

Draft



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

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## Speech from the Executive Director's Desk

In 2009, we have successfully completed some of our remarkable activities, which were highly appreciated by the community, research institutions, partners, donors, government institutions and other relevant actors. Since its inception, the organization has been striving to bring distressed people out of the clutches of poverty, bring sustainable changes in their lives and livelihoods through undertaking several works inspired by the concept and spirit of voluntarism.

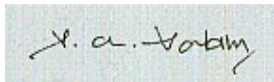
During the reporting period DEW has worked with the poor women and children at Savar Upazilla in Dhaka district and Dhanmondi, Kalabagan and Newmarket thana under Dhaka City Corporation. DEW also conducted development works in Mymensingh, Netrokona, Tangail, Manikgonj, Sirajgonj, Bogra, Gazipur and Jessore district of Bangladesh. DEW has also given emphasis on the most vulnerable area of Bangladesh like Char and Haor areas of Jamalpur, Tangail and Netrokona districts and conducted significant research aims to improve the livelihood of Char and Haor dwellers.

Throughout the development activities for the poor Bangladeshi's, DEW has been offered hands and encouraging from different organizations and persons. Therefore, in this occasion, I would like to thank those people who helped our development activities. At the same time, I would like to remember some organizations and individuals such as: Traidcraft Exchange Bangladesh country office, UK office, Oxfam -GB, European Union, The Asia Foundation, Polish Aid, We Can, CSRL, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Directorate of Social Welfare, The International Fair Trade Organization-WFTO, WFTO Asia, Ecota Fair Trade Forum, Steps Towards Development, People Tree-Japan, World of Good-USA, rising International-USA. I would like to thanks to our local partner NGO's for their hard and sincere work to implement the ongoing projects in the field of greater Mymensingh districts.

I would like to thanks to the General Council, the Executive Committee and the Advisory Council of DEW for their continued support and cooperation for the smooth operation of the organization.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all of my colleagues for their whole hearted devotion and hard working toward DEW's success, and all deprived people especially char dwellers of the river Jamuna, producer group members of our SLIPP project, our change makers and their families who are the part and parcel of the organization. I believe that by sharing our vision and, mission one day we will win poverty, hunger and all the people will live with dignity and security.

I would like to thank you all again for your kind cooperation.



**Shah Abdus Salam**  
Founder and Executive Director

## Chapter 01: Introduction

Development Wheel (DEW) is a non political and non-profit development organization working in Bangladesh, which is providing different form of supports to the hard core poor people, producer groups in agriculture and handicraft sector in Bangladesh. In addition, DEW is enhancing scopes on skills & small enterprise, developing self–employment opportunities for the underprivileged people both in rural and urban areas.

Development Wheel is founded in 1996 by a few development professionals and researchers to promote self-help poverty alleviation initiatives of the poorest households in Bangladesh. The main focus of the organization is to work for the promotion of the Arts and Crafts sector of Bangladesh through facilitating the development of small enterprises with an aim to generate sustainable self-employment opportunities for under-privileged rural and urban people. Besides, DEW is also active in the fields of climate change, livelihoods security, agricultural promotion, gender issues, essential service, sustainable livelihoods, human rights and good governance in partnership and collaboration with different international and national organizations.

The organization has continued its efforts towards creating awareness among the target people with the ultimate objective of ensuring their welfare and rights. Main focus of the organization is to develop a culture of Human Rights, promotion of Fair Trade, sustainable Business Development Services and Livelihood security for the marginalized communities.

### **DEW Vision:**

A society where all people will enjoy equal rights, equitable access to employment, adequate resources necessary for their livelihood and where they will live in dignity

### **DEW Mission:**

DEW is dedicated to improve security of livelihood of the poor segments of society by increasing their participation (particularly women) in small-scale economic activities including arts and crafts by providing a range of business and life skills development services.

### **Legal Status of the Organization**

SL.	Department	Registration No.	Date
1	Directorate of Social Welfare	Dha– 03663	September 08, 1996
2	NGO Affairs Bureau	1752	October 27, 2002

### **Management Committee of DEW**

Generally, the organization follows its overall policy directions and guidance of the general council and the advisory board. However, the overall management of DEW is entrusted upon a executives committee, which is constituted by the elected members.

### **Advisory Board**

To supplement the in-house expertise, DEW has an “Advisory Board” consisting of eminent personalities from Universities, Research Organizations and Development professionals.

## General Council

Total number of members of the general council is twenty-one. Thirteen General Council meeting were held to till date. The female and male ratio is 3:1 of the general council. The last meeting was held on 30PP<sup>th</sup>PP June 2009 at DEW office chaired by Professor H.K.S. Arefeen Ph.D, Chairperson of the organization.

## Executive Committee (EC)

The general council members elect the executive committee members. The total number of member of the committee is 07 (seven). The members of the EC are responsible to smooth operation of the organization in making policy decisions, technical advises and other necessary activities for growth of DEW. According to the constitution of the organization general election is held every after two years and executive committee meeting is holding every after three months.

### The Executive Committee of DEW:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Sex	Profession
01	Professor. H.K.S. Arefeen Ph.D. (Syracuse, USA)	Chairperson	Male	Teaching Professor of Anthropology University of Dhaka
02	Professor. Ainoon Nahar Ph.D. (Heidelberg, Germany)	Vice chairperson	Female	Teaching Professor of Anthropology Jahangirnagar University
03	Mr. Shah Abdus Salam	Founder and Secretary General	Male	Sociologist, Development professional
04	Mr. Sk. Golam Kibria	Treasurer	Male	Business Director Ken Business Corporation
05	Professor. Nasim Akhter Hussain Ph.D. (Macquarrie, Australia)	Member	Female	Teaching Professor of Govt. & politics, Jahangirnagar University
06	Mr. Siddiquir Rahman Ph.D. (The American University, Washington DC)	Member	Male	Teaching Associate Professor of Anthropology, Jahngirnagar University
07	Ms. Bertha Gitee Baroi MBA	Member	Female	Development Professional Director Corr the Jute Works

