

Project No. 19

EMPLOYMENT CREATION THROUGH SERICULTURE (ECTS)

Principle:

To encourage rural landless poor women organized by Caritas Bangladesh to involve in various phases of sericulture activities and create employment opportunities for them.

Main objectives of the Project:

- To facilitate maximum number of partial and full time employment opportunities for Caritas organized women Partner Group (PG) members;
- To help consolidate and upgrade the skill of working beneficiaries; and
- To materialize the process of gradual self-reliance.

Background of the Project:

Caritas Bangladesh initiated the project in 1992 to create partial or full employment opportunities for Caritas organized women Partner Group members.

Staff Strength:

Total - 50 (Male - 39, Female- 11)

Donor:

Misereor, Germany supported the project up to June 30, 2005. From July 2005, project has been being implemented under a sustainability plan.

Expenditure: Tk. 20,479,500

Beneficiaries:	Direct	:	700
	<u>Indirect</u>	:	<u>3,500</u>
	Total	:	4,200

Target and Achievement:

During the reporting period the target and achievement of the project are mentioned in the following Table:

Sl	Item/Activities	Achievement as on June 2008	Performance in FY 2008-09			Cumulative
			Target	Achievement	%	
1	Mulberry Plantation	24,86,192	3000	950	32	24,87,142
2	<u>Survived Trees:</u> a. Extension b. Block	149,633 43,102	149,633 43,102	60,583 37,052	40	60,583 37,052
3	<u>Productive Trees:</u> a. Extension b. Block	89,433 41,602	89,433 41,602	42,728 32,387	48 78	42,728 32,387
4	Cocoon Production (Kg)	195,135	6,500	4,254	65	199,389
5	Yarn Production (Kg)	13,523	450	200	44	13,723
6	Fabric Production (Meter)	525,298	48,000	33,603	70	558,901
7	<u>Trainings:</u> a. Reeling/Charka b. Weaving (Factory Worker)	628 475	- -	40 19	- -	668 494
8	<u>Employment Status:</u> a. Rearer b. Reeler c. Weaver/Factory Worker/Casual Total	325 68 615 1008	325 68 615 1008	315 30 355 700	97 44 58 69	315 30 355 700
9	Sales Proceeds (Taka)	95,504,212	170,00,000	113,45,252	67	106,849,464

Impact:

Main impacts of the project are given below:

- The rural poor women work in different phases of sericulture (rearing, reeling, weaving, dying, stitching, tailoring, etc.) and they are financially benefited. This employment opportunity helps them to earn additional income for respective families.
- The women are empowered and they find dignity in their families as well as in the society.
- It promotes local silk in the domestic and international market.
- Mulberry plantation has brought about positive changes in the environment and it has reduced soil erosion.
- Concerned beneficiaries have got a regular source of firewood from mulberry trees.
- Farmers get green compost from silkworm rearing wastes.

Conclusion:

A study committee having three members has been formed to find out the relevance and management effectiveness of this project. Appropriate steps following the recommendations of the study will be taken by December 2009.

Mazeda Begum Earns through Producing Cocoons

Mazeda Begum (43), wife of Md. Abul Hossain lives at Bongshipur village in Sadar *upazila* under Dinajpur district. Her family consists of seven members and it was hard for the couple to earn daily bread.

In 1995 Mazeda tried to find out a job around the village she lived in but failed to get any as there was bad harvest. At that moment she came to know about the Employment Creation Through Sericulture (ECTS) project. She joined the Bongshipur Milon Mohila *Samity* organized by Caritas Dinajpur Region and planted 250 mulberry saplings through the assistance of ECTS. She received a training on Sericulture and started taking care of the plants. Now her mulberry trees are productive and she has become an expert rearer of silkworms.



Mrs. Mazeda Begum plucks mulberry leaves for rearing silkworms

At present, Mazeda rears 50 silkworm eggs and produces an average of 20 kilograms of cocoons per crop. Her husband, sons and daughters help in her works. Some children of the family take keen interest in producing cocoons. They may take up this profession when they have completed basic education. Her yearly income is about Tk. 11,000/-. She is also involved with other Income Generating Program of Caritas such as cow and goat rearing, seasonal business, etc. She took loans six-times to achieve economic sustainability of her family and regularly she duly repaid the installments. Her savings with the *Samity* is Tk. 7,912/-.

Mazeda is skilled in her profession. She is empowered both socially and economically. She has dignity in the family as well as in society.

Now both the husband and wife work hard to maintain their family. She committed, "I have got an alternative source of income and now I can help my family. ECTS always helps me to develop my skills so that I become able to earn more always."