



# APRACA Newsletter

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Delegates of 3<sup>rd</sup> Dissemination Workshop of IFAD Regional Grant Project 'RuFBeP' held in Beijing, China during 28-29 March 2018

## Dissemination Workshop on IFAD Grant Project 'RuFBeP' held in Beijing, China

The third (3<sup>rd</sup>) dissemination workshop related to the IFAD regional grant project 'RuFBeP' was held in Beijing during 28-29 March 2018 which was hosted by Huainantongshang Rural Commercial Bank (HRCB) in collaboration with IFAD China Office. The workshop was organized primarily to discuss the final results of piloting of identified good practices in 3 focused countries (Indonesia, China and Philippines), their impact, challenges to scaling up and policy implications on adaptation. The workshop also discussed the possible collaborative efforts of RuFBeP piloting with the IFAD Investment projects in the three target countries and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop was attended by 94 high level delegations from 16 countries and represented the National ministries, IFAD, FAO, UNDP, APRACA member institutions, government line departments, regional farmers' organizations and civil society.

The broad objectives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> dissemination workshop were: (a) To understand the results of the pilot testing of identified good practices in 3 focused countries and relate these good practices under their unique operating environment and their relationship with the global good practices, (b) To generate inputs from the global experts to deepen the contents and strengthen the impact assessment documents; (c) To match the findings with the thematic focuses and issues of the selected countries for the future scaling up; (d) To finalize the focal points from each country for backstopping the process of scaling up of the identified good practices based on the results of pilot testing and (e) To forge strategic partnerships and synergy among project stakeholders at both country and regional levels to disseminate the results.

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The methodology and the schedule followed in the dissemination workshop were: (a) Presentations by the global and regional experts on the pro-poor rural finance best practices and implementation in growth and development of the country; (b) Country implementation teams will present the final results and impacts of the pilot testing conducted in their respective countries; (c) Documentation of the inputs from the global and regional experts on improving the impact document with special

reference to country specific policy environments to adopt rural finance good practices in the region; (d) Encourage discussions by the country team and the participants on the scalability of the good practices presented by them and after completion of the project and (e) Discuss the strategies on the most practical ways to disseminate the results of the evidences gathered and engagement with the country level policy makers.



*Mr. Matteo Marchisio, Country Director, IFAD China country office welcoming the delegates of Dissemination Workshop*



*Mr. Lu Shanjun, Chairman, Huainantongshang Rural Commercial Bank (HRCB), Huainan, Anhui, China delivering welcome address at the opening ceremony of the Dissemination workshop*



*Mr. Apirom Sukprasert, President, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), Thailand speaking on 'Innovations in Financing Small Agri-Enterprises (SMAEs): Experiences of Thailand'*



*Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General, APRACA delivering the vote of thanks at the inaugural session of Dissemination Workshop on 28 March 2018*



*Mr. G.R. Chintala, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Mumbai, India delivering the key note address during the Dissemination Workshop*

## Activities of APRACA Secretariat

- International Programme  
 “Skill Development of Trainers in the area of promotion and financing Self Help Groups and Joint Liability Groups for Financial Inclusion of Rural Poor”  
 Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India;  
 8-11 January 2018

The International programme on ‘Skill Development of Trainers in the area of promotion and financing Self Help Groups and Joint Liability Groups for Financial Inclusion of Rural Poor’ was organized by Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) during 8-11 January 2018 at Lucknow, India in collaboration with Centre for International Cooperation and Training in Agriculture Banking (CICTAB) under Sponsorship of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Asia-Pacific Rural Agriculture Credit Association (APRACA). The main objectives of the skill development programme were: (a) To acquaint the participants with various training techniques suitable for different training programmes to make the



*Participants of the International programme on skill development of trainers on Self Help Groups and Joint Liability Groups held in BIRD Lucknow, India during 8-11 January 2018*

training inputs effective and relevant; (b) To sensitize the participants to the concept of Self Help Group (SHGs) and Joint Liability Group (JLGs) as a supplementary credit delivery system / Financial Inclusion of Rural Poor and (c) To equip the participants to develop effective linkages between Rural Financial Institution and SHGs. The programme was attended by 20 participants from 6 countries from South and Southeast Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Lao PDR). Apart from the classroom training the trainees also visited the field to understand the dynamics of Self Help Group movement in the country side and their journey to the main stream development.

