
REEDS NEWSLETTER · SEPTEMBER 2026

Moving ideas forward.

Warm greetings from REEDS as we share what has been happening this month.



2025–26: A Year in Our Continuing Journey

The year 2025–26 was one of sustaining our work and deepening its purpose. It was not without its challenges. Some planned opportunities took longer to translate into programmes, others did not materialise, and resource mobilisation remained below what we had envisaged.

Take a look at our [Annual Report 2025–26](#), which captures another year of REEDS' work in rural development—our programmes, partnerships, experiences and learning along the way.

With these realities in mind, we look towards 2026–27 as a year of strategic renewal—building on what has worked, strengthening what needs to be stronger, and opening new pathways for wider impact. The aim is not simply to do more, but to create wider and lasting change for rural communities.



Rural Innovation Challenge 2026: From Ideas to Recognition

For REEDS, this marks another step in our partnership with CIRDAP connecting rural ideas and innovation across the Asia-Pacific.

Because a good idea can begin anywhere. And sometimes, it deserves to travel far.

The CIRDAP–REEDS Rural Innovation Challenge 2026 now moves to Colombo, where 15 promising innovations from 13 countries will be recognised during the Asia-Pacific Conference on Innovations in Rural Development, from 6–10 October 2026. The Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Dr Harini Amarasuriya, will grace the Inaugural Ceremony.

The Conference will also unveil 100 Rural Development Innovations in Asia and the Pacific, bringing ideas, innovators, policymakers

and development partners together to help promising innovations travel further, reach more communities and make a greater difference.



Project RISE: Putting the Pieces in Place

Our work on RISE, an emerging technology-enabled rural services platform, is moving forward, though progress has been measured.

What began with field-level exploration is gradually taking shape through strategic tie-ups, institutional engagement and the building blocks for a pilot. Much remains to be done, but the direction is becoming clearer.

At its heart is a simple aspiration: to make everyday services more accessible to rural communities while creating opportunities for local livelihoods and enterprise.

There is still much to do, but each step takes us closer to the change we hope to see.
Thank you for continuing to be part of our journey.

With Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Ravi K. Reddy".

Dr. Ravi K. Reddy
SECRETARY, REEDS



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