

ANNUAL REPORT

Development Wheel (DEW)

2014-15



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Chapter	Table of Contents	Page
Chapter 1	Introduction	6
	DEW Vision, Mission, Executive Committee	6
	Development Partners	7
	Working areas	7
	Development Programs	9
	Sectoral Specialization	10
	Current Projects/programs	13
Chapter 2	Major Activities performed during this year	
	A. Sustainable Livelihoods Program	
	APONE Project Promotion Workshop at Mymensingh and Sherpur	16
	APONE Project Management Training Workshop at Bogra	16
	UK Experts Conduct M & E Training Workshop for APONE Staff	17
	Training on Business Management & Enterprise Development for APONE & ALO Project Staff	18
	APONE & ALO project planning and staff orientation workshop	18
	DEW Organized Participatory Meeting & workshop on Agricultural Rights Programme-ARP	19
	Forum Syd & Swallows delegates visited DEW field & farmer organization	20
	DEW organized improved cultivation practices training for farmer organization	21
	DEW Organized Training on Agricultural Rights of Farmers	23
	DEW celebrated World Environment Day 2013	24
	Folk song campaign on Market Access & Climate Change at Char Anonndopur	25
		26
	B. Human Rights and Good Governance Program	
	Discussion Meeting and Prize giving ceremony on Begum Rokeya Day'12	27
	Organized Human chain to protest against countrywide rape & killing	28
	Meeting with service providers	30
	Women Transformative Leadership Training	30
	Celebration of International Women's Day' 2013	30
	Quarterly Meeting with Thana Youth Group	31
	First Secretary of Netherlands Embassy visited DEW women leadership program, farmer group and attended WE Can District Alliance meeting at Mymensingh	32
	C. Non formal Education for Disadvantaged Communities	
	Celebrating International Literacy Day, 2012	34
	DEW observed Child Rights Week 2012	35
	DEW Celebrated World Teachers' Day 2012	36
	D. Promotion of Grass-root Artisan Groups through Fair Trade	
DEW observed World Fair Trade Day 2013	37	
E. Development Internship Programme of DEW		
	39	
Case Study		
	40	
Chapter 3	Activities of DEW through photograph	43
Chapter 4	Major Success, Learning's and Challenges during this year	48
Chapter 5	Audit Report 2012-2013	50

Abbreviation

AFTF	Asia Fair Trade Forum
ARP	Agriculture Rights Programme
APONE	Alleviation Poverty in North East Bangladesh
BAPA	Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon
BARC	Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council
BAU	Bangladesh Agricultural University
BADC	Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation
BFT	Bangladesh Fair Trade
BMP	Bangladesh Mohila Parishad
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisation
CDP	Community Development Program
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
DAE	Department of Agriculture Extension
DEW	Development Wheel
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DoL	Department of Livestock
EC	Executive Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FO	Farmers' Organisations
EU	European Union
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GC	General Committee
GDP	Gross Domestic Production
GNP	Gross National Production
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HYV	High Yielding Variety
HR	Human Rights
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
LGI	Local Government Institutions
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Agriculture Policy
NGOs	Non-government Organisations
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper
PKSF	Polli Karma Shahayak Foundation
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RBA	Rights-based Approach
SAP	Sustainable Agriculture Programme
SLIPP	Sustainable Livelihood in Poor Producer
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SMC	School Management Committee
SVAW	Stop Violence Against Women
SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area
SRDI	Soil Research Development Institute
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
UADC	Union Agriculture Development Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UASC	Union Agriculture Standing Committees
UN	The United Nations
UP	Union Parishad
USAID	United States Assistance for International Development
VAW	Violence against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	Vulnerable Group Feeding
WFTO	World Fair Trade Organization
WTO	World Trade Organisation

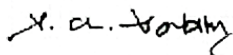
Message

It is hard to believe that it has been eighteen years since the founding of Development Wheel (DEW). DEW is working for Sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal producers in Bangladesh, Human Rights and good governance and promoting Fair trade for disadvantaged and poor producers in the sector of agriculture and handicrafts. Since the beginning, DEW has continued to grow and change in response to changes in the needs of the public demand.

Based on very successful implementation of SLIPP model now DEW is implementing three new sustainable livelihood projects in Mymensingh, Sherpur and Netrokona districts titled “**Alleviating Poverty in North East Bangladesh- APONE**”, “**Alternative Livelihood Options-ALO**”, **Agriculture Rights Programme and Women Farmers Campaign, Sustainable Supply Chain of Kenaf in Bangladesh**” with the support of UK aid, Big Lottery Fund UK, Traidcraft Exchange, GIZ/BMW, Swallows India Bangladesh and Oxfam. These projects will ensure sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities, particularly women, in Northern Bangladesh through improvements to small-scale agriculture by organizing and linking them to information, skills, services and markets. The project will reduce costs of production, increase productivity and improve access to resources and their rights. This will lead to a 50% increase in income, directly benefiting 15,000 households (40% women including 10% ethnic minority) and their families (80,000 people). The year 2013 and 2014 was also eventful with the organization because “**Agricultural Rights Program (ARP)**” in Mymensingh district supported by The Swallows India Bangladesh, Sweden started its full phased program for four years. The objective of this project is effective participation of poor and marginal farmers in Mymensingh in decision making processes so they can attain their rights from public and private sector stakeholders and improve their income from agriculture.

In 2013-14, DEW focused on programme and project promotion and increased its networking horizon to involve Govt. and private sector stakeholders in serving the purpose so that more people may change their livelihood through this development activity. DEW remains dedicated to lifelong learning, a commitment to democracy, citizen involvement and the rule of law, as well as women empowerment. Bangladesh has some enabling legal framework, policy and convention regarding women rights but despite these women’s rights are being violated everyday. Majority people are not aware of existing legal aspect and support system to challenge the unjust. That’s why DEW started working to reduce domestic violence against women. DEW is working as a lead organization in Mymensingh to increase awareness of mass people by We Can campaign program. DEW has a number of change makers who are committed to change themselves, their immediate environment or family and bring change in their society to make it violence free. DEW emphasizes on women participation in every sector of the development programs by the organization where should 40% are women and 10% are ethnic minority.

We are grateful to our General Council and Executive Committee members for their policy direction, valuable suggestions and guidance to move forward in the right direction. Thanks to our skilled and hard working staff members for successful implementation of our development activities. I would also like to thanks to our donors, who have been the major funding source of DEW since its inception because DEW is a non credit organization. At this occasion, I am pleased to thank Traidcraft Exchange, UK Aid, Big Lottery Fund UK, Oxfam, DANIDA, We Can, CSRL, GROW, World Fair Trade Organization-WFTO, WFTO-Asia, Ecota Fair Trade Forum, People Tree-Japan, GoB institutions with gratitude. Again, I also remember the sincere cooperation of partner NGOs and other local stakeholders like our farmers groups, producer groups and associations, change makers, district and Upazilla alliances for effective execution of various activities.



Shah Abdus Salam
Executive Director

Chapter-1

Introduction

Development Wheel (DEW) is a non-profit development organization, providing different forms of support to the poor and disadvantage people, producer groups of agriculture and handicrafts sector in Bangladesh for improving their livelihood security. In addition, DEW is enhancing scopes of skills & small enterprise, developing self-employment opportunities for the underprivileged people both in rural and urban areas.

Development Wheel (DEW) founded in 1996 by a few development professionals and researchers to promote self-help poverty alleviation initiatives of the poorest households of Bangladesh. The basic focus of the organization is to work for the promotion of agriculture and 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 that, 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 agriculture 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.

Our Approach: Our approach is right based, integrated and partnership approach.

Working Areas of DEW:

Bangladesh has seen good economic growth over the last 25 years. However, despite steady annual growth of 5-6%, the poor are not remarkably benefited yet. Bangladesh is still one of the world's least developed countries. According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) 2010 household survey, 31.5 percent of the total population lives below the poverty line – including 17.6 percent who are said to be 'extremely poor'. 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. The poverty rate is highest in rural areas, at 36 per cent, compared with 28 per cent in urban centers. Many people have an inadequate diet and suffer from periods of food shortage. Half of all rural children are chronically malnourished and 14 per cent suffer from acute malnutrition. Till now 84 per cent of people survive on less than \$2 a day. Inequality in the distribution of income has increased. Poverty alleviation of the nation depends on proper distribution of wealth. Dissemination of information and knowledge on critical developmental issues continues to remain an important component of DEW's activities.

Bangladesh is considered as a developing economy. Yet, almost one-third of Bangladesh's 150m people live in extreme poverty. In the last decade, the country has recorded GDP growth rates above 5 percent due to development of microcredit and garment industry. Although three fifths of Bangladeshis are employed in the agriculture sector, three quarters of exports revenues come from producing ready-made garments. The

biggest obstacles to sustainable development in Bangladesh are overpopulation, poor infrastructure, corruption, political instability and a slow implementation of economic reforms.

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 grow. And in a country with 150-160 million people even a small middle class represents a significant market. 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 greater Mymensingh districts of Northern Bangladesh. Although greater Mymensingh districts are not the poorest districts, they have below average per capita GDP and have been largely overlooked by various donor-funded projects. The rural populations are excluded from these industries and remain very poor. Mymensingh, Netrokona, Sherpur and Jamalpur have been identified as the poorest districts of Bangladesh and are also known for their uneven distribution of resource.

The main reasons for the selection of these districts include large number of poor and marginalized people, the presence of MSEs, a growing demand for BS and extension services, and potential for significant and measurable impact. Trade can play an important role in preventing poor producers from being further marginalization. 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; lack of entrepreneurship attitude; lack of market information and understanding market situation, lack of proper education, lack of adequate nutrition etc.

Greater Mymensingh districts are geographically well placed for a feasible supply of their products to the capital city. There are good road linkages towards Dhaka and therefore easy marketing opportunities. The region is agriculturally also more productive than average (self-sufficient with food), but lower position in terms of wealth ranking shows that income-generating opportunities are not developed yet. A recent study showed that the average daily income for entrepreneurs in urban areas of Mymensingh was less than €2.5 which would be rather less in rural areas. We, thus, need to make business more productive and profitable.

We believe that improving socio-economic conditions of Bangladesh would be easier if educated professionals come forward with commitment. Since greater Mymensingh districts belong to the top of the national poverty map, DEW has contextualized the regarded areas with serious concentration as its working areas. Again, DEW has also given priority over the Char and Haor land areas of greater Mymensingh where life and livelihoods both are more vulnerable due to lack of infrastructure, access to information and services. Some other districts like Jessore, Bogra, Tangail, Manikganj, Gazipur and Dhaka City Corporation areas are also incorporated within the intervention mechanism of DEW with understanding the very needs. Again, DEW by virtue believes an equal development atmosphere throughout the country. Both rural and urban poor communities of Bangladesh are, therefore, interlocked within the policy intervention of DEW where the conventional development programs are ignored largely.

DEW has also been employing efforts at Savar the prominent peri-urban area of the capital city of Dhaka where the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) is located. A large number of low-wage labors are available there and working at garments and other factories while the number of women is relatively higher among them. Thousands of female workers are selling their labor mostly at garments where they are distressed and migrated from different rural areas. And, these poor migrated people are living there in a very cozy and unhealthy environment and thus facing hazards on many levels at every-now-and-then. DEW has targeted

them to improve their living conditions and making the community aware peoples of environmental hazards created by the EPZ and other industries.

