New Director General of CIRDAP from Fiji

Dr. Cecep Effendi on completion of his tenure as Director General of CIRDAP 2012-2016 handed over the charge to Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau.

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau from Fiji appointed by the Governing Council of CIRDAP assumed charge on 06 July 2016 as the eighth Director General of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) for a term of four years (2016-2020).

Mr. Taginavulau has worked in various Ministries within Fiji’s Public Service in a span of 31 years. These Ministries include the Ministry of Education, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, Ministry of Provincial (Rural) Development & Disaster Management, Ministry of Defence and National Security and Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources.

During his public service he held positions in different ministries as Director, Deputy Secretary and finally as a Permanent Secretary. He has also been the Chairperson and member of various Government Boards and Committees.

He was also instrumental in planning and implementing some aspects of Fiji Government Reforms relating to the roles of the high positions he held in various Ministries. This include among others, the Land Reform through the Committee on Better Utilisation of Land, Integrated Rural Development Framework, Geospatial Information Management initiative and Organisation Restructure of the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources.
Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General (DG), CIRDAP and Director (ICD and Training), CIRDAP met the Hon’ble Minister and Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (GoI) on 22 August 2016 at New Delhi, India. DG, CIRDAP introduced himself and thanked the Minister for continued support of India to CIRDAP. He discussed regarding Pacific Island Countries (PICs) membership with CIRDAP besides other issues during the meeting.

DG also met Mr. Manish Chauhan, Joint Secretary, UN Economic and Social Division (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI, and Mr. Jaideep Mazumder, Joint Secretary (South), MEA, GoI to discuss India’s Cooperation to bring membership from PICs to CIRDAP.

**Courtesy Call on Secretary General, AARDO**

On 23 August 2016, DG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Eng. Wassfì Hassan El Sreihin, Secretary General, African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), New Delhi. The CIRDAP-AARDO MoU was discussed. As decided, CIRDAP and AARDO will be organizing Round Table on Agri Insurance in 2017.
On 24 August 2016, DG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ms. Namita Khatri, High Commissioner of Fiji in India, and discussed with her CIRDAP issues.

**Meeting with First Secretary, High Commission of PNG in India**

Director General met Ms. Seline Leo-Lohia, First Secretary, High Commission of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in India on 24 August 2016 to discuss the membership of PNG and membership process with CIRDAP.

**Meeting with DDG, ICAR, India**

DG met Mr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General and Dr. Devinder Dhingra, Principal Scientist (Process Engineering) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on 24 August 2016 to discuss Memorandum of Understanding between CIRDAP and ICAR.

**Meeting with Director, KILA**

DG met Dr. P. P. Balan, Director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) on 20 August 2016. He discussed with him the local government system in Kerala Province and expressed interest to share this with Fiji, which is in the process of enhancing community participation.
On 29 August 2016, Director General paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Tun Winn, Deputy Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and discussed with him CIRDAP issues.

**Stakeholders Meeting for the proposed Project on “Powering up One House, One Farm: Making Every Household Ahead” held**

A stakeholders meeting on the proposed Pilot Project titled “Powering up One House, One Farm: Making Every Household Ahead” was held at CIRDAP headquarters in order to discuss regarding proposal development and submission process of the project. Proposal of USD 1 Million Grant for this project is to be submitted to UNDESA, focusing on integrating sustainable renewable energy in scaling up the project/programme titled “One House, One Farm (OHOF)/Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar (EBEK)” initiated by the Rural Development Cooperative Division (RDCD) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

The collaboration for this project is proposed between CIRDAP and EBEK-RDCD. Other specialized partners like ‘Hathay Bunano’ and ‘Barefoot College’ are expected to be involved in this project.

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG, CIRDAP briefed about the proposed pilot project following the discussions with the Hon’ble Minister and M.P. H.E. Engineer Khandker Mosharaf Hossain, MoLGRD&C, GoB. DG CIRDAP said that the grant proposal to be submitted to UNDESA by PPD,
CIRDAP involving EBEK which could be a model of pilot project, replicable to other CIRDAP Member Countries apart from the CIRDAP host country Bangladesh.