## **Development Programme of DEW**

- Human Rights and Good Governance
- Sustainable livelihoods for poor producers through Market Development Approach - BDS
- Climate Change and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Agribusiness development
- Promotion of Arts and Crafts through Fair Trade
- Non formal Education for Disadvantaged children
- Gender and development
- Social Action Research
- Environment

## **Development Partners of DEW**

Throughout the reporting phase DEW has worked with different development partners / NGOs for implementing its development initiatives:

- Traidcraft Exchange -TX
- European Union
- Oxfam GB
- The Asia Foundation
- Polish Aid
- World Fair Trade Organization
- World Fair Trade Organization Asia
- Ecota Fair Trade Forum
- Directorate of Women Affairs
- World of Good, USA
- Global Village, Japan
- Rising International, USA
- Ministry of Women Affairs
- Stapes Towards Development
- Dhaka Development Forum-DDF

## **Working Areas of DEW**

Bangladesh has seen good economic growth over the last 25 years. However, despite steady annual growth of 5 – 6%<sup>1</sup>, the poor are not benefiting. Bangladesh is still one of the worlds least developed countries. Almost 50% of the population (65 million) lives below the national poverty line and 36% live on less than US\$1/day. "...the poor have failed to benefit from this incremental growth since their income share got further marginalized".<sup>2</sup> Poverty is also increasingly geographically concentrated. Poverty at the national level does not reflect the significantly different poverty levels between rural and urban areas and across districts. 80% of the poor live in rural areas and most of them live in extreme poverty. In fact the income differential between the poorest 10% and richest 10% of the population increased from 1:20 in 1999 to 1: 24.5 in 2004<sup>3</sup>.

The fact that economic growth has failed to translate into accompanying rates of poverty reduction and that large section of the population – notably the rural poor – have not shared in the benefits of economic growth is of serious concern. The challenge facing Bangladesh today is not so much the redistribution of wealth but the redistribution of the new livelihood opportunities that are emerging. The growth of the middle-class presents an opportunity for marginalized producers in the domestic market. With steady economic growth the middle-class and its purchasing power are beginning to

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<sup>3</sup> Independent Review of Bangladesh Economy, Centre for Policy Dialogue, 2004-05

grow. And in a country with 150-160 million people even a small middle class represents a significant market<sup>4</sup>. However poor communities need support to make the most of these opportunities because they face many constraints and barriers, most importantly lack of skills, resources, information and knowledge.

The organization targeted Northern Bangladesh: greater Mymensingh districts the poorest part of the country. Although greater Mymensingh districts are not the poorest districts, they have below average per capita GDP and have been largely overlooked by donor-funded projects. Much of the wealth in Mymensingh, Netrokona and Tangail is concentrated in industries based in the state capitals or alongside main roads into Dhaka. The rural populations are excluded from these industries and remain very poor. Where more advanced measures of poverty have been used<sup>5</sup>, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Sharpur and Jamalpur have been identified as poorest districts in Bangladesh and are also known for their uneven distribution of wealth.

The main reasons for the selection of these districts include large numbers of poor and marginalized people, the presence of MSEs, a growing demand for BS and extension services, and the potential for significant and measurable impact. Trade can play an important role in preventing poor producers from being further marginalized. The challenge is to empower the poor and disadvantaged rural population to exploit the opportunities and work towards eliminating poverty. One of the reasons that rural areas of Bangladesh have been excluded from the benefits of economic growth is because they lack the basic infrastructure for trade. This includes: a lack of affordable, easily accessible and high quality BS; a lack of entrepreneurship; a lack of market information; and a lack of understanding about the market, lack of education, lack of nutrition ect.

However there is huge potential if these needs can be addressed. Greater Mymensingh districts are geographically well placed to supply their products to the capital city. There are good road links to Dhaka and therefore easy marketing opportunities. The region is also more productive agriculturally than average (it is self-sufficient in food) but its low position in the wealth rankings shows that income-generating opportunities are not developed. A recent study<sup>6</sup> showed that the average daily income for entrepreneurs in urban areas of Mymensingh was less than €2.5. This would be much less in rural areas. We need to make businesses more productive and profitable.

We believe that if educated professionals come forward with commitment, it is easy to develop socio-economic conditions of Bangladesh. DEW has concentrated its working areas in the greater Mymensingh districts because the areas are belong in the top of the poverty map of Bangladesh. DEW is giving more priority in the char and Haor areas of the greater Mymensingh because life and livelihoods are more vulnerable. We also are working in some other districts like Jessore, Bogra, and Tangail and in Dhaka City Corporation areas. DEW believes an equal development atmosphere in all over Bangladesh. Therefore the organization focuses both rural and urban poor and where the conventional development programs are ignored.

DEW is also working in Savar, Dhaka as a peri- urban area, in Export Processing Zone (EPZ). A large number of low-income working people live there and most of them are women - working in the garment and other factories. DEW has targeted them to improve their living conditions and aware peoples of the areas about environmental hazards created by the EPZ and other industries.

Besides those, as a Fair Trade organization one of the main objectives of DEW is to promote arts and crafts of the country, capacity building of the poor and distress artisan groups, provide design, and quality control support for the crafts groups and also facilitates pre-finance, market promotion, market access for their products and ensure fair price for the product. By producing different forms of handicraft DEW is trying to create sustainable employment and income generation opportunities for the disadvantaged rural and urban poor producers. In this regard, DEW selected the areas of

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<sup>4</sup> Bangladesh's middle class currently accounts for about 9 percent of the country's population, or about 14 million people.

<sup>5</sup> Local estimation of poverty and malnutrition in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UN World Food Programme, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> The business environment and the role of supporting and regulatory institutions, Asia foundation and Data International 2003

Sharsha and Jhikorgasa Thana under Jessore district, Gheor and Dhamrai Thana under Manikgonj, Deldwar Thana under Tangail, Sharpur Thana under Bogra, Sharishabari Thana under Jamalpur district. The people of these areas are relatively skilled to make high quality basketry, terracotta and hand embroidery products. The group members find a scope to earn money and improve their socio-economic condition by the different development initiatives of DEW. Arts and Crafts groups includes hand embroidery, terracotta, tapestry and different kind of basketry made of palm leaf, dry grass, Hogla, bamboo, cane, kisa etc. DEW builds capacity in skills development on product development, design, and quality control support for the crafts groups and also facilitates pre-finance, market promotion of the products to local and international markets in USA, EU, Australia, UK, Japan, Sweden, Italy etc.

