

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Development Wheel (DEW)

2017-18

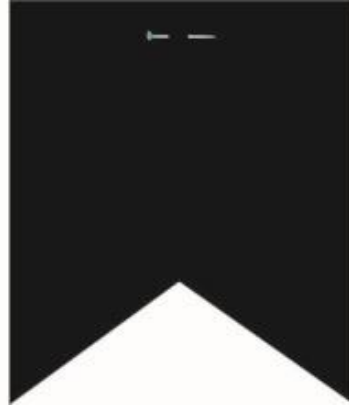


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## Abbreviation

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



## We Mourn



**We are deeply mourn for untimely and sudden death of our Board Chair Professor  
HKS Arefeen Ph.D, Professor  
Department of Anthropology  
Dhaka University on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

*Message*

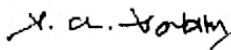
*We are deeply mourn because of sudden and untimely death of our Executive Committee Chairperson Professor Dr. HKS Arefeen, he was one of the eminent anthropologist in south Asia and Professor of Anthropology, University of Dhaka. He was one of the pioneer members of our organization, my teacher, mentor and awesome gentleman which hard to find. It is great loss for our organization. DEW will always remember his contribution to the organization. Our deepest condolence to his family members and friends. Rest in Peace my teacher and Philosopher.*

It is hard to believe that it has been nineteen 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.

Based on very successful implementation of different livelihoods projects like Sustainable Livelihoods for Poor Producers in Bangladesh-SLIPP, Alleviating Poverty in North East Bangladesh-APONE, Alternative Livelihood Options-ALO, Agriculture Rights Programme-ARP, Digital Literacy for Small Farmers, Women Farmers Campaign, Sustainable Supply Chain of Kenaf in Bangladesh, My Rights Campaign for Quality Education, Promotion of Art and Crafts through Fair trade etc. in the north east part of Bangladesh specially in the greater Mymensingh districts.

In 2017-18, DEW struggling to mobilize resource for the organization because DEW is not at all a micro finance based institution-MFI. So sustainability of the organization is really under threat and need to generate and mobilize resource for the organization to carry forward its vision and mission. Donors are shifting their priority because Bangladesh is becoming a middle income country. So DEW is also reviewing and changing its programme priority and focus to more interprunership development and business promotion to ensure sustainable livelihoods for poor and disadvantaged producers in Bangladesh including climate change and women empowerment issues. DEW is also 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 violeted everyday.

We aregrateful 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 hardworking staffteam members for successful implementation of our development activities in the field. I would also like to thanksto our donors, who have been the main funding source of DEW since its inception because DEW is a non MFI organization. At this occasion, I am pleased to thanks to GIZ-BMW, Swallows India Bangladesh, Ministry of ICT, CSRL, GROW, World Fair Trade Organization-WFTO, WFTO-Asia, Ecota Fair Trade Forum, People Tree-Japan,SISAM Inc. Japan, GoB institutions with gratitude.Another significant achievement of the organization to achieve UNCCD, Belt and Road International Forum on Public Cooperation for Ecological Remediation for accreditation in this year. 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

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### 1. Introduction

Development Wheel (DEW) is a non-profit development organization, providing different forms of support to the poor and disadvantage people specially women and children, ethnic minority, 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.

#### **1.1 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 worlds 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 160m people live in extreme poverty. In the last decade, the country has recorded GDP growth rates above 7 percent due to development of agriculture, remittance 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 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 Certified Guaranteed 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, Germany, Korea etc. for their products. DEW also provides skill development training support to other fair trade organizations both nationally and internationally.

## **1.2 Development Programme of DEW**

- Human Rights and Good Governance
- Sustainable livelihoods through small scale agriculture
- Agricultural Rights
- Digital Literacy for Small Farmers
- Environment and Climate Change
- Promotion of Arts and Crafts through Fair trade
- Leave No One Behind SDG 2030
- Gender equality and women empowerment
- Social Action Research
- Development Internship Programme

### **1.2.1 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:

### **1.2.2 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 END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN” in Mymensingh division 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.

### 1.3 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.



DEW is observing together International Women's Day at Mymensingh with GoB and other CSO's

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's 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.

### 1.4 Sustainable Livelihoods through promoting Small Scale Agriculture

#### 1.4.1 Farmers Rights Program-FRP:

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)

#### **1.4.2 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, observation of world environment day with its stockholders etc.

#### **1.4.3 Environmental and Climate Change 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.

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To combat the adverse impact of environment and climate change on the Char dwellers, DEW is actively working to promote adaptation technologies. DEW supports vulnerable groups by providing them with sustainable livelihood technology and runs awareness programs through conducting research, training, IEC materials, rally, etc. DEW also organizes rural livelihood and agricultural biodiversity fair, demonstration, memorandum, promoting sustainable agriculture practices. The project is supported by Oxfam International under its climate change and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Programme (CSRL). To raise awareness of the wealth and opportunities of the chars and char dwellers in Bangladesh, DEW organized a Livelihood Fair (Jibika Mela) in a char island of Jamuna river in Jamalpur district to promote their products and introduce char dwellers to mainland traders.

#### **1.4.4 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. I this year DEW Crafts has been started a sales space at Jatra, Banani, Dhaka to promote its craft products for local and international consumers.

## 2. Major Activities performed during this year:

### 2.1 Sustainable Livelihoods Program: Farmers Rights Programme

#### **DEW Organized different capacity building training, workshop, meeting, exposure visit ect., under its Farmers Rights Programme-FRP**

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.