Besides that, as a Fair Trade organization, one of the main objectives of DEW is to promote arts and crafts of the country through capacity building of the poor and distress artisan groups, providing product development, design, and quality control support to the producer groups and also facilitating pre-finance, market promotion, market access and ensuring fair price of their products. DEW is continuously trying to create sustainable employment with increased income-generation opportunities for the disadvantaged poor producers of both rural and urban areas. By the time DEW has formulated number of groups with producers of selected district areas including Sharsha and Jhikorgasa Upazillas of Jessore, Gheor and Dhamrai Upazillas of Manikganj, Delduar Upazilla of Tangail, Sherpur Upazilla of Bogra and Sharishabari Upazilla of Jamalpur. Producers of those areas are relatively skilled enough of making high quality basketry, terracotta and hand embroidery products. Members of those groups, thus, have found a way to increase their income and to improve their socio-economic condition under different development initiatives placed by DEW. Arts and Crafts groups includes hand embroidery, terracotta, ceramic, different kind of basketry made of palm leaf, dry grass, Hogla, bamboo, cane, kisa etc. With various measures, DEW is supporting those producer groups for increasing their skills and capacities on product development, design, and quality control techniques along with pre-finance, access to both national and international markets of USA, EU, Australia, UK, Japan etc. for their products. DEW also provides skill development training support to other fair trade organizations both nationally and internationally.

Development Programme of DEW

- Human Rights and Good Governance
- Sustainable livelihoods through small scale agriculture
- Agricultural Rights
- Climate Change and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- Promotion of Arts and Crafts through Fair trade
- Non formal Education for Disadvantaged Children
- Campaign for My Rights on Quality Primary Education
- Female Farmers Campaign
- Gender equality and women empowerment
- Social Action Research
- Development Internship Programme

Sectoral Specialization

DEW is active in the fields in partnership and collaboration with different international and national organizations. The main sectors of specialization of this organization are as follows:

Gender and Development Programme:

Bangladesh has the second highest rate (87%)

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. Development Wheel (DEW) has identified through its long involvement in implementing various projects in the greater Mymensingh districts 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.

DEW has implemented a Campaign program named 'WE CAN CAMPAIGN TO END ALL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN' in Mymensingh which was supported by Amrai Pari Nari Nirjaton Protirod Jote. The

project aims to reduce social acceptance of Violence against Women and enhance the process of gender equality, peace and commitment at sphere of human lives through creating a social movement by the local community. Now we have 20,000 change makes in Mymensingh with electronic database and most of them are young generation those who really want positive change of our community. We also have Mymensingh district alliance to protect violence against women in Mymensingh and upazila alliances to give them ownership of the project. DEW is also working with the institutions in Mymensingh aiming to institutionalize the issue.

Women Farmers Campaign in Bangladesh: Development Wheel (DEW) as a member of CSRL, GROW, OXFAM GB carries out a campaign focusing on women farmers' contribution and recognition in Food Security of Bangladesh. The focused areas of the campaign would be a new venture for promoting women farmer's rights through engagement of wider population of the country. The initiative will provide rural women farmers a platform to showcase their achievements in feeding their family on limited land and the influence of climate change.



Women farmer from DEW receiving award from State Minister of Labor, Oxfam representative visiting DEW field in Mymensingh

This campaign is being organized to raise mass awareness about women's contribution made to the national and household level food security, to celebrate and recognize women's contribution in household and national level and mobilize public opinion towards the recognition of women farmers' contribution and need for policy measurers to promote women' rights as farmers because they are contributing a lot in the sector. After completion of the campaign, 7 female farmers from 7 divisions will be awarded through a national level ceremony. Already DEW women farmer Ruma Akhter from Char Anandipur, Mymensingh has been awarded divisional level award. As a role model, those champions would act as the ambassadors for promoting rural small holders women's rights.

Sustainable Livelihoods through promoting Small Scale Agriculture

Alleviating Poverty in North East Bangladesh-APONE Project:

Based on very successful implementation of SLIPP model on small scale agriculture now DEW is implementing a project titled “**Alleviating Poverty in North East Bangladesh- APONE**” in Mymensingh and Sherpur districts.

Goal: Reduced poverty and more sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities in Bangladesh

Purpose: Reduced poverty and more sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities in Mymensingh and Sherpur through sustainable agricultural practices

Project Area: Mymensingh and Sherpur

Duration: Three years (April 2012 to March 2015)

Co-funded by: UKaid and Traidcraft Exchange

Implemented by: Development Wheel (DEW)

Partner Organization: GRAMAUS and RDS

Target Group:

Direct: 6,000 households and their families. 40% women-headed (2400) and 30% ethnic minority group (1800). With an average family size of five, 30,000 people will be directly benefited in total.

Indirect: 300 service providers X 50 farmers. Therefore, the 300 service providers will go on to provide benefits to a further 15,000 farmers and their families (60,000).

Objectives of the project:

1. Creating and building the collective power of small and marginal farmers
2. Increasing recognition of farmers needs amongst Government and private sector stakeholders
3. Improving farmers' production practices and market access
4. Reducing farmers' vulnerability to environmental and financial shocks and stresses

Alternative Livelihood Options-ALO Project:

Development Wheel (DEW) is implementing another project on small scale agriculture titled “**Alternative Livelihood Options-ALO**” from April 2012 co-funded by the UK aid and Big Lottery Fund.

Goal: Reduced poverty and more sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities in Bangladesh

Purpose: Reduced poverty and more sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities in Mymensingh, Sherpur and Netrokona districts through improvements of small-scale agriculture

Project Area: Mymensingh, Sherpur and Netrokona districts

Duration: Four years (November 2012 to October 2016)

Co-funded by: Big Lottery and Traidcraft Exchange

Implemented by: Development Wheel (DEW)

Partner Organization: GRAMAUS, RDS and SUS

Target Group:

Direct: 6,000 households and their families. 40% women-headed (2400) and 30% ethnic minority group (1800). With an average family size of five, 30,000 people will be directly benefited in total.

Indirect: 300 service providers X 50 farmers. Therefore, the 300 service providers will go on to provide benefits to a further 15,000 farmers and their families (60,000).

Our objectives:

1. Creating and building the collective power of small and marginal farmers
2. Increasing recognition of farmers needs amongst Government and private sector stakeholders
3. Improving farmers' production practices and market access
4. Reducing farmers' vulnerability to environmental and financial shocks and stresses

Agricultural Rights Program-ARP:

DEW is implementing “Agricultural Rights Program (ARP)” in Mymensingh district which is supported by The Swallows India Bangladesh, Sweden. The title of this program is making the Collective Voice of Small and Marginal Farmers Heard. The objective of this project is effective participation of poor and marginal farmers in Mymensingh in decision making processes so they can attain their rights from public and private stakeholders and improve their income from agriculture.

Goal: To create an environment for the farmers to assert their rights

Vision: Farmers are enjoying a happy life in a sustainable environment irrespective of gender, caste, religion, background, disabilities and other constraints.

Purpose: Enhanced farmers’ rights in sustainable agriculture through independent farmers’ organisations.

Results: Independent farmers organisations established, strengthened & functioning, and services providers supports increased

Project Area: Mymensingh (Mymensingh sadar and Gouripur upazilla)

Duration: Four years (January 2013 to December 2016)

Target Group: Total Beneficiary : 7500

- Direct Beneficiary : 1500 (Male-894 and Female-606)
- Indirect Beneficiary : 6000 (Male-3600 and Female-2400)

Climate Change and Sustainable Rural Livelihood:

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 Sidor, regular flooding, short monsoon period, irregular pattern of rainfall, drought and other climatic shocks very frequently, causing serious damage to life and property.

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, human chain, public hearing, memorandum, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, new adaptive innovations etc.

Education Program for Disadvantaged Children:

DEW maintains a non formal education program (DEW Community School) at Savar, Dhaka by its own resources to provide quality primary education and enroll in the mainstream primary education system for underprivileged children of garment worker and low income working mothers.



Environmental Programme:

DEW has been implementing Urban Peripheral Environment Improvement Project with the financial assistance from UNDP since the beginning of 2004. The overriding objective of the project is to reduce 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 this, the project facilitates factory and domestic solid waste management activities by organizing Environment Watchdog Committee of civil societies and local government representatives to build their awareness on environment issues.

Promotion of Arts and Crafts through Fair trade:

Empowerment of Grassroots Artisan Groups; DEW is actively involved in creating sustainable employment and income generating opportunities for the disadvantaged artisan groups in rural and urban areas through promoting their arts and crafts in the Fair Trade markets.

The Arts and crafts Promotion Program of DEW assists poor women in using their traditional craftsmanship to develop demand driven handicrafts and provides them with the market linkage support to ensure fair return of their products. DEW is an active member of World Fair Trade Organization- WFTO. DEW's arts and crafts groups produce hand embroidered products, Jute, terracotta, ceramic and different kinds of baskets made of palm leaf, hogla (dry sea grass), bamboo, cane, kisa (dry grass born in the river island) etc. DEW assists groups to acquire necessary technical skill in product development provides design and quality control support, facilitates pre-finance and also markets their products in local and international markets including USA, Europe, Australia, UK, Japan, Sweden and Italy etc. DEW also provides skill development training support to other fair trade organization within and outside the country.

Current projects/programs:
Current other projects/programs:

Name of the Project/Programme	Focus of the Project /Program	Output/ Outcome	Donor/ Partner	Working Area	Time Frame
Sustainable Supply Chain of Kenaf in Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Trained 960 farmers on best management practice -Training on Sustainable Agriculture Standreds-SAN -Sustainable value chain of Kenaf to BMW, Germany 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To increase the kenaf production by the poor and marginal farmers through enhancing the farmer's technical knowledge related to kenaf production, ensure access to quality seeds, services and marketing facilities and environmental protection. -Providing training on SAN Standerds and Best Management practices on Kenaf production and ensuring value chain to BMW to buy Kenaf from DEW producers for their sustainable livelihoods. 	GIZ/BMW	Tangail sadar, Gopalpur and Mirzapur upazila	September 2015-March 2017
Women Farmers Campaign in Bangladesh	promoting women farmer's rights through engagement of wider population of the country	Establish women farmer's contribution and recognition in Food Security of Bangladesh	Oxfam GB	Mymensingh	On going
Research on Poverty Reduction and Women Economic Leadership: Role, Potentials and Challenges of Social Enterprises in Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research is conducted in Bangladesh, India, Thailand and Philippines - Describe the current state and context of social enterprises in each of the four countries - Analyze how and to what extent social enterprises may have contributed to poverty reduction and women economic empowerment over the past five to 10 years - Assess the role and potentials for social enterprises to emerge as a key player in poverty reduction and women's empowerment in the next 10 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -40 page country reports on roles, potentials, and challenges faced by the emerging social enterprise sector as a key player in accelerating poverty reduction and women empowerment in Asia. -30-page regional report on roles, potentials, and challenges faced by the emerging social enterprise sector as a key player in accelerating poverty reduction and women empowerment in Asia. -Dissemination of research outputs during ISEA-organized and Oxfam –supported Conference on Accelerating Poverty Reduction Through Social Entrepreneurship 	Oxfam/ISEA	Bangladesh	July 2013-Sept. 2014
Lets Her Decide and Participate-LHDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Building a strong base of women leadership from personal to political level -Developing active citizens 	-Women's confidence increased to challenge injustice and inequalities and claim rights and entitlements and increased participation in decision making processes in formal	Oxfam GB	Mymensingh	On going

