Bangladesh Water Partnership
Monthly Report
September 2016

The following activities were carried out during September 2016.

❖ Activity under core program

Activity-1: 22nd Regional Council (RC) Meeting (29- 30 September, 2016) in Kathmundu, Nepal

The 22nd Regional Council (RC) Meeting of Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) and the Regional Workshop on Rapid Country Level Analysis have been held back-to-back from 29-30 September and on 28 September, 2016 respectively in Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal with the participation of the RC members, Chairpersons of the CWPs under GWP SAS, Regional Coordinator of GWP SAS and Senior Network Officers together with the Regional Chair. The main objective of the RC meeting and the Regional Workshop was to discuss the progress, concerns and way forward of GWP SAS and take decisions accordingly at the RC meeting. Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, President of BWP and Ms. Tahmina Tamanna, Jr. Specialist of CEGIS participated in the 22nd RC meeting of GWP SAS.

The daylong Regional Workshop on Rapid Country Level Analysis was held on the 28 September, 2016. Dr. Lam Dorji, Regional Chairman, GWP- South Asia gave the welcome Speech. Dr. Vijaya Shrestha, GWP Nepal and Mr. Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa, GWPO also spoke in the inauguration round which was followed by the self-introduction by the participants. Then Ms. Angela Klauschen, Senior Network Officer for Mediterranean, China, South Asia, gave presentation on “Change Agenda”. After the presentation, the Rapid Country Level Analysis began which was led by the Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP). Dr. Khondaokar A. Haq, President, BWP and Ms. Tahmina Tamanna, a participant on behalf of BWP, presented the report on Rapid Country Level Analysis on Bangladesh. Presentations on Country Level Analysis for India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri-Lanka were also made by the respective representatives of IWP, GWP Nepal, BhWP and SLWP respectively. The day long workshop ended by the final remarks of the Regional Chairman.

The first day of the RC meeting started with the introductory speech of Dr. Vijaya Shresthra, Chair, GWP Nepal. Dr. Lam Dorji, Regional Chairman, GWP SAS, adopted the agendas of the 22nd RC Meeting which was then followed by the address made by Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa, Executive Secretary, GWPO. Eight out of 20 agendas, were discussed on the first day of the meeting which started with the presentation by Ms. Angela Klauschen on the update from GWPO on topics discussed at the Regional Days, Resource Mobilization, Core budget reduction in 2017 and her presentation was followed by the presentation and discussion on the Action Report by the RCO; GWP SAS Program Progress Report from Q4 2015 to 2Q 2016; Progress Report on achievements and implementation challenges and Financial Report and Financial Status of 2016 (Final Accounts / Audit Report 2015/ Appointment of Auditors for FY

2016/ PWP special audit) under different agendas. The last agenda of the first day was discussed in a closed door meeting with the presence of the RC members only.

A total of 12 agendas were discussed on the second day of the meeting. The day started with presentation and discussion on the three-year Regional Work Program and GWP SAS Strategy for the year 2017-2019. The other agendas discussed on the second day were Work Plan and Budget for 2017; fund raising strategy of GWP-SAS along with Locally Raised Funds (LRF) and proposals in pipeline of GWP-SAS; retirement of RC Members, new appointments and GWP SAS staff movements; decision on the venue for the next RC Meeting and Governance and Management of GWP SAS .

Decisions of the RC Meeting

The major decisions of the 22nd Regional Council (RC) Meeting of Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) which have been taken based on all the discussions that took place in the two-day long meeting are as follows:

1. Focus should be given on developing, submitting and sharing proposals by the CWPs at the regional level and updating the projects which are in the pipeline
2. BhWP should complete their remaining tasks as per the work plan of BhWP
3. PWP should comply with the internal controlling procedures that have been recommended by the Audit
4. Appointment of the auditors for the year 2016
5. The CWPs should update and submit the 3-year program plan to the Regional Office by 15 October, 2016 so that they can be finalized by 26 October, 2016 by the GWPO
6. The table regarding the Core Budget and maching LRF as finalized by Ms. Angela Klauschen would be used to finalize of the Core Budget.
7. A skype meeting, as the first action, will be held at a convenient time among the GWPO, WMO, IWMI, RO on IDMP to finalize next course of action.
8. A Regional workshop, consultation workshop, will be decided through consultation with the four CWPs together.
9. RC nomination from BWP, PWP and SLWP have been received while BhWPneeds to submit fresh nomination before the end of October, 2016.
10. Bangladesh has been selected as the venue for next RC meeting while India has been considered for the RC meeting to be held in 2018.
11. A fresh program committee has been nominated where the committee members are Ms. Begum Shamsun Nahar from BWP; Mr. Avinash C. Tyagi from IWP and Mr. Batu K. Uprety from GWP Nepal. The nominations for the Admin and Finance committee members from the CWPs have also been received.

The 22nd Regional Council (RC) Meeting of Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) and the Regional Workshop on Rapid Country Level Analysis was a fruitful exercise in deciding the work plan and tentative budget of the CWPs under GWP SAS for the next three years. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Vice Chair GWP Nepal.

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) has conducting several studies in Chitra Nabaganga Area in collaboration with BWP. The workshop report on 'Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Safe Water Management' has been submitted by EPRC under the project titled "Enhance Youth Capacities on Gender Sensitive Climate Change Adaptation towards Sustainable Water Management in the Chitra-Nabaganga Area Water Partnership, Narail".

Activity-3: Annual Newsletter Publication

BWP is in the process of finalizing the Newsletter. Peer reviewed has been completed. BWP Secretariat is finalizing the draft incorporating the comments. The Newsletter will now be published in October/November 2016.