Seed bank: preserving their own seeds in a traditional way and demonstration plot

DEW has been successfully completed its 1<sup>st</sup> phase from 2013 to December 2016. Successful implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase DEW has been approved phase II from January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 by the donor Swallows India Bangladesh. Title of the project has been changed from Agriculture Rights Project to Farmers Rights Project-FRP. The project achieved outcomes;

Outcome 1: 50 participants participated in yearly union budget planning meeting in five unions of Sadar and Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh district, 03 farmers know about Govt. annual budget allocation in agriculture.

Outcome 2: 115 farmers know about government's 7th five years plan and implementing in the agriculture program like compost preparation, climate change adaptation option demonstration and agriculture marketing. 350 farmers received climate resilient sustainable agriculture (Compost, Farm Yard Manure, Mulching, Trichoderma compost, Intercropping, IPM practices, Organic pesticides neem and mahogany, self polination, 525 farmers received training on organic farming from government and private sectors, 315 farmers received subsidies like fertilizers, IPM training, Vaccination and ICT services from Union Parishad and DEW also provided training on "Digital Literacy for Small Farmers" to 60 FRP project participants (30 female+30 male) with the support of Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and ICT. Now they are getting access to information using ICT and also getting access to use DAE and A2I developed apps on agriculture to solve their problems in their field and crops. DEW also distributed 4 tabs to the group members to use, share, disseminate new knowledge and skills to other farmer group members. It is really encouraging that female and young farmer group members are highly interested and quickly learned this ICT knowledge.

Outcome 3: 200 women farmers participated in FOs' decision making process like took decision for children's education, 125 women farmers sold their agri product as per their own decisions , 225 women participated inside community and out side community ( Access to health centre, school, college, market, fair, agriculture office and bank ) and 05 FOs prevented six child marriage in five unions of two upazila under the project.

Outcome 4: Our FOs organized a rally and discussion meeting on quality seed rights at Dhohakha union of Gouripur upazila under Mymensingh district.

Outcome 5: DEW's staff members gathered knowledge on Govt. 7th five years plan, Vision, Mission, Goal and result that contributed to the Swallows Country program as well as our organization and FO's.

## **2.2 Organized annual farmer’s conference & agricultural fair under Agricultural Rights Programme-ARP:**

FRP farmer organizations has organized a day long fair entitled as “Agro Fair-2017” on 31st December 2017 at the premise of Chorghoramara High School premise under Gouripur Upazilla of Mymensingh District. The fair was 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 Ikbal 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.

## **2.3 Skill Development Training**

**Skills Development Training:** In addition DEW arranged a 15 days training long on Block printing , boutique printing and Nakhsi Katha at Char Anandipur Purbapara under Sadar Upazila of Mymensingh where 80 female person from different groups of DEW were received training. The training was conducted by the Youth Development Department of the government.

## **2.4 Exchange and exposure visit:**

**DEW** organizes exposure and exchange visits for staff members, group members and civil society at home and abroad with the aim to improve their capacity. This year 20 beneficiaries visited at Caritas , Jhinaigati upazila under Sherpur district in the country and 02 people participated in the abroad (Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India) for regional partners meeting of Swallows India Bangladesh.

## **2.5 Day observation:**

In 2018, DEW observed different national and International days in collaboration with government, FOs, and NGOs. Organization observed International women’s day, World Environmental day, World Fair Trade Day, UNCCD day, right to information day and Begum Rokeya day. People from all spheres of the society actively participated in India events. This year, a total of 05 national and international days observed (International Women Day- 8<sup>th</sup> March, International Environmental Day- 5<sup>th</sup> June, and Rural Women Day- 15<sup>th</sup> October, 15 June World Fair trade day and 17<sup>th</sup> June UNCCD day).



## **2.6 Involved of women in different committees:**

**Our** organizations emphasizes to involve women in different committees and forums like school management committees (Char Sirta high school and Anandipur Govt. Primary school), disaster management committee, youth club (Char Anandipur Youth club), cooperatives ( Anandipur, Sadar, Mymensingh), agro producers association, members of union parishad like Agriculture, disaster management, food security for their empowerment and to ensure their active participation in advocacy and lobbying. This year, about 150 women involved themselves as members with these types of communities and forums

Internal steering: DEW tries to follow participatory decision making process in the organization where Executive body of DEW and project staffs sat together and took decision on the matter. That's why we have finished the program with in time frame.

Internal control: DEW faced lack of financial control for absence of full time Accounts Manager position for almost three months with irregular attendance and revised ToR .Consequently DEW experienced a gap in management. So, proper financial management was not performed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the year 2018. As a result, NGOAB approval, fund request and fund placement is delayed .There was no correct control over exchange loss in the mentioned period. Currently, DEW has overcome the situation and financial management is improving.

## **2.7 Capacity development:**

DEW has a women forum for looking after the gender related issues and creating a gender friendly atmosphere: This forum organized meetings in regular basis in every three months, four times a year. In these meetings, discussion held on advantage and disadvantage of women employees, congenial working atmosphere, gender disparity, gender violence and policy preparation etc. All women employees of the organization can attend and express their opinion and feelings freely in these meetings

## **2.8 Description of the elaboration of (or changes to) policies and/or specific activities regarding gender, environment, conflict and shrinking space that may have had an impact on project implementation**

Women participation as a chairperson in group meeting, social events, market linkage, reduced early marriage, access to resources and participation decision making. Congenial atmosphere prevailed in group meeting and workplace. Reduced conflict participatory decision making Consumption of safe food contributing to food security has been increased using organic pesticides instead of chemical pesticides. Awareness has increased on chemical pesticides and its impact on health had been developed in their mind and practicing sustainable agriculture as well. Some places may have shrinking space but it is not existed in most of the groups

## Digital Literacy for Small Farmers:

Agriculture is the prime mover of the Bangladesh economy, providing largest employment to just under half the workforce and contributing around 20% towards national GDP. A significant proportion of those involved in agriculture are Small Farmers - who are the backbone of our agricultural economy. As Bangladesh Agriculture substantially shifted towards commercial Agribusiness, the importance of Digitally Literacy of Farmers is of utmost importance. Now the small farmers are more actively incorporated in product value chains. There are sporadic “supply-driven” attempts to provide ICT-enabled agricultural information support and other e-services by Govt., NGOs, private sectors etc. Need of the time is a structured initiative for Digital Inclusion of Farmers community and without which the goal of Vision 2021 for a Digital Bangladesh will be far from its targets.

