Institutions, the Sri Lankan delegate suggested:

a) More attention should be paid to organize expert consultation meetings on current issues.

b) Exchange of faculty members among CMCs

50. On resource mobilization for professional services for RD and PA, Sri Lanka suggested:

a) Regional projects be considered rather than different individual projects in order to share common experiences

- b) It is difficult to convince government on the need of seed money. Development of funds through undertaking projects is the best option.
- c) Capacity building of CIRDAP Secretariat – a proposal for productivity improvement of CIRDAP is necessary.

51. IRD Expert suggested, and DG, CIRDAP endorsed, that the present 7 proposals be reformulated to three strategic operational proposals covering:

- i) Repositioning CIRDAP as a platform for Regional Cooperation.
- ii) Strategic Partnership Development with Regional and International Networks, and
- iii) Resource Mobilization for enhancing Professional services of CIRDAP.

Decision 2/TC-26: TC members will give their ideas, as early as possible, for the preparation of the operational strategy of CEC recommendations. Based on these ideas DG CIRDAP will prepare agenda and working papers for the consideration of the next EC/GC meetings in Tehran, Iran.

Agenda Item – 7: Discussion on the Programme Activities of CIRDAP Link Institutions, CLIs and identify scope of collaboration between CIRDAP and CLIs. Sharing of Best Practices on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation of each CMC/ CLIs,

52. The Chairperson requested the honorable delegates to make presentation on the activities of their respective CLIs. Accordingly, the delegates from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan presented their activities which are annexed (Annex-5). After each presentation, the chairperson invited comments/question from the delegate. The delegates from Philippines and Nepal got sick and gave their report in written.
53. In his presentation, the delegate from Fiji underscored the need for a baseline study of the rural development scenario of Fiji and reviewing the existing Integrated Rural Development Framework (IRDF). Similarly, a feasibility study to establish a national rural development institute of Fiji is also necessary.
54. Malaysian delegate emphasized that effective communication within CLIs /CMC and CIRDAP should be ensured.
55. In response to query of Fiji, Indian delegate informed that distance mode learning are open to international participants also at the fees of 1700 USD.

56. The Philippine delegate informed that participants from Philippine appreciated the CIRDAP-NIRD – HARTI recent programme on rural drinking water and sanitation.
57. DG, CIRDAP suggested to the Malaysian delegate to formulate a few programmes like India, such as successful entrepreneurship development, rural industrialization, monitoring and evaluation, income generation, to benefit the less developed CMCs.
58. Delegate from Fiji suggested that training courses offered by the CLI/ CMCs should have clear objectives, selection criteria and guidelines for desirable trainees.
59. For generating fund for training programs, DG, CIRDAP suggested that CMCs can negotiate with the donors to utilize the technical assistant fund of the on going projects for capacity building of the faculties or functionaries.
60. The Delegate from Afghanistan suggested that MRRD-CIRDAP should explore possibilities of getting professional experts, through CIRDAP channel for donor supported RD programmes in Afghanistan. Donors may be happy to use the services of CIRDAP as it would be cost-effective. The delegate also requested the CLIs to forward their planned and scheduled training workshops to CIRDAP secretariat. Once on CIRDAP website, AIRD will be able to nominate appropriate candidates to benefit from such workshops.

Decision 3/TC-26: Fiji, in collaboration with CIRDAP, will prepare a proposal for a baseline study of the Integrated Rural Development Framework (IRDF) and a feasibility study to establish a national rural development institute in Fiji. Once the fund is available, the study will be conducted jointly by Fiji and CIRDAP.

Agenda item- 8: One research /action research project and one training programme from each CMC to be implemented in collaboration with CLI s

61. Delegates supported the idea that such initiative would enhance the CIRDAP image and its linkage with CMCs. CLIs will consider while preparing their annual calendar.
62. Delegate from Afghanistan suggested to prepare a project for providing services to RD program in Afghanistan, which may be funded by donors.

Decision 4/TC-26 CLIs will consider one project for CIRDAP-CLI collaboration while preparing their annual calendar.