DEW also provides skill development training support to other fair trade organizations nationally and internationally.



## Chapter 02: Description of the development programs

### A. Women and Human Rights and Good Governance

#### Urban Governance:

To establish responsive governance, DEW is implementing different policy advocacy, women & child rights, gender equity, development and peace of the society through ensuring active participation of the local community in Dhanmondi, New market and Kalabagan Thana under Dhaka City Corporation area in collaboration with Dhaka Development Forum (DDF). The project is funded by "Oxfam Novib, the Royal Netherlands Embassy and technical supported by Steps towards Development since September 2003.

The project objective is to establish good governance, women and human rights, and social justice in the every part of the society, which will be free from all discrimination between men and women.



DEW observed international day of protest violence against women through rally and discussion meeting

The main strategy is increasing mass awareness through organizing and involving the social representatives more effectively in the social entrepreneurship, women entrepreneurship and students volunteers groups in different social development activities.

The responsibilities of this social entrepreneur groups are playing as a collective group role in the society and implementing specific activities more effectively establishing gender equity and human rights. The activities conducted on few specific issues such as birth registration, marriage registration, protest early marriage, increase women participation in the Community Service Delivery Institutions, protest violence against women and establish gender equity and good governance and to ensure responsiveness of govt. missionaries regarding the sectors. In order to conducting these various activities it is needed to involve the group members in social mobilization process.

The specific roles of the social entrepreneur:

- Taking initiatives to reduce gender discrimination in the family, society and the state
- To effectively implement the development activities through ensuring the local participation
- To increase peoples responsiveness in different social issues like women and child rights
- To strengthen the local initiatives and peoples participation
- Establish social barrier against women and children violence and provide necessary support as required
- To increase responsiveness and accountability of the local service providing institutions through implementing specific need based activities
- Act as a social pressure group in the community

School teachers and student volunteers are in the capacity building training at DEW office, an awareness rally on birth registration by the community people of Dhanmondi areas

During the reporting period DEW has been implemented various activities according to the action plan designed by the network, such as Coordination meetings of GCA, Orientation for Gender Change Agents, Wall magazine and scholarship for Student Volunteers Group, Dialogue with all Community Service Delivery Institutions (CSDI), GCA training on Gender & Program issues and Gender & Advocacy, participating other network activities on various development issues.

### Gender and Development Programme:

DEW has been started a Programme in Mymensingh which is **“We Can End All Violence against Women campaign Programme”** from March 2008. Over three decades of independence of Bangladesh, the state struggling to ensure the rule of law or provide a well functioning regulatory and policy environment. The overarching reality of Bangladesh poverty combined with shortcomings in governance; wide spread corruption and the failure of state institutions to respond effectively have resulted in major violations of women and human rights. Despite constitutional commitment to uphold human rights evidently human rights in Bangladesh including civil, political, social, cultural, legal, economic rights of across sections, from grassroots to national level are frequently being infringed. Corruption and poor accountability on the part of public sector institutions, law enforcing agencies have worsen the human right situation and also weaken national capacity to protect women/human rights.



DEW observed sixteen days campaign on violence against women in national level

Women have historically been subjected to tyranny and suffering from the injustice of a patriarchal social set-up for centuries. Compared to other family members, the women are more vulnerable in all form and measurement of poverty. The burden of poverty falls disproportionately on women in the areas of nutritional intake, access to gainful employment, wage rate and access to maternal healthcare. Women here are traditionally the victims of dowry, child marriage, unlawful marriage, trafficking, acid throwing and rape. What is alarming is that incidences of such oppressions are very much on the rise. Violence against women is regularly reported common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2003 exposes how women in this region remain vulnerable and disadvantaged; indicator for literacy, health, economic activities, work burden, empowerment, and political participation and employment (HDR-2003). Fund for Population (UNFPA) identified Bangladesh in its annual country report 2000 as having the second highest rate (47%) of domestic violence in the world. The incidence of



domestic violence, murder, snatching, women and children trafficking, rape, acid throwing is getting increased alarmingly day by day.



DEW Observed the world women's day 2009 in Mymensingh and Dhaka through rally, discussion and cultural Programme

Mymensingh have been identified as two of the four poorest districts in Bangladesh. Mymensingh are also known for their uneven distribution of wealth. (Local estimation of poverty and malnutrition in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UN World Food Programme, 2004) that induces the vulnerability to raise violence against women. Beside that, this area is consisted of Haor and Char land by which it belong to some extent specific cultural settings than the other parts of the country having lower consciousness in different socio-cultural attitudes.

Development Wheel (DEW) has identified through its long involvement in implementing various projects in the greater Mymensingh that the rate of infringement of women rights and various forms of violence against them are much higher in the remote areas of the districts than any other parts of the country. Though there are a number of human rights and legal aid organizations available in the country, often they have limited or little access to this northern part of the country towards ensuring some support to the victims. DEW thinks that only change makers can change the Bangladesh community free of domestic violence against women and make happy family, happy society and a happy nation.



DEW organized art competition for the children's that how they want to see their parents: Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh, Chair of the district alliance, DEW Executive Director and other guest in the Dias

Ultimate Objectives:

- Promoting local network/platform to combat domestic violence against women and achieving greater understanding and consensus towards curbing violence in the greater Mymensingh district.