“Digital Bangladesh” lacks viable examples of largely benefitting small farmers rather represents a different form of “Digital Divide” in terms of underutilized power of ICT for Agricultural Applications despite the success of Govt. to establish last mile connectivity for ICT and the advent of 3G Technology with ever decreasing price of ICT Tools, Equipments.

Bangladesh is positively experiencing a rapid digital transformation with wider use of computer, internet, mobile and various digital technologies. The ever increasing usage rate clearly supports the facts of its utility and value to mass people. With the favorable Government Policies encouraging e-Business, e-Payments, ever growing mobile phone customers base (more than 12 Crore), internet users (6.39 Crore), popularity of social networks and its country-wide coverage with new 3G Technology and remarkable successes in establishing more than four thousands Union Information Service Centers (UISCs), really paving the way to remove the barriers of Digital Divide to a large extent. Govt. has prioritized to bring the whole country under Digital Network and build capacity of majority population on Digital Technology and its applications in day-to-day activities.

### **DIGITAL BANGLADESH AND VISION 2021**

The country has made major strides in achieving its vision of Digital Bangladesh. The data of the Access to Information (A2I) Programme shows that more than 4,000 digital centres provide 60 kinds of public and private services, including computer trainings, land registrations, public exam results, government form downloads, birth and death registrations, online university admissions, employment information, and mobile banking. The centers have already served people 12 crore times with services like registration of seven crore births, and more than 20 lakh overseas job-seekers have had

services from the digital centers. Around 10,000 young ICT entrepreneurs have become self-reliant in the 4,547 union digital centers and the entrepreneurs earned Tk 140 crore. By 2016 all union digital centers would be connected via fibre optic cable with one mbps Internet connection. Besides, there was a plan to set up call centers at the village level. The government is now producing 500 mobile phone apps to deliver government services instantly to people and the work to introduce e-office was about to be completed. Moreover around one lakh WiFi zones would be set up across the country with the help of China.

### **Gap Analysis**

Availability of agricultural information, knowledge and services are plenty. Never the less, digital divide is still affecting a considerable portion of agricultural communities particularly small farmers who are digitally marginalized. Therefore, it is important to examine the existing applications. This gap analysis will pave the way for designing and developing new farm oriented tools based on the recent advances of ICT so that this knowledge and services will be easily accessed and fully exploited by small farmers for their benefits.

Globally small farmers who are supported by appropriately designed ICT-enabled services for their farming activities by making good use of available information, knowledge, existing information systems and tools have increased their productivity to great extent. In Bangladesh national extension system with its vast network coupled with private sector players are continuously providing similar services. Small Farmers play an important role in food production and distribution, having major participation in important farming activities such as budgeting, planting, harvesting, up to marketing of the produces. Another part of our agriculture is the less visible and hardly recognized is the role of Women. Despite women's significant role in Agriculture, they remain "invisible" in a largely perceived male-dominated job. Though rural women are considered to be active actors in farming, their real contributions to local food production and to the rural economy remain highly undervalued. Women collectively play crucial roles in fighting hunger not only within households, but on a larger scale, by ensuring the nutrition and food security of the nation.

But what is lacking is a systematic approach for a proper Digital Inclusion of Small Farmers through structured Capacity Building Program for Small Farmers so that they become Digital Literate in day-to-day agricultural applications and also is capacitated in using e-services, e-commerce applications, existing portals etc. Unfortunately, small farmers in Bangladesh represents a very low percentage and left technologically behind ignoring ICT and could not efficiently increase their income despite Govt. effort for developing infrastructure for last mile connectivity and implementation of Digital Vision 2021.

## **The strategy**

ICT is significantly contributing to enhance the efficiency of agricultural value chains and facilitating effective integration of small farmers with product value chains resulting in improved market access for small-scale producers and other actors in the chain. With the advent of Digital Technology in Bangladesh, Small Farmers need to be capacitated for better managing their farming enterprises resulting in increased productivity and profitability. Besides they need to learn the use and applications of e-Services of the Govt. and Private Sector and harness the power of Digital Technology for Agribusiness.

This proposed pilot project for Digital Literacy for Small Farmers is conceived to be more than being a capacity building activity and is meant to increasing the productive participation of women in local agriculture and food production underscoring women's primary contributions and sacrifices to the growth of the agriculture sector. Beside attempt will be made to include representative from the local ethnic community. Certainly education, training and e-services play a very important role for ICT adoption by farmers. The program broadly is expected to develop skills on Small Farm Management capabilities and enhance their overall farm management potential. The basic real life application digital literacy training will focus on teaching participants with basic computer concepts and skills so that they can be more productive both at home and in the field on their day to day activities on developing farming skills.