Decision 5/TC-26: CIRDAP, in consultation with AIRD, will prepare a project proposal for providing services to ongoing RD programs of Afghanistan. After interacting with the donors in Kabul, AIRD will convene a meeting of CIRDAP, donors and AIRD for funding. An appropriate Steering Committee may also be constituted to operationalise the purpose.

Agenda item- 9: Mobilization of corpus- fund for attaining self-sufficiency of CIRDAP:

63. Delegate from Pakistan opined that it would be difficult for some countries to provide seed money for corpus fund as is evident from the fact that except for six countries, other CMCs have not yet contributed to RCF. He also suggested that donors maybe approached for one time donation towards CIRDAP Corpus Fund. However, if the meeting agreed to pursue the concept further it may be placed before the next EC/GC Meeting with specific proposal and time line.
64. Delegate from India also opined that the concept of raising “Seed Money” at this stage might not be appropriate. It is better to include other Asian countries and other Asian Donors who are not members of CIRDAP and raise membership fee. CIRDAP may plan to save funds from existing projects without suffering the quality of implementation. The delegate also suggested inviting multinational companies and foundations that has corporate social responsibilities (CSR) towards rural development and poverty alleviation in the respective countries to contribute CIRDAP corpus fund.
65. Thailand in their comments suggested that with the current financial crisis as well as the capacity of member countries to pay, two possible ways may be taken into consideration; Firstly by resources mobilization from international organizations and other donors. Secondly by transferring money from Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) to Corpus Fund (CF) if the CF is considered more important than RCF. We cannot contribute to both Funds.

Agenda Item – 10: Utilization of Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF)

66. CIRDAP was requested to finalize the modus of operandi for best utilization of RCF and also suggested to place it in the next EC/GC for approval.
67. CIRDAP is expecting to receive the contribution of RCF from all member countries was supported by the delegates. CMCs that had not yet paid its contribution were urged to take up the matter with the appropriate authority in their country and inform CIRDAP on the current status. CIRDAP was suggested to continue persuasion until contribution is received.
68. The delegates supported the idea of regional cooperation fund (RCF). The fund received from the six countries should be utilized as envisaged for demonstrating results so that the remaining CMCs will be convinced to contribute to the fund.
69. In exchanging the participants among CMCs, sending country will provide salary, CIRDAP will provide the international travel and the host institution will bear “local hospitality” which should cover food, accommodation, local transportation cost and some pocket allowance.

70. The delegate from the Philippines suggested for preparation of a two years plan highlighting cost-benefit analysis of the money so far accumulated in RCF. A situational analysis on the present condition of RCF to be presented in the next EC/GC meeting.

71. Sri Lanka pointed to the problem of contributing to the regional Cooperation funds.

Decision 6/TC-26 CIRDAP should utilize the fund received from the six countries as envisaged for demonstrating results so that the remaining CMCs will be convinced to contribute to the fund.

Decision 7/TC-26 CIRDAP should prepare a two years plan highlighting cost-benefit analysis of the money so far accumulated for RCF and present in the next EC/GC meeting.

**Agenda Item – 11: Enhancing linkage /networking between CIRDAP
and CLIs in the areas of ICT.**

72. The proposition of support from CLIs to create strong network of CIRDAP was appreciated in the meeting. Delegates noted that both in the Dhaka Declaration and Ministerial Retreat in India focused on the wider use of ICT for improving the livelihoods of rural poor and empowering women. Video conferencing between CIRDAP and CLIs and among CLIs was recommended for better net working.

73. The delegates are in the opinion that in order to establish two way communications, CLIs are requested to add CIRDAP website link address to their website which CIRDAP has already done. CLIs suggested sending their work plan to CIRDAP for compilation and projection in CIRDAP website for easy access to all CLIs.

74. Delegate from Malaysia suggested providing general e-mail address of CIRDAP will have access to all concerned for effective correspondence.

75. Delegate from India pointed out that NIRD has been giving support by way of sending experts on ICT and Geo-matic application to help CIRDAP regularly. He suggested CIRDAP to formulate new proposal and submit to GOI.