- Inauguration of APRACA Centre of Excellence at the BIRD Campus, Lucknow on 8 January 2018

APRACA joined hands with NABARD (member of EXCOM) to have a regular working relationship by way of establishing a center named as “APRACA Center of Excellence-NABARD” (ACE-NABARD) with a focus on linkage banking. This center was officially inaugurated at the campus of BIRD, Lucknow, India on 8 January 2018 by Mr. H R Dave, Deputy Managing Director, Mr. G.R. Chintala, CGM NABARD, Dr. D V Deshpande, Director, BIRD in presence of Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General, APRACA. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by the Chief General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Lucknow; Convener of Uttar Pradesh State Level Banker’s Committee and Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Regional Rural Bank. The inauguration ceremony was also covered by print media as a new initiative which will bring regional experiences in to the learning.



*The Chief General Manager, Bank of Baroda and the convener, State Level Bankers’ Committee, Uttar Pradesh, India speaking during the inauguration of ACE*



*Dignitaries inaugurating the Programme Booklet of APRACA Centre of Excellence (ACE) at the BIRD Auditorium on 8 January 2018*



*Dignitaries at the inaugural session of ACE at the BIRD Auditorium, Lucknow, India*

■ **APRACA team paid a courtesy visit to BAAC and met the President Mr. Apirom Sukprasert on 23 January 2018**

APRACA Secretary General Dr. Prasun Kumar Das was accompanied by staff members of the Secretariat during the courtesy visit to the head office of Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) on 23 January 2018 and met Mr. Apirom Sukprasert, President of BAAC who extended warm welcome to APRACA team. The President, BAAC emphasized for greater cooperation with

APRACA in days to come. He also requested APRACA to support BAAC on documentation of some extraordinary work done by the bank in the field of agricultural finance. He also offered that BAAC would be hosting the 72<sup>nd</sup> APRACA Executive Committee meeting in Thailand during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019.



*APRACA Secretariat team with Mr. Apirom Sukprasert, President BAAC during the courtesy visit to his office on 23 January*

■ **President and CEO of ASKI Philippines paid his maiden visit to APRACA Secretariat, Bangkok**

Mr. Rolando Victoria, President and CEO of Alalay Sa Kaunlaran Inc. (ASKI), Philippines visited the Secretariat of APRACA in Bangkok on 5 February 2018. He was accompanied by Ms. Jane Magno Manucdoc, Director Microfinance and Ms. Mary Jane Planas Macapagal, Director Training in ASKI. Mr. Rolando assured more close

interaction with APRACA in near future and assured his continuous support to APRACA activities. He also agreed that south-south cooperation among the APRACA members is very important and they would like to share their experiences in the Philippines which might be beneficial to other APRACA members.



*Mr. Rolando Victoria, President and CEO of ASKI Philippines with the APRACA Secretariat during his visit to Thailand*

- **The HVAP team from Nepal Visited Thailand to study 'Agricultural Value Chain Development and Insurance'**

APRACA organized a study visit programme for 20 Officials from High Value Agricultural Project in Hill and Mountain Areas (HVAP), Nepal during 10-14 February 2018. The HVAP team met the official from the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative (BAAC) to comprehend the Value Chain Finance and Agricultural Insurance programme of the Bank and then they visited the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Thailand to understand the enabling policies in Thailand for promoting agricultural value chains. The team also visited one of the Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCs) to recognize agricultural marketing systems in the country. During their last leg of visit, APRACA organized a visit to one Milk producers' Cooperative in Thailand to get the glimpses of the cooperative movement in the country.



