

# Bangladesh Water Partnership

## Monthly Report

December 2014

The following activities were carried out during December 2014.

### Activities under Core

#### Activity-1: Annual General Meeting of BWP

The 12th annual general meeting (AGM) of the Bangladesh Water Partnership was held on 06 December 2014 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Conference Hall. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP. A total number of 38 participants attended the meeting

The following main agenda were discussed in the meeting:

- Confirmation of the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> AGM
- Placement of Secretary General's Report for approval
- Placement of BWP Audit Report 2013 for approval

The house reviewed and approved the minutes with some minor corrections. The Secretary General of BWP informed the AGM that BWP implemented 21 activities during the year 2013. In his presentation he highlighted the activities implemented by the Area Water Partnerships.

The AGM also heard suggestions to monitor the developments taking place on the rivers at upstream of Bangladesh because availability of water in the country is critically dependent on the transboundary rivers, Ganges, Brahmaputra, the Meghna and their tributaries.

In the AGM the audit report was presented by vice president Khondker Azharul Haq and executive secretary Ms. Mukta Akter.

The AGM expressed its satisfaction on the progress of its activities and suggested BWP to be more proactive.

Outcome: i) The AGM approved the secretary general's report and ii) Adopted the Audit Report of 2013.

## **Activities under WACREP**

### **Activity-1: Consultation Meeting With Climate Change National Focal Points to Develop Proposals Targeting for Climate Funding**

A National consultation meeting was held with Climate Change National Focal Points to Develop Proposals Targeting for Climate Funding. The meeting was organized by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) and was held in BRAC Centre Inn (75 Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh) on 13 December 2014. The daylong meeting included an Inaugural Session, 2 Technical Sessions and a Wrap up Session. The meeting was attended by 46 climate change focal points of various public and private agencies, researchers, engineers, economist, environmentalists, university faculty members, government officials, development workers, civil society actors, non government organizations (NGO), community based organizations (CBO), youth and media personnel and representatives from BARC, BRRI, BWP, BWWN, CEGIS, DoF, FD, ICDDRDB, IWM, MoL. Eminent Environmentalist and Economists and Chairperson of Palli Karma Shahayan Foundation (PKSF) and Institute of Microfinance (InM) Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad attended the meeting as the Chief Guest of the Inaugural Session of the meeting.

The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Secretary General of BWP. Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP presented an overview of the consulting meeting. Dr Qazi Kholikuzzaman Ahmad Chairperson of Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Institute of Microfinance (InM) delivered the speech of the Chief Guest. The Inaugural Session was concluded by the address from the Chair of the session Mr. Md. Shahidul Hasan, President BWP.

Dr. K. Azharul Haq highlighted the salient features of the meeting. He shared some local and global attempts to cope with climate change impacts.

Chief Guest of the meeting Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairamn of PKSF and InM highlighted policy and funding issues and concerns of climate change from global and national perspective. He mentioned that Bangladesh is among the most vulnerable countries from climate change impacts. He appreciated BWP for taking initiatives to access fund to fight climate change through an alternative channel. He advised BWP to take up research projects having robust information and analysis based proposals.

The chair of the session Mr. Md. Shahidul Hasan emphasized that Bangladesh is in the frontline of climate change and this workshop will identify a few projects to address some climate change impacts on water sector of the country.

There were two Technical Sessions where researchers presented their research proposal on various climate change issues of the water sector of Bangladesh. A total of seven (07) proposals were presented in the pair of the Technical Session.

The first Technical Session was chaired by Dr. Nilufa Islam, Former Director General, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and EC member, BWP. A total of four (04) research proposals were presented in the first Technical Session. The research proposals covered, coastal zone, Barind Tract and Urban areas of the country. The Second Technical Session was chaired by Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP. A total of three (03) proposals were presented in the second Technical Session. Two papers were submitted by CEGIS and one by Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN).

After the Technical Sessions there was a quick Wrap Up Session by Mr. Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Secretary General of BWP in chair.

Dr. K. Azharul Haq requested the project proponents to address the recommendations forwarded by the reviewers in the session. The Chair expressed his gratefulness to all participants for their valuable comments on the presented proposals. Finally, he concluded the consulting meeting with a vote of thanks.

The following proposals were presented in the consultation meeting:

1. Integrating Ecosystem Services for Resilience of Coastal Islands in Times of Climate Change.
2. Impact of Climate Change on Groundwater Salinity: A Case Study in Naogaon District of Bangladesh.
3. Devising Adaptation Strategies to improve Climate Change Resilience of Low Income Residents of Dhaka City Using Quantitative Tools.
4. An innovative planning for improving the River Ecosystems in and around Dhaka City.
5. Assessment of Climate Change Impact on Urban Ecosystem due to urbanization and industrialization.
6. Adaptation to climate change through promotion of aquaculture and fisheries management for the vulnerable households in Barind Tracts.
7. Role of women and youth in adapting to climate change: Impact in water sector.
8. Effects of Climate change and Regional cooperation on transboundary water quality.
9. Improvement of livelihood In adapting to climate change at Char Area: Impact in Water Sector.
10. Effects of Climate Change on Water Supply and Sanitation System in the Chittagong City and Its Adjacent Area.