Specific Objectives of the project:

- To introduce the We Can campaign program on domestic violence against women in Mymensingh
- To discriminate We Can campaign messages to around 25000 people in five Unions and the Mymensingh Municipality areas
- To create 10% sympathizer from message receivers on violence against women, those who will be targeted the change makers

Outcomes:

- District alliance has been formed with the participation of NGS and CSO's
- 3 (three) upazila (Trisal, Muktagacha and Fulbaria) alliance has been formed
- 6000 change maker enrolled and most of them are young students
- DEW has been institutionalize the campaign issue
- Meetings held in the community, school, college and University level
- Meetings held with the local govt., Municipality, NGo, CBO's and other occupational groups
- Art competition organized for the children on May day
- Much awareness growing and change maker and sympathizer group comes up on the issues
- A newsletter published



District alliance meeting and capacity building of the district alliance members by the We Can national secretariat

## **B. Sustainable livelihoods for poor producers through Market Development Approach**

### **SLIPP Project**

DEW is implementing “Sustainable Livelihoods for Poor Producers in Mymensingh and Netrokona, Bangladesh (SLIPP)” project supported by European Commission (EU) and co-funded by the Traidcraft Exchange. Overall Objective of SLIPP project is to reduce poverty among poor and marginalized communities in Northern Bangladesh by increasing income and employment opportunities. Specific Objective is to increase the ability of marginalized MSEs and their producers to benefit equitably from trade through undertaking following activities-

- Forming producer groups to enable sustainable and cost effective market access and strengthening supply chain.



- Building the capacity of the BS providers to provide affordable and quality business services to MSEs in a sustainable manner.
- Creating an institutional infrastructure of business support services for poor MSEs and producers.
- Influencing policy makers to ensure an enabling business environment for poor MSEs and producers.

Estimated results or indicators of the project are-

- 30% increase in sales amongst targeted producers/MSEs
- 15% increase in income amongst targeted producers/MSEs
- 20% increase in employment amongst targeted producers/MSEs
- More sustainable livelihoods (increased education, improved nutrition etc)
- More sustainable businesses in the targeted area (increase in repeat sales)
- More appropriate/affordable BS to MSEs
- 100% increase in demand for services by targeted MSEs/producers

SLIPP is working with 2050 poor and marginalized producers who are producing vegetable, fish and duck (these 3 sectors are highly potential for the poor in terms of income, outreach, employment, growth potentiality, significance of backward and forward linkages, women participation, government involvement etc), In initial research, SLIPP found that these producers face a number of problems which deter their growth and profitability. This includes: lack of entrepreneurship, lack of knowledge about cultivation technique, lack of easily accessible and quality business service from inputs sellers and traders, lack of awareness about government services and policies. It has organized these producers in 82 groups and is building their capacity to use their collective potential to access different services and information they need. SLIPP is also encouraging them to engage in different group based initiatives such as group purchase of inputs, group marketing initiatives, negotiation with traders, share learning among members, etc.

Partner NGO's are:

- GRAMAUS, MATI, GKP and USA in Mymensingh and
- SUS, ARBAN, JKP and WDO in Netrokona.



Vegetable producers are working in the field of Buror Char, Mymensingh

## Facilitated activities under SLIPP Project in 2009

### ***Business counseling and client management Training by International consultant:***

The first 2 batches of 2- days workshops were held on January 18-19 and January 20-21 2009 in Netrokona and Mymensingh respectively. In Netrokona 22 service providers of Duck sub-sector attended this training and in Mymensingh 18 service providers of Fishery sub-sector attended the training. The training was meant to develop business development, counseling and client management skills of the service providers



***District Level Agriculture Policy Dissemination work shop:*** District level workshops were arranged to disseminate and validate the findings of the literature review and FGDs. 3 day long workshops were held on January 27 – 29 (2 in Mymensingh and 1 in Netrokona). Total 122 stakeholders including producer group leaders, representatives of SPs, representatives of local governments and District level public benefit service officers attended the workshops





**Service Provider (Soil Collector) Training on Soil Collection:** 43 trainees representing each producer group from Netrokona District attended this day hands-on training in soil collection techniques. It was also held in SRDI complex in Mymensingh on February 16, 2009



**Market Access workshop and Agro fair:** A 2 day long market access workshop along with an agro-fair was held on February 17-18, 2009 in Pailati, Netrokona. This was organized to build linkages with value chain actors in the market end and to disseminate information. The workshop and fair was attended, among others, by a large number of small to big buyers including wholesalers, trained SPs, PNGO teams. Public Benefit Service Providers and high ranking Government Officials. The workshop and fair was inaugurated by the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Netrokona (in absence of Deputy Commissioner).



DEW organized vegetable fair by its local partner organizations and producer groups in Netrokona to create market access and greeting fair price of their agriculture products. ADC General of Netrokona, Begum Rokeya, ED of DEW partner organization SUS and DEW ED is visiting vegetable stalls

**workshop on importance of soil testing and affordable solutions in Mymensingh:** 1 day long workshop was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Mymensingh (for Mymensingh vegetable groups) to impart knowledge on soil testing, its techniques and affordable solutions. The workshop was conducted by SRDI and DAE resource persons and co-facilitated by the SLIPP technical team. 41 trainees attended the workshop that includes MSMEs, SPs and PNGO staffs.



**Training on duck hatchery management and service provision:** A 2 day long training workshop was held on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Modon, Netrokona on duck hatchery management and service provision. The Training was conducted by District Livestock Officer and co-facilitated by SLIPP technical team members. As duck hatchery owners have a dual role in this project (as beneficiary and also SPs), the training covers hatchery management as well as to train them as service providers for the duck rearers. A total of 50 duck hatchery owners attended the training workshop.





**Workshop on importance of soil testing and affordable solutions in Netrokona:** 1 day long workshop was held on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Mymensingh (for Netrokona vegetable groups) to impart knowledge on soil testing, its techniques and affordable solutions. The workshop was conducted by SRDI and DAE resource persons and co-facilitated by The SLIPP technical team. 37 trainees attended the workshop that includes MSMEs, SPs and PNGO staffs



**Training on fish feed formulation:** Day long training workshop was organized for feed crusher group who would in turn serve as service providers on fish feed formulation. The training was conducted by an experienced Consultant and co-facilitated by the SLIPP technical team. The workshop was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 in Muktagacha, Mymensingh. 25 feed crushers attended the training Programme



**National Agriculture Policy Workshop** –A national workshop was organized in Dhaka on March 24. The workshop was attended by the Food Minister, Charge-d-affairs of Delegation of EU, Member of Parliament from two working Districts, producer group leaders, representative of SPs, representatives from NGOs and INGOs and most notably all high government officials of the concerned departments. Total 117 stakeholders attended the workshop.