	<p>to take a visible stand against GBV</p> <p>-Ensuring accountability of the service providers such as police, judiciary and medico-legal</p> <p>-Developing strong women's solidarity and networking from local to national level to monitor the state interventions</p>	<p>and informal structures.</p> <p>-Developed social collective stand of women and men to challenge the incidence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and increase sensitivity of the service providers to increase access of survivors of GBV to the justice system.</p> <p>-Women and organisational staff in Oxfam & Partner NGOs are clear on Women's Transformational Leadership (WTL) (social, cultural, political and economic) and agree to promote gender equality.</p>			
Alternative Livelihood Option-ALO	<p>This Project aims to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Bangladesh by organising and linking them to information, skills, services and markets that will reduce cost of production, increase productivity and improve access to resources.</p>	<p>Poor, disadvantaged and marginal farmers in Mymensingh, Netrokona and Sherpur districts in northern Bangladesh face a series of challenges, which cause multiple problems e.g. low yields, high costs, low prices, crop failure and distress sales. This project will address these problems through a number of outcomes leading to reduced poverty and sustainable changes for the most disadvantaged people in terms of better livelihoods, improved ability to exercise their human rights, and increased access to and use of natural resources. These changes combined will enable disadvantaged and marginalised communities in Mymensingh, Netrokona and Sherpur to sustainably reduce their levels of poverty.</p>	Big Lottery Fund, UK	Mymensingh, Netrokona and Sherpur	On going
Alleviating Poverty in North East Bangladesh-APON	<p>This project will ensure sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities, particularly women, in Northern Bangladesh through improvements to small-scale agriculture. By organising farmers and linking them to information, skills, services and markets, the project will reduce costs of production, increase productivity and improve access to resources. This will lead to a 50% increase in income, directly benefiting 6,000 households (40% women) and their families (30,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building, advocacy, empowerment and sustainable livelihoods for the small and marginal farmers 	GPAF/DFID	Mymensingh and Sherpur district	On going

	people).				
Giving Voice: Making the collective voice of small and marginal farmers heard	Reduced poverty and more sustainable livelihoods amongst poor and marginalised communities in northern Banglade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of farmer groups and associations Training public and private service providers Strengthening links between farmers groups and associations, and local authorities, public and private service providers and other government bodi 	Swallows India Bangladesh- Sweden	Mymensingh	On going
My Rights Champaign for quality primary education	-To ensure quality primary education -Capacity building of teachers and student council members - Campaign and advocacy at policy level	Advocacy to govt. level to ensure and secure quality primary education at countrywide	Oxfam Novib	Dhaka	On going
Feasibility study for enterprise development for poverty alleviation, employment generation	Creating business opportunity for huge number of un-employed youth in Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping study Find out opportunities Action plan development 	DANIDA- Embassy of Denmark	Dhaka and Mymensingh in Bangladesh and Kampala, Kenya	On going
Strengthen Movement to advance Women human rights and Gender Equality	Creating responsive urban governance and to promote women's human right and involving women in the decisions making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce early marriage Reduce violence against women especially domestic violence Reduce sexual harassment Increase political participation/empowerment of women 	Steps Towards Development /Oxfam Novib, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Swiss Development Cooperation.	Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Newmarket Thana under Dhaka City Corporation	October 2009- 2014
Community Mobilization Programme to End Violence against Women in Mymensingh	Promoting local network/platform to combat domestic violence against women and achieving greater understanding and consensus towards curbing violence in the greeter Mymensingh district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce domestic violence against women in greater Mymensingh region through establishing supporter groups and change makers Organizing social movements with the active support of the different actors aiming to establish human and women rights. 	Oxfam	Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Newmarket Thana under Dhaka City Corporation	October 2009- Ongoing
Promotion of Fair trade organizations in Bangladesh	Creating market access of Fair trade products to the EU countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create market access in EU Develop product catalogue Develop database of buyers E-commerce 	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peoples Republic of Poland	DEW and its producer groups	On going
Nonformula Education for disadvantage children	School based education for disadvantage children's in peri urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide quality basic education Reduce droop our rate Mainstreaming Job creation 	World of Good, USA	Saver, Dhaka	On going
Community Mobilization Programme to End Violence against	Promoting local network/platform to combat domestic violence against women and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce domestic violence against women in greater Mymensingh region through establishing supporter groups and change makers 	Oxfam-GB	Mymensingh district And Dhaka city	2008-on going

Women in Mymensingh	achieving greater understanding and consensus towards curbing violence in the greater Mymensingh district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing social movements with the active support of the different actors aiming to establish human and women rights. 		corporation areas	
Climate change and Sustainable Livelihoods	Raising voices of the char dwellers for Market access of their products and to inshore Fair Price for them, find coping strategy to adapt climate change issue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce market exploitation of the poor of the poorest producer communities living in the char areas Raise their voice and inshore Fair Trade for them Address the exploitation and effect of the climate change issues in the national level 	Oxfam-International	Jalapur, Mymensingh and Tangail district	2008-on going

Chapter-2

Major Activities performed during this year:

A. Sustainable Livelihoods Program:

The main objective of this project is to reduce poverty and ensure more sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities in Mymensingh and Sherpur district through sustainable agricultural practices. The APONE project is working with 7200 small & marginal farmers of six upazilla under Mymensingh and Sherpur district. This project is funded by UKaid and co-funded by Traidcraft Exchange and implemented by Development wheel (DEW), Traidcraft Exchange and local partner organization GRAMAUS & RDS. Farmers of Mymensingh & Sherpur, Agricultural service providers, the representative of different public & private service providers were also delivered their speech on this project promotion workshop.



Business management and enterprise development training for DEW staffs at Brac CDM, Rajandrapur

Capacity Building for Farmer Groups and Associations through APONE Project

Formation of Upazila Agro Producers' Associations (UAPA) in Sherpur district:

Four elections were held on 15 July 2013 at Shilpokola hall of Sherpur with all group leaders (President and Secretary) of Sherpur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati and Sribordi upazila of sherpur and four Upazila Agro

Producers' Associations (UAPA) were formed. There were 11 members in each UAPA committee. Election Commissioners were Upazila Agriculture Officer and Upazila Livestock Officer. Two group leaders were Assistant Election Commissioners. 80 voters from Sherpur Sadar, 80 voters from Nakla, 102 voters from Jhenaigati and 84 voters from Sribordi upazila cast their votes.



Visiting fields with TX South Asia Director Dr. Maveen Parera and other team member

Election of District Agro Producers Association (DAPA) of Mymensingh:

An election was held on 16 July 2013 at Shilpokola hall of Mymensingh with all group leaders (President and Secretary) of Mymensingh Sadar, Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Gouripur, Muktagachha and Fulbaria upazila of Mymensingh and Executive committee of District Agro Producers' Association (DAPA) of Mymensingh was reformed. There were 18 members in DAPA executive committee. Election Commissioners were Upazila Agriculture Officer of Phulpur and Upazila Livestock Officer of Haluaghat. Two group leaders were Assistant Election Commissioners. 30 voters from Mymensingh Sadar, 80 voters from Phulpur, 102 voters from Haluaghat, 80 voters from Dhobaura, 40 voters from Gouripur, 20 voters from Muktagachha and 10 voters from Fulbaria upazila cast their votes.



With voters and elected office bearers

Consultation workshop with service providers:

To deliver service effectively to the farmers 6 day-long consultation workshops were held in the 3rd week of July 2013 with all group leaders (President and Secretary), public & private/business service providers of respect upazila of Sherpur Sadar, Jhenaigati, Nokla, Phulpur, Haluaghat and Dhobaura. The workshops were held at the Upazila Parishad meeting room of respective upazila. Program Manager Traidcraft Exchange and

Project Coordinator APONE conducted the workshops. Around 135 person were attended the each workshop.

Training for service providers on technical services (crop):

To provide technical knowledge to retail crop inputs sellers of Sherpur, Mymensingh and Netrokona districts two two-day long trainings for service providers on technical services were conducted at DAE meeting room of Sherpur and Horticulture centre training room of Mymensingh on 29 & 30 July 2013 and 19 & 20 August 2013 respectively. Upazila Agriculture Officer of Sherpur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati & Sribordi, Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura & Netrokona Sadar, Sr. Scientific Officers of SRDI Jamalpur and Principal Scientific Officer of SRDI Mymensingh conducted the training. 64 retail crop inputs sellers (8 from each upazila) of Sherpur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati, Sribordi, Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura and Netrokona Sadar upazila were participated the training.

Formation of adhoc committee of DAPA Sherpur:

An election was held on 14 August 2013 at DAE meeting room of Sherpur to form adhoc committee of District Agro Producers' Association (DAPA) of Sherpur. 44 members of Upazila Agro Producers' Association (UAPA) of Sherpur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati and Sribordi upazila cast their votes and 13 member adhoc committee of DAPA Sherpur was formed. Project Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinators conducted election as Election Commissioners.

Training on cultivation techniques of BINA dhan 7 rice:

To cultivate BINA dhan 7 rice properly in the farmers' field a day-long training on cultivation techniques of BINA dhan 7 rice was held on 17 August 2013 at DEW learning centre, Mymensingh. Scientific officers of BINA, Mymensingh conducted the training. 28 APONE & ALO project staff attended the training.

Training for group leaders on technical services:

To provide technical knowledge to the farmers, 18 batches of day-long training for group leaders on technical services were conducted on 18,19, 20 and 27, 28, 29 August 2013 at DAE & BRDB hall of Shepur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati, Phulpur, Haluaghat and Dhobaura upazila. 2 lead farmers from each groups of respective upazila attended the training. Total 480 lead farmers received the training. UAO, ULO, UFO of respective 3 upazilas conducted the training.

Demonstration and Field day:

To disseminate the result of modern technology among the farmers 142 crops demonstration were established and 142 Field days were held at Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila in the period July 2013 to June 2014. The demonstration were established and field day were held on the field crops and poultry like boro rice, aus rice, short duration amon rice, mustard, tricho compost, different types of vegetables under the supervision of Upazila Agriculture Officer, Upazila Livestock Officer. UNO, UAO, ULO, SAAO, VFA, BSP, UP Chairman and farmers were attended the field days.

Training for service providers on technical services (poultry, livestock and fish):

To provide technical knowledge to retail crop inputs sellers of Sherpur, Mymensingh and Netrokona districts two day-long trainings for service providers on technical services were conducted at Horticulture centre training room of Mymensingh and DAE meeting room of Sherpur on 21 & 22 August 2013 respectively.

Upazila Livestock Officer and Upazila Fisheries Officer of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Netrokona Sadar, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati & Sribordi, conducted the training. 64 retail fish & livestock inputs sellers (8 from each upazila) of, Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Netrokona Sadar Sherpur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati, Sribordi and upazila were participated the training.