## **Program Concept and Design**

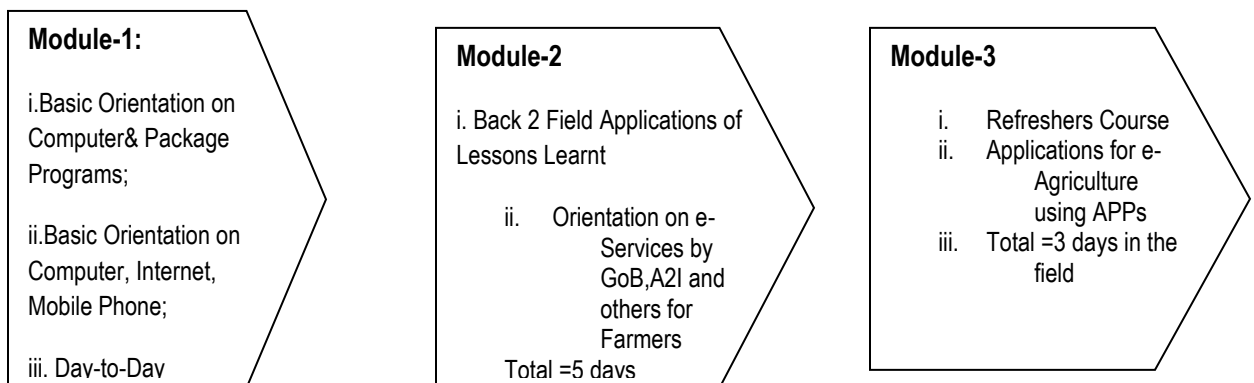
Different type of e-Agri Services are being introduced by the Govt. A2I and the Private Sector but there is a dearth of truly equipping Small Farmers on use and apply ICT Tools and Applications. Along with hands-on Training on Computer and the emergence and convergence of Computer, Internet, Mobile, Tabs etc. have opened vast opportunities for envisaged "Digital Farmers". Like Class-room based Training is needed for the Foundation Training but of Knowledge & Skills development may continue with Laptops in the Fields, Web-enabled Learning, Mobile-based Lessons & Apps (Applications for Specific Agricultural Management Tools) will help in Continuous Learning and larger outreach.



In-house training on Basic Computer Literacy for small farmers

### Digital Literacy Training Modules

The Modules are planned with a view to equip Farmers systematically with Skills, Knowledge and Applications of ICT. The Modules are outlined below. It is proposed that the Digital Literacy Program will combine use of Class-Room Training on Computer with Field-level Applications Classes using Laptops with Instructors at the Farm Level providing on-the-field Hands-on Training and Demonstrations with Real-life Cases of Farmers. This on-the-field extension of Class Room will create ripple-effect for others who will see how ICT in Bangladesh can assist the Farming Community in different aspects. It will facilitate wider outreach of e-Agri and other e-Services extended by Govt. of Bangladesh under its Digital Vision 2021. The Training Modules are outlined below:



The above mentioned three (3) modules are planned for farmers will certainly facilitate “Digital Inclusion” and help farmers attain the desired level of digital literacy addressing

the existing barriers and challenges. These appropriately designed training Modules are expected to improved capability of farmers and contribute in enhanced income & profitability.

Small Farmers of Bangladesh (40% women) under this proposed Digital Literacy of Farmers Project envisages to equip themselves with Simple-to-Learn Computer Skills and Easy-to-Apply proven ICT Tools and Applications (APPs) for:

- i. Yield-enhancement, Cost-efficient Farm Management, Knowledge on Post-Harvest Operations (including Processing, Preservation, Packaging & Marketing), Utilize Weather Data for managing Drought, Flood & Climate Change, profit calculation, Market info.
- ii. Profiling of Farmers for availing bank Credit, Insurance and Govt. incentives, subsidies and e-Services;
- iii. E-Registration for Contract farming, Value Chain Partnership etc.

### The Target Groups

DEW has been managing several Development Projects in the target region covering selected areas of Mymensingh Division, Tangail and has successfully developed Agricultural & Horticultural Small Farmers' Group (Including 40% women and 10% ethnic minority) region-wise as follows:

District	Upazila	No. of Small Farmers	Composition
Mymensingh	Sadar	120	(40% women
<b>TOTAL</b>		120	48



Basic training on computer literacy is going on in the field

DEW has build technical capacity of above mentioned Small Farmers, facilitated access to quality Farm Inputs (Seeds, IPM Materials, Biofertilisers etc) through linkage with Private Input Suppliers, provided technological support and organised Buyers-Sellers Meet. The resultant impact is that the target region has emerged as a new Agri/ Horticulture Production Clusters in Mymensingh with small farmers from the neighbouring regions are also participating in the same. Further the new 4-lane highway connecting Mymensingh with Dhaka has worked as a catalyst to help emerge the region as a new hub for Agricultural/ Horticultural products. Improved accessibility has facilitated influx of large number of Buyers from Dhaka and different parts of Bangladesh.



Field based training on Digital Literacy for Small Farmers

#### Number of Target Beneficiaries

The proposed Digital Literacy for Small Farmers Pilot Project intends to build capacity of 4 groups consists of 30 farmers in each group who are selected Small Farmers with inclusion of 40% Women in Mymensingh sadar upazila.

#### Objectives:

##### i. Development objective:

The intended project seeks to transform Small Farmer (Including 40% women) through Digital Literacy Training for harnessing potential of ICT in Agricultural development of Bangladesh. The initiative will substantially contribute in integrating Small Farmers with a Digitally-empowered Knowledge Economy.