DEW reviewed national agricultural policy and shared the findings of the national agriculture policy to national policy makers: Dr. Abdur Razzaque, Minister, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Mr. Khalid Babu, M.P, Mr. Khasru, M.P. European Union Charge d Affairs, Country director of Traidcraft Exchange, DEW Executive Director and others in the picture

**Service Provider (input seller) on Fish cultivation technique:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of training of fishery sub-sector SPs was held on March 29 -31, 2009 in Mymensingh. It was a 3-days workshop participated by 30 fish input sellers and fish nursery owners. This training was also conducted by Syngenta and facilitated by the SLIPP technical team





**Refresher Course of TOT:** A 2 days long TOT was conducted by International consultant on 12-13 April 2009 at Apex Training center, Mymensingh, A total 23 number of participants comprising of project staff and PNGO staff were present at the training.



**Practical training (field day) on soil testing result demonstration in Mymensingh:** trained soil collectors organized and conducted 5 field days as practical training on soil testing demonstration result. The trainings were held from 22 April to 24 May 2009 at different SLIPP farmers field in Mymensingh. 635 farmers attended in the training.



**Practical training (field day) on soil testing result demonstration in Netrokona:** trained soil collectors organized and conducted 5 field days as practical training on soil testing demonstration result. The trainings were held from 19 April to 20 May 2009 at different SLIPP farmers field in Mymensingh. 645 farmers attended in the training.



**Service Provider Training (input Seller) on Vegetable cultivation technique:** The third batch of training of vegetable sub-sector SPs was held in Bogra at Syngenta training and Resource Center. It was a 3-day training held 13-15 May 2009. This training was also conducted by Syngenta and facilitated by The SLIPP technical team. 30 fish input sellers attended the training.

**Mid-term follow-up workshop in Netrokona:** A daylong mid-term follow-up workshop was held at hotel Zilla Parishad, Netrokona on 16 June 2009. 40 stakeholders of the SLIPP project were attended in the workshop.





**Capacity Building of partner staff, project staff and local consultant on BS:** SLIPP and PNGO staffs attended a 3 days long training workshop organized by Syngenta in their Bogra training institute on 25-27<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The training was conducted by in-house experts at Syngenta and it focused on vegetable and fish cultivation techniques. It was attended by 27 participants.



**Facilitate the development of 1 regional producer association:** Several preparatory workshops on organizing producer associations in different sub-sectors were held. A workshop with Mymensingh vegetable producer association was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 followed by similar workshop with Netrokona vegetable producer association on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. Workshop for organizing duck producers association was held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.



**Field training as exchange visit in Comilla:** An exchange visit to Chandina, Comilla, as part of field training was arranged on Improved Vegetable Cultivation Technique with participation from both Netrokona and Mymensingh Vegetable Association representatives, Trained Business Service Providers (inputs seller) SLIPP and PNGO staffs. These were held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and conducted by resource personnel which included Upazilla Agriculture Officer of DAE, Chandina and Principal Scientific Officer of BARI, Comilla. The trainings were attended by 40 and 44 participants, respectively.



**Assessing needs and stimulating demand amongst producers:** Though all scheduled FGDs were conducted in last years, 35 FGDs (19 FGD in Mymensingh and 16 FGD in Netrokona) were conducted this year as follow-up and review FGD with producers' groups to share learning and experience and to refresh the learning. In total 1202 producers attended in the FGDs.





**Training Workshops on business development, business counseling and client management organization:** Training workshop series 1 and 2 have been completed this year. In total 177 of input retailers, duck and fish hatchery owners, feed crusher, compost producers, Paravets, PNGO staff and Individuals have received this series of trainings in 8 batches of which 6 batches were completed over a period from July 27, 2009 to December 29, 2009, and 137 participants attended. The trainings were conducted by International Consultant “Margdarshak”.



**Hands on training compost fertilizer:** Two separate day long hands on training on how to produce compost fertilizer was held at Rajendrapur and Pachkahania, Sadar, Netrokona on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August, respectively, with participation from compost producer selected from a group and other farmers in the group. A Consultant from Natore Development Society (NDS) was hired for the purpose. A similar training was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2009 at Char Bangalia of Haluaghat and Char Anandipur of Sadar, Mymensingh.



**Technical Training on (Field demo) on improved vegetable cultivation technique:** Two day long trainings in the form of field demonstration on improved vegetable cultivation technique were held at Mymensingh and Netrokona SLIPP office on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, respectively. The trainings were conducted by Syngenta Experts and participated by trained input seller, demo farmer, SLIPP and PNGO staff. In total 40 participants attended in the trainings. The reports are given as Annex-34, and Annex-35



**Farmers training by trained BSP (inputs seller-fish) - on fish cultivation technique (each training divided into three courses):** A total of 22 days training (cover first and second course) on fish cultivation technique was held from 26th August, 2009 – December 2009 at Mymensingh. Trained inputs seller, Upazilla fisheries Officer of DOF conducted the training and it was attended by as many as 824 Fish producer, SLIPP and PNGO staff.





**Farmers training by trained BSP (inputs seller-Vegetable)- on vegetable cultivation technique (each training divided into three courses):** A total of 48 days training (cover first and second course) at Mymensingh and 45 training days (cover first and second course) at Netrokona on vegetable cultivation technique was held from 26th August, 2009 – December 2009. Trained inputs seller, Upazilla Agriculture officer and Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer of DAE conducted the training and it was attended by as many as 1707 vegetable producers in Mymensingh and 1574 in Netrokona, SLIPP and PNGO staff.



**Farmers training by trained BSP (inputs seller-duck) - on duck rearing technique (each training divided into three courses):** A total of 8 days training (cover first and second course) on duck rearing technique was held from 26th August, 2009 – December 2009 at Netrokona. Trained inputs seller and Upazilla Livestock officer of DLS conducted the training and it was attended by as many as 263 duck rearers, SLIPP and PNGO staff.



**BSP (Soil collector) training on soil collection and soil sampling:** A day long training on techniques of soil collection and sampling for soil testing for soil collectors was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November at Mymensingh. The intention of this training was to develop few representative farmers from farmer groups as soil collectors so that they can act as business service provider in soil testing for their neighbouring farmers. The training was conducted by Upazilla Agriculture officer of DAE and Scientific Officer of SRDI and it was attended by 42 Soil collectors, SLIPP and PNGO staff.