Training on Preparation of Trichoderma Compost:

To provide knowledge on compost preparation, two day-long trainings on Preparation of Trichoderma Compost was conducted on 25 & 26 August 2013 and at Haluaghat and Sherpur Sadar respectively. The training was conducted by the consultant of Trichoderma Compost, Dr. G N M Ilias. 12 farmers from Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura and 12 farmers from Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati upazila (4 from each upazila) attended the training.

Training on improved crops cultivation techniques:

To provide technical knowledge to farmers for better production of crops, 240 trainings on improved crops cultivation techniques were conducted from 1 September to 26 September 2013 at all groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila. Upazila Agriculture Officer, Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer and Business Service Provider conduct the training. Main topics of training were boro rice cultivation and major vegetables cultivation. Total 7171 farmers of 240 groups received the training.

Consultation workshop of association leaders with service providers:

To deliver service effectively to the agro producers' associations members and farmers, six day-long consultation workshop of association leaders with service providers were held on 4, 5, 8 & 9 September 2013 at Sherpur Sadar, Phulpur, Nokla, Haluaghat, Jhenaigati, Dhobaura upazila meeting room respectively. 510 person (85 from each upazila) from all association leaders, 1 leader from each group, public & private service providers; Program Manager TX BD, Project Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator attended the workshop.

Training on effective group operation (for group leaders):

To operate farmers' group effectively by the farmers, 6 day-long trainings on effective group operation were held with 30 group leaders from 30 week groups of each upazila (Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Nokla, Sherpur Sadar, Jhenaigati) on 7 to 11 September 2013 at BRDB & DAE hall of respective upazila. Trainings were conducted by the local consultant.

Enhance Excellence in Professional Service Provision:

For effectively delivery of services to the farmers by public service providers(PSP), two three-day long training workshops on Enhance Excellence in Professional Service Provision were held at Hotel Amir Int.of Mymensingh and DAE conference room of Sherpur on 24-26 September 2013 and 28-30 September 2013 respectively. Mr. George William, Training consultant of Traidcraft Exchange UK & Mr. Suvro Tudu, Consultant of India conducted the training. 25 PSP from different upazilas of Mymensingh and Netrokona and 27 PSP from different upazilas of Sherpur attended the training workshops.



Workshop on Enhance Excellence in Professional Service Provision

Mentoring training: Enhance Excellence in Professional Service Provision:

For mentoring effectively to Public Service Providers a two-day long training was held at BILS meeting room in Dhaka on 2 & 3 October 2013 with 9 senior level staff of project, DEW and TX BD. Mr. George William, Training consultant of Traidcraft Exchange UK conducted the training.

Refresher training for service providers on compost preparation:

For review of preparation of compost properly a day-long refresher training for private service providers on Preparation of Trichoderma Compost was conducted on 07 October 2013 at Mymensingh. The training was conducted by the consultant of Trichoderma Compost, Dr. G N M Ilias. 30 farmers from Mymensingh attended the training

Election of District Agro Producers Association (DAPA) of Sherpur:

An election was held on 8 October 2013 at DAE meeting room, Sherpur with 4 Upazila Agro Producers' Associations (UAPA) leaders of Sherpur and Executive committee of District Agro Producers' Association (DAPA) of Sherpur was formed. There were 13 members in DAPA Sherpur executive committee. Election Commissioners were Upazila Agriculture Officer of Sherpur Sadar and Upazila Livestock Officer of Jhenaigati. Two UAPA leaders were Assistant Election Commissioners. 44 voters from Sherpur Sadar, Nakla, Jhenaigati and Sribordi UAPA cast their votes.



DAPA election at Sherpur, with elected office bearers

Training on Agricultural Policies & Governance (for staff):

For gather knowledge about agricultural policies and advocacy a two-day long training on agricultural policies and advocacy was held on 9 & 10 October 2013 at Graduate Training Institute of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) training room in Mymensingh. The training was conducted by Country Director & Program Manager of Traidcraft Exchange BD. 33 APONE and ALO project staff attended the training.

Training on Project Management and Ongoing Mentoring (for staff):

To manage the project effectively and efficiently a three-day long training on project management and ongoing mentoring was held on 22-24 October 2013 at Brac CDM in Savar, Dhaka. The training was conducted by Country Director, Program Manager of Traidcraft Exchange BD, Project Coordinator APONE and Project Coordinator ALO. 33 APONE and ALO project staff attended the training.

Refresher training for service providers on soil collection:

For review the collection of soil sample properly from the farmers' field by the private service providers, two day-long refresher trainings for service providers on soil sample collection were held in Sherpur and Mymensingh on 26 and 27 October 2013 respectively. Sr. Scientific officers of SRDI Jamalpur and Mymensingh conducted the trainings. 32 Private service providers of Sher pur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati, Sribordi upazila and 35 Private service providers of Dhobaura, Haluaghat, Phulpur & Mymensingh Sadar attended the training.

Election of Regional Agro Producers Association (RAPA), Mymensingh:

An election was held on 30 October 2013 at Spondon Training Centre, Maskanda, Mymensingh with 3 District Agro Producers' Associations (DAPA) leaders of Mymensingh, Sherpur and Netrokona and Executive committee of Regional Agro Producers' Association (RAPA) was reformed. There were 15 members in RAPA executive committee. Election Commissioners were Upazila Agriculture Officer of Phulpur and Upazila Livestock Officer of Phulpur. Two DAPA leaders were Assistant Election Commissioners. 46 voters from DAPA of Mymensingh, Sherpur and Netrokona cast their votes.



Field day observation and farmers conference

Disbursement of Community Fund (BDT 2,000,000):

To increase the savings volume of groups for better investment, BDT 2,000,000 was disbursed as Community Fund to 240 farmers' groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati upazila. Farmers' group whose own savings was BDT 50,000 was eligible to received BDT 50,000 as community fund. Community funds were disbursed in the month of October and November 2014 by Project Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator and Field Coordinator at the respective upazila project office.

Training on improved livestock & poultry rearing techniques:

To provide technical knowledge to farmers for better production or rearing of poultry & livestock, 240 trainings on improved poultry & livestock rearing techniques were conducted from 3 November to 25 November 2013 at all groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila. Upazila Livestock Officer, Veterinary Field Assistant and Business Service Provider conduct the training. Main topics of training were improved rearing techniques, feedings, disease and vaccination. Total 7171 farmers of 240 groups received the training.

Training of Association leaders on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation:

For gather knowledge about lobbying, advocacy and negotiation by the Agro Producers' Association leaders, three two-day long training of association leaders on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation were held on 9 & 10, 27 & 28 November and 6 & 7 December 2013 at Sherpur, Netrokona, Mymensingh respectively. 45 District Agro Producers' Association leaders attended those three trainings. Local consultant conducted those trainings.

Training of group leaders on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation:

For gather knowledge about lobbying, advocacy and negotiation by the farmers' group leaders, 27 day-long training of association leaders on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation were held from 11 November to 10 December 2013 at Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati, Phulpur, Haluaghat and Dhobaura upazila. 480 group leaders from 240 groups participated the training. Local consultant conducted those trainings.

Training of group farmers on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation:

For gather knowledge about lobbying, advocacy and negotiation by the farmers, 240 day-long training of group farmers on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation were held from 1 to 20 December 2013 at Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati, Phulpur, Haluaghat and Dhobaura upazila. 7,171 farmers from 240 groups participated the training. Trained group leaders of respective group conducted the trainings.

Refresher training on improved crops cultivation techniques:

To review technical knowledge to farmers for better production of crops, 240 trainings on improved crops cultivation techniques were conducted from 14 December to 29 December 2013 at all groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila. Upazila Agriculture Officer, Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer and Business Service Provider conduct the training. Main topics of training were boro rice cultivation and major vegetables cultivation. Total 7,171 farmers received the training.

Health awareness campaign:

To make awareness about farmers' health, 240 day-long health awareness campaigns were held with group farmers at 240 groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila from 04 to 30 January 2014. Upazila Health Administrator/ Medical officer and Medical Assistant conducted the health awareness campaigns. 7,171 farmers from 240 groups attended the campaigns.

Training on improved fish culture techniques:

To provide technical knowledge to farmers for better production of fishes, 121 trainings on improved fish culture techniques were conducted from 12 January to 20 February 2014 at 121 groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila. Upazila Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Field Assistant and Business Service Provider conduct the training. Main topics of training were fish culture in seasonal pond. Total 3630 farmers of 121 groups received the training.

Refresher training on improved crops cultivation techniques:

To review technical knowledge to farmers for better production of crops, 56 trainings on improved crops cultivation techniques were conducted from 12 January to 20 January 2014 at 56 weak groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila. Upazila Agriculture Officer, Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer and Business Service Provider conduct the training. Main topics of training were rice cultivation and major vegetables cultivation. Total 1680 farmers received the training.

Refresher training on improved livestock & poultry rearing techniques:

To review technical knowledge to farmers for better production or rearing of poultry & livestock, 85 trainings on improved poultry & livestock rearing techniques were conducted from 12 January to 20 January 2014 at 85 weak groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila. Upazila Livestock Officer, Veterinary Field Assistant and Business Service Provider conduct the training. Main topics of training were improved rearing techniques, feedings, disease and vaccination. Total 2550 farmers of 85 groups received the training.

Awareness raising workshop of DAPA:

To make linkage among DAPA members & PSP, BSP of district level, two day-long awareness raising workshop of DAPA held with DAPA members, BSP, PSP at Sherpur and Mymensingh on 13 & 14 January 2014 respectively. Project Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator conducted the workshops. 92 DAPA members & PSP, BSP of district level in Sherpur and Mymensingh attended the workshops. Sherpur DAPA & Mymensingh DAPA organized the workshops.

Refresher training for trained SLIPP input sellers:

For review of knowledge on crop cultivation practices, a two-day long refresher training for trained SLIPP input sellers was held on 19 & 20 January 2014 at Horticulture centre of Mymensingh with the input sellers of SLIPP project. UAO of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura and Netrokona Sadar conducted the training. 22 input sellers of SLIPP project of those 4 upazilas attended the training.

Agro fair:

To access in the local market for selling the agro products of farmers, 26 agro fairs were organized at the union level of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Sherpur Sadar, Nakla and Jhenaigati upazila in January and February 2014. Group farmers & crop traders, input sellers participated the agro fair. 26 workshops were held among the group farmers & crop traders, input sellers for selling the farmers products. Project Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator, Field Coordinator conducted the agro fair.



Agro Fair at Shepur

Workshop on Mid Term Review (Preparation for Mid Term Review):

For preparation of Mid Term Review, two day-long workshops on Mid Term Review were held with 6 APONE project related staff of TX BD and DEW HO at TX BD office, Dhaka on 13 February 2014 and with all (19) APONE project field staff at Hotel Mostafiz in Mymensingh on 15 February 2014. Mr. George William, Training Consultant of TX HO conducted the workshop.

Workshop on Mid Term Review (Sharing the findings):

For sharing the findings of Mid Term Review, a day-long workshop on Mid Term Review were held with 6 APONE project related staff of TX BD and DEW HO at TX BD office, Dhaka on 23 February 2014. Mr. George William, Training Consultant of TX HO conducted the workshop.

