

Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report September 2014

Strategic Goal #3: Strengthen Partnerships.

Focus: *This goal focuses on enhancing the network's resilience and effectiveness through stronger partnerships, good governance, measuring performance to help learning and financial sustainability.*

Activity_1: Workshop on “Climate Change and Water Quality: Impact on Coastal Women and their livelihoods”



The coordinator of BWWN delivers her welcome speech

Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) has organized a half day workshop outside of Dhaka with the financial support of Bangladesh Water Partnership on 27 September 2014 in BRDB Training Center, Majidde Court, Noakhali. Title of the workshop was “Climate Change and Water Quality: Impact on Coastal Women and their livelihoods”.

The workshop was designed for grass root level female participations. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance awareness among the participants, share knowledge in perspective of climate change issues and develop local level network.

A total number of 49 participants, from different water user groups, projects, local women organization, local NGOs working with water, students etc., participated in the workshop, where most of the participants were women.

The workshop was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Gender Specialist & Coordinator of BWWN. In her presentation Begum Shamsun Nahar emphasized on empowering of women. She also gave importance on female education since female are engaged to manage water, maintain water as well as collect water all the year round. She informed that climate change affected coastal women and their livelihoods adversely. She suggested equal active participation of male and female in Integrated Water Resources Management.

Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP and Member Secretary of BWWN presented a paper on activities of Bangladesh Women and Water Network. In her presentation she narrated the formation history of BWWN to the participants. She informed the house that BWWN works in association with BWP and it's main objective is to incorporate professional women as well as grassroot level local women in water sector. During her presentation she strongly emphasized to develop strong network through local levels. She also informed that due to climate change salinity intrusion is increasing in alarming rate and livelihood is being more difficult for women in coastal zone in Bangladesh as they are engaged in fetching water from far distances.

Among the Project participants Ms. Irin Sultana, Gender Specialist, Chor Development Sector Program-IV presented a paper where she shared information of practical information with the participants.

Ms. Jannatun Nahar, Socio-Economist, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) presented a paper as a local participant. In her presentation she shared with the audience about the activities of Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA) and how it works.

Among the members of BWWN Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Program Specialist of Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh (GWAPB) also presented a paper. During her presentation she shared activities of GWAPB with the participants.

In the workshop there was an open discussion session where most of the participants actively participated.

Two award recipients Mrs. Morium Begum, WMCA Member, Laxmipur and Mrs. Rup Bhanu, WMCA Member, Laxmipur who are well recognized as role model in grassroots

level were presented in the workshop to share their practical knowledge and experience for their self reliant activities in IWRM sector.

Outcome: The Workshop successfully sensitized the women in the coastal areas about impacts of Climate Change and encourage them to develop and adopt climate resilient technologies and local practices.

❖ **Activities outside the work plan of BWP**

1. 3rd Preparatory meeting of the Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM).

The 3rd meeting for developing collaboration program with APFM (WMO) was held on 16 September (Tuesday), 2014 at BWP Secretariat at 5 pm.

Participants:

The following Committee Members were present (Seniority not in order):

1. Dr. K. Azharul Haq, Vice-President, BWP
2. Prof. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain, ED- Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and Member, BWP
3. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, Project Coordinating Director, Char Development & Settlement Project-iv, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
4. Md. Sazedul Karim Chowdhury , Former Chief Engineer, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Member, BWP
5. Prof. Dr. Bilqis Amin Hoque, Dean, School of Civil, Environment and Industrial Engineering, Uttara University, Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC)
6. Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Metrological Department (BMD)
7. Md. Sarafat Hossain Khan, Project Director, CEIP, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
8. Md. Saleh Khan, Deputy Executive Director, Institute of Water Modelling (IWM)

Secretariat:

Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary, Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP).

Ms. Naima Nazir, Research Assistant, Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP).

The meeting was chaired by Dr. K. Azharul Haq, convener of the committee. Welcoming the participants he conducted agenda wise technical session discussion. APFM Team consulted about the National Workshop on “INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT WITH FOCUS ON COASTAL ZONES OF BANGLADESH: DEVELOPMENT OF A PILOT PROJECT ON COASTAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN SELECTED AREAS OF BANGLADESH” on 24 & 25 October, 2014 BRAC Centre Inn, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka. The first day of the workshop Technical Session 1& 2 will be conducted whereas Technical Session 3, 4 & 5 will be held on 25 October, 2014. The minutes were confirmed with the observation of the Committee Members. The inaugural session is expected to be graced by the Honorable Water Resources Minister- Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud. The workshop will discuss different aspect related with coastal flood management and develop a pilot study to improve flood management.

Technical Session 1. Keynote Presentation.

Committee Members decided that they will request Prof. Dr. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, for presentation on coastal zone.

Technical Session 2. Status of Coastal Flood Management, risk and hazards in Bangladesh.

Committee members specially Prof. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain recommended that six papers will be presented by the decided institutional members. They made some changes at this session paper presenters i.e. paper-3 will be presented only by Zhirul Haq Khan and paper-4 will be presented by Mr. RBA(Rubayat Alam), IWM instead of Mr. Abdul Wazed, DG,DDM.

Technical Session 3. Case Studies-National and International Perspectives

Honorable members were agreed about the paper presenters on paper 7, 8 & 10 as like as per previously decision. About the paper 9-Case studies from other countries Prof. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain at first suggested requesting Catherin for Dr. Fredrik Pischke on CIRDP paper presentation. In the mean time Dr. Bilqis Amin Hoque suggested to add a paper related to water and women. Finally the committee decided to add her paper on ‘Monitoring and management including case studies’ replacing the paper of Dr. Fredrik Pischke.

Technical Session 4. Gaps in current Flood Management in Bangladesh and potential measures to address the gaps.

In this session seven papers (paper no. 11-17) were decided on 'Current gaps in Flood Management & potential measures' as per schedule on agenda. The members also discussed about the time management and the paper presenters about this session.

Technical Session-5 Preparation of Pilot Projects

The draft proposal for the pilot project will be discussed and distribute to participant of the workshop. Adequacy of content and what is missing will be identified by project committee. With their feedback the pilot project will be finalized.

The committee also discussed about the Field trip at Koira in Dacobe Upazila in Khulna.