76. Sri Lanka commented it is a very good proposal because the 21st century economy is knowledge based. Since many countries have expertise on ICT, training support from CIRDAP may not be required.

77. Thailand fully supported the use of ICT for improving the livelihoods of rural poor, as proposed.

Agenda Item – 12: Completion of International Conference Center (ICC) with contribution from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) as decided in the GC-17 Meeting.

78. Based on the decision of GC 17 meeting in Dhaka, CIRDAP has already communicated to all CMCs seeking for financial support /cooperation in completing the International Conference Centre.
79. Government of India approved 183,000 USD for establishing an ITC in the International Conference Centre. Indian Government also sent an IT team to CIRDAP to appraise the need for setting up the ICT centre. Government of Malaysia provided with a variety of handicrafts items for the interior decoration of the ICC worth nearly US\$ 70,000. Financial assistances from the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for constructing a VIP dormitory on the ICC are under consideration. The meeting profusely applauded the Government of India, Malaysia and Iran for their support for ICC. Other CMCs were also requested to provide any kind of support for internal decoration of the Centre.
80. Nepal and Pakistan regretted due to financial crisis,. Philippines will raise the matter in the national budget proposal of 2011. If approved, the funds may be mobilized next year (CF 2012) Thailand may reconsider the possibility of accommodating the matter during the budget allocation for the fiscal year 2012.
81. Thailand suggested since the Republic of Bangladesh, as the host country of the Organization had already contributed up to US\$ 2.1 million for the construction of International Conference Center, therefore, we request the host country to complete the remaining works.
82. Delegate from Bangladesh said that Bangladesh has provided as per its commitment. However, due to the escalation of the price of the constructional materials the original estimate far exceeded. Leaving as it is may rot the furniture and machineries already installed. Therefore the Government of Bangladesh may consider providing the minimum amount of support to make it functional.
83. The Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RDGD) under the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh and the Chairperson of EC 27 responded positively and assured that he would take the matter with his government to consider for making the International Conference Centre functional and handing over to CIRDAP at the earliest.

Decision 8/TC-26 The Government of Bangladesh is requested to consider providing the minimum amount of support to make the International Conference Centre functional so that it can be used.

**Agenda Item – 13: Discussion and finalization of the outline of
the Rural Development Report -2011**

84. Three topics such as Disaster Management and Rural Development in Asia-Pacific, Food Security in the CIRDAP Member Countries, and Comparative Assessment of Decentralization in CIRDAP Member Countries were introduced for selection of one topic for Rural Development Report -2011.
85. IRD Expert stated that the theme “**Comparative Assessment of Decentralization in CIRDAP Member Countries**” is appropriate compared to the other two topics considering the appropriateness of the mandate of Centre as well as the recently proclaimed Dhaka Declaration and within the availability of time. This proposition was supported by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India and Sri Lanka.
86. Delegate from Pakistan advocated for “Food Security” as the title of the “Rural Development Report 2011” and the Malaysian delegate was in favour of the Disaster Management. But he consented that whatever decision is taken Malaysia will abide by.

Decision 9/TC-26: The Meeting selected “Comparative Assessment of Decentralization in CIRDAP Member Countries” as the theme for the RDR-2011 with the following time frame:

- i. Country reports received by CIRDAP- February/March-2011
- ii. Analysis and preparation of Overview paper by CIRDAP- April-June 2011
- iii. Publish the reports- July 2011
- iv. RDR-2011 will be presented in the Regional Policy Dialogue in August 2011 in Tehran

Agenda 14: Other Matters

87. Under other matters several delegates raised the problems of getting visa in some countries, consequently some of the participants failed to attend the respective programme. In order to mitigate the problem the CMCs/CLIs are requested to nominate participants to training well ahead of time.

Agenda Item – 15: Fixing the date and venue of the next Technical Committee Meeting.

88. The delegate from Sri- Lanka offered in the meeting of its interest and willingness to host the twenty-seventh regular meeting of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP in Colombo.

Agenda Item – 16: Adoption of the Report of the 26th Technical Committee Meeting.