Exchange visit:

To share the knowledge and techniques of the old and developed groups of Golden Fiber project, 39 District Agro Producers' Associations (DAPA) members of DAPA of Sherpur, Mymensingh and Netrokona visited the better groups of Golden Fiber project of Faridpur and Gopalganj on 23, 24 & 25 February 2014. Regional Field Coordinators, Field Coordinators conducted the programme.

National level networking workshop of Associations' leaders:

To form National Agro Producers' Association (NAPA) adhoc committee, a national level networking workshop was held on 27 February 2014 at the meeting room of BJRI in Dhaka with 26 members of agro producers' association from 13 districts. Public Service Providers, Business Service Providers, ED DEW, SPM TX BD, PC APONE & ALO, RFCs were present. A 13 members NAPA adhoc committee was formed in that workshop.



National level networking workshop for producer associations at Dhaka

Disbursement of community fund (BDT 770,000) among the expanded 22 groups:

To increase the savings volume of groups for better investment, BDT 770,000 was disbursed as Community Fund among 22 new expanded farmers' groups of Haluaghat and Jhenaigati upazila. Each group received BDT 35,000. Community funds were disbursed on 27 February 2014 by Project Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator and Field Coordinator at the respective upazila project office.

Training on effective group operation (for group farmers):

To operate farmers' group effectively by the farmers, 24 day-long trainings on effective group operation were held with group farmers from 24 week groups of Phulpur, Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Nokla, Sherpur Sadar, Jhenaigati upazila from 08 to 20 March 2014 at the respective group. Trainings were conducted by the Trained group leaders. 720 farmers of 6 upazilas received the training.

Training for farmers on soil collection:

For collection of soil sample properly from the farmers' field by the farmers, four day-long trainings for farmers on soil sample collection were held in Haluaghat, Dhobaura, Nokla, Jhenaigati upazila on 10 to 12 March 2014. Principal Scientific Officers of SRDI Mymensingh and Sr. Scientific officers of SRDI Jamalpur conducted the trainings. 120 farmers of those upazilas (30 from each upazila) attended the training.

Refresher training of group farmers on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation:

For gather knowledge about lobbying, advocacy and negotiation by the farmers, 102 day-long training of group farmers on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation were held from 4 to 10 March 2014 with the farmers of weak groups at Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati, Phulpur, Haluaghat and Dhobaura upazila. 3,060 farmers from 102 weak groups (17 groups from each upazila) participated the training. Trained group leaders of respective group conducted the trainings.

Training associations on governance, advocacy:

For gather knowledge about governance and advocacy , six two-day long trainings were held with 4 upazila agro producers' associations (UAPA) members (Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati and Sribordi) and 2 district agro producers associations (DAPA) members (Mymensingh and Netrokona) from 14 to 26 March 2014 at Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati upazila RAPA office, Mymensingh and DAE office Netrokona. Local consultant conducted the training. 65 members from 4 UAPA and 2 DAPA attended the meeting.

Policy consultation dissemination workshop:

To prepare a position paper, a day-long workshop on policy consultation dissemination was held on 30 March 2014 at IDB bhabon in Dhaka. 120 participants of PSP, BSP, Scientist of upazila & national level, NAPA & DAPA leaders, CD TX BD, SPM TX BD, ED DEW, PC and project field staff were attended the workshop. Member of Parliament (MP) of Netrokona Mr. Chhobi Biswas was the chief guest.



Policy consultation workshop at IDB, Dhaka, Honorable Parliament Member Mr. Sobhi Biswas addressing in the workshop

Refresher training of group farmers on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation:

For review of gathering knowledge about lobbying, advocacy and negotiation by the farmers, 262 day-long training of group farmers on lobbying, advocacy, negotiation were held from 22 May to 10 June 2014 at Sherpur Sadar, Nokla, Jhenaigati, Phulpur, Haluaghat and Dhobaura upazila. 8,130 farmers from 262 groups participated the training. Trained agro producers' association leaders of respective upazila conducted the trainings.

APONE & ALO project planning and staff orientation workshop

Development Wheel (DEW) jointly organized a workshop on 'APONE & ALO project planning and staff orientation' held at IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka on 29th-April 2013. The program was chair by the Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director of DEW and conducted by Mr. Shahed Ferdous, Country Director, Traidcraft Exchange and Mr. A B M Feroz Ahmed, Program Manager, TX. Mr. A K M Shawkat Hasan, Project Coordinator, APONE, Mr. Ashraf Uddin, Project Coordinator, ALO and all project staffs attended the workshop program. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam gave the welcome speech and known regarding DEW past

history and working areas in Bangladesh. Then program manger and project coordinators were go through the aim of this two project planning workshop. The aim of this workshop was to know the present condition of APONE project with staff orientation of ALO and what will be the next year plan for both projects. Program manager informed that we have completed first year of APONE project successfully which assessment done by INNOVISION consulting firm. We already submitted first year annual report and waiting for response. There were lots of success come out on the report and we expect that this project is on the track. Now ALO is similar project combine with APONE. Activities are similar and new working area will be Sribordi of Sherpur sadar and Netrokona sadar upazilla. So we have to join together this area newly with existing beneficiary. New group will be formed for ALO project and we will make FGD as soon as possible by this month. Finally facilitators gave special thanks to all staff to join this workshop and being with this project also.

DEW Organized different capacity building training, workshop, meeting, exposure visit ect. under its Agricultural Rights Programme-ARP

Development Wheel (DEW) started Agricultural Right Programme (ARP) in Mymensingh supported by The Swallows India Bangladesh from 2013. This project aims to create an environment where farmer can assert their rights. To achieve this aim initially DEW organized farmer of Mymensingh sadar and Gouripur upazilla and formed 50 groups (30 farmers in each group among 40% female farmers). Then we organized a need assessment Focus Group Discussion (FGD) where discussed on their problems and how this project will run in their community. DEW informed them, we will act as a facilitator in order to get support as well as service from public & private service provides by them. For that reason DEW provided different technical training through Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Upazilla Livestock Officer, Soil Scientist etc to the all farmer groups. That training tried to ensures better linkage with Govt. Departments and farmer understood where they can get service. Besides, DEW got emphasis on organic practice for each & every ARP farmer. To reduce access use of inorganic fertilizer, DEW started Soil test for ARP farmer with the help of Soil Resource & Development Institute, Mymensingh. So, now farmer can easily understand how they will get benefit from this project. They demanded to arrange different technical training. In this year, DEW only organized them in a common umbrella. After that our targets is developing them as an active & strengthen Farmer Organization.

DEW organized home gardening training for women farmers

Women farmers are the most important person in our county because they are providing food for whole nation. But they are not being recognized their proper worth in our society. Women farmers face so much discrimination in accessing government services including fertilizer distribution, soil testing, production advices, agricultural subsidies & loans.

Development Wheel (DEW) organized farmer training on home gardening on November 2013 at Mymensingh sadar & Gouripur upazilla as a part of Agricultural Rights Program (ARP). About 900 farmers in 30 groups where as 449 male and 451 female were participated in this training. Training session was facilitated by Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) of Gouripur & Mymensingh sadar upazilla. During training session Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) discussed on importance of vegetable cultivation, improved cultivation practices on brinjal, summer tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, bean, Bottol gourd, cucumber etc. They describe modern technologies (sex pheromone, mridha water trap, molasses or chitagur trap, bishtop, light trap, stric or glue trap,

reflection trap etc) of vegetable cultivation. They also got emphasis on organic pesticide culture like neem seed oil, go-chena, bishkatali leaf, tobacco leaf and preparation of bordex mixture.



Home gardening training session by SAAO

DEW Organized Training on Agricultural Rights of Farmers

Development Wheel (DEW) organized a field based training session in the group of the framers under its Agricultural Rights Program (ARP) supported by The Swallows India and Bangladesh at Mymensingh Sadar and Gouripur Upazila, Mymensingh on 05 to 20 June, 2014. The name of the training was “Training on Agricultural Rights of Farmers.”

The main objective of the training was to know the agricultural rights of farmer in order that they can attain their rights from the public and privet service provider and strengthen as a strong farmer organization to get those rights. Mrs. Rubina Yeasmin, Upazilla Agriculture Officer (UAO), Mymensingh Sadar and Mr. Shahjahan Seraj, Upazilla Agriculture Officer UAO, Gouripur Upazilla was present as trainer in the program and trained up the farmers. About 900 farmers in 30 groups where as 485 male and 415 female were participated in the training program. In these sessions the trainers discuss about agriculture policy and give the sense about their rights in agriculture. They also talked about how to produce and preserve seeds, benefit of soil testing and how to spread fertilizer on the land or given to plants and even the different types of diseases of plants and uses of pesticide. DEW Field Facilitators of ARP project conducted the program and assisted the trainers to continue the training sessions.



Development Wheel (DEW) organized two days farmer training on IPM/ICM on 21 to 22, September 2013 at DEW learning centre, Mymensingh as a part of Agricultural Rights Program (ARP). Thirty farmers of from Gouripur & Mymensingh sadar upazilla were participated in this training. Training session was facilitated by Mr. Shahidul Islam, Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Mymensingh. During training session upazilla agriculture officer discussed on improved cultivation practices on brinjal, summer tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, bean, Bottol gourd, cucumber etc. They also discussed on the insect and pest control of mentioned vegetables such as fruit & shoot borer, cutworm, aphid, Jessed etc. They describe modern technologies (sex pheromone, mridha water trap, molasses or chitagur trap, bishtop, light trap, stric or glue trap, reflection trap etc) and mentioned few beneficial insect (*tricogramma*, *bracon* hebitor, green less wing, lady bird beetle and mites) of vegetable cultivation. They discussed on disease of vegetable cultivation such as bacterial leaf blight, early & late blight, little leaf, leaf spot etc. they mention what is the difference between fungal & viral disease of crop. They also got emphasis on organic pesticide culture like neem seed oil, go-chena, bishkatali leaf, tobacco leaf and preparation of bordex mixture.



IMP/ICM training session by UAO

Folk song campaign on awareness raising of agricultural rights for farmers at Char Anonndopur

Development Wheel (DEW) organized folk song campaign on agricultural rights for farmers under its Agricultural Rights Program (ARP) supported by The Swallows India and Bangladesh at char Anondipur, Mymensingh on 09 May, 2014. This program was chaired by Mr. Amsar Ali, Farmer; char Anonndopur, Mr. Moazzem Hossein Feroz, Union Parishad Member was chief guest and Mr. Hasim Uddin fakir and Mr. Prodip Kumar Pundit, Teacher were the special guest of the campaign program. So many local people (men 59, women 40) of this village were also present in the



campaign. As a part of awareness raising program through folk song by local Baul group regarding agricultural rights. Baul group sang so many songs on this issues and project coordinator also discussed on farmers rights in agriculture. He also discussed on sustainable agricultures technique for farmers

Exposure visit for farmers:

In September 2013 a group of ARP farmers and DEW staff, intern went on an exposure visit to the regional Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BRSI) and the Horticulture Research Centre at Gazipur district. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the ARP farmers to new agricultural research that can enable them to diversify their own agricultural practices and in turn diversify their livelihoods. This is also a way of bridging the gap between small-scale farmers and government authorities. In addition to this, it was also an important opportunity for capacity building of DEW's staff. At the Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute the group attended a briefing session on sugarcane cultivation and intercropping, held by Mr. Mostak Ahmed, scientific officer.