**Practical technical training (field day) by trained inputs seller:** on improved vegetable cultivation technique: 4 day long trainings on the field were held on improved vegetable cultivation technique by trained inputs seller. A field demonstration was held to show the outcome of utilizing improved vegetable cultivation technique. The field day took place on Char Bangalia , Haluaghat, in Mymensingh on 23 December 2009 . The training was conducted by trained inputs seller, Upazilla Agriculture officer and Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer of DAE, Scientific Officer of SRDI and it was attended by 85 participants including demo farmer, vegetable producer, SLIPP and PNGO staffs, Syngenta staff.



**Follow-up workshop on importance of soil testing:** Upazilla Agriculture officer of DAE, Principal Scientific Officer of SRDI, conducted two review workshops on the importance of soil testing at Netrokona and Mymensingh on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, respectively. These were attended by 97 participants who included Soil collector, vegetable producer, SLIPP and PNGO staff.





## C. Climate Change and Sustainable Livelihoods:

Climate Change is now evolving as a burning issue throughout the world. Bangladesh is one of the worst victims of Climate Change. We have been experiencing frequent natural disaster including severe cyclones like Sidr, regular flooding, short monsoon period, irregular pattern of rainfall, drought and other climatic shocks very frequently, causing serious damage to life and property.



Under the Climate change and sustainable livelihoods programme, DEW organized rural livelihoods and agriculture bio diversity fair in Jamalpur. DEW Chairperson Prof. H.K.S. Arifeen, ADC general of Jamalpur and DEW Executive Director in the Dias

To combat the adverse impact of climate change on the Char dwellers, DEW is actively working to promote adaptation technologies. DEW supports vulnerable groups by providing them with sustainable livelihood technology and runs awareness programs through conducting research, training, IEC materials, rally, etc. DEW also organizes rural livelihood and agricultural biodiversity fair, demonstration, memorandum, promoting sustainable agriculture practices. The project is supported by Oxfam International under its climate change and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Programme (CSRL).



DEW organized different public hearing by the victims of climate change and human chain in Mymensingh and Jamalpur

To raise awareness of the wealth and opportunities of the chars and char dwellers in Bangladesh, DEW organized a Livelihood Fair (Jibika Mela) in a char island of Jamuna river in Jamalpur district to promote their products and introduce char dwellers to mainland traders.

#### **D. Non-Formal education for disadvantaged communities:**

DEW has been running a community school for the underprivileged and dropped-out children in Dhamsona Union of Savar Upazila under Dhaka District, provided school-based non-formal education for three years (playgroup to class III) that eventually assist them to enroll in the mainstream primary education system



DEW non-formal school students are enjoying annual sports and picnic with DEW ED and Board member

DEW always emphasizes on education program for disadvantaged communities and implementing a non formal education programme at Palashbari union under Savar Upazila under Dhaka District named DEW Community School. Most of the students are child of DEW's group member and slum dwellers and garment workers. They are given school based teaching So that they can maintain the accounts of small business. In the school, teaching is providing from nursery to class three. DEW takes responsibilities to give them access to getting non-formal education so that they can adapt with the mainstream education. There are two trained women teacher are providing education services in this program .The students of this school don't need to buy their books, pen or other education materials. DEW gives them all of the supports from the school. DEW arranges annual sports and annual picnic for as curriculum activities in every year. Six hundred students have been taught from this institution and three hundred fifty of them are arranged to get admission into govt. school for higher education on behalf of DEW. Along with basic education, DEW has a plan to give them vocational Training on different trade courses. DEW has also arranged employment of 4 students from this school.

DEW also has been conducting adult literacy program. DEW believes that in the near future, if all other organizations take initiative like this one, there will be no illiterate woman in this country. DEW has a provision for all of its group members to know sign compulsorily. There are 1600 women members under DEW's small loan and savings program. If any group member does not know how to sign she will not get loan from this organization. Members must sign in loan application form and loan receipts forms because DEW doesn't allow fingerprint in stead of signature. As a result, there is no single poor woman under DEW's credit programme and a savings program group who is illiterate.

## E. Promotion of Grassroots Artisan Groups through Fair Trade:

As a leading Fair Trade organization and an active member of International Fair Trade Association (IFAT) DEW is engaged in promoting Arts and Crafts of the country. Furthermore, we are actively involved in creating sustainable employment and income generation opportunities for the disadvantaged urban and rural poor artisan group members.

The Arts and Crafts Promotion Program is assisting in developing products and business practices that will assure the women who make or raise these products by receiving a fair return for their work.



Presently we have fourteen artisan groups in our country located in Jamalpur, Tangail, Bogra, Jessore, Manikgonj, Dhaka, Gazipur and Mymensingh. The product line of DEW Arts and Craft groups includes Basketry (especially date palm leaf and dry grass, kisa and palm leaf, Hogla (sea grass and Bamboo), hand embroidery, bamboo products, cane products, Terracotta products, tapestry etc. DEW has a total of four hundred and twenty five artisan group members most of them are women (90%). The organization provides skills development on design, and



quality control support for the artisan groups and also facilitates market promotion of the products to local and international market in USA, Australia, UK, Japan and Netherlands etc. DEW also maintains close relation with local buyers and has a showroom for the products of small producer groups at DEW office.

DEW also provides skills development-training support to other Fair trade organizations nationally and internationally.



PUM Netherlands: Asia regional coordinator in meeting at DEW office, PUM consultant Jan Garrets working for DEW



IFAT has been working to promote the fair and ethical trade movement in the worldwide. Biannual conference of IFAT held in Brussels in this year and a total number of 160 organizations of the 45 countries participated in the conference. As a member of IFAT, Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director of DEW participated in the conference. A good relation builds up with the mainstream buyers and the buyers appreciated most of the products of DEW.



Quality control is going on before packaging and shipment of the products to the international market

DEW Executive Director also invited to participate Market Intel training seminar organize by CBI in Rottedram, Netherlands.