89. The meeting unanimously adopted the report as presented by Director General CIRDAP.
90. On behalf of the delegates Brig (Retd) Amanulla thanked the participants for their constructive and positive contribution in the meeting. DG, CIRDAP once again thanked the participants for attending the meeting. He also commended the Executive Director of AIRD and Chairperson of TC-26 and his team in hosting and taking all the pains in organizing the meeting in such a difficult time and making it a success. He also appreciated the local hospitality and arrangement of the meeting.
91. In closing the meeting, the chairman TC-26 thanked the participants for their active participation which had contributed to the meeting's success. He appreciated presence of EC-27 Chairperson and the Secretary RDCD, Bangladesh. He also thanked Director General, CIRDAP and his team for organizing and coordinating the meeting in Afghanistan. He finally urged upon all CLIs for cooperation and support during his tenure to materialise mandates of CIRDAP.



(Mr. Abdul Rahman Shekib)

Chairperson

Kabul, Afghanistan

Twenty Sixth Technical Committee, CIRDAP

14 December 2010

and

Executive Director

Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD)

Ministry of Rehabilitation Rural Development

Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

List of participants in Technical Committee Meeting
held in Kabul , Afghanistan on 11-14 December 2010

1. AFGHANISTAN Abdul R Shekib
Acting Executive Director
Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
Office No. 0752040371
Mob No. 0773743260
Skype id. Shekibmrrd
E-mail: "Rahman Shekib" <rahman@mrrd.gov.af>
Alt Email. rahman1397@gmail.com
Website: www.mrrd.gov.af

2. BANGLADESH Mr. Md. Ataur Rahman
Director General
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)
Kotbari, Comilla
Bangladesh
Tel: (081) 63600, 76715 (Off), Fax: 081-68406
E-mail: bardbd@hotmail.com; bardbd@yahoo.com

3. FIJI Mr. Tevita Boseiwaqa
Director Development Service
Provincial Development, Multi Ethnic Affairs,
National Disaster Management and Sugar
Government of Republic of the Fiji Islands
1 Regional House, Knolly Street
Post Office Box 2219, Government Buildings
SUVA, Republic of the Fiji Islands
Tel.: 679 3313400, Fax: +679 3303256
E-mail: "Selina Naceba" <snaceba@govnet.gov.fj>
E-mail: <<mailto:PRatumaitavuki@psc.gov.fj>>PRatumaitavuki@psc.gov.fj

4. INDIA Dr. K. Sumon Chandra
P& H (RTD)
National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD)
Rajendranagar
Hyderabad 500 030, India
Phone: 91-40-24008441, 24015277, 24008444 (Off); 24008535 (Res)
Fax: 91-40-24015277, 24016500, 24008444
E-Mail: katepogu suman chandra <sumanchandra420@yahoo.co.uk>
E-mail: dgnird@nird.gov.in;

5. MALAYSIA EDDY SAHRIZAN RUSLI
Assistant Director
Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA)
Ministry of Rural and Regional Development
Lot 2A, Persiaran Institusi
43000 Kajang, Selangor Darul Eshan
Malaysia
Tel: (603) 87352401-02 (89265964/5943/5914/5915)
Fax: (603) 8926 5901/89265905
Email: infra@infra.gov.my ,Website: www.infra.gov.my

6. NEPAL
 Dr. Govinda Prasad Guragain
 Executive Director
 Local Development Training Academy (LDTA)
 P.O. Box – 11980, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, Nepal
 Tel: (977-1) 5522004, 5521051, 5534212 (Off)
 Fax: (977-1) 5521521
 E-mail: ldta@wlink.com.np, gdhaka@ldta.org.np
7. PAKISTAN
 Brig. (Retd.) Amanullah
 Director General
 Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural
 Development & Municipal Administration (AHK NCRD & MA)
 Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
 Government of Pakistan
 Park Road, Chak Shahzad
 Islamabad, Pakistan
 Tel: (92-51) 9255154 (Off), Fax: (92-51) 9255157
 E-mail: ahknrcrd@gmail.com; dgncrd@isd.wol.net.pk; ncrd@best.net.pk;
8. PHILIPPINES
 MS. Susana Evangelista – Leones
 Director
 Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARBD)
 Department of Agrarian Reform, Republic of the Philippines
 2/F, FAPsO Building, DLR Compound
 Elliptical Road, Diliman
 Quezon City, Philippines
 Tel: (63-2) 9184903168 / 9175076815
 Telefax:(63-2) 454-2027 / 9261890
 E-mail: seleones_phil@yahoo.com
9. SRI LANKA
 Mr. Lalith Kantha Jayasekara
 Director
 Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and
 Training Institute (HARTI)
 114 Wijerama Mawatha
 P.O. Box 1522
 Colombo, Sri Lanka
 Tel: (94-11)2696743,2696981,2698539-41,2689554 (Off);
 Fax: (94-11) 2696743 2692423,
 Mobile: +94-777890660
 E-mail: director@harti.lk

