

Project – 12

Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) - Dinajpur

Principle:

To improve the socio-economic condition of the ethnic community people by protecting them from discrimination.

Main objectives:

- To Strengthen Adivasi Social Organizations and network building for establishment of their rights and dignity; and
- To empower the Adivasis community through education and training, facilitating health services, land retention, legal support, and capital formation (savings and credit) using non-formal Adivasi friendly approaches.

Background:

ICDP-Dinajpur started in 1998. The present fourth phase of the project started in July 2007 and it will end in June 2010.

Staff Strength:

Regular : Total-98 (Male-69, Female-29)
Volunteer : Total-173 (Male-40, Female-133)

Donors:

- a) Caritas Aotearoa / New Zealand
- b) Caritas Australia

Expenditure:

Foreign Partner's Contribution : Tk. 20,427,865
Local Partner's Contribution : Tk. 736,881
Total : Tk. 21,168,746

Beneficiaries:

Direct:

Sl.	Category	Men	Women	Total
01	Full member	8,949	9,254	18,203
02	Associate members	876	961	1837
	Total	9,825	10,215	20,040

Indirect:

Men: 31,522 and women: 30,909, Total: 62,431.

Beneficiaries Contribution (Tk.): Tk. 778,672

Target and Achievement:

During the reporting period the target and achievement of the project are as under:

Sl. #	Activities	Achievement as on June, 2008	FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	%	
01	Name of Gram Parishads (GPs)	516	3	3	100	519
02	No. of Gram Parishad member (a+b)	16,814	3,000	3,226	108	20,040
	a) Male	8,387	1,500	1,438	96	9,825
	b) Female	8,427	1,500	1,788	119	10,215
03	Savings accumulated (Tk.)	12,827,957	4,968,079	4,180,843	84	17,008,800
04	Loan disbursement (Tk.)	82,721,996	35,092,186	26,594,585	76	109,316,581
	a) General loan disbursement (Tk.)	35,598,080	11,445,280	10,570,560	92	46,168,640
	b) Seasonal and agricultural input loan disbursement (Tk.) ¹	47,123,916	23,646,906	16,024,025	68	63,147,941
05	Loan realization (Tk.)	70,675,219	18,528,794	21,085,927	114	91,761,146
06	No. of Education Center	21	1	1	100	22
08	Release mortgaged land (acres)	298.52	24.33	24.33	100	322.82
	Execution of land related papers (acres)	445.63	60.00	61.50	103	507.13
	Credit disbursement for releasing mortgaged land (Tk)	9,379,510	1,946,682	1,946,682	100	11,326,192
	Realization of land mortgage loan (Tk.)	4,749,481	2,541,524	2,542,131	100	7,291,612
09	No. of sapling distributed	15,405	2,185	2,185	100	17,590
10	Project committee meeting	27	4	4	100	31
11	Inter community dialogue (batch)	35	8	8	100	43

The above Table shows that 3 *Gram Parishads* (GP) was newly formed and 3,226 members (women 1,788) joined the GP. The project provided different services for 20,040 program participants (women 10,215) of 519 *Gram Parishads* as on June 2009. The program participants accumulated savings amounting to Tk. 4,180,843 and the cumulative savings stood at Tk. 17,008,800. The disbursement of General and Seasonal loan (including agricultural input) was Tk. 10,570,560 (92%) and 16,024,025 (68%) respectively. The loan recovery rate of General and Seasonal loan was 114%. On the other hand, the project was able to release a total of 24.33 acres of mortgaged land. In addition, land related papers were updated for 61.50 acres. The World Environment Day was observed in each Development Center and a total of 2,185 saplings was distributed to the program participants during the day.

Results:

- Created awareness among the program participants about the bad impact of drinking alcohol. Two Social Organizations became able to stop selling alcohol in seven villages.
- Some local Government Officers have been sensitized to the issues of the *Adivasi* community and as a result the Adivasi Development Center (ADC) of Mithapukur got a Community Center donated by the local government authority.
- The celebration of traditional festivals helps the *Adivasis* to reinforce the richness of *Adivasi* culture. This opportunity allows the community to attend social gatherings, to practise their own traditional culture and to celebrate festivals.
- Employment opportunity has been created at individual and family levels. Income sources have been diversified though investing borrowed money in profitable income generating activities.
- The program participants, community leaders as well as the members of different institutions and NGOs are aware of the *Adivasi* related issues. '*Adivasi Jonopoder Kotha*' (Tale from *Adivasi* villages- a quarterly newsletter) highlighting common people's overall socio-economic condition was published.
- Awareness about health as well as environment has developed among the program participants. Now they drink safe water and use it for household activities. Most of them have sanitary toilets. They have also planted saplings of timber, fruit and medicinal trees around their homestead.

Conclusion:

Conflicts of individual and leadership levels and less willingness to include women in decision-making process in some *Adivasi* communities still exist due to lack of awareness. After the project intervention the community leaders have started shouldering the responsibility of their own community. Shortage of stipend fund for the poor *Adivasi* students was a big hindrance to meet the needs of the deserving pupils who intend to pursue higher study. Alternate sources for funding for higher study are to found out to ensure the continuation of study of *Adivasi* students.

Swapan Has Got Back His Mortgaged Land

Swapan Chandra Roy (40) is a member of Rautnagar *Gram Parishad* (village organisation) in Ranisongkoil *upazila* (sub-district) under Thakurgaon district. Both he and his wife became members of Caritas Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) on 28/5/2006. They have two daughters and one son. The total land of Swapan Chandra Roy is 67 decimals. Seven years ago he kept 17 decimals of land under mortgage to bear the expenses of treatment for his ailing child. For this reason he took Tk. 16,000 as loan from ICDP to retain the mortgaged land. He paid his first installment in June 2008. He got a four-day long training on modern technology on agriculture. In November 2008 he cultivated potato in 26 decimals (out of which 17 decimals was mortgage-free) of land. He and his family members took care of the crop. He applied fertilizer maintaining a balanced proportion such as 20kg of MOP, 13kg of urea, 2kg of Boron, 1kg of Zinc at the time of cultivation. At the second stage he applied only urea.



Swapan Chandra Roy and his family members at work in the mortgage released land

Swapan got 2400 KG of potato from his land. The total price of the crop was Tk. 24,000 and the expenditure was Tk.12,000. So there was a net profit of Tk. 12000. He spent this money for household affairs and developed his family. Now he is cultivating *Aman* paddy in 60 decimals of land. He is very grateful to Caritas ICDP for the support he got to retain his mortgaged land. Swapan and his wife heartily want their children to receive basic education. So they go to ICDP run school regularly. The couple is very happy to be members of Caritas ICDP.