

Project No. 24

ENHANCEMENT OF ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF DROUGHT VULNERABLE COMMUNITY IN NORTHWEST REGION OF BANGLADESH

Principle:

Enhancement of adaptive capacity of the vulnerable community to minimize the present and future drought impacts on their lives and livelihood.

Objectives:

The following are the main objectives of the project:

- To improve understanding and awareness of the selected community and stakeholders about the present and future drought impacts on their lives and livelihoods and associated risk and vulnerability; and
- To improve coping mechanism and enhance adaptive capacity of the vulnerable community, particularly of the poor, marginal group and women to address drought impacts, related risks and vulnerability.

Background:

The project area is situated in the drought-prone northwestern part of the country with high concentration of poverty. Dryness and high temperature are the two key characteristics of the area. Uneven distribution of rainfall makes the region particularly the agriculture more susceptible to low moisture in soil. Thus the farmers face frequent crop failures in the locality. With a view to reducing the risks and vulnerability of the area this community based adaptation project started in July 2007 and will continue till June 2010.

Staff strength: The project has one male staff member

Donor: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK through Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS)

Expenditure: The following information represents the total expenses made during the reporting period.
Local partners contribution : TK.818,398

Beneficiaries:

The following information represents the information on the total beneficiaries covered under the project service and benefits.

Category	Male	Female	Total
Direct:	125	125	250
Indirect	1,250	1,350	2,600
Total	1,375	1,475	2,850

The project provided assistance and support to 250 direct beneficiaries, especially the women headed families on natural resource base and agriculture (crop, vegetables, fisheries, livestock, etc.) while 2,600 people were indirect beneficiaries.

Targets and achievements:

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

Sl. No.	Items/Activities	Achievement as on June 2008	Performance in FY 2008 - 2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
1	Provide plastic tank with 500 liter holding capacity for rainwater harvesting	15	0	0	0	15
2	Set up community based cemented rainwater tank	1	1	1	100	2
3	Set up PSF (Pond Sand Filter)	1	0	0	0	1
4	H/Hs integrated farming	13	15	15	100	28
5	Drought tolerant field crops	6	8	8	100	14
6	Set up tech. and information sharing center	1	0	0	0	1
7	Pond re-excavation for domestic use and fish cultivation	3	0	0	0	3
8	Pond re-excavation for increasing access and efficient use of water for irrigation	1	0	0	0	1
9	Solar pump set up for drip irrigation for vegetable culture	0	1	1	100	1
10	Skill development training for the youth on fish cultivation	1	0	0	0	1
11	Training on integrated farming system (household and field crops)	1	0	0	0	1
12	Training on preservation and storage of RWH	1	0	0	0	1
13	Inception workshop	0	1	1	100	1

The Table above shows that the achievements of the planned activities during the reporting period were cent percent against the target. One solar pump and one technology and information sharing center were set up for drip irrigation for vegetable culture. The project supported 15 households to establish integrated farming in order to help improve their livelihoods. Drought tolerant field crops were provided to eight households to adapt to climate change. Moreover, an inception workshop was facilitated to orient the community people with the project interventions and to develop necessary strategies to implement the project activities.

Impacts:

- The community people have become more aware of climate change and its implications in the area. The poor communities are capable of utilizing the available local resources in an effective manner. Drip water irrigation system has created an opportunity for the people to increase production and usages minimum level of water.
- Single cropped land has been transformed into two crops through selection of crop variety and manipulation. The *Adivasi* families are using water for household purposes and small-scale irrigation from the re-excavated ponds.
- The community people are getting sufficient water for drip irrigation through solar pumps. All these sources of water are helping them to improve their agricultural produce as well as to create a scope for food security.
- The re-excavated ponds are also used for fish cultivation. Intake of nutrition is increasing.
- The technology information and resource center has created opportunity for the community people to share and exchange their views with one another and to mobilize the agricultural activities.

Conclusion:

In the project area, dependence on rain fed agriculture, flood irrigation and poverty make the people vulnerable to both climate variability and climate change. Therefore, integration of climate information and knowledge in agricultural practice is very much necessary. It can reduce the losses associated with climate variability by increasing the chances of favorable social and economic outcomes, especially for the poor.