

Bangladesh Water Partnership

Monthly Report

August 2016

The following activities were carried out during August 2016.

❖ Activity under core program

Activity-1: 54th Executive Committee Meeting of BWP

The 54th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of Bangladesh Water Partnership was held on 02 August 2016 at BWP Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, President, Bangladesh Water Partnership. The President initiated the discussion by welcoming the EC members. A total number of 8 members out of 11 were present in the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting were as follows:

- Implementation status of 2016 Work Plan under Core Funding.
- Implementation status of 2016 Work Plan under WACREP Funding Phase-II.
- Discussion on the updated status on the SDG Preparedness Facility Framework Document 2016.
- Discussion on the updated status on the SADMS Validation.
- Discussion on the workplan and budget for 2017 under core & WACREP.
- Discussion on the status on the approval of revised constitution.
- Expansion of EC and its Reconstitution
- GWP's new directive for Locally Raised Funds to implement BWP Programs.
- Participation in the international events
 - a. Expert Media Roundtable on the Lower Ganga.
 - b. Young Water Leaders Summit in Singapore
 - c. GWP PanAsia Workshop in Singapore

i) The president informed that a total number of 6 out of 10 activities have been completed till date under Core and the implementation of the rest are on schedule.

He also informed that BWP plans to implement the following 2 activities under WACREP funding phase-II under strategic goal-1, Work Package-02.

- a. Activity 2E (BWP) : To conduct a case study on the feasibility of Rain Water Harvesting in urban areas in Q2, 2016
- b. Activity 2F (BWP) : To conduct a study on Affect of Climate Change on Water and Food Security in Selected Coastal Deltas and its possible economic impact in Q3, 2016.

Further he informed that BWP will implement both activities 2E and 2F in Q3 of 2016 respectively with IWM & CEGIS. IWM will conduct a case study jointly with BWP under activity 2E and IWM will be requested to arrange a presentation on this activity at the next EC meeting of BWP. Dr. Haq also informed that the final report will be circulated to EC members. CEGIS will implement activity 2F in Q3, 2016 and the concept note will be circulated to EC members. CEGIS will also be requested to make a presentation on activity 2F at a suitable time.

ii) The president informed the house that BWP identified two partner organizations: Institute of

Water Modelling (IWM) and Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) for the proposals development under SDG Preparedness Facility Framework. BWP is in the process of developing the proposals one on (i) Sustainable water resources development in drought prone areas and the other on (ii) Improving irrigation efficiency through micro irrigation.

The meeting was also informed that the draft proposal has already been developed in collaboration with IWM and circulated to the Executive Committee (EC) members of BWP for review and comments which was expected by 02 August 2016. Mr. H. S. Mozaddad Faruque, Vice President of BWP expressed his interest to review and comment on this draft proposal. The EC members also suggested to monitor the activities whether IWM use the actual model for drought areas. The President also informed that the draft proposal on the second one is under preparation and is expected to be ready by early August 2016.

- iii) The President informed the EC that BWP has been informed about the discussion between the Regional Coordinator & Dr. Giriraj, the lead scientist at IWMI who is in charge of the South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS). The RO informed that the product is ready which required involvement from the government agencies and they referred the Department of Disaster Management (DoDM) regarding the validation of the product. The President informed the EC that BWP will jointly hold the workshop with DoDM and CEGIS in November, 2016. The drought model will be tested by secondary data as Scientist from IWMI is unable to come.
- iv) The EC was informed that BWP is planning to implement 12 activities under Core and WACREP over the year round 2017 with a budget of Euro 20,000 & 10714 respectively. The list of activities was also discussed which will be presented in the 22nd Regional Council (RC) meeting on September 29 & 30, 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The EC was also informed that BWP's budget is being reduced every year. EC members recommended that each activity of BWP will be separately monitored by one EC member and asked BWP secretariat to designate each EC members to monitor implementation of at least one activity.
- v) The President informed the EC that the revised constitution of BWP has been approved from the department of Social Welfare with an extended Executive Committee of 15 members.
- vi) The President informed the house that the approved revised constitution of BWP has provision for increasing EC members (including office bearers) from 11 to 15. The President also informed that the EC should identify and determine the procedure for selecting the new 4 EC members.
- vii) The EC was informed that one more Vice President (Female), one EC member each from NGOs and Private Sector will be appointed as per constitution of BWP. The EC was also informed that 2 female members in the EC should be included as it is mandatory. After elaborate discussion the EC decided to co-opt the new members. The EC approved the new

proposed EC composition. The EC was informed that BWP will identify EC members from NGOs and the Private sector.