##### ii. Immediate objective

- To focus on leveraging ICT for benefit of Small Famers through real-life

- applications for improving farm productivity and enhancing profitability;
- To empower Small Farmers to avail e-services extended by Govt. and others agencies and create a significant positive impact to our agrarian economy as a whole.

### **Major outcome of the project**

- Developed Digital Literacy and training module for Small Farmers.
- Electronic services from GoB, A2I others agri based apps for and farmers.
- Organized Digital Literacy Training for Small Farmers (In house and field based)

## **2.8 Sustainable Supply chain of Kenaf in Bangladesh**

DEW, has substantial experience delivering projects that promote sustainable livelihoods for small and marginal producers in the sector of agriculture and handicrafts, gender equality and empower women and girls in greater Mymensingh districts – and a detailed understanding of local context, ethnic diversity issues, and a wide active network with local community and institutions through existing projects. DEW is also leading DFID’s Leave No One behind (LNB) network of INGOS and donors in Mymensingh Division. DEW has a long successful track record as a national implementing partner for international funded sustainable livelihoods projects organizing small and marginal producers, forming groups (including 40% female and 10% ethnic minority), associations, delivering training in remote areas, organizing women’s self help groups, building local partnerships, increasing use of local services, and building/promoting women’s leadership.

DEW is implementing several livelihood projects in those particular areas with the partnership of local and international organizations. DEW has implemented “Sustainable Supply chain of KENAF” project as a national partner of GIZ International service from October 2015 to March 15, 2017 in 3 sub districts under Tangail district. Rainforest Alliance is also one of the partners of this coalition project to provide technical support to train our project staff and farmer groups on Sustainable Agriculture Network-SAN standards. Main objective of the project is to ensure sustainable livelihoods through ensuring sustainable supply chain for the poor and marginal kenaf producers in Tangail district.

Main goal of the project is to increase the quality kenaf production by the poor and marginal farmers living in the Tangail district through enhancing the farmer’s technical knowledge related to kenaf production, ensure access to quality seeds, maintaining SAN standards, achieving SAN certification, capacity building and sustainable market access of their product kenaf. The project was funded by GIZ.



## 2.9 Relevance:

Farmers in Tangail are very poor and isolated and consequently have very few livelihood options. Agriculture, which is the main source of income, is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Most households have small pieces of agricultural land, while others have small ponds and livestock. However they are unable to use these resources effectively because they face a number of problems, which this project has been addressing. In order to achieve the aim of the project several interventions have been taken simultaneously: (i) Creating and building the collective power of small and marginal farmers: 960 small and marginal farmers have been organized into 24 groups. This has triggered the interest of public and private service providers to network with small farmers through these groups for sustainable supply chain of Kenaf which they are producing in their field. The project facilitated effective best management practices, SAN standards and group operation training for 24 group leaders and rolled it out to the 24 groups; (ii) Increasing recognition of farmers needs amongst government and private sector stakeholders: The project raised awareness amongst public and private sector bodies and local authorities of the problems facing small and marginal farmers through different workshop, meeting and focus group discussions (iii) Improving farmers' production practices and market access: Linkages have been built between producer to exporter and farmer groups through meeting, practical training session and mentoring support.(iv) Reducing farmers' vulnerability to producing quality Kenaf production. *Farmer groups are also being directly linked with exporter National Fiber Company-NFC and NFC send them to DRAXLMAIER, Germany to make it board which is buying by the BMW to use them in to their I3 model environment friendly cars dash board, side board and interior decoration.*

Activities we have completed through this project showing below:

**Total Activities**

**Achievement**

Farmers selection and group formation total number of group 8x3=24

Tangail sadar upazila=08

Ghatail upazila =08

Gopalpurupazila =08

Total farmers in the project=960

Tangail sadar upazila=320

Ghatail upazila =320

Gopalpur upazila =320

**Training**

Total number of training=48

Tangail sadar upazila=16

Ghatail upazila =16

Gopalpur upazila =16

**Participated in Training**

Total number of farmers participated in training=1765

1756 farmers participated in the training sessions.

**Farmers courtyard meeting**

Total number of courtyard meeting=179

Tangail sadar upazila=50

Ghatail upazila =63

Gopalpur upazila =66

**Participated in courtyard meeting**

Total number of farmers participated in courtyard meeting =5824

5824 number of farmers participated in the courtyard meeting

Trial plot (seed production)

Total number of trial plot=02

Kenaf seed production Piloting demonstration plot in Gopalpur upazila =02

Demonstration plot

Total number of Demonstration plot =11

Ghatail upazila =6

Gopalpur upazila =5

Training for Trainers ToT tow times

Received ToT 24+24=48 farmers

- **Project areas:** The project has been selected 3 upazila sunder Tangail districts. The upazilas are Tangail sadar, Gopalpur and Mirzapur. We have set up 3 upazila based field office for our field staffs but unfortunately there was no sitting arrangement for field offices and staffs. In May 2016 GIZ approved allocation for field office staffs sitting arrangement like chair, table and book self and accordingly we have provided office furniture's for our staffs.
- **Farmers Training and ToT:** Farmers received technical training on kenaf production. Scattering seeds in landfor kenaf been finished in March and April 2016.Now,there are kenaf plants are growing in the fields. There are meeting for farmer in every month been organized in Ghatail, Goplapur and Tangail sadar. There are training, meeting and field visitheld regularly on Best Management Practices of Kenaf production and SAN standards. The ToT-I and II, meeting and field visit were organized by GIZ, DEW. Representatives from GIZ head office; Rain Forest Alliance, BMW and DRAXLMAIER were present in the ToT-II and field training and visit from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 at Tangail and Ghatail. Second phase of two days long ToT has been held in BURO Tangail training center at Tangail, 24 farmers group leader, group administrators and representatives from GIZ HQ, Bangladesh country office, DRAXLMAIER, Rain forest Alliance, BMW and DEW ED was present in the event. The training and field visit was participatory and interactive and BMW and DRAXLMAIER representative distributed the training completion certificate to the participants.