*Delegates from HVAP, Nepal participated in field sessions during their training and visit programme to Thailand*

- **Secretary to the Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Nepal visited APRACA Secretariat**

A team of 7 officials led by the Secretary, Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Nepal visited Thailand during 17-20 February 2018. The visit was organized by APRACA Secretariat to provide an exposure to the officials on the cooperative movement in Thailand. The exposure visit was designed keeping in view the enactment of new cooperative law in Nepal. The Secretary to the Government of Nepal was extremely happy with this exposure visit and recommended that he will send one more batch of officials from his department for deeper study on the cooperative banking and community financial institutions in Thailand.



*Delegates from Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Nepal led by Secretary Mr. Gopinath Mainali with the Secretary General of APRACA at Bangkok*

- **Hon. Mr. Luck Wajananawat, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Government of Thailand paid visit to APRACA Secretariat**

Hon. Mr. Luck Wajananawat, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Royal Government of Thailand paid a visit to the APRACA Secretariat on 20 February 2018. His visit to APRACA Secretariat is historical as he is the first Deputy Minister rank official visited APRACA office. During the discussion he emphasized that APRACA should play a greater role in agricultural development in Thailand and other ASEAN countries. He also advised that APRACA need to come out with new and innovative ideas of providing agricultural finance to the farming community. He also insisted upon that the ageing society of Thai farmer's need some new look and provide them opportunities to contribute their wisdom in developing Thai agriculture. APRACA Secretary General accepted the

advises of the Honourable minister and assured him that APRACA will soon be consulting other partners in this regard and report the minister as soon as possible.



Welcoming Mr. Luck Wajananawat, Deputy Minister, Agriculture, Royal Government of Thailand during his visit to APRACA Secretariat, Bangkok

## ■ APRACA Secretary General visited Srisakat and Yasothorn provinces of Thailand

APRACA Secretary General accompanied the top management of BAAC to visit and study the activities of the selected community enterprises in Srisakat and Yasothorn provinces of Thailand during 14-15 March 2018. The community enterprises visited in both the places is working on production, processing, packaging and marketing of organic rice and its products. Both the Community enterprises are successful in leveraging the local wisdom of Thai rice farmers and using the latest technological innovations in production of organic rice. The marketing channel adopted by both the



APRACA Secretary General with the Chairman of Nam-Om Community Enterprise and BAAC Officials in Yasothorn Province of Thailand

community enterprises are excellent choice based on their current knowledge, however could be improved with more professional approach and using the internet platform for marketing. The interventions of BAAC to finance these enterprises are crucial and APRACA agreed to document these cases for the benefit of the APRACA member institutions and other interested entities,



APRACA Secretary General with Mr. Baan Umsaeng and BAAC Officials at the Boonmee Rice Packaging plant visited Baan Umsaeng Community Enterprise in Srisaket Province of Thailand

## ■ APRACA organized the International Master Class training programme in Bangkok on Agricultural Value Chain Finance in collaboration with AFRACA

APRACA organized the Master Class training programme on Agricultural Value Chain Finance (AgVCF) in Bangkok during 19-24 March 2018 in collaboration with AFRACA. This course was targeted for the trainers who were already trained during the international training of trainers (ToT) programme organized jointly by AFRACA and FAO during the last 3 years across African continent. As the Master Class Training Programme involves both conceptual and applied learning so that the course will enhance the skills of the trainers in this highly specialized area of agricultural finance, APRACA

considered both the theoretical aspects and practical areas of interventions while designing the programme. The 5 day long Master Class programme included 3 day classroom training sessions and 2 day field visit to Agribusiness companies in Thailand. The trainers were drawn from APRACA member institutions to provide the participants practical knowledge about the agricultural value chain financing being practiced in their banks. The field visit organized with the agribusiness companies to provide deep understanding on the practical issues, challenges and opportunities in this sector of the economy.



Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, SG APRACA welcoming the participants from 10 countries from Africa participating in the International Master Class Training Programme on Agricultural Value Chain Finance



Participants of the International Master Class Training Programme on Agricultural Value Chain Finance held in Bangkok



Participants discussing an important business model in Agricultural Value Chain Finance training sessions



Participants of the International Master Class training programme on Agricultural Value Chain Finance Officials during their field visits to Dairy cooperative and Agri based Community Enterprise



## ■ APRACA convened the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting for 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance

APRACA Secretariat convened the 1<sup>st</sup> steering committee meeting of the organizing committee of 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on 20 March 2018 in Bangkok. Mr. Shiba Raj Shrestha, Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank and APRACA Chairman inaugurated the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and described the importance of World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance. He emphasized that the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress must deal with the most pressing and emerging areas of quality of rural and agricultural finance which has global and regional impacts. He expressed his happiness to see that APRACA has got the privilege to organize this 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the global conference and congratulated the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), India for volunteering to host the same in New Delhi, India during November 2019. The Regional Rural Credit

Associations around the globe (APRACA, AFRACA, ALIDE and NENARACA) in collaboration with CICA organize the World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance in every three year. The other members present are Secretary Generals of AFRACA, CICA and APRACA, and representative from Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC). The representative from NABARD joined the meeting through video conferencing. It is expected that around 200 delegates constituting member institutions, experts and leaders in rural finance representing all continents will attend the congress. The most probable dates of the 6<sup>th</sup> World congress is 13-15 November 2019 and will be held in The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, India to be hosted by NABARD, India.



Delegates of the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee discussing the modalities to organize the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Rural and Agricultural finance during their meeting in Bangkok

## Activities of IFAD Grant Project 'RuFBep'

- IFAD Supervision Mission visited APRACA Secretariat to assess the progress of RuFBep Project:

The IFAD supervision mission team visited APRACA Secretariat during 22-26 January 2018 to assess the progress of IFAD regional grant project 'RuFBep'. The mission team thoroughly went through the process of implementation of the project, formation of country working group, selection of consultants and other fiduciary issues related to the project implementation. The mission was highly satisfied with the progress of the project and suggested few amendments in the process to improve the impact of the project. Based on the observations and the suggestions of the mission team, APRACA sent a request for extension of the project closure to complete some of the important assignments which need some more time for improving its quality. IFAD management under the recommendation of the supervision mission team was kind enough to extend the closure of the project by another 6 months.



IFAD supervision mission team discussing with the Secretary General of APRACA regarding the progress of the IFAD regional grant project during their visit to APRACA Secretariat in Bangkok

## News from APRACA Member Institutions

**Centre of excellence at BIRD: A centre of excellence of Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APARCA) was inaugurated at Bankers' Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) Lucknow by H R Dave, DMD, NABARD in presence of 36 participants from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Laos who are participating in an International collaborative programme on "Skill Development of Trainers on SHGs & JLGs".**



### APRACA ACE INAUGURATED

APRACA Centre of Excellence (ACE) was inaugurated at Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) by NABARD DMD HR Dave through video conferencing in the presence of APRACA secretary general Dr Prasun Kumar Das, BIRD director DV Deshpande, NABARD chief general manager G R Chintala and others besides

36 participants from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Laos who are at BIRD to participate in an international collaborative programme on skill development of trainers on SHGs and JLGs. The programme is being conducted by BIRD in collaboration with Centre for International Cooperation and training in Agriculture Banking (CICTAB), NABARD and APRACA. Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) is an association of 24 countries of Asia and Pacific countries which works for promotion of rural banking in member Countries. This centre has been established with collaboration of NABARD and APRACA.

For details, please visit:

- <https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/#>
- The pioneer, lucknow/Tuesday/January 9, 2018, Vol. 154, Issue 8, Page 4



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