

Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report November 2014

The following activities were carried out during November 2014.

Activities under WACREP

Activity-1: National Dialogue on” Financing Mechanism of Delta Plan”

Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) organized a day long National Dialogue on **Financing Mechanisms for Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100**. The Dialogue held on 1st November, 2014 in Spectra Convention Centre. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh was very kind to be present with us as Chief Guest and Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Vice President, Bangladesh Water Partnership was present as Special Guest. The Dialogue was chaired by Dr Asaduzzaman, Professorial Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. A round table discussion among the participants was held where Participants from different government, non-government, private organizations, such as Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), General Economics Division (GED), Global Water Partnership (GWP), Local Government Division, Board of Investment, Economic Research Group, Institute of Water Modeling (IWM), Bangladesh Delta Plan and Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) attended the Dialogue. The position paper was distributed to the participants for their opinions. The Paper was also presented at the Dialogue, to provide quick insights of the possibilities for funding modality of the plan, which has helped the participants to initiate thoughts for sharing their views and experience during the dialogue. The participants took part in the open discussion of the Dialogue providing their valuable opinions and constructive comments and suggestions. Some criticism also took place at the open discussion segment. The Chief Guest of the event also shared his valuable opinion. The Special guest also delivered his important speech. Above all, everyone appreciated such an initiative of General Economic Division (GED), Bangladesh Water Partnership(BWP) ,Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and they opined that, The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 can be proven as a successful step towards the development of Bangladesh subject to appropriate implementation. The dialogue ended with a speech of the Chairperson and with a perseverance of updating the position paper with decent and clear glimpse of the comments.

A detailed report of the dialogue will be submitted at the end of December 2014.

Activity-2. Climate Change Adaptation at Community Level: The Role of MFIs (Microfinance Institutions)

BWP in collaboration with Institute of Microfinance (InM) organized a daylong seminar on 15 November 2014 at PKSF Auditorium, PKSF Bhaban, Sher E Bangla Nagar,

Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. Engr. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President of BWP presided over the seminar. Mr. Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Secretary General, BWP was present as Special Guest and Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Institute of Microfinance (InM) was the Chief Guest of the event. Welcome speech of the seminar was delivered by Prof. M. A. Baqui Khalily, Executive Director, InM.

In the seminar participants were invited from Government organizations, Academics, National experts in the field of microcredit, NGOs and senior officials working in the field of climate change adaptation and disaster management perspectives and Microfinance Institutes of the country. Over 200 participated in the seminar.

The event included one Inaugural Session and 3 Technical Sessions followed by open discussion and way forward.

12 papers were presented from different microfinance organizations from all over the country under the theme of the seminar. A keynote paper was presented by Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Project Coordinator, Community Climate Change Project (CCCP),PKSF. In his keynote paper he indicated that if the underground water is not recharged due to climate change. It will eventually cause water insecurity which will directly affect food security. He also informed that Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country in terms of climate change but the global effort is inadequate to reduce the green house gas emission. He opined that drastic and immediate steps are necessary to reduce temperature and melting glacier.

The participants actively took part in the open discussions. Participation of the females were specially laudable as they expressed their frank and thoughtful opinions about using microfinance in climate change adaptation.

In the closing session Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice President, BWP delivered the summary report.

It was an important event which provided with an excellent opportunity to discuss and understand the Climate Change Adaptation at Community Level through the application of micro finance with following objectives.

Broad Objective:

- To identify the bankable projects and overcome the challenges at village level in implementing climate resilience projects.

Specific Objective:

- To identify possible links between sustainable microfinance services and climate change adaptation and to highlight the opportunities and the risks of these links for vulnerability reduction among the poorest populations of Bangladesh.
- To consider community based on vulnerability, climate change adaptation as well as disaster management perspectives.
- Increase targeting loans to women to foster their empowerment.
- To develop bridge into the projects of Govt. and InM by playing role of MFIs

A detailed report of the seminar will be submitted at the end of December 2014.

Activities under Core Budget

Activity-3. 47TH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of BWP

The 47th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of Bangladesh Water Partnership was held on 17 November 2014 at BWP secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Engr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, President, Bangladesh Water Partnership. The President initiated the discussion by welcoming the EC members. A total of 8 members out of 19 attended in this meeting.

The meeting commenced by welcoming Dr. Nilufa Islam, Ex-Director General, Water Resource and Planning Organization (WARPO) as promoting EC member from member of BWP. After opening remarks the Chair requested the Vice President, Dr. K. Azharul Haq to conduct agenda wise discussion.

There were 8 agenda in the meeting and the main agenda were as follows:

- **Status of Implementation of 2014 Work Plan under Core budget**
- **Update on WACREP- activities**
- **Report on the seminar on Climate Change Adaptation at Community Level: The Role of MFIs**
- **Report on Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM) with World Meteorological Organization (WMO).**
- **Fixation the date of AGM for 2013 & Approval of Secretary General's Report for presenting in the AGM**
- **Presentation of the Audit Report 2013 for its approval in the AGM**

The committee expressed their satisfaction on the progress of activities under the above agenda. This was the last and 4th EC meeting of BWP for the year of 2014.

Activity-4. The 22nd Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN)

The 22nd SC Meeting of BWWN was held on 23 November 2014 at BWP secretariat. The meeting was presided over by Begum Samsun Nahar, Coordinator of BWWN. The Coordinator initiated the discussion by welcoming the members. Total 10 members participated in the meeting. After opening remarks the coordinator requested Ms. Mukta Akter, Member Secretary, BWWN to conduct agenda wise discussion.

A total of 6 agenda presented in the meeting and the important agenda were

- **Recapitulate of the workshop on “Climate Change and Water Quality: Impact on Coastal Women and Their Livelihoods” held on 27 September 2014.**
- **Discussion on the preparation of proposal for climate funding – “Role of Women and Youth in Adapting to Climate Change Impact in Water Sector”.**
- **Discussion on work plan for 2015**

After agenda wise detailed discussion the house recommended that the proposal should include different areas with different aspects to identify role of women and youth in adapting to climate change impact in water sector. The meeting also expressed their satisfaction on the progress of successfully implementation of activities of BWVN.