At the nearby Horticulture Research Centre the group was shown around the premises by a scientific officer from the Horticulture. The research centre is conducting comprehensive research on various fruits, vegetables and grain crops. An environmentally friendly method of killing off pests in rice seedlings consists of the practice of covering the seedlings with a plastic tarp for 4-6 weeks. A small-scale greenhouse effect works its magic leaving the seedlings ready for cultivation. The research centre possesses a demonstration paddy of organically grown rice. The green colour of the organic rice was indistinguishable from the conventionally grown rice in the background paddy. An aqua-phonics system with shallow waters suitable for catfish cultivation was situated in front of the organic rice paddy. Overall, it proved to be a fruitful day of learning. The ARP farmers and the DEW staff alike brought with them new ideas and thoughts on agriculture.



Farmer and staff are visiting regional sugercan institute at Gazipur

Organized annual farmer's conference & agricultural fair under Agricultural Rights Programme-ARP:

Annual farmer's conference & agricultural fair under Agricultural Rights Program (ARP)" was held at Chorghoramara village, Douhakhola union, Gouripur upazilla on 30 December 2013. This program was organized by Development Wheel (DEW) with the support of The Swallows India

Bangladesh. 325 farmers (men 259 and women 66) from 15 farmers organizations were participated this conference & fair from Mymensingh sadar & Gouripur upazilla.

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Shah Iqbal Hossain, Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Gouripur upazilla along with Mr. Shahjahan Seraj, Upazilla Agriculture Officer UAO, Gouripur Upazilla, Upazilla Livestock Officer, Gouripur and project coordinator. In farmer conference Project Coordinator said, DEW is implanting Agricultural Rights Program (ARP) with poor and marginalized farmers at mymensingh sadar & gouripur upazilla. He also said the overall concept of this project is effective participation of poor and marginal farmers in decision making process. So they can attain their rights from public and private stakeholders and improve their income from agriculture. So that DEW is working for marginal farmers to build their capacity and develop farmer's organization to ensure their sustainable livelihoods. DEW is also trying to reduce production cost of the farmers, increase production, and raise their income and employment generation through their knowledge building. Our commitment is to build a knowledge based farmers community with strong organization and networks. This will help them to improve cultivation practices, reduce production costs and increase productivity. DEW is committed to work for marginalized farmer community in our country to establish their rights. He also mentioned that we need to build more cooperation between Go, NGO and private sector to solve problems in our agriculture sector.

At the end of meeting, Mr. golam hossian, Leaders of farmer organization also thanked to DEW & Swallows for arranging this meeting & expected sustainable way to build their capacity to establish their rights. At last he concluded the meeting and thanks to participant for attending the conference.

ARP farmer organization has organized a day long fair entitled as "Agro Fair-2013" on 30 December 2013 at the premise of Chorghoramara High School premise under Gouripur Upazilla of Mymensingh District. The fair is organized, as a part of the Agricultural Rights Program, with view to create mass awareness and also to encourage the mass people for practicing sustainable agricultural practices in order to bring a total reform on agriculture, adaptation on climate change issues.

Mr. Shah Iqbal Hossain, Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Gouripur upazilla as the chief guest has announced the grand inauguration of the fair with delight. Among many others distinguished personnel's, Dr. Anisur Rahman-principle Scientist of Bangladesh Soil Research and development Institute and Mr. Shahjahan Siraj the Upazilla Agriculture Officer of Gouripur have been present in this grand occasion. Again, the spontaneous participation of the local farmers as well as people of various level of that local area has made the fair more lively.



Farmers Association members displayed their organic vegetables in a stall of agro fair at Gouripur

Celebration of Human rights day' 2014

Development Wheel (DEW) celebrated this day in collaboration with other right based NGOs in Mymensingh. Part of the mission of DEW is a commitment to upholding farmer's rights in order that they can attain their rights from the public and private service provider and strengthen as a strong farmer organization to get those rights. The grand opening of this year's Human's Rights Day festivities began at 10.00 am on with a big rally from krisnochura Chattar to Town Hall More. After finishing the rally a cultural and discussion program was started which was full of various musical and dramatic performances by Udichi cultural group, Baul Group in Town hall, Mymensingh.

Linkage building with District Agriculture Information Centre

DEW started to create opportunity for ARP farmer and linkage with district agriculture information centre, Mymensingh. DAE officials announced that ARP farmer can get agricultural information easily in their respective group if they are joining or get membership of this service. DAE officials committed that if group member are interested to do so then they will get BDT 550 (\$ 7) discount for 30 persons group. On the other hand each farmer may member by providing only BDT 50 for whole year. By getting this membership farmer will informed agricultural information on monthly basis. They will get agricultural newsletter, new technologies folder, poster etc directly to their home address. Many farmers of Gouripur & Sadar upazilla started processing to get membership of this service. We would expect all farmers will reach in this service.



ARP farmer awarded from DAE in District 'Tree Fair' 2014

Golam Hossain is a resource farmer of Agricultural Rights Program (ARP) living at Gouripur upazilla of Mymensingh. He and his farmer association members was participated District tree fair and got a sprayer machine from a ten days district tree fair which was held at Mymensingh sadar. He awarded to show a giant jackfruit in the fair which produce in his homestead. Department of Agriculture (DAE), Fisheries and Livestock office of Mymensingh jointly organized an Agricultural Technology and Tree Fair on 05th June to 14th July, 2013 at press club, Mymensingh.



B. Human Rights and Good Governance Program

Discussion Meeting and Prize giving ceremony on Begum Rokeya Day

Since 1996 DEW had a dream to provide Sustainable livelihoods, Human Rights and Fair Trade program to the disadvantaged and poor people of our society. Since that beginning, DEW has worked to grow and response to the needs of our community people's demand. Now DEW working as a connecting organization in Mymensingh region to increase awareness building and to reduce domestic violence against women by We can campaign program through three districts networking organization such as Family Ties, Kishorgonj, SERRA, Netrokona and Gonochetona, Jamalpur. From this connection DEW and Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjato Protirodh Jot jointly organized essay competition prize giving ceremony in Begum Rokeya Day at Mymensingh Muslim institute auditorium.

DEW organized essay competition titled 'Role of Begum Rokeya in social change' on Begum Rokeya Day at Gohailkandi High School and Police Line High School among twenty student participated in this competition. In discussion session, chairperson of we can Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjato Protirodh Jot, Advocate Mr. A H M Khalekuzzaman chair the program. Mr. A K M Abdur Rafik, Principle of Shohid Sayed Nazrul Islam was chief guest and Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen, Bangladesh Mohila Porishod, Advocate Nazrul Islam chunnu, Advocate Sibbir Ahmed Liton, Mr. Rofiqul Islam, Head Master, Gohailkandi High School were the special guest of this program. Other side, different school teacher, delegates of different cultural & development organization, civil society, journalist, student, guardian, and change maker were also attended this program. After discussion session prize was given among the participant of both school. Finally chairperson concluded the program with giving special thanks to all.

Organized Human chain to protest against countrywide rape & killing

Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot Mymensingh organized a Human chain to protest against countrywide recent incidence like rape & killing and to make a precedent punishment of rapist on 11.00 am, 12 January 2014 at Shahid Feroz Jahangir Chatter, Mymensingh. Supporting with We Can and Development Wheel (DEW), many political leader, teacher, student, NGO & Human Rights representative were attended in that human chain.

In Human chain, leaders said that we have to increase social awareness to protect this type of crime. Government has to play more accountable role to restrain such crime. Advocate A H M Khalekuzzaman, Chairman of Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot, Advocate Emdadul Haque Millet, Advocate Sadik Hossain, Advocate Moazzem Hossain Babul, Advocate

Nazrul Islam Chunnu, Chairman of Mohila Parishad Ferdous Ara Helen, Advocate Sibbir Ahmed Liton, Ataul Karim Khokon, Principle Alhaz Ziauddin Shakir, Fahmida Yasmin Runa, Nasrin Ahmed, Sajeda Begum Saju, Nurul Kabir and other leaders were participated in Human Chain program.



Human chain to protest against recent incidence rape & killing at Shahid Feroz Jahangir Chatter, Mymensingh

Meeting with service providers

Development Wheel (DEW) organized a meeting with service providers under its LHDP (Let Her Decide and Participate) project at Muslim Institute and DEW Learning Center, Mymensingh on April 23 and 29 June, 2014. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW, presided over that meeting. Dr. Shuvas Chandra Basu, the Additional District Commissioner (General), Mymensingh was present as a chief guest of this event. Advocate Emdadul Haque Millat, Advocate Kabir Uddin Vuian, President of District Bar Society, Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen, President of Mohila Parishad, Mymensingh, A.K.M. Abdur Rafique, Principle of Sayed Nazrul Islam College, Dr. Captain Shahabuddin, Principle of Muslim Girls' High school and College, Sahely Ahmed, Programme Officer of Ministry of Women Affairs, were also present at the meeting. The representative of Many NGOs and Service Providers such as Nishtha Unnoyon Shangshta, Shuktara, SUPRO, Mohila Parishad, BLAST, Women Leaders and 23 women leaders of DEW women clubs also participated in the meeting.

The main objective of this project is to promote LHDP project and ensure every kind of service for deprived and poor women in Mymensingh Sadar through right information and practices of information. Primarily it's working with Aqua, Kashor, Boyra, Vabokhali, Char Ishwardia and Char Vobanipur under Mymensingh district. It's also working with 5 educational institutions named Sayed Nazrul Islam College, Muslim Girls' High School and College, Anandamohon College, Gohailkandi High School and Muktagacha Degree College. This project is funded by Oxfam-GB and implemented by Development Wheel (DEW). Dr. Shuvas Chandra Basu, Additional District Commissioner (General), Mymensingh gave welcome speech in the meeting. Nasrin Ahmed, project facilitator of LHDP project, discussed on the objective and effect of this project. All guests and public & private service provider representatives, leaders of women club also gave their speech. After the session all service providers are committed to provide all services to deprived and poor women. At last, Mr. Shah Abdus Salam discussed on different aspects of the project, detail answer of some burning questions and finally he concluded the meeting with giving special thanks to all.



Meeting with the service providers

Women Transformative Leadership Training:

Development Wheel (DEW) organized training on Women Transformative Leadership at DEW Learning Centre, Mymensingh on 20-22 May, 2013 under its Let Her Decide and Participate (LHDP) project supported by Oxfam. 25 women leaders of Vabokhali, Char Vobanipur, and Char Ishwardia Women Club were participated in this training. Advocate Mr. Emdadul Haque Millat was present as a resource person in the training session. He discussed on law of Bangladesh. Gender, Power, Transformative leadership, Club maintains and many other topics were covered in this training. At the end of training, all participants understood the importance of women transformative leadership. Why it's required and its importance for their development as well as women empowerment in this society. They were very happy to know Law about Violence Against Women (VAW). At last, they are committed to make unity to develop them and make an acceptable position in the family and society. Ms. Nasrin Ahmed, project Facilitator conducted the training session and finally she gave special thanks to all participant of this training.



Participants in the women transformative leadership Training and group work session

Celebration of International Women's Day' 2014

The theme of this International women's day'08 March, 2014 was "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women". Development Wheel (DEW) celebrated this day in collaboration with other right based NGOs in Mymensingh.