DRAXLMAIER and BMW representatives in the ToT for farmer group leaders

- There were hands on trainings from Rain Forest Alliance on gap analysis for farmers group in Tangail sadar on 19<sup>th</sup> of May and Ghatail on 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 and field visit afterwards on the same days. For an example, the farmers should be aware of the significance of forest, ponds, trees, wild animals and natural elements in their community for conservation of biodiversity in their community following SAN standards. The farmers were taught for practicing SAN principles during gap analysis by representative from Rain Forest Alliance and Executive

Director of Development Wheel (DEW) at Tangail sadar and all the delegates at Ghatail.

- 11 pilot farmers' are been selected for production of kenaf demonstration with 1 Bigha (14,400 sq feet) land each for Best Management Practices of Kenaf Production and SAN Standards in Gopalpur and Ghatail. There are land measurement been completed 7 farmers from 11 farmers for production of kenaf demonstration in May 2016.
- The training sessions ware organized and facilitated by GIZ, Rain Forest Alliance, BMW, DRAXLMAIR and Development Wheel (DEW). The training sessions were interactive and well managed to make it effective.
- The delegation visited Deputy Director of DAE and had a nice sharing meeting with them. Also have a nice meeting with Kenaf traders and wholesalers at Tangail those who are supplying Kenaf to NSE.
- **Group level training:** Filed administrators trained farmer's regarding next process of kenaf after planting been finished because harvesting begin approximately four months after planting. The plants are harvested after there are flowers on kenaf. The stalks bundles need to be in water for 20 days (Approx). Then Kenaf fibre would be collected from stem. The farmers received training on harvesting of kenaf production. Farmers had been busy in the beginning of May for harvesting BRRRI 28 and 29. There are 8 groups in each district with 40 numbers of farmers in each group.
- Farmers are trained on ditch making for disposable and non disposable waste management according to SAN principles. According to the SAN standards of Rainforest Alliance farmers are in practice to create impact on the environment for conserve the biodiversity and create an impact against deforestation. Because biodiversity has direct impact on forest ecosystem. Simply plating trees cannot create a direct impact on forest eco system. Forest ecosystem consists of all kinds of plant species that Nature provides. Most of the time, forest ecosystems are controlling the climate and help reduce the global warming; water vapor rises in the air from forest; forms clouds and rains. In addition, the trees from forests emit oxygen and pollutant nitrogen dioxide is absorbed by enzyme rich soil of a forest and releases harmless nitrogen. Forest also reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in environment.
- The Rain Forest Alliance was trying to ensure a good quality environment with applying SAN standerds and techniques of using land, water and forest. As a result, there would be a well organized environment which will work against deforestation.
- At the same time, the farmers are taught new and most appropriate techniques for growing kenaf in these sub districts for practicing sustainable agriculture. Field

administrators helped them understand the significance of the biodiversity of animals, birds, natural elements in the environment and community.

- **Ongoing mentoring:** Ongoing mentoring was held on in the field from DEW and GIZ. Mr. Tazul Islam and Mr. Lutful Kabir from GIZ and Shah Abdus Salam from DEW were present at the training session and workshop at Goplapur and Tangail sadar.
- Kenaf farmers are struggled to find good quality seed with right price in this year because of scarcity of seed in the market. Price of the seed also hiked 200-300% in this year which is a big challenge for the Kenaf farmers. So that all the farmer group members are demanding for seed to us with good quality and fair price.

### **What are the SAN Standards:**

1. **Improved Kenaf Productivity and Quality:** Kenaf productivity and quality of product has been increased after getting training on SAN standards and best management practices. In the view of the farmers and buyers that this is the first time they produced this kind of quality Kenaf in their field after practicing SAN standards.
2. **Waterways Protection:** Farmers are very much aware to protect their waterways from the pollution to preserve biodiversity in their areas.
3. **Wildlife Protection:** Farmers are protecting wild life in their village. They are not killing fox and other animal, birds in their area after getting training on SAN standards.
4. **Soil Health Protection:** Farmers are now concern about their soil health condition. They are not using any chemical fertilizers in their land without any recommended by the agriculture extension dept. and now they are using their compost fertilizer in their land.
5. **Waste Management:** Farmers are preserving their solid and liquid waste in their homestead to produce compost fertilizer for their land. Every farmer's house has 2 preservation detach at their homestead.
6. **Hired Labor and Child Labor Protection:** Farmers are not using any child labor and sending their children's to school regularly. Hair labors are getting fair payment, extra care and dignity as a day labor now in the areas because they are now aware about the issue through training.

7. **Farmer and Worker Safety:** Farmers are now aware on worker safety including them because they are also working in the Kenaf field. Unfortunately till there are some problems we have seen in our field visit. There are some sharp pins like things in the body of the Kenaf tree and the tree is tall like 7-10 fit long. When farmers harvest the Kenaf they got injury in their skin and one king of insect also injuring farmers leg, shoulder, hand and back of the body which need to attention by the project to insure safety of the farmers in the next season.
8. **Community Involvement:** Farmers community is more aware and involved now to maintain SAN standards with their collective efforts.
9. **Farm Planning and Record Keeping:** All the farmer groups has their own social mapping done by them, keeping production related records and other records like meeting group minutes, training materials and also booklet provided by our staffs. Some pictures from the field:

### **Key Achievements:**

The project organized 960 small-scale farmers into 24 groups in 3 selected sub-districts under Tangail district and facilitating them to utilize their collective effort to produce quality kenaf production, protecting and promoting biodiversity in their farming areas and partially attain their rights and services from other stakeholders (public and private service providers, local authorities and other value-chain actors).