- viii) The EC was informed that a new directive issued by GWPO for Locally Raised Funds to implement programs from 2017-2019. In the context of reduced WACREP budget, the GWPO indicated that each RWP/CWP is required to raise funds locally at a minimum rate of 1:1 in order to implement regional & country activities. In preparing for this reduced WACREP budget, GWPO informed that they are left with no option but to find ways to cope with and optimize the output of this reduced budget. He also informed that BWP has tried at least twice before to raise funds through Regional Office for Regional programs but was not successful. Further he proposed a phase wise approach to LRF. EC members were requested to suggest ways for raising matching funds locally. The President also informed the house that Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) has expressed interest to work with BWP and BWP has an opportunity to raise fund with BUP. The EC was informed that BWP will try to explore other opportunities for LRF, including from international donors.
- ix) The EC was informed about the following international events participated by the President and Executive Secretary of BWP.
- The thirdpole.net organized a roundtable between journalists and experts on the subject of water quantity and quality on the lower Ganga on 16-18 June 2016 in Kolkata. The President of BWP was invited as a water specialist and presented a paper titled "The effect of the Farakka Barrage in the Downstream Bangladesh".
- Ms. Mukta Akter, Youth Focal Point of GWP-South Asia and Executive Secretary of BWP was invited to participate in the Young Water Leaders Summit from 10 to 13 July 2016 in Singapore. The GWP-PANASIA Workshop on "INNOVATIVE URBAN WATER MANAGAMENT" was held on 14 to 15 July 2016 back to back at SIWW. Dr. K. Azharul Haq, President of BWP participated in the workshop and presented a paper titled "Management of Flooding and Water Logging for Achieving Urban Water Security: The Case of Dhaka".
- x) Dr. Haq informed the meeting that Ms. Mukta Akter, the Executive Secretary of BWP is going to USA to attend a fellowship course titled "Community Solutions Program (CSP)". This is a 4 months course sponsored by the State Department and will be implemented by International Research and Exchange Board (IREX). She will leave on 7 August 2016 and return on 10 December 2016. Dr. Haq also informed that he will carry out the responsibility of the Country Coordinator of BWP during her absence and Ms. Naima Nazir, Research assistant will take care of the administrative and financial assets of BWP on her behalf.

The EC members expressed satisfaction at the work progress of BWP and wished good luck for the upcoming projects.

Activity-2: "Enhance Youth Capacities on Gender Sensitive Climate Change Adaptation towards Sustainable Water Management in the Chitra-Nabaganga Area Water Partnership, Narail".

Environment and Population Research Center (EPRC) is conducting several studies in Chitra Nabaganga Area in collaboration with BWP. A workshop on 'Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Safe Water Management was organized by Chitra-Nabaganga Area Water Partnership in Narail District' under the project entitled "Enhance Youth Capacities on Gender Sensitive Climate Change Adaptation towards Sustainable Water Management in the Chitra-Nabaganga Area Water Partnership, Narail" on 17th August 2016 at Democracywatch auditorium, Narail with the technical support of GARNET-SA and AWP. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Md. Rawsan Ali, Principal of Birsresto (Liberation war hero) Nur Mohammed College, Narail and Chair of AWP. Mr. Naresh Chandra Das, District Education Officer, Narail was the chief guest and Mr. Md. Fazlul Haque, Upazila Secondary Education Officer, Narail Sadar was the special guest.

The main objectives of the workshop were (1) to discuss on Climate change adaptation and safe water management; and (2) to award prizes among the awardees students in the school essay competition 2016 inside the Chitra and Nabaganga water basin.

There were two sessions in the workshop: (a) Discussion Session; and (b) Prize Giving Ceremony. Md. Abubakkor Siddik, Assistant Research Coordinator, EPRC has presented the key note on Climate change adaptation and sustainable safe water management. Mr. Siddik mainly focused on salinity, cyclone, flood, sea level rise, arsenic, drought and its association with climate change as well as consequence on sustainable safe water management and possible strategy for overcoming the problems.

The Chair was facilitated the open discussion session. Students and teachers participated in this sub-session. Students asked their various queries about the issues in the open discussion session to the expert panel and responded to their questions and queries.

Nominated students (first, second and third in essay competition), best school, other schools and all other students were awarded in the workshop.

The main recommendations are as follows:

- 1) School should create awareness inside its catchment through student cabinet and user group.
- 2) The teachers should establish and monitor safe water & technology management facilities at the schools and encourage the students to maintain WSPs properly.
- 3) The schools with government and non-government partners should arrange competition regarding climate change, safe water management, homestead waste management, hand washing/sanitation on environment, hand wash, sanitation and other designated days.
- 4) IEC material is needed for creating awareness at school level.

- 5) Next phase of this program should undertake in Kalia Upazila, proposed by DEO, USEO, Chair AWP, and participants.
- 6) BWP-GWP and other development partners should be encouraged to undertake this kind of educational intervention in all parts of the country.

The workshop was highlighted in the local news papers in Narail District.

Activity-3: Annual Newsletter Publication

BWP is also working on publishing its yearly newsletter for the year 2015. The final draft is being peer reviewed and it is expected to be published in September 2016.

Other Activities

❖ Activities under SDG

a. Skype Meeting on “SDG Full Project Proposal Follow up” between Mr. Joshua Newton and the President of BWP

The Skype meeting was held on 04 August 2016 at BDT 5:00PM in collaboration with Regional Office and Country Coordinator of GWP-South Asia. The meeting was moderated by Mr. Joshua Newton. The main agenda of the meeting were as follows:

- Status of the advancement of the design phase proposal document
- Major challenges/questions that BWP may have
- Mapping the country needs
- GWP provide can support for the GWP-PF in Bangladesh
- Major partners involvement
- Completion date of the design phase proposals

❖ Activities under Rapid Country Level Analysis

The President of BWP had extensive discussion with some partners of BWP and decided that BWP will take the lead in the rapid analysis. Center for Environmental and Geographical Information Services (CEGIS) has been assigned for this activity. BWP already submitted the draft report on "GWP Rapid Country Level Analysis: Country Profile & GWP at Country Level Profile for Bangladesh" to the regional office. Several meetings were held with CEGIS prior to finalizing the report.

❖ Activities outside the work plan of BWP

a. DELTA-CAP Meeting on 14 August 2016 at IWM

A meeting of DELTA-CAP was held on 14 August 2016 at 3PM in the meeting room of Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Mohakhali, Dhaka. The meeting was a follow up discussion on capacity building. The President of BWP participated in the meeting. The main agenda of the meeting was the discussion on various Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wings (DABW) member organization, their roles, financial arrangements etc. There is a possibility for BWP to work on DELTA-CAP with IWM.