## **F. Micro Finance Program:**

Presently, fifty groups having more than one thousand direct beneficiaries working under savings and credit program of DEW. They are involved with two types of savings e.g. i) Savings generation ii) emergency fund and associate savings. At present DEW is working in Dhaka, Jamalpur, Jessore, Manikgonj and Tangail district and has plan to expand more to new areas. This programme is recognized aiming at developing the socio-economic condition of marginalized people especially for the grass root women in Bangladesh context. Someone's life can be changed by the proper utilization of micro credit. It also increases awareness among women, it can also initiate empowerment process for women group members, provides education support through obligatory literacy of being a DEW credit group member as well as develops a saving attitude among them providing credit facilities to make members become self-employed.

DEW has disbursed loans to the beneficiaries Tk 25,000,000.00 to till date from the organization's own source and group members are saving and revolving fund for their socio-economic development.



The group members select five members from each group at a time to get credit for various small trade or income generating activities. At present, the highest amount of loan awarded to one loaner is Tk. 15000.

Loan is repaid in 46 installments collected in each week. Persons with running income who can

ensure that they would flourish from the investment of credit are brought under this program. In spite of the demand of the much loan, DEW cannot fulfill their need due to resource limitations of the organization. However, DEW always tries to fulfill the beneficiary's demand.

## G. Environmental Program:

DEW has been implementing Urban Peripheral Environment Improvement Project with the financial assistance from UNDP since beginning of 2004. The overriding objective of the project is to reduce the environmental pollution of Savar Export Processing Zone areas - promoting broad-based initiatives for waste management and enhancing environment friendly practices of the concerned factory owners, EPZ authorities and community people. In view of that, the project facilitates solid factory and domestic waste management activities by organizing Environment Watchdog Committee of civil societies and local government representatives to building their awareness on environment issues.

The overriding objective of Urban Peripheral Environment Improvement Project is to reduce the environmental pollution through promoting broad-based initiatives for waste management and enhancing environment friendly practices of the concerned groups and community people. LIFE/UNDP (Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment) demonstrates local solutions to urban environmental problems. The programme is expected to help make people aware of the degradation of the environment and involved them in developing the quality of the living conditions.

Through the programme, DEW emphasizes the need for evolving a participatory process to assist local communities in raising environmental awareness, organizing a management groups namely Environment Watchdog Committee and providing group training side by side regular monitoring of the programme activities. The specific activities of the project are as follows:

**Formation of environment watchdog committee:** The Union Watch committee is represented by local government representatives of Dhamshona Union Parishad of Savar Thana under Dhaka District, civil societies, local elite, representatives of the business community and other occupational groups like school teacher and students and professionals. The primary role of the committee is to monitor the environment pollution in the locality. The Committee meets on a bimonthly basis to review the solid waste disposal activities and determine strategy to intervene if any pollution sources are identified. The Committee will also arrange dialogue with factory owners and EPZ authorities on the pollution issues.



Watch dog committee in a meeting



**Disposal of solid waste:** DEW takes initiatives for managing solid waste in the



locality by dividing the working area into two zones and employing two part-time cleaners with three-wheel cycle vans. The cleaners collect the solid wastes in vans every day and dispose off in a nearby specific spot as selected by the WDC. A total of over 1000 low income settlement households are being benefited from this program for which they have to pay Tk 5.00 on a monthly basis as service charge. It can be assumed that full cost-recovery of the program will be possible with the increased realization of the community people about the benefit of the service. For future sustainability of the project DEW is going to open a joint account with a representative from Watchdog Committee to manage the cash contributed by the community in support of solid waste disposal system.

***Providing health and sanitation facility:*** The program also involved low-income garments workers living in the adjacent slum areas with environment friendly demonstration activities and support the beneficiaries in improving their sanitation practices. DEW provides possible health and sanitation services in terms of awareness building, hard ware support like latrine repairing; providing some necessary equipment for using latrine more hygienically.

#### **H. Livelihood Security Programme:**

To raise awareness of the wealth and opportunities of the chars and char dwellers in Bangladesh, DEW recently organized a fair "Jibika Mela" meaning "Livelihood Fair" in a char island of Jamuna river under Jamalpur district to promote their products and introduce char dwellers to mainland traders.

5% of the total population of Bangladesh lives in chars under very difficult conditions and of this 80% people are extreme poor and continuously deprived from social and economic benefits.

Effective use of char resources DEW organized a workshop on problem and prospects of chilli production and marketing from the chars. So that it requires to have proper planning, investment environment, business services and marketing linkage. Contract farming would be one of the solutions come-out from the workshop.

### **Chapter 03: Key achievements of the development programs in 2009**

**The key achievements of the SLIPP Project include:**

- 2050 producers organised in 82 groups and more in the formation stage, further federated into 4 Associations at the district level.
- Producers have experienced the benefits of their collective strength and now taking ownership of the activities and being pro-active in organising events, The two Vegetable Producers Associations of Mymensingh and Netrokona Districts have so far organized 10 fairs on a cost sharing basis, where 266 local and big traders/wholesalers participated and many have made firm arrangements with producer groups to procure vegetables from the groups centre.
- All the Associations are actively interacting with most of the Public and Private stakeholders including Member of Parliament, Upazilla Chairmen, Mayors, Chambers and District and Local Administrations voicing their issues, demanding that rights are protected, and also negotiating with other market players to ensure a fair trading relationship. They continue to work on issues such as distribution of fertilizers, subsidies, bank loans etc.
- Successes include getting approval for infrastructure for a vegetable Market for the Vegetable Association of Mymensingh, and similarly in Netrokona. The Fishery & Duck Rearer Associations are also working to ensure that the needs of their members are met. Any successes are real breakthroughs since these have been extremely vulnerable communities.
- The project has so far built capacity of 164 input retailers of vegetable, fish and duck sector as Service Provider, who are working closely with the producers providing services and enabling improved production practices, which has led to increased yield. The service providers have seen 30 percent increase in sales
- 81 lead farmers were trained on Soil Collection and Soil Management by Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI) through which 30% of our producers already tested their soil resulting in 20 percent reduced use of fertilizers and 15 percent increase in yield.
- 6 lead farmers were trained on producing and using appropriate fertilizer mix (chemical and compost) thereby experiencing a 20 percent increase in yield and 25 percent decrease in cost of fertilizers. This has now become a supplementary source of income, which the Department of Agricultural Extension are planning to replicate in the region.
- 25 feed crusher units have been set up to ensure right mix of ingredients and proportion of mixing and crushing fish feeds. The impact is instantaneous. The cost of production reduced from BDT 20 to BDT 18. Feed requirements of fish farmers also reduced by 20%, having a huge impact on the profitability of the small pond fish producers These 25 trained fish crushers are now providing services to over 300 small fish producers in their vicinity.
- Taking a value chain approach the project has worked with 2 fish hatcheries to invest on renovating their infrastructure, supported by training. They now rear better brood fish, pond management and increase hatching capacity resulting in increased production. Fish producers are now experiencing higher production, less disease and immaturity. The demand for these two trained hatchery products is increased by 60% and sales by 40% but they are unable to fulfill the entire demand.
- Project trained 50 duck hatcheries that are providing better services to the duck rearers along with healthy ducklings. These cottage hatcheries got together and availed government support to build a common selling centre. Through additional training, they have been able to increase production of ducklings from 1.8 million to 2.2 million as their hatching rate was increased from 60% to 65%. Simultaneously, the demand for ducklings also increased and they could sell their entire production. The number of cottage hatcheries has also increased from 45 to 90. This incredulous success has encouraged neighbouring villages to develop a cluster.

