

Project No. 18

Protection and Establishing Rights on Land of *ADIVASIS* in Mymensingh (PERLAM)

Principle:

Rights on land are rights to live in dignity.

Objectives of the project:

- To create a sustainable movement to ensure the rights of *Adivasi* community peoples through strengthening different forums/committee/traditional organizations of the *Adivasi* communities;
- To support and contribute to the *Adivasi* people of the project area to retain their lands within the community; and
- To increase household productivity of the program participants through sustainable use of land.

Background:

The project started in August 2005. This is the 2nd phase of the project started in January 2009 and will end in December 2011.

Staff strength: Total - 32 (Male - 23, Female - 9)

Donor:

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh.

Expenditure: Foreign Partner's Contribution : Tk. 6,905,912

Beneficiaries: Total – 830(Male-177, Female-653)

Target and Achievement:

The following Table shows the target and achievements of the project during the reporting period (July 2008 to June 2009). The table also depicts the cumulative achievements of the activities as on June 2009.

Sl. No	Items/ Activities	Achievement as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
1	Formation of <i>Adivasi</i> Land Mortgagers Forum	24	11	11	100	35
2	Formation of advocacy networking and lobby Committee	5	3	0	0	5
3	Formation of Farm producer Committee	5	3	0	0	5
4	Training on Capacity building	1,162	230	218	95	1,380
5	Training on Skill Development	949	55	55	100	1,004
6	Land Release Support (no)	211	20	16	80	227
7	Amount of LRS provided to beneficiaries	4,998,700	700,000	543,000	78	5,541,700
8	Quantity of land released (acres)	132.96	12	9	74	141.96

Sl. No	Items/ Activities	Achievement as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
9	Agriculture Inputs Support (no)	163	19	10	53	173
10	Agriculture Input Support to distributed to beneficiaries (Tk)	700,000	95,000	52,000	55	752,000
11	Land papers Execution (no)	0	40	42	105	42
12	Land papers Execution (Tk)	0	150,000	135,000	90	135,000
13	Legal Support (no)	0	5	5	100	5
14	Legal Support (Tk)	0	100,000	100,000	100	100,000
15	Demonstration Farm Dev.(no)	0	4	4	100	4
16	Demonstration Farm Dev (Tk)	0	80,000	80,000	100	80,000
17	Advocacy Campaign	0	1	1	100	1
18	Seminar on Land Issues (no of events)	2	5	5	100	7
19	Seminar on Land Issue (participants)	112	450	381	85	493
20	Awareness Rising through Cultural Program (Nos. of event)	0	4	4	100	4
21	Awareness Rising through Cultural Program (Participants)	0	1,600	1,574	98	1,574
22	Net Work Building Workshop with PNGOs (Participants)	0	30	28	93	28
23	Workshop for strengthening Social Organization (Participants)	0	30	30	100	30

It can be seen from the above Table that 11 new *Adivasi* Land Mortgagers Forums were formed during the reporting period. The project offered capacity building training to 218 participants and skill development training to 55 participants in order to make them knowledgeable, capacitated and skilled to move with the advocacy issues in establishing rights and to undertake on-farm activities to improve the livelihood status. In order to release mortgaged land the project provided financial support of Tk.543,000 by which nine acres of land were released during the reporting period. On the other hand, Tk.135,000 for land papers execution and Tk.100,000 for legal support was given to 42 and five program participants respectively. For establishment of demonstration farm Tk.80,000 has been disbursed to four program participants. The project successfully facilitated five seminars on land issues at *upazila* level to draw the attention of the local level administration for getting their cooperation in respect of resolving land rights related problems. A very significant achievement during the reporting period was facilitation of 28 network-building workshops with the Partner Non-Government Organizations (PNGOs) in order of reinforcing solidarity and mutual cooperation to establish rights of the *Adivasi* community people.

Results:

As a result of implementing the project interventions:

- The program participants have become knowledgeable about their rights and capacitated to undertake actions on rights related issues. They have gained self-confidence and the self-motivated leadership quality as well.
- They are now able to approach to different local Administrative Offices with the advocacy issues in protecting their rights and communicating with other allied organizations to foster solidarity.
- The program participants are now watchful about the tactics of land grabbers. They are now confident enough to raise voice against human rights violation and exploitation in respect of land registration and mutation procedure.
- The *Adivasi* people now consult with the land mortgagers forum before mortgaging land. Thus, the trend of land mortgage on verbal contract has decreased. They are preserving land related papers and documents with due importance. They communicate with the Land Commissioner's Office for updating land documents.
- The program participants are undertaking different income generating activities. They practise organic farming and avoid harmful chemical/insecticides. Thus, they are contributing to preserve soil quality and fertility that helps increase the productivity of land and income as well of the *Adivasi* communities.

Conclusion:

The project has largely contributed to create awareness among the *Adivasi* community people with regard to protection of lands from land grabbers, preservation of land documents, not to sell or mortgage land without consultation with the community, practice of sustainable agriculture technology, etc. The project has also brought about changes in the mind-sets of the program participants to move with issues related to land and human rights collectively in association with the like-minded organizations. The project has a component to make an "*Adivasi* Lawyers Forum" in the second year of the project phase, which will ultimately turn into a national identity. Once this forum is formed the sufferings of the *Adivasi* communities with respect to land and human rights will gradually come down. Thus, the well being of the *Adivasi* community people will be ensured to the desired level.