

*Weaving Local Wisdom into Regional Impact*

Friends,

At REEDS, we believe rural voices carry the wisdom to shape tomorrow. This month's newsletter celebrates the power of local ideas, the resilience of communities, and the networks that connect us across borders.

**Local Ideas. A Shared Rural Future.**

The Rural Innovation Challenge Awards 2026, jointly hosted by CIRDAP and REEDS, is evolving into a vibrant regional platform that identifies, celebrates, and scales grassroots rural innovations. Momentum is building across Asia and the Pacific—shaping a shared vision for rural transformation, deepening collaboration across borders, and earning recognition as a meaningful platform for innovation from the ground up. The response to the call for entries has been inspiring.

To ensure truly inclusive participation and wider engagement from all 15 CIRDAP member countries, including India—and in view of the current geo-political context—the submission deadline has been extended to **31 May 2026**.



The banner features a red background with a woman in a blue shirt and cap looking at a tablet in a rural setting with solar panels and a thatched-roof house. The CIRDAP logo is on the left, and the REEDS logo is on the right. The text reads: "CIRDAP – REEDS Rural Innovation Challenge Awards 2026 SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED! To ensure wider participation from all 15 CIRDAP member countries, the submission deadline has been extended to: 31 MAY 2026 Submit your innovative ideas for rural development and make an impact across Asia and the Pacific!"

[To Know More](#)

## **When Wars Are Fought Elsewhere, Costs Are Paid at the Margins**

Across the world, wars rise and linger, altering lives far beyond the frontlines. Their ripple effects reach last-mile communities: prices rise, supplies thin, public care recedes, and decades of progress can quietly unravel. Those with the least choice often carry the greatest burden.

This is a quiet reckoning: do distant pursuits of security and power bring comfort, or leave many carrying unseen weight? Amid uncertainty, we hold hope—for peace, dignity, and well-being, and that the world finds its way back to compassion and calm.

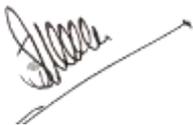
## **Growing Knowledge, Harvesting Progress Together**

REEDS is proud to join the Agricultural Extension Platform for South Asia (AEPSA)—a dynamic coalition of agricultural extension professionals focused on cross-learning, experience sharing, and advancing farming innovation across South Asian countries.

Guided by Dr. V.V. Sadamate, former Adviser (Agriculture) to the Planning Commission of India and a distinguished member of the REEDS Advisory Council, AEPSA unites experts to share cutting-edge practices, strengthen food systems, and empower farmers. This partnership reflects REEDS' commitment to advancing rural livelihoods through knowledge, collaboration, and innovation.

Thank you for walking this path with us. With confidence in our shared journey, we count on your enduring support and engagement as we continue weaving local wisdom into regional impact.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ravi K Reddy', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Dr Ravi K Reddy**

Secretary