Observers participants

10. Bangladesh
 Mr. Mohammed Golam Quddus
 Chairman EC-27 of CIRDAP and Secretary In-Charge
 Rural Development and Cooperatives Division
 Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Bangladesh Secretariat
 Dhaka-1000, **Bangladesh**
 Tel: (880-2) 7161818 (Off), 01713042526 (Mob.)
 Fax: (880-2) 7162284
 E-mail: secyrdcd@aitlbd.net

11. IRD EXPERT Professor (Dr.) Yoshihiro Kaida
601-22, Iwakura Hataeda-Cho
Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-0015
Japan
Tel & Fax: 81-075-724-8454; Mobile: 090-3262-8454
E-mail: kaidayoshi@kyoto.zaq.ne.jp
12. CIRDP Dr. Durga P. Paudyal (Nepalee)
Director General
Center on Integrated Rural Development
for Asia and the Pacific
Chameli House, 17- Topkhana Road, Dhaka
Bangladesh
Tel: 7169824 and Fax: 9562035
E-mail : dgcirdap@cirdap.org
13. Mr. Hossain Shahbaz
Director (Pilot Projects)
Center on Integrated Rural Development
for Asia and the Pacific
Chameli House, 17- Topkhana Road, Dhaka
Bangladesh
Tel: 7169824 and Fax: 9562035
E-mail : shla@cirdap.org
14. Dr. Majibar Rahman
Special Officer and Coordinator
Center on Integrated Rural Development
for Asia and the Pacific
Chameli House, 17- Topkhana Road, Dhaka
Bangladesh
Tel: 7169824 and Fax: 9562035
E-mail : mrahman@cirdap.org
15. Ms. Khin Mar Oo
Programme Officer (Training)
CIRDAP
Chameli House, 17- Topkhana Road, Dhaka
Bangladesh
Tel: 7169824 and Fax: 9562035
E-Mail: khinmaroo@cirdap.org
16. Mr. Safiqur Rahman
Assistant Programme Officer
Research Division
CIRDAP
Chameli House, 17- Topkhana Road, Dhaka
Bangladesh
Tel: 7169824 and Fax: 9562035
E-mail: srahman@cirdap.org
17. AIRD Farid Ahmad Rahmani
Sr. Management Support Officer
AIRD/MRRD
Afghanistan
Cell: +93 700 600 325
Email: aird@mrrd.gov.af

18. Dr. Sharif "Amiri"
Program Manager
MRRD/AIRD
Afghanistan
Cell: +93 779 482 619 or +794 009 697
Email: sharif.amiri@mrrd.gov.af
19. Dr S Rajakutty
Former Professor and Director,
Centre for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (CPME)
National Institute of Rural Development,
Rajendranagar
Hyderabad 500030, India
91-40-24008877
00-91-91778 17504
E-Mail: Rajakutty Sadhasivam srajakutty@gmail.com
20. Mr. Mohammad Omar Anwarzay
Head of Research
Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
Cell: 93 (0) 700 295 485
E-mail: omar.anwarzai@mrrd.gov.af
21. Mr. Hidayatullah Sapi
Project Supervisor RTP/AIRD
AIRD, Afghanistan
Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
Cell: 93(0) 77 59 566 88
E-Mail: hidayatullah202@gmail.com