International Women's Day observation

Part of the mission of DEW is a commitment to upholding women's rights throughout society by seeking gender equity and an absolute end to violence against women through the national We Can Campaign. In keeping with this aspiration, on March 08, 2013 at 12:01am, DEW and the We Can network Commemorated International Women's Day with A midnight candle-lighting ceremony at Krisnachura Chattar. After the candle-lighting ceremony, participants swore to the following oath: I charge myself first to be a Change Maker, will believe in gender equality, will give respect to women, and will work to prevent violence against women at home, in the community, and in society as a whole. The grand opening of this year's Women's Day festivities began at 3.00 pm on 8th March 2013 with a big rally from Firoz Jahangir Chattar to Town Hall More. After finishing the rally a cultural and discussion program was started which was full of various musical and dramatic performances by Udichi cultural group, Baul Group, Onsombol theatre group and the Change Makers. Advocate Emdadul Haque Millat, Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu, Advocate Sibbir Ahmed Liton, Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen, president of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Ms.Munira Begum, Secretary, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Mymensingh, We Can Chairperson Advocate A.H.M Khalekuzzaman and all members of Mymensingh steering committee of the We Can Campaign attended the program. Many civil society members took part in discussion and change maker Lucky Akter told her life story about how she became successful. Nasrin Ahmed, DEW- LHDP staff conducted the program.

C. Non formal Education for Disadvantaged Communities

Celebrating International Literacy Day

Development Wheel (DEW) is a national level NGO working for Human Rights and Good Governance, Sustainable livelihoods, Fair trade, Advocacy and campaign for ensuring human rights and education in Bangladesh from 1996. At this connection DEW with the help of “Amar Odhikar Campaign (AOC)” and “Oxfam Bangladesh” organized a Rally and “Literacy and Primary Education Dialogue “on the occasion of International Literacy Day, September 8, 2014 at Upazilla Parishad Auditorium, Savar. Mr. Touhid Jong (Murad), M.P was present as the Chief Guest of the Event. Beside that Upazilla Nirbahi Officer, Mr. Kabir Hossain Sardar, Upazilla Education officer, Mr. Taposh Sarkar, Vice Chairman, Savar Upazilla Mrs. Rokeya Haq was in the honorable guest panel. A concept paper was formed and presented by Assistant Upazilla education Officer, Ms. Afia Choudhury on the theme of this year literacy day “Literacy will bring peace and prosperity”. The paper was an overall evaluation of education system of Savar Upazilla and full of related information. Over hundreds of Teachers, student, local leaders, government and non-government officials, and local journalist participated in the event.

On that morning chief guest Honorable parliament member Mr. Murad Jong joined the event on 10 am with a rally a crossing the Upazilla Parishad, Savar. After the rally the main dialogue event started with the welcome speech from Upazilla education Officer, Mr. Taposh Sarkar. He talked about the present education situation and upcoming changes in Savar Upazilla. Then Upazilla Nirbahi Officer, Mr. Kabir Hossain Sardar and the vice chairman, Mrs. Rokeya Haq gave their speech one by one. They said education can be the only way to progress of any country. Both of them appreciated DEW and AOC for their initiative to ensuring the education right to people of Savar Upazilla. They advised DEW to increase their working area around the Upazilla. After that Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director (DEW) thanked the Honorable Member of Parliament Mr. Murad Jong for giving his valuable time and all Upazilla Parishad Officer for their kind support. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam said, Over the world education is the prime right which is being provided by government, but in our country still we have to fight for getting proper education as our officer and responsible person does not doing their part of job. DEW along with AOC and Oxfam GB took initiative for ensuring right to education by campaign and advocacy at both local and national level and expecting help form our policy level. He finished his speech by thanking Assistant education officer, Ms Asfia Choudhury for her nice and realistic thematic paper presentation. Finally Chief Guest Mr. Murad Jong M.P delivered his speech. He said we have achieved 100% enrollment of primary education. But now it is time to ensuring the quality of education. He thanked DEW and said it is tough for our government to maintain everything. If organization like DEW and AOC take initiative to pushing government process then it is really appreciable. He finished his speech by advising teachers to give their full afford to their noble job. The event was finished by distributing refreshment among the participant.

DEW observed Child Rights Week 2014:

On 4th October 2014 DEW with the help of AOC and “Oxfam Bangladesh” organized a seminar following a discussion session at Dendabar Govt. Primary School, Savar. On the occasion of Child Rights Week 2014

DEW took an initiative to celebrate a day with the member of student council of Savar Upazilla. The principals, SMC members and Officers of Upazila primary education office was also joined the event. Mrs Rasheda Begum, member of local govt., Savar Union, Mrs. Farzana Shelly, Assistant Education Officer, Savar Upazila was present as at the event. Development Wheel (DEW) as an active partner of the initiative has started their journey together with AOC from this year, 2014. DEW is leading Dhaka district to ensure the **quality primary education** and implement rights of every child. For this purpose DEW has organized signature campaign, meetings and conference with teachers, students, guardians, GOB & local leaders at local level.

The event started on 11am at morning with the national anthem sang by the students. Mr. Taposh kumar Sarkar, Education Officer, Savar Upazila gave his honorable speech to the children who were present on that day. He said these kids are our future so we have to nourish them for our own sack. He thanked to DEW and AOC for taking such an initiative to celebrate child rights week 2014. After his speech Mrs Rasheda begum gave her speech. In her speech she promised to help all the school authority ensuring their students right in Savar Upazila. After her speech Mrs Farzana Shelly, Assistant education Officer, Savar Upazila gave her speech elaborating about child rights week-2014. She said “there are so many rights from which children of Bangladesh are being deprived. It is tough for us to solve all of them but as we are working with primary education, our goal should be ensuring the rights which are related to primary education and we will do that to our best. Later she facilitated the session “Capacity Building of student Councils” where she tried to discuss their role. After the session a sharing session was held where member of student council, teachers, SMC members and other present people talked about it. Finally the event was finished by distributing refreshment among the participant.

DEW Celebrated World Teachers’ Day 2014

On 11th October, 2013 DEW with the help of AOC and “Oxfam Bangladesh” organized a seminar following a discussion session at Rajabari Govt. Primary School, Savar. On the occasion of World Teachers’ Day 2013 DEW took an initiative to celebrate a day with the teachers of primary school of Savar Upazilla. The principals and teachers of more than 130 primary school of Savar Upazila, member of teacher’s union, and officers of Upazila primary education office and Health complex were present at the event. Also Campaign team manager from AOC, Mr. M. Shahidul islam joined the event on that day.

The event started on 12pm at noon with the speech from the chief guest, Mr. Taposh kumar Sarkar, Education Officer, Savar Upazila. He thanked to DEW and AOC for taking such an initiative to celebrate World teachers Day 2012 as it is still not well-known in our country, even our primary level teachers does not know about such a day which belongs to them. After his speech Ms. Tasnia Tasnim, assistant teacher of Chakulia Govt. Primary school presented her paper which she prepared on the basis of our request. In her paper she presented the emotions and feelings of primary school teachers. Also mentioned the treatment they deserve from the society, the socio economical situation and also the achievements of them. The paper was appreciated by all of the participants as it was the reflection of their own life.

Later some of the teachers came out voluntarily and shared their feelings, talked about their rights. Some of them recite their own poem and story which was highly appreciated by everyone. Finally Mr. Shahidul Islam, Team Manager, AOC said some words to everyone. He shared the activities related primary education operating by AOC around the country. Also the future plans and activity of AOC and DEW in Savar Upazila.

He thanked everyone for their support and participation and requested for further support to implement quality primary education in Bangladesh. The event was facilitated by Mr. Nazrul Islam, Chairperson of Savar Teacher's Union. The Whole event was so live and appreciated by everyone.



Dew organized a seminar on World Teachers' Day 2014

D. Promotion of Grass-root Artisan Groups through Fair Trade DEW observed World Fair Trade Day 2014:

World Fair Trade Day observation is an annual program of Fair Trade Movement. It was first observed in 4th of May, 2002. Since then, all over the world including Bangladesh observes this precious event every 2nd week of May. ECOTA Fair Trade Forum as a national networking body of Fair Trade Organizations observed the **World Fair Trade Day 2014** through launching a seminar on Saturday, 11 May, 2013 at 12:00pm at St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, 97 Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. Theme of the World Fair Trade Day 2014: **“Strengthening Fair Trade Relationships”**.

Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Chairperson, ‘ECOTA Fair Trade Forum’ and Executive Director of Development Wheel (DEW) announced the formal instigation of the seminar. The Chairperson welcomed to all the respected guests for joining the World Fair Trade Day. The respected Guests-Dr. Harold B. Rodriguez, Principal, St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, the Executive Committee members of ‘ECOTA Fair Trade Forum’ Ms. Bertha Gity Baroi, Vice Chair Person, Mr. Monjurul Haque, Member, Ms. Tanu Dey, Member, Mr. Subrata Saha, Member, the respective delegates of Member Organizations of ECOTA, the representative of artisans, producers, entrepreneurs group, the students of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School and the social thinkers and believers were present on the following day. The programme mainly aims to disseminate the importance of Fair Trade to the young generation and to promote the youth to work as a **change maker** for our country and society.

Beginning of the seminar, the Chair requested the entire present guest to express deep solemn for the ‘Savar Tragedy’ and to remain **‘One minute Silence’** for the untimely death of thousands of workers of those garments factory that collapsed on last 24th April of 2014. The Chair stated that, this incident is not acceptable for our country and this unjust, unfair trade should be stopped immediately. In his speech, the Chair briefly described the history of Fair Trade Movement at international and as well as at national level. At present, Fair Trade based organizations (NGOs) of the country are engaged with research work, studies on craft production and marketing strategy for understanding the future prospectus of artisanship and Endeavour to bring out those crafts people from the poverty circle, He added. It is worth mentioning that, the presence of

producers, artisans, entrepreneurs and the school children made the programme a significant attraction. The producers, entrepreneurs from CORR The Jute Works, DEW, Swajan Crafts, Kumudini Handicrafts, BRAC Arong and Hathay Bunano shared their thoughts and experiences which enhanced the whole programme. The entire programme was decorated with:

- Presenting Documentary Movie on ECOTA Fair Trade Forum Activities
- Power point presentation on “Fair Trade- Bangladesh & Global Perspective”
- Arranging a cultural show by presenting a “Drama” on Ten Standards of Fair Trade Principle, performed by the **Women Artisans of “CORR the Jute Works”**
- Displaying eye-catching, ecstatic Fair Trade crafts of the Member Organizations of ECOTA.



World fair trade day 2014 along with members of ECOTA, Principle of St. Joseph School and college Dr. Harold B. Rodriguez and Chairperson of ECOTA Fair trade forum Shah Abdus Salam

E. Internship Programme of DEW:

Development Wheel (DEW) provides internship opportunities to recent Bachelor/Masters Degree university graduates (national/international) wishing to work in the field of development under its Development Internship Programme. The primary objective of internship is to provide the Bangladeshi students opportunity to apply theoretical concepts to real life situations. On the other hand, this is also an opportunity for the interns to develop their professional skills in the area of their interests. DEW will approve only those internships which are relevant to its programs (such as Women's Internship), but will also benefit the organization in some way. DEW is also offering internship programme for international students from different universities in the globe to learn practically in the field how NGO's are working in the developing countries.