### **Sustainability:**

The project has been promoting group approach and organized 960 farmers into 24 groups. The approach is cost-effective and sustainable as it enables service providers to reach large numbers of farmers, and empowers farmers to maximise production capacity and quality, negotiate lower input costs, access services and lobby for getting premium price of their producers. This approach has been successfully implemented in several DEW livelihood projects.

Training the Trainer approach is very effective and has a multiplier effect to the transfer of knowledge and skills to large numbers effectively and leaves behind a

skilled resource that can help continue replication. The project has promoted this approach in capacity building activities for farmers groups.

The project has engaged farmer groups and group leaders and built their confidence and capacity to maintain SAN and best practices continue working effectively with farmer groups and market chain actors. This will help ensure that outcomes and outputs made by the project continue and multiply after the project comes to an end. But it is really unexpected for all the actors related with this project regarding sudden phase-out of the project. Usually piloting for any development project creates opportunity for any action in the field based on outcome of the pilot project. DEW organized phase out workshop for farmer groups in Gopalpur, Ghatail and Tangail sadar because of sudden project phase out decision taken by the back donor BMW. It was really unfortunate and frustrating for an implementing organization who is working very closely with the farmer groups in the field. Farmer groups only got best management practice and SAN standards training through this project. Now they are practicing in their field to achieve SAN certification which was ultimate goal of the pilot project but unfortunately before getting the SAN certification the project has been closed without having any exit plan. So sustainability of this project will be under threat.

### **Future prospects:**

There is huge prospects and potential to carry forward this project with expansion opportunity because Kenaf/Jute (Golden Fiber) is one of the main natural fiber in the globe. So we need to find opportunity to promote this project to existing 960 trained farmers to get SAN certification and include more farmers to train them on SAN and best management practice to promote and protect bio diversity in their areas and cultivation practices for our future generation and sustainable livelihoods for small and marginal farmers.

We would welcome any donor/partners to come forward to finish this unfinished project and expand this concept to many more farmers in our country.



## Case Studies:

### Case-01 MD. Iqbal Hossain is very glad to get good price from Kenaf production after getting DEW's training

Case: MD. Iqbal Hossain (61)

MD. Iqbal Hossain lives in Kakoya village of Tangail Sadar Upazila. He is the son of late



Kadam Ali Sarkar and late Saleha Begum. He is the 7th son among 10 brothers and sister. Before coming DEW in his village he did not care about kenaf production because buyers said, kenaf is low quality jute with thick fiber and gave low price. But after coming DEW in his village he got training and realized that Kenaf can be qualityful Jute and create demand if we produce it maintaining some easy processes. From training of DEW he learnt amount of seed, fertilizer, water,

time of giving fertilizer and growing duration and cutting time of kenaf. Also could know the Jute rotten process. Before his jute was not good color and good quality. Because he put the jute in water and gave soil and Water Hyacinth and this process made the jute dark, unattractive and bad in quality. And he got low cost in the market. Now after putting the jute into the water he cover it with polythene then give soil and Water Hyacinth on it. Now his jute is nice in color and attractive. On the other hand if the water is becoming black due to Jute rotten process and make impact in the jute color then he washes the jute in the Tamarind water and clean the jute again in the clean water. Then the Jute become good in color and attractive and he can get good price. Before coming DEW in his village he got TK. 1400/Man (40 kg) but now he get 2200 or 2300/Man (40 Kg). Previously his jute was bad in color so he did not get good price. Also before he used too much seed and growth of kenaf plant was very bad due to short space for grown up and he cut the jute lately for more growth. So Jute became harder and bad quality and he got less price. Besides he could learn many things from DEW's training such as now he knows how to make compost from domestic waste and save money and clean the environment. Now he uses mask and gloves when he gives chemical fertilizer. Before he did not use mask and gloves and suffered from breathing difficulties and itching. He also knows he should not kill wild animal and need to save them for the environment. Above all he is very glad to have good price from Kenaf production.

## Case -2

### Now I know how Kenaf can be profitable and my responsibility for the environment

Case: Abdus Sabur Talukdar (58)



Abdus Sabur Talukdar lives in Birsingha village of Ghatail upazila under Tangail district. He is the son of late Alhaz Mojibur Rahman and late Saleha Begam. He is the sixth child of 9 sisters and 5 brothers. He thinks kenaf project of DEW is blessings for farmers in his village because they never thought Kenaf could be a profitable products. They used to produce it in a small spaces without expectation. But after coming DEW in his village he and other farmers were came to know, Kenaf can be profitable crop very easily. Now he knows the cultivation process of Kenaf. Before he did not know the cutting time, amount of

seed, fertilizer, gap between seeds/plants, proper height of kenaf for cutting, system of making compost from domestic waste and save money, jute rotten process with attractive colour. Now he knows everything and can able to get bumper harvest from Kenaf cultivation and good profit. Now he produce kenaf in 1 bgha land and his kenaf creates demand to buyer because he learnt all process from DEW training to make jute attractive and be profitable using very easy method. He cultivates Kenaf in a environment friendly way. He uses natural method to kill bad insect like: he sprays neem water to kill the insects also he uses kerosene spraed rope around the Kenaf cultivated land so bad insectes named "dew" die when they try to enter the land. He is happy to know and use this easy process because he loves to work for good environment and good health. He works to remove river erosion so grows tree as much as he can, he does not kill wild animal, works for the cleanliness so makes hole in the earth for domestic waste and makes compost from this domestic waste, also he uses gloves when he work in field and it protects him from sore, before coming DEW he suffered sore severly in his hands and did not use gloves. Though he loved enviroment but did not know how he can safe it by small work. But after getting training from DEW he came to know his responsibility for the environment. He said, this project help me to learn proper system of kenaf cultivation and my responsibilities for the environment. If we can get good seeds timely then no one stop us good profit from Kenaf.