**We can now exhibit some concrete evidences/anecdotes of achievements/impacts of the SLIPP project:**

- 100% of the groups have now access to Public Service Providers and receiving services on regular basis.

- 100% of the groups are now receiving informed services from the Private Service Providers (input retailers, Lead Farmers, Feed Crushers, Hatcheries, etc) along with getting quality inputs.
- 40% of the groups have established firm arrangement with traders and wholesalers for market their product.
- 30% groups have started their own savings and invested jointly for either procuring agri-machinery and/or productive assets.
- 50% of the groups lobbied and negotiated with local Government and authorities to secure their rights (such as right to govt. subsidy, right to fertilizer, loan etc.).
- Representatives from 40% of the groups could become member of the local agriculture management committee.
- 20% of the groups could establish enduring relationship with various research and service providing institutes and they are getting HYV seeds free of cost from them for demonstration.

### **Anecdotes:**

#### **Begum, a duck producer in Atpara, Netrokona district**

Mrs. Madina Begum, a mother of 4 children, used to rear only 100 ducks. Her husband was a day laborer. She could not manage her livelihood with so little income. After joining our Duck Hatchery group, she received training from our trained service providers and livestock officer. Having these trainings she could increase egg laying period, reduced mortality rate to only 5% (average 25% mortality) and within two years she could own 600 ducks. Her husband now works along with her and also employed 2 additional helps. She could also send back her children to school



#### **Moly Chirang, a vegetable farmer in Haluaghat, Mymensingh**

Mrs. Moly Chirang, a young woman from ethnic community formed an all women group of vegetable producers in hilly areas of Mymensingh District. Having her soil of only 10 decimal land tested and using prescribed dose of chemical fertilizer and compost, she could reduce her cost of fertilizer by 30% and increase productivity by 20%. The net result is she earned BDT 1,830 more income than last year from the same piece of land.



#### **Nurunnabi- the name of a successful artisan**

Nurunnabi has expertise in making bamboo crafts. However, for many years, he was homeless and was living in poverty. Six years back, he came to know about DEW. They recognized his skills and encouraged him to



train other local artisans. DEW then provided the group with product development training, market and trend information. With this information, they have been able to make new designs that meet the quality required by foreign buyers and they are now supplying their products to fair trade markets in the EU and Japan. Nurunnabi is the proud owner of a new house and has gained the respect of the group and other artisans.

*Rokeya* used to live in dire poverty. However, since joining one of Dew's projects in 1997 she has been able to turn her life around. *Rokeya* is a skilled sweet-maker, however she had never thought about using her skill to make a living. DEW encouraged *Rokeya* to join a local women's group. Here, she received basic training on how to run a business, how to identify new customer groups, the importance of costing, profitability and savings etc. She was also given a small amount of credit for initial investment. With this small amount of support *Rokeya* has become a successful sweet producer. She is no longer dependant on 'hand outs' but can send her children to school and support her family. Within 10 months *Rokeya* was able to pay back the loan and with her earnings she has been able to buy a house, three cows and lots of poultry!



## Chapter 04: Staff capacity building and publications

### Capacity building of DEW family members:

Through its capacity building program, the organization tries to enrich the staff up to that level from where he/she could capable to disseminate the service to its target.

During the reporting period, training has been provided to develop skills on handicraft (especially product development, quality control,) Gender and development, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), homestead gardening, disaster preparedness, accounts management etc. to

the target beneficiaries of DEW and other organizations. The capacity building program of DEW comprises overall planning, management, implementation and evaluation of the training programs, which are conducted for the internal office staffs, community leaders and beneficiaries. Apart from, this DEW also arranges training courses for the staff of the other international and national organizations.

- Number of trainings/ workshops received by the DEW office staffs during reporting period:
- Knowledge management training, IFAT consultant
- Business Development training , TX,UK
- Development Management, LIFE-UNDP/ 2 days
- Product Development, TX/Asian Heritage Foundation-EU
- Gender and Development/ 2 days
- Training on Gender and Advocacy/ 1 days
- Global E-commerce for Bangladesh/ 2 days
- Training on Product Design and Development/ 14 days
- Training on Community Managed WATSAN Program/ 5 days
- Training on Personal Health Care/ 2 days
- Workshop on Actor Oriented Tools/ 1 days
- Training and workshop on Improved Cook Stove program/ 4 days
- Training on Environment Pollution and Awareness/ 1 days
- Workshop on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation/ 2 days
- Workshop on Logical Framework Analysis/ 2 days
- Training on Project Management 2 day
- Training on Business Development Service-BDS-5 days
- Training on Market Development-5 days

**Publications:**

DEW have been started its official quarterly newsletter publication named “**DEW Barta**” from this year

**International event participation:**



DEW Executive Director participate World Fair Trade Organization-WFTO biannual conference in Katmandu. Nepal and WFTO Asia regional conference in Sri Lanka