

Project - 23

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (NRMP)

Principle:

Sustaining life and livelihood in harmony with nature.

Objectives:

The project has the following objectives to achieve:

- To enhance productivity and conservation of natural resources at 547 villages under 45 *upazila* by the end of 2010; and
- To increase income of the program participants through creating employment and self-employment of 4,350 beneficiaries at 547 villages under 45 *upazila* by the end of 2010.

Background:

Natural Resources Management Project (NRMP) is a three-year project, which has started in July 2007 and will end in June 2010. The reporting period covers the second fiscal year of the project phase-I.

Staff Strength:

Total-29 (Male-26, Female-3)

Donor:

Caritas Australia and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

Expenditure:

The following information represents total expenses of the project during the reporting period.

Foreign Partner's Contribution	Tk.	14,270,295
Local Partner's Contribution	Tk.	3,055,682
Total	Tk.	17,325,977

Beneficiaries:

The following information represents the participants covered under the project service and benefits:

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Direct:	17,032	24,949	41,981
Indirect:	51,120	74,046	125,166
Total	68,152	98,995	167,147

The Table above shows that the project offered its services to a total of 167,147 (41,981 direct and 125,166 indirect) beneficiaries during the reporting period. Out of total beneficiaries 98,995 were female.

Target and Achievement:

Sl. No.	Item / Activities	Achievements as on June 2008	Performance			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
1	Trainings (awareness and skill development)	199	155	205	132	404
2	Participants	5,892	4,061	6,330	156	12,222
3	Fair, Issue based campaign, Environment day observation	34	29	42	149	76
4	Participants	10,457	6,500	34,459	530	44,916
5	Pond renovation, land shaping, rice field development	108	280	293	105	401
6	Establishment of model farms	14	21	21	100	35
7	Resource Center set up	2	2	2	100	4
8	Nos. of beneficiaries loan received	648	1,140	632	55	1,280
9	Amount of Loan disbursement	2,561,000	3,755,000	2,293,000	61	4,854,000
10	Amount of loan realization (Tk.)	224,368	2,136,219	1,884,420	88	2,108,788
11	Nos. of Hatchery support	3	3	3	100	6
12	Amount of spawn Production (kg)	232	300	294	98	526
13	Establishment of fish seed nurseries (nos.)	75	35	40	114	115
14	Fingerling production (hatchery + nurseries) in million	2	2 million	3.26 million	182	5.26 million
15	Marketing support to the women for entrepreneurship development	31	30	30	100	61
16	Creek & Valley renovation and management	2	2	2	100	4
17	Horticulture in hilltops and slopes	2	2	2	100	4
18	Homestead based NR management by the <i>Adivasi</i> community	79	50	54	108	133
19	Region based Annual Workshop for BMC Leaders	4	4	4	100	8

The major achievements can be seen from the above Table that 205 number of training on awareness and skill development were facilitated for a total of 6,330 program participants. The project was able to re-excavate or renovate 293 ponds or rice field for making suitable for fish/vegetables culture. During this time, 21 model farms, two resource centers and 40 fish seed nurseries were established. On the other hand, the project provided financial support amounting to Tk. 22,93,000 to 632 program participants for undertaking different income generating activities related to natural resources. During this reporting period, the project was able to produce 294 KGs of spawn through three hatchery operations and 3.26 million fingerlings through establishing fish seed nurseries.

Impacts:

Natural Resource Management Project is creating awareness among the program participants about the sustainable and profitable use of natural resources and making them skilled to undertake different integrated income generating activities related to natural resources. The *Adivasi* community people are cultivating fish in hilly creeks and undertake horticulture on hilltops and slopes. Thus, they have got full or

partial employment and their family income is increasing. The project is significantly contributing to ensure livelihood means for the rural poor, especially the women. They are producing vegetables, fish, crops etc. following sustainable natural resource management technology and avoiding use of harmful chemicals and pesticides in crops, agricultural land, fruits and fast food products. Thus, they are contributing to conserve biodiversity and to keep balance of ecosystem.

Conclusion:

NRMP plays an important role in alleviating poverty through increasing sustainable productivity and maintaining ecological balance. It is not only increasing production and conserving natural resources, but also creating employment and providing access to local resources. Thus, the project ensures food security and leads the community people to empowerment and self-reliant development. On the other hand, it is playing a significant role in integrating the indigenous knowledge and skills in the process of sustainable development. However, the project still faces some problems for adapting new technologies as it takes time to change the mind-set of the program participants.

Monirul, a Model Organic Farmer

Md. Monirul Islam (33), was a poor agricultural day laborer of a remote village in Patnitola *upazila* (sub-district) under Naogaon district. He has been involved with Caritas since 1996, as a development partner of Development Extension Education Services (DEEDS). He is a member of Hasenbegpur Landless Male *Samity* (group) of Patnitola *upazila*. His family consists of four members. He allthrough struggled to bear his family expenses though he has 33 decimals of land. It would remain unused all over the year due to irrigation problem. He depended on only his daily wages.

In the meantime, he received skill development training from Caritas Natural Resource Management Program (NRMP) on “Cultivation and Use of Organic Manure”. He was encouraged to take an initiative to cultivate organic vegetables in his land using poultry excrement and cow dung. He received an amount of Tk. 4, 000 from his *samity* as loan in October 2007 to purchase vegetable seeds and chicken. He had a cow. He made up his mind to apply his knowledge gained during the training. Necessary technical assistance also was provided for him from NRMP staff. These joint efforts made his project profitable. During 2008-2009 he earned Tk. 69,809 out of which the total expense was Tk. 19,156. Thus his net profit was Tk. 50,653 (from poultry - 24140, livestock - 12,508, vegetables - 14,005).

He cultivated his land with organic manure, which is produced from his poultry excrement and cow dung. Now Monirul can meet his family expenses pretty well. Intake of protein and vegetables of his family members has increased. He has constructed a portion of his house with Corrugated Iron (CI) sheet. He also purchased 12 decimals of land with his income. He accumulated Tk. 4,720 as savings in the group. His children go to school regularly.

Moreover, his active role in the group, as well as repayment of loan is praiseworthy. Observing his success the other group members are also following the same technology. He has already become a model in the locality as an organic farmer. He is grateful to Caritas and wishes to continue his organic farming.