



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

ON



Rural Development in Asia-Pacific Region

Special reference to North-East India and its Bordering countries

24-25 March, 2020

Organized by:

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj,
North Eastern Regional Centre,
Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, Guwahati, India.

In collaboration with

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD),
Government of Bangladesh, Cumilla, Bangladesh.

At

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj,
North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati, Assam, India

In association with



Centre for Studies on
Bangladesh and
Myanmar,
Dibrugarh University,
India



College of Natural
Resource,
Royal University
Bhutan



Department of
Development Studies,
University of Dhaka,
Bangladesh



Central Department of
Rural Development,
Tribhuvan University,
Nepal



Rajiv Gandhi University,
Arunachal Pradesh,
India.

BACKGROUND

Asia and the Pacific today is home to about 70 per cent of the world's rural population. Despite its declining share in national income, the farm sector remains the largest employer. But the per capita arable and permanent cropland availability in the region is only 0.16 ha, compared to 0.37 ha in the rest of the world (FAO).

An estimated 524 million of the 2.8 billion people in the region are undernourished, the bulk of them in the two most populous countries, China with 150 million food-insecure people and India with 212 million hungry (FAO). Hunger manifests itself in the very high child malnutrition and mortality rates in this region, with rates in some South Asian countries higher than those in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of the food-insecure people are in the rural areas, with small and marginal farmers, landless, women and children, indigenous people and rural persons with disabilities being the most vulnerable. The widespread food insecurity in the region has economic implications as hunger is not only a consequence but also a cause of poverty, and a major contributory factor in undermining the economic productive potential of individuals, families and entire nations. However, the region has also seen impressive gains in poverty and food insecurity reduction over the last three decades. Economic growth over the past decade, although uneven, has surpassed that of any other region in the world, enabling 270 million people to escape poverty between 1990 and 2004.

The region has more than half the world's extreme poor with an estimated 641 million people living on less than US\$ 1 per day (ESCAP, ADB & UNDP, 2007). Inequitable distribution of growth rather than macro-economic growth is the main cause of income poverty in the region. Rural women are among those most at risk of poverty with fewer livelihood chances, less occupational mobility, weaker skills and less access to resources and training. The high levels of rural poverty and hunger in the region persist because of lack of secure livelihoods for the marginalized rural poor, lack of adequate non-farm rural employment opportunities, declining public investment in agriculture and rural development, lack of participatory decision-making and the inability of rural producers to take advantage of the new opportunities created by the liberalisation and globalisation of agricultural trade. While many countries in the region can mobilise internally the resources needed to meet sustainable development needs, the poorest nations lack adequate funds for their basic investment needs. Providing the poorest nations with access to developed world markets can be a highly effective way to generate the funds needed for investment in sustainable rural development. The declining share of agriculture in national income is reflected in the increasing urban-rural migration, especially of young males and skilled workers, resulting in the greying and feminization of the rural sector. Continuing deprivation of women, marginal farmers, and ethnic and social minorities are undermining rural human resources.

Agriculture remains the main livelihood provider in the region which is emerging as the breadbasket of the world. More than 50 per cent of the world's industrial crops are produced in the Asia-Pacific region. Enabling policy and economic environments have led to many success stories, including unique rural development models: from agro-industrial entrepreneurship, cooperatives, and rural financial systems to farmer field schools in integrated pest management. There is growing inequity among countries in the region as well as at national and local levels. Average farm size is declining in many countries and increasing.

Rural development has always been an important issue in all discussions pertaining to economic development, especially of developing countries, throughout the world. The socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas are widening and creating tremendous pressure on the social and economic fabric of many developing Asian economies. These factors, among many others, tend to highlight the importance of rural development. The policy makers in most of the developing economies recognize this importance and have been implementing a host of programs and measures to achieve rural development objectives. While some of these countries have achieved impressive results, others have failed to make a significant dent in the problem of persistent rural underdevelopment.

Border areas have their own problems and peculiarities. However, the magnitude of the problem differs from region to region depending upon the geographical condition, socio-cultural set-up etc. Such areas are in general less accessible, making provision of basic facilities more difficult and costly. Moreover, porous nature of the border enables easy cross border passage for insurgents and criminals including drug traffickers. Thus, governments of the states with international border are required to bear heavier burden for not only providing basic facilities to the people living in such areas but also for the broader national goal of securing the border.