Chaired by Director General of CIRDAP, the meeting was attended by Mr. Sardar Abul Kalam, Additional Secretary, RDCD (represented Secretary RDCD), Mr. Mohammad Abul Qayyum, Additional Secretary and DG, BRDB, Mr. Salahuddin Mahmud, Additional Secretary and DG, BARD, Mr. Akber Hossain, Joint Secretary and Project Director, EBEK, Mr. Pranab Kumer Ghose, Joint Secretary and DPD, EBEK, Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Deputy Secretary and DPD, EBEK, Md. Ziaul Hasan, Deputy Director (Planning), BRDB, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP, Mr. Syed Akikur Rahman, Accounts Manager, Hathay Burano, Mr. Mohammad Rayhan Kabir, ED, Hathay Burano, Mr. David Hilton, Asst. Programme Officer, PPD, CIRDAP, Mr. Shafiul Azam, Asst. Protocol Officer, CIRDAP, Mrs. Razia Sultana (Solar Mama), Solar Engineer, Barefoot College (BC), Mrs. Sokhina Begum (Solar Mama), Solar Engineer, BC, and Mrs. Monowara Khatun (Solar Mama), Solar Engineer, BC.

**CIRDAP – SAARC- AMRITA University Expert Consultation Meeting on Agro-processing held**

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in collaboration with SAARC and Amrita University conducted an expert consultation meeting on “Assessment of the Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models” at Amrita University, Coimbatore from 16-19 August, 2016. The regional meeting focused on establishing a shared framework for rural development through small-scale agro-businesses.

Experts from the Ministries of 10 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia attended the seminar. Amrita School of Business, Coimbatore hosted the event.

The Consultation Meeting was inaugurated on 18 August 2016 at 9:00 a.m. by Dr. Sankaran K., Registrar, Amrita University as Chief Guest.

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Tanginavulau, Director General, CIRDAP highlighted the need to cultivate self-determination among people. Of all the things that boosted their success, the most important was having self-determination as done by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Abraham Lincoln – all had different styles of leadership. The will-power of the individuals has to be made stronger.

Each country member presented his/her country’s agro-processing experiences, discussed the challenges faced and shared the successful research and business models adopted in the respective country. The members visited the villages near Coimbatore adopted by Mata Amritanandamayi Math to witness the sustainable practices put in place by Amrita University.
Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director ICD and Training a.i., CIRDAP made a presentation on “Agro-processing and Rural Development in Southeast Asia” highlighting the status and strength of agro-processing in seven CIRDAP member countries viz. Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Mr. Ir. Kristiawan, an entrepreneur from Indonesia presented the success of agro-processing in Indonesia. He shared with the members about the machineries available for agro-processing. Mr. Hassan bin Said, Director, Business Promotion and Business Development Centre, MARDI, Malaysia shared Malaysian experience of agro-processing and Mr. Pallop Tanjariyaporn shared Thailand experience on agro-processing.

There was a panel discussion to come up with recommendations. The meeting adopted some recommendations for follow-up by the member countries on policy and research issues.

Training of Trainers’ Programme on Agricultural Extension held in Myanmar

CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), Government of Myanmar organized a programme on “Training of Trainers’ Programme on Agricultural Extension” held from 29 August – 02 September 2016 at Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. This programme was participated by 30 agriculture extension officials from the different departments of the MoALI, Government of Myanmar.

The objectives of this training programme were to review the existing Agricultural Extension Methods in Myanmar; find out the way for solving critical issues in extension service of Myanmar; share experiences from the region; seek the effective way and modify extension approaches for farmers; built the capacity of extension agents; and adopt the suitable extension methods.

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General of CIRDAP inaugurated the ToT Programme at Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw on 29 August 2016. Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary of the MoALI was also present in the programme.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director (Agricultural Extension), Dr. Vikram Singh, Director (HRD) and Dr. M.A. Kareem, Deputy Director (Agricultural Extension) from MANAGE, (a national organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India), Hyderabad, India served as Resource Persons who delivered sessions with different aspects of Agricultural Extension. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD and Training Division), CIRDAP coordinated the programme.

