

**Bangladesh Water Partnership
Monthly Report
October, 2015**

The following 2 activities were carried during October 2015.

Activities under Core

Activity-1: 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP)



13th AGM of BWP for the year 2014

The 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2014 of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) held at the Conference room of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka at 10:30 am on 24 October, 2015 (Saturday). A total number of 43 members attended in the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP.

The following main agenda were discussed in the meeting:

- Confirmation of the minutes of 12th AGM
- Placement of Secretary General's Report for approval
- Placement of BWP Audit Report 2014 for approval
- Appointment of Auditors for FY 2015, 2016 and 2017
- Work Plan and Budget for 2016 and Monitoring Tools for 2015
- Formation of a new Executive Committee (EC)

The house reviewed and approved the minutes. The Secretary General of BWP informed the AGM that BWP successfully implemented 30 activities during the year 2014. The audit report was jointly presented by Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Vice President of BWP and Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary, BWP. The AGM approved the ANISUR RAHMAN & CO. as a new auditor of BWP for FYs 2015, 2016 and 2017. The Work Plan and Budget for 2016 and Monitoring Tools for 2015 were shared and discussed in the meeting. A new Executive Committee (EC) has been formed by general consensus during the AGM where Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq elected as President, Mr. H S Mozaddad Faruque as a Vice President, Mr. Moshiur Rahman as a Secretary General for the year of 2016 and 2017.

The AGM expressed its satisfaction on the progress of its activities and suggested BWP to be more proactive and diversified. The meeting was ended with vote of thanks by welcoming the new Executive Committee (EC) of BWP by Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP.

Outcome: (i) The AGM approved the secretary general's report and (ii) Adopted the Audit Report of 2013 (iii) New EC formation

Activities under WACREP

Activity-1: "Challenges of Drinking Water Security in Selected Coastal Areas with Special Emphasis on Polders and Participation of Youth and Women"

Bangladesh Water Partnership in association with, its partner organization, CEGIS organized two workshops on "Challenges of Drinking Water Security in Selected Coastal Areas with Special Emphasis on Polders and Participation of Youth and Women" The workshops were held respectively on 13 and 15 October in Khulna and Barishal division to the south region of Bangladesh. Both workshops were fruitful and successful.

The workshops mainly focused on the Challenges of Drinking Water Security in Selected Coastal Areas where Special Emphasis was on Polders inhabitants. More than 140 participants were present in the workshops where a sizable number of participants were youths and women. The main objective of the workshops was to identify challenges as well as recommendations to increase access to safe drinking water in the selected Coastal Polder* areas.

The workshops were attended by Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Upazila Chairman, Upazila Vice Chairman, Upazila Members, local Govt. officials, NGOs, Schools and community

stakeholders. Both workshops were chaired by Engr. Md. Waji Ullah, Executive Director of CEGIS. The Chief Guest of the workshop on 13 October 2015 was Upozela Chairman, Batiaghat, Khulna and the Chief Guest of the workshop on 15 October 2015 was Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Amtoli, Barguna. On behalf of BWP Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary and Ms. Naima Nazir, Research Asst. were present in the events. Ms. Mukta Akter was the guest of honor and delivered welcome speech in both the workshops.

The workshops were followed by technical sessions and open discussions. Both sessions were conducted by Dr. Dilruba Ahmed, Director, Socio-economic and Institutional Division, CEGIS. Two study reports were presented in the technical session of workshops. The reports were prepared based on the collected information on the challenges of drinking water security from the field survey of selected 10 coastal polders in the south region of Bangladesh. The technical session mainly focused on challenges and recommendations on drinking water security in the selected study areas. On behalf of BWP Ms. Mukta Akter made a presentation on “BWP:Towards a Sustainable and Dedicated Water Goal”.

The participants took part in the open discussion both in the workshops. They shared their problems on water which has been contaminated by salinity intrusion and high iron in drinking water and household works as well. They also provided valuable opinions as well as constructive suggestions on drinking water security. Finally a number of recommendations came from the open discussions which are expected to assist the concern authorities and policy makers to develop sustainable strategies and interventions for the vulnerable communities to access safe drinking water. One of the robust recommendations from the workshops was rainwater harvesting through ponds and reservoirs. They also demanded for community based more awareness raising programs on safe drinking water security and the way to maintain its quality.

The workshops also explored the current situation and challenges of safe drinking water as well as the problems that have been created due to the scarcity of potable water at the selected polder areas.

The detailed report will be submitted in mid November 2015.

*Polder is a low-lying tract of land enclosed by earthen embankments, constructed to protect low-lying coastal areas from tidal floods and salinity intrusion in southern Bangladesh.