

Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report May 2015

Strategic Goal #3: Strengthen Partnerships.

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

1. The 23rd Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of BWWN.

The 23rd Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) was held on on 23 May 2015. The Meeting was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of Bangladesh Women and Water Network. A total number of 8 participants were present in the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting were the following:

- 1. Discussion of Implementation of BWWN Work Plan for 2015**
- 2. Mobilizing fund/seed money for strengthening BWWN.**
- 3. BWWN Project proposal for WACREP.**

Due to fund constrain the committee suggested to hold a half day workshop for 2015 to assess and improve WASH facilities in places where women works in sizable numbers. The committee suggested time for holding the workshop in late September 2015, Dhaka with special emphasized on grassroots level participations.

The committee also advised to publish BWWN flyer bulleting by highlighting the success stories from community level.

The meeting also advised for searching possibilities of funds/seed money to implement BWWN activities in broader aspects. The committee identified some donor agencies in this perspective. The committee also suggested to update membership status (on payment) and requested the member secretary of BWWN to circulate the decision among the members.

The committee suggested incorporating the criteria on WASH for women, as further addition, in the detailed outlet of the WACREP proposal. Ms. Hasna J Moudud, member

of BWWN proposed to submit a short concept paper on “Water pollution and quality” highlighting the Buriganga River to BWWN by end of July 2015.

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

1. Workshop on Urban Flooding in Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta

Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), a partner organization of BWP, and partners of Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wing, a wing of international knowledge network organization of the world’s deltas, organized a workshop on Urban Flooding in Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta on 10 May 2015 at BRAC Centre INN, Dhaka.

Bangladesh Water Partnership is also a member organization of Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wing. On behalf of BWP Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary Participated in the workshop.

Over 80 participants participated from different sectors.(Govt., NGO’s, COBs, , Partners Stakeholders, Academicians, etc.). Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources graced the event as the Chief Guest. Mr. Mahammad Nazrul Islam, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources was the Guest of Honor. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and Ms. Martine Van Hoogstraten, Head of Development Cooperation & Economic Affairs, EKN were presents as Special Guests. The workshop was chaired by Prof. Dr. M. Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM.

The objective of the event was to share the importance of Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta on Urban Flooding with the mission of improving the resilience of World’s Deltas. 6 papers were presented in the technical session. The technical session was followed by an open discussion for half an hour. The workshop informed about the problems, challenges and way forward considering the different areas on deltas in changing deltaic scenarios.

2. Discussion Meeting on Food Security and Book launching “Feed the Future: Bangladesh in Focus”

Palok Publishers and Forum for Information Dissemination on Agriculture (FIDA) jointly organized a discussion meeting on Food Security and book launching on May 28, 2015 titled “*Feed the Future: Bangladesh in Focus*” at the Conference Lounge, National Press Club, Dhaka. It was largely attended by over 80 participants from different government

and non government organizations, Journalists, Academicians and representatives from NGO's. Ms. Matia Chowdhury, honorable Agriculture Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Presided over by FIDA president Kauser Ahmed, the meeting was also addressed by Additional Secretary of Agriculture Ministry Anwar Faruk and Chief of Party of International Food Policy Research Institute Akhtar Ahmed.

Dr. Kazi Khaliquzzaman, Palli Karmo Shohayak Foundation (PKSF); Mr. Anwar Faruk, Additional Secretary; Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, Economist and BRAC Advisor; Dr. Waiz Kbir, Advisor, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Dr. Akhter Ahmed, Chief, International Food Policy Research Institute and Mr. Sazzadul Hasan, Managing Director, SYNGENTA Bangladesh Ltd. were the special guests of the seminar.

The launched book was edited by Mr. Kawsar Rahman that focuses on food security of Bangladesh.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the government will purchase more paddy from the farmers than its target due to excess production during the last boro season. "Though we have target to purchase particular quantity of paddy from the farmers, we have decided to procure more than the target as the country witnessed high production of boro," she said while speaking at a discussion meeting at Jatiya Press Club.

The Minister informed that the government has fixed the price of paddy before the boro season so that farmers can get fair price of their production. The minister described various governments' planning to encourage farmers in cultivating winter crops side by side after harvesting rice and wheat. She urged all concerned authorities to encourage farmers to cultivate various winter crops including vegetables and pulses.

One behalf of BWP, Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary, and Ms. Naiza Nazir, Research Asst. participated in the seminar.