

## Project No. 25

### MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH COMMUNITY HUSBANDRY (MACH) PROJECT

#### Principle:

Promote ecologically sound management of floodplain resources (fisheries and other wetland products) for the sustainable supply of food to the poor.

#### Objectives:

The main objects of the project are:

- To raise awareness about the importance of natural floodplain resources to secure food and income security;
- To maintain and recover the selected natural floodplain ecosystems and associated fisheries; and
- To identify activities to generate alternative income that will result in a reduction of pressure from fishing and agriculture in the floodplain fisheries.

#### Background:

MACH project started in October 1998. The phase- II was extended up to June 2008. At present, the project is under a follow-up phase and will end in June 2010.

**Staff strength:** Total-12 (Male-10, Female-2)

**Donor:** United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Winrock International.

#### Expenditure:

The following information represents the total expenses made during the reporting period.

Foreign Partner's Contribution	:Tk.1,131,326
Local Partner's Contribution	:Tk. 878,493
Total	:Tk. 2,009,819

#### Beneficiary:

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

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Direct	3,325	2,229	5,554
Indirect	13,748	9,001	22,749
Total	17,073	11,230	28,303

It is seen that the project has brought a total of 5,554 direct program participants and 22,749 people under the coverage of its services and benefits. It is to be noted that 11,230 participants were female out of the total project participants.

## Target & achievements:

The following table shows the target and achievements of the MACH project activities during the reporting period (July 2008 to June 2009). It also shows the cumulative figures.

Sl. No.	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievements	%	
1	<b>Resource user group formed (No.)</b>	264	10	07	70	271
2	<b>Group member (No.)</b>	6,839	612	445	73	7,284
	a. Men	4,263	322	201	62	4,464
	b. Women	2,531	290	244	84	2,775
3	Group members' savings (Tk.)	11,910,394	2,463,661	2,174,149	88	14,084,543
4	<b>Federation of RUG (FRUG)</b>					
	a. No. of FRUG formed	13	0	0	0	13
	b. FRUG meeting (No.)	633	156	152	97	785
	c. Fund handover to FRUG (No.)	13	0	0	0	13
5	<b>Training (Resources Users)</b>					
	Batch	1,379	13	14	108	1,393
	Participants	25,485	260	270	104	25,755
6	<b>Credit disbursement for AIGA IGA loan</b>					
	a. Total loan disbursed (No.)	18,848	2,339	2,217	95	21,065
	b. Disbursed amount (Tk.)	127,165,970	24,434,000	23,463,405	96	150,629,375
	c. Realized amount (Tk.)	115,885,335	26,564,635	25,454,340	96	141,339,675
	<b>Enterprise loan</b>					
	a. Total loan disbursed (No.)	364	266	246	92	610
	b. Disbursed amount (Tk.)	8,737,060	7,366,760	7,337,280	99.6	16,074,340
	c. Realized amount (Tk.)	6,236,470	6,550,405	6,286,034	96	12,522,504
7	<b>Alternative income increased</b>					
	a. AIGA implemented by RUG members (No.)	19,059	1,220	1,103	90	20,162
8	Adult literacy (No. of course)	165	0	0	0	165
9	Cross visits (RUG members) (No.)	30	0	0	0	30
	Participants	540	0	0	0	540
10	Pond lease taken (RUG members) (No.)	0	1	1	100	1

The above Table shows that seven Resource User Groups (RUGs) were formed with a total of 445 members out of which 244 were female. Now the cumulative number of RUGs stands at 7,284 members and the accumulated savings by the RUGs members amounts to Tk.14,084,543. A total of 13 Federation of Resource User Groups (FRUGs) took responsibility of Revolving Loan Fund and their own staff managed savings.

**Results:**

- Better living condition is prevailing as the people are depositing savings on compulsory basis Tk.5 per week with additional voluntary savings according to their individual capacity and earning more by receiving loans from the project funds handed over to the FRUGs. Socio-economic situation is improving through education and creation of employment. Dependence on wetland resources has reduced due to job creation in other fields for the wetland resource dependants. They are earning more money through rearing/farming poultry, ducks, cow fattening, dry and fresh fish trading, and so many other small businesses. As a result, aquatic resources have been conserved.
- Resource Users Groups (RUG) have transformed into independent federation as Federation of Resource Users Groups (FRUG) in order to sustain the organization through registration from the government agency of Social Welfare Department.

**Conclusion:**

MACH Project has been able to introduce the people-owned and people-managed institutions such as FRUGs. It has also infused a sense of ownership and self-identity into the minds of the program participants. Training and micro-credit program have increased the productivity of the program participants and reduced dependence on fishing. The MACH project has achieved the “National Energy Globe Award 2009” in Prague for its contribution to sustainable development by establishing access of the poor fisher groups to wetland resources through Federation of Resources User Groups (FRUGs).