In this year Ms Magdalena, graduate student from Uppsala University, Sweden came to DEW as an intern and exchanged knowledge and skills with DEW and its community.



Intern Magdalena from Uppsala University, Sweden working in the community

DEW Learning Center at Mymensingh and Sherpur:

DEW has been established its Learning center at Mymensingh regional office to provide development training, seminar, workshop and accommodation facilities for DEW participants, staffs and other development organizations. Capacity of the training hall room is for 25-30 participants with all the support services like computer, printer, multimedia, internet, food and 2 A/C and 2 non A/C guest rooms.

In Sherpur district office we have similar arrangements but we don't have any A/C guest room there. We have 3 non A/C guest rooms with training facilities like Mymensingh office there.



DEW guest rooms at Mymensingh

Case Study

Shukkuri Begum has increased tomato productivity by more than two folds and reduced cost of production by 25% through improved cultivation technique



Shukkuri Begum

Shukkuri Begum is a farmer living in Shapmari village of Sherpur Sadar. She is a member of the Shapmari farmers group under APONE project. Like many others, she cultivated different vegetables according to his own knowledge, for example, she used chemical fertilizer by applying own judgment, belief, experience and often through peer-learning.

In the year 2011-12, Shukkuri Begum cultivated tomato, a winter vegetable with duration of four months crop period, in 12 decimal of land and used chemical fertilizer only. Her yield was 0.38 MT, which is equivalent to 3.16 MT/acre. Total production cost and sales revenue were BDT 10365 and BDT 7650, respectively; so, gross loss stood at BDT2715. After joining with APONE farmers' group, she became aware and motivated about the importance of compost fertilizer, soil testing service, and improved cultivation practices through different group meeting and need assessment FGD. Afterwards, to see the quality and performance of the compost and benefits of soil testing results and improved cultivation practices, she organized a field demonstration on tomato in the same land in November 2012, and she used appropriate doses of chemical and compost fertilizer as per soil testing result and quality seed as per DAE advice. The land yielded 1.02 MT, which is equivalent to 8.50 MT/acre. This is an excellent result as per DAE production record. Total production cost and sales revenue were BDT 7812 and BDT 19800, respectively.

She organized a field day and showed the performance among the group and neighboring farmers by inviting DAE and SRDI experts. She is very happy and said, *"I did not know about the importance and benefits of compost fertilizer and soil testing on soil health. Therefore, I wrongly used chemical fertilizer and pesticide-mostly excessive doses, and cow dung. Now I have enough knowledge on the importance of compost fertilizer and soil testing. I know the overall fertilizer and other inputs management. As a result, this season I got higher production and made profit from the same land where last year I failed to recover my production cost. I am very happy with my profit. I also tested soil for chili cultivation. Hope it will further increase my profit, if so; I will use it for house expansion. My group members and other neighboring farmers also want to use compost fertilizer and soil testing service."*

Improved cultivation practices changed Runa's economic condition



Runa has lived in the same place for 30 years. She is married with a family of 8 members, including five daughters and one son (the three eldest daughters are the children of her husband). She gets up at 5am and goes to bed at 11pm, working all day. Last year, Runa joined Development Wheel's ARP, Agricultural Rights Programme. Before that she was growing different types of vegetables on a small scale. Economic conditions were difficult and she had to go to the market to purchase chemical fertilizer and pesticides. Development Wheel (DEW) organised training on how to make one's own compost fertilizer. Runa explains that this skill has changed her agriculture and improved her economic condition. The initial construction cost of the compost was expensive but in the long-term it is actually saving her money, Runa estimates that she saves up to 40 % of what she used to spend on chemical fertilizers. Now she has access to her own compost which gives her a certain degree of sovereignty over her food production. Sometimes she uses some chemical fertilizer but in small, appropriate dosages. The money Runa saves from using her own compost fertilizer is used to grow more crops which can be sold at the market place, as well as diversify the family's food intake. Runa's husband sells the product at the market and often helped her to organize meetings and keeping the farmers together. Runa is now growing green papaya, green chilli, brinjal, radish, ginger and lemon on a larger scale than before. DEW has taught her about her rights as a farmer, rights she was not aware of before. Runa describes how she now feels closer to service providers, since DEW has educated her and the other ARP farmers on how to access local governments and their services. It is a strong and confident woman standing before the interviewer. Strong and confident, with an improved economic situation, but the family is still facing economic hardship. The three eldest daughters are already married, and one daughter helps out at home, whilst the son and the fifth daughter go to school. Runa dreams about raising chickens for eggs, and to keep cows for milk. This could improve their economic situation even more, and perhaps enable Runa to buy a shop for her son. If DEW could offer such training in the future she would be very excited about learning how to keep chickens and cows.

Fair Trade showed the pathway of success



Shefalee Aktar lives in Borne Paschimpara village of Delduar Upazilla under Tangail district. People of this village lives on making different bamboo products. She is married with a family of 6 members. She is the mother of two sons and one daughter. Her husband Lutfor Rahman is a bamboo producer and he learned the trade from his father. The family of Lutfor Rahman has been engaged in this work for the last 25years. After their marriage Shefalee Aktar became enthusiastic to learn about handicrafts from her husband. Since the family has no land for cultivation, Shefalee put in an extra effort to improve her handicraft skills, so that she can secure the future of her children. Practice makes perfect and today Shefalee is a skilled bamboo producers who can prepare any products according to the sought after design. Shefalee and her husband Lutfor joined Development Wheel few years ago with a dream to ensure sustainable improvement of their livelihood. DEW has informed Shefalee about the concept of Fair Trade and the rules and rights of Fair Trade producers. She has received training on product development and on how to diversify her production with new designs. Now Shefalee holds knowledge of the quality required for products to be attractive to foreign markets.

Shefalee is now producing bamboo products on a larger scale than before. DEW has taught her about her rights as a worker, rights she was not aware of before. She describes how she now feels strong and confident, with an improved economic situation. Now she is very near to fulfilling her dream to send her three children to school. She believes that education will help her children towards a bright and sustainable future. In addition to this, a solid house of their own is currently under construction, which is a possible thanks to the income from the bamboo products.

However, the family is still facing economic hardship because they have no opportunity to work throughout the whole year. If they had work for all seasons they could really change their situation. Due to the lack of storage facilities at their premises they cannot maintain product quality for a long time.

Chapter-3

Activities of DEW through photograph:



...Fighting poverty through promotion of Fair trade



DEW presentation at Manila, Phillippines



With Prof. Paul Singer, Secretary, Solodarity Economy



With deputy Mayor of Manila



Presentation at University of the Philippines



With the leaders of Solidarity Economy



Sida workshop at Harnasand, Sweden



WFTO Asia Board meeting and AGM at Rio, Brazil



With Prof. Paul Singer at Rio, Brazil

...Livelihoods security for marginalized Communities & Human Resource Develop



Election of Netrokona district agricultural producer association and elected office bearers



Demonstration plotes in Haluagha



Election of Mymensingh district agro producer association and elected office bearers



Project management training for project staffs of ALO project at brac CDM, Savar



National Agriculture Policy consultation and dissemination workshop at IDB bhavan



Organic vegetable produced by our Agriculture Rights Programme-ARP farmers at Gouripur, Mymensingh



Field day observation



Demonstration plots



...upholding a culture of human rights and good governance

Visitors:



20 members Children Nepal delegation visited DEW



Two inter of DEW with Swedish visitor Mr. Hans

Chapter-4

Major Success, Learning's and Challenges during this year

Success:

- DEW has successfully completed first year of APONE and ALO projects
- ARP started its full phased program for next three years
- DEW leading We Can program at Mymensingh district as a lead organization
- DEW has successfully completed LHDP project
- Different foreign delegation visited DEW field and farmer organizations
- DEW executive director attend different international networking meeting, seminar and conferences
- DEW executive director elected chairman of ECOTA Fair Trade Forum, board of Director's of WTO Asia and We Can
- Handicraft product shipment has been done successfully to People tree, Japan
- Attend Handicraft product fair at Craft Bazar and Nordic club
- Organized DEW handicraft exhibition at DEW office
- DEW Executive Director leading different national and international networks
- DEW has been continuing with the regular publication of its official half yearly newsletter named "DEW Barta" and "Annual Report"

Learning:

- Poultry/livestock vaccination campaign is useful for marginalized farmer, which encourages us to implementing participatory cost-sharing program.
- Lack of monitoring & follow up visit could bring a poor result for any activities.
- Awareness building and rights advocacy is an effective tool for community mobilization
- Easy access to service provider can ensure agriculture rights, women rights etc.
- Instant and immediate benefit influence people to participate in program.
- Expected outcome can be less while the agricultural input supported not ensure in optimum season.
- More effective communication and rapport building with Local Government, Civil Society and others stakeholders is necessary.
- Poor people involving children and women in all phases of project implementation increase community ownership.
- In case of technology dissemination and promotion Resources farmers is a cost effective media.
- Continuous co-ordination with GOB line Department can contribute in implementation of the activities with adequate quality.
- Free taken tendency of community people.
- Different institutional role and social responsibility about to stop domestic violence and new generations received the campaign message very positively.
- Educational institutions can be play vital and effective Role in promoting campaign messages and stop negative consequence in the society.

Challenges:

- Rise of religious extremism
- Social instability due to Political unrest
- Organizational sustainability (Search for sustainable income generation) as a non credit (MFI) organization
- Resource constraints
- Operational cost of project implementation rises day by day
- Absence of beneficiaries at meeting/orientation/sessions for harvesting of paddy or their regular agricultural activities.
- Due to patriarchal barrier women are not willing to disclose domestic violence
- Vegetable seeds and input materials supports for farmer timely.
- Community Farmers are not self-sufficient because they are habituate to depend on project, free cost of seed, Fertilizer & fencing.
- Properly treatment of severe malnourished children.
- Lack of referral mechanism system.
- Lack of inner force among farmers and beneficiaries
- Dependable mentality of beneficiaries by other organization
- The total time of capacity building process was short noticed and informed. So organize campaign event and participating in workshop was very challenging to organizer.
- Sometimes fund was collected at end of time line, so the process takes more time. The procedure of fund management took time more.
- Political instability may play great role during implementing activities
- Stop potential staff drop out

Development Partners of DEW

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

- Traidcraft Exchange -TX
- UKAid
- European Union
- Oxfam-GB
- DANIDA
- Swallows India Bangladesh-Sweden
- People Tree, Japan
- The Asia Foundation
- World Fair Trade Organization
- World Fair Trade Organization-Asia
- Ecota Fair Trade Forum
- Ministry of Women Affairs
- Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Jote (We Can)

The Executive Committee of Development Wheel (2012-14):

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Sex	Profession
01	Professor Dr. H.K.S. Arefeen	Chairperson	Male	Teaching, Professor of Anthropology University of Dhaka
02	Professor Dr. Ainoon Nahar	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, Managing Director Ken Business Corporation
05	Professor Dr. Syed Shariful Islam	Member	Male	Teaching, Professor of Public health, Bangabandhu Shekh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU)
06	Mr. Abdullah Al Ziad	Member	Male	Private Sector Assistant General Manager Asia Insurance Ltd.
07	Ms. Selima Akhter	Member	Female	Consultant Garment Sector Specialist

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