Field Visit to the Project Area of One House One Farm in Bangladesh

One House One Farm (OHOF)/Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar is an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh to ensure agro livelihood and family farming through e-financial inclusion and empowerment of the small holders and under privileged including women since 2010. The Government is looking forward to improve
the livelihood situation of the beneficiaries through providing more amenities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

At the invitation of the Project Director, a three member team from CIRDAP consisting of Ms. Eva Benita Tuzon, Director Pilot Project Division along with Mr. Shafiqur Rahman and Mr. David Hilton, Asst. Programme Officers of Research and Pilot Projects Division respectively, visited Baroi Para Village Development Organization (VDO) Under Rupgonj Upazila, Narayangonj, Bangladesh on 19 July 2016 for the assessment of the project. The team was guided by Mr. Nazir Ahmed, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of the Local Government Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Government of Bangladesh and the Deputy Project Director, OHOF. Ms. Farhana Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, who is also overall coordinator of the VDOs in the Upazila, briefed about the project. Other staffs of the project were present.

The team visited two villages in Rupgonj Upazila and met beneficiaries. They discussed with them about the progress of the project, their opportunities, problems etc.

**Visit to Rural Development Academy, Bogra**

At the invitation of the Director General, Rural Development Academy (RDA), a team of CIRDAP led by Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwa Taginavulau Director General, CIRDAP and accompanied by Director ICD, Director PPD and Asst. Programme Officer (Research) attended the valedictory programme of the Annual Planning Conference (APC) of RDA held at its campus, Bogra on 25 July 2016.
DG, CIRDAP chaired the valedictory session. On 26 July, the CIRDAP team discussed with faculty of RDA to identify mutual areas of cooperation between CIRDAP and RDA.

**Five Officials from CMCs selected for PGDRDM Programme sponsored by India**

The following five officials from CMCs were selected for One Year Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India for 2016-17, which Sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India:

1. Ms. Panida Thatujirangkul, Agricultural Extensionist, Office of the Agricultural Extension and Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, **Thailand**
2. Mr. Mohammad Kabir Monir, Quality Assurance Analyst, Monitoring and Evaluation Department, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), **Afghanistan**
3. Mr. Jone Selala, Clerical Officer, District Office Tavua, **Fiji**
4. Ms. Naw Hser Gay Paw, Deputy Programme Officer, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, **Myanmar**
5. Mr. Le Van Thiem, Kim Trung, Kim Lu, Soc Son, Hanoi, **Vietnam**

**Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain to be held in Indonesia**

The second collaborative project on “Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain” initiated by APO-Japan and CIRDAP is expected to be held in Bali, Indonesia from 26-28 October 2016. There are lots of preparatory coordination works which are now under way among the stakeholders to implement the project smoothly. The circulation of the project notification has been already sent by CIRDAP to prospective participants with the guideline of selection criteria for participants. Participants should be related to agricultural production, postharvest and processing technologies. The programme aims to provide a platform for presenting and discussing current issues and emerging challenges for Asian countries in meeting their national food requirements amid agricultural resource depletion and environmental degradation; share best practices and advanced knowledge on agro-eco innovations to build green food supply chains; and formulate a common agenda for action for promoting productive, sustainable and green food supply chains in the region.

**New Staff at CIRDAP**

- Mr. Nazib Neaz joined CIRDAP as Executive Assistant to DG on 07 August 2016.
- Ms. Aparna Roy joined CIRDAP as Secretary (Admin. and Finance) on 14 August 2016.

**ITEC Fellowships for 2016-17**

As a kind gesture for regional cooperation in promoting human resource development of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), the Honorable Minister of Rural Development, Government of India and the Chairperson of the GC-19 declared in the inaugural session of the 19th GC meeting that Government of India would offer 20 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) fellowships to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) every year.

Under the ITEC programmes, CMCs may avail the Civilian Training Programmes offered by various Indian institutes for the financial year 2016-17 (April 2016 to March 2017). The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, will bear the course fee, board and lodging and out-of-pocket allowance of the qualified nominee(s). The applicants may be advised to visit the website of ITEC (http://itec.mea.goi.in) or the website of CIRDAP (www.cirdap.org).
Recent Publication

- CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD-144)
- APJORD XXVI, No. 1, July 2016

Forthcoming Programmes

- **APO – CIRDAP Programme**: Training Course for Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving the Productivity of Micro and Small Agro food-processing Businesses, 7 – 11 November 2016, NIRD- Hyderabad, India.
- **CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Social Audit – The Indian Experience**, 9-18 November 2016, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India.
- **CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Smart Agriculture**, December 2016, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India.
- Knowledge Exchange Visit to Barefoot College from One House One Farm (OHOF) under RDCD, MOLGRD&C, Government of Bangladesh.

Event Calendar

**For further details please contact:**

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