❖ Activities under WACREP

1. Activity 2F: To conduct a study on Affect of Climate Change on Water and Food Security in Selected Coastal Deltas and its possible economic impact in 2016.

The draft final report on 'Effect of Climate Change on Water and Food Security in Selected areas of Coastal Deltas and its possible economic impact' has been submitted by CEGIS.

The broad objective of the study is to explore the effects of climate change on water and food security in coastal districts of Bangladesh in Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Delta and its possible economic impacts.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- To assess impacts on water and agriculture and extent of vulnerabilities due to climate change
- To find out the best practices in cultivation and use of technology (indigenous and non-conventional) to cope with climate change and to ensure water and food security;

- To find out the cropping options which are adopted to cope with climate changes impacts and to ensure water and food security; and
- To find out the possible economic impacts due to climate change impacts on water and food security.

Bangladesh has been identified as one amongst 27 countries, which are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Present study has made an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on water and food security and assessment of its economic impacts on coastal populations of Bangladesh. Six districts out of 19 were selected as sample districts comprising three sea-facing and three non sea-facing districts, and severity of climate change vulnerability. Subsequently, an upazila from each of the selected districts and two unions from each of the selected upazilas were chosen as the Study Area. The population of the base year is estimated from the population census record of 2011 assuming the same growth rate and the population was estimated for 2030. Social, economical and environmental statuses of the coastal livelihoods have been considered to evaluate the impacts on the whole community in the Study Area. The result validated through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in the coastal zone.

The Study Area has a total population of 18.04 million (BBS 2011). About 54% of this population is engaged in agricultural activities, 11% in industry and 35% in service. Agricultural activities broadly include crop farming, fishery and livestock and poultry farming. It has been estimated that by 2030, this population will be around 23.36 million.

It is observed from the study that Khulna has a maximum of 1 ppt salinity intrusion for about 62% area and 25% area with 5 PPT salinity. Patuakhali has a lower level of salinity, such as 0.8% area of <1ppt and 3.4% area of <5 ppt. Noakhali has 8.3 % area of <5 ppt salinity. This salinity situation is gradually degrading the water security with its presence at a higher value. The projection of salinity in the year 2050 showed a clear threatening situation for the water security at the studied regions. Khulna has maximum possibility to hold saline surface water and even 47% of water at <15 ppt saline. People from Noakhali will suffer from water availability and quality associated crisis in the long run, as the possibility of having 37% of <15ppt of saline water by 2050 resides. The other places would also have more salinity intrusion in the coming years.

The food security of Bangladesh is affected by climate change directly and indirectly. Direct impacts of climate changes are responsible for the production loss of crops. Due to salinity intrusion and sea level raise Rabi crop production in coastal zone of Bangladesh faces a very hard time. Scarcity of irrigation water is a very common scenario in those areas at that time. Frequent and untimed prolonged flood and storm surges hamper the productivity of Kharif II (Aman). As a result, shrinkage of food availability increases. Besides changes in agro-ecological conditions, growth and distribution of incomes and demand for agricultural produce drops due to adverse climatic events. Farmers switch to other occupation because of less net

return and higher possibility of production loss. This condition reflects the obstacle in food accessibility and affordability. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change usually affect both inland capture and culture fisheries in various ways such as by altering water temperature, salinity intrusion, irregular and erratic precipitation, hydrological change of fish habitat, extreme natural events. In coastal area, soil-water salinity and sea level rise have both positive and negative effects. Soil-water salinity and sea level rise may increase the shrimp and other brackish water fish and shell fish culture area. Climate changes also affect the Sunderbans, resulting in the loss of nursery ground of many marine fish species.

Economic impact of climate change has been identified in terms of impact of water and soil salinity in agriculture, fishery and domestic activities. Intensity of salinity in surface water as well as increasing highly saline area over years affected the irrigation facilities in the Study Area. In 2050, it is forecasted that irrigation area of Khulna will be highly affected (about 475000 ha) following Noakhali (about 250000 ha). As a result, a total of 2.97 MT of production will be lost in 2050 in the study districts. Saline contamination of surface water deteriorated the quality of ground water as well, therefore a total about 195,061 households of Chittagong, Cox's Bazaar and Khulna districts have been buying drinking water to meet up family demand. Impact of soil salinity in terms of return from agriculture and fishery product has been identified comparing the scenario of production in with/without climate change impact in 2009. It found that without climate change impact, agriculture production might be increased by 1,009,489 Ton and total net return could be 88 billion BDT (which was 56 billion BDT in base situation in 2009) and net return of fishery might be 4 billion BDT (which was 15 billion BDT in base situation). Therefore, it can be concluded that without climate impact people of the Study Area might be more economically benefited than that they had in base situation in 2009.

❖ **Activities under SDG**

1. Completion of Draft project proposals on SDG Water Preparedness Facility Projects

BWP and CEGIS jointly prepared the draft project proposal titled "Adaptation of sustainable micro-irrigation for improving irrigation efficiency and water productivity in orchards (Mango/ Lichi/ Banana)" under the SDG Water Preparedness Facility.

The preliminary draft project proposal titled "Sustainable Water Development at Micro-level in a Selected Drought Prone Area" prepared under the SDG Water Preparedness Facility jointly by BWP and IWM. The reports have been submitted to the regional office and GWPO for review and comments.

2. Rapid Country Level Analysis

BWP already submitted the draft final 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 the stakeholders and partners prior to finalizing the report.