The Northeast India with 99 per cent of its boundary being international border, the problems and peculiarities are even more accentuated. The States of the region are surrounded by China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. In spite of resourcefulness the entire region is regarded as underdeveloped. The remoteness, difficult terrain, infrastructural bottlenecks and unfriendly neighbours are the serious impediments of the development of the region. In this age of globalization and increased international cooperation, however, border areas also signify some new opportunities. Such opportunities are believed to be immense for Northeast India due to its geographical proximity to the prosperous East and Southeast Asian economies.

Villagers in border areas are vulnerable in terms of all development parameters. Problems are multidimensional and multi-facets. Apart from ongoing development programmes, special initiatives like BADP, Border Hat etc. have been taken over the period. But the core problems and challenges in border villages remain unchanged until or unless it is addressed jointly with neighbouring countries.

The knowledge sharing and discussions during the seminar will be useful in suggesting realistic solutions, recommending a policy framework and opening up new research avenues for the rural development in North East India and its neighbouring countries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

Under this background the international seminar is proposed with following objectives -

1. To discuss rural development issues in Asia-Pacific Countries.
2. To review the performance of development initiatives/projects/programmes/schemes implemented in rural areas of Asia-Pacific Region and border areas in specific.
3. To showcase best practices of rural development across the countries
4. To come out with a strategies for development cooperation among the neighbouring countries.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE SEMINAR

The two days International Seminar on Rural Development in Asia Pacific (RDAP 1) is planned to bring researchers, academicians, practitioners, planners, policy-makers, regulators, administrators and NGOs on a common platform to share and discuss the significant issues on the rural development in Asia Pacific region.

SUB-THEMES OF SEMINAR

- **Rural Economic Development** (Poverty, Inequality, Unemployment; Decent work and economic growth; Entrepreneurship; Social-Entrepreneurship; Micro Finance; Financial Inclusion; Unorganised sector; etc.)
- **Rural Social Development** (Zero hunger; Nutritional security; Quality Education; Good Health & Well Being; Clean Water & Sanitation; etc.)
- **Inclusive Rural Development** (Gender equality; Gender Based Violence; Children Development; Old age Person; Indigenous people; Weaker sections; Marginalised; Persons with Disability; Transgender; etc.)
- **Rural Institutions and Governance** (Rural Policy/programme/schemes; Cooperatives, Banking, Local Government, Non-Government Organisation, Community Based Organisation; Corporate Social Responsibilities, Decentralised planning, etc.)
- **Border related Issues and Rural Development** (Infiltration; Migration; Intra-state, Inter-state & Cross country conflict; Trade and Transport; Border Haat, Tourism; Trafficking in human, Developmental cooperation; etc.)
- **Infrastructure and Rural Development** (Housing, Road, Connectivity, Electricity, Energy, ICT application; Science and Technology, etc.)
- **Rural Livelihood & Agriculture** (Sustainable Agriculture; Livestock; Doubling Farmers Income; Shifting Cultivation; Organic farming; Agro-forestry; Agro-enterprises; Producers Organisation/ company, Value Chain Analysis, Farm Sector, Non-Farm Sector, Agricultural Extension)
- **Climate Change & Disaster Management** (Natural Resource Management; Land rights; Forest Rights; Forest Management; Community based Adaptation, Climate Change Challenges in Himalayan Region)

** The above sub-themes are indicatives only not exclusive.

Abstract & Full Paper

➤ Abstract Submission Guidelines :

An abstract not exceeding 300 words to be sent in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, 12 Font with 1.5-line spacing by due date. The abstract must contain:

- **Title of the paper:** Times New Roman, 14 Font, Bold.
- **Theme:** Must indicate the sub-theme/s under which the paper falls.
- **Author Details:** Name with title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.), Designation, Affiliation.

➤ Full Paper Submission Guidelines :

Full paper should not be more than 8000 words (including references). The style sheet of the EPW is to be used for writing the full paper.

Email your abstract and full paper : jayantard@gmail.com

Opportunities for Publication

The conference offers publication opportunities for selected papers:

*In edited book with ISBN number

*In Peer Reviewed Journal from India and abroad.

Registration Fees, Travel & Accommodation

- **Registration :** There is no registration fees.
- **Accommodation :** Limited accommodation is available in the guest house, hostel and hotel. Rooms will be made available on first-come-first-serve basis subject to availability. (Only for first author)
- **Travel :** Travel allowance for third-AC or Equivalent train journey may be provided to selected participants depending upon the availability of budget. (Only for first author)

Important Dates

Last date of submission of abstract (through e-mail)	28 th February, 2020
Intimation of Acceptance of Abstracts (through e-mail)	7 th March, 2020
Submission of Full Paper (for Publication)	23 th March, 2020

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