### Case-3

#### **MD. Fazlul Haque increased Kenaf cultivation because now he knows it is profitable**

Case: MD. Fazlul Haque (55)



MD. Fazlul Haque lives in Barotiya village of Gopalpur upazila under Tangail district. He is the son of late MD. Abdul Hamid Sarkar and late Hamida Khatun. He is the second child among 2 brothers and 3 sisters. He has been cultivating kenaf for 10 years but he never been benefited from canaf cultivation before comming DEW in his village. Because he did not know how to cultivate kenaf, the time of cutting, the amount of seed, fertilizar according to land size. So he

did not get good crop from kenaf cultivation. This time he thought Kenaf is not a profitable crop so one should not be much interested to produce it. So he used to cultivate Kenaf in a very small land near his house and used much fertilizer and seeds. After comming DEW in his village he got training on Kenaf cultivation and after that he got very good profit from kenaf. In his word now *I cultivate Kenaf in 1 Bigha land it gives me 2 times profit than rice. Before i did not know the process of giving fertilizer. amount of seed, water, even i did not know that kenaf is not grow well where water is logged and did not know how to remove logged water. Now I know the process of cultivation and kenaf have become my dream crop because it gives me great hope to get good profit. On the other hand kenaf cultivation needs small amount of fertilizer/ compost and grows fast so cultivation of Kenaf save cost and time.* He is also happy to know the process of making compost from household waste management. He made two hole beside his house. In one hole he puts household waste and he puts cattle waste in other hole. And he can use this compost to produce various vegetable and crops and can save money also it makes his household clean. Now he knows the process of jute rotten and can get much money by selling them. Because now buyer likes much his kenaf than before and give him good price. Before he never use gloves for using chemical fertilizer so it made sore in his hand and body and needed to visit doctor. Now he uses gloves and never washed his hand and gloves in the open source of water because he knows and practices the SAN standard for safe environments and good health. He knows one should not kill wild animal, everyone need to grow trees instead of cutting them, children should go to school; they are not for giving labor in the field. He loves to grow kenaf and maintain SAN standard because both are good for him.

## Celebration of Human rights day' 2018

The theme of this Human rights day'10 December, 2013 was “20 years working for your rights”. 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 privet 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



DEW observed International women’s day

### A. Human Rights and Good Governance Program

### 3. Her Respect Project

BSR is piloting HERrespect in four factories, to create social changes by influencing people’s norms and values on culturally sensitive issues in Bangladesh. The overall goal of the project HERrespect is to combat violence against women with all kinds of domestic violence in Bangladesh by reinforcing, complementing and strengthening the existing social movements' capacities and actions.

Activities to be carried out under this collaboration will achieve the following objectives:

Influencing the existing Change Makers network in the “HERrespect community” to conduct campaigns on violence against women, particularly focusing on i) workplace harassment ii) intimate partner violence and iii) roles of men as intimate partners. The focus point of AmraiPari

(WE CAN) and DEW are intimate partner violence and the roles of men as intimate partners.



Couple fair organized by DEW for garment workers

DEW is responsible for implement the project activities; Change Maker enrollment, Monthly meeting with men for men engagement, video shows, through multimedia, day observance, Door to door campaign, Capacity Building Workshop for workers, courtyard meeting, couple fair, Meeting with factory management, Meeting with existing service providers, documentation & reporting to Amrai Pari (WE CAN).

## **Discussion Meeting and Prize giving ceremony on Begum Rokeya Day '18**

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 on 08 December, 2018 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.



Discussion meeting session on Begum Rokeya Day' 2018 and WE CAN Mymensingh district alliance chairperson Advocate

**B. Promotion of Grass-root Artisan Groups through Fair Trade  
DEW observed World Fair Trade Day 2013:**



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**DEW CRAFTS  
GUARANTEED  
FAIR TRADE**

## 4. DEW Crafts

**DEW Crafts** is a social enterprise and sister concerns of Development Wheel (DEW), a non-profit development organization founded in 1996 by a few development professionals and researchers to promote self-help poverty alleviation initiatives of the poorest households in Bangladesh. The main focus of the Enterprise is to work for the promotion of the sustainable livelihoods for small scale Agriculture and Arts and Crafts sector producers in Bangladesh through facilitating the development of small enterprises with an aim to generate sustainable self-employment opportunities for under-privileged rural and urban people. Besides, DEW Crafts is also active in the fields of climate change, livelihoods security, agricultural promotion, women empowerment, human rights and good governance in partnership and collaboration with different international and national organizations with a vision to have a society where all people will enjoy equal rights, equitable access to employment and adequate resources necessary for their livelihoods and will live in dignity.

**DEW Crafts** has been separated from the charity Development Wheel in August 2016 as a sister concern social enterprise with a vision to support more effective and efficient way to its producer groups in the sector of Handicrafts and Agriculture. DEW Crafts is a Certified **GUARANTEED Fair Trade** organization.

### • **Our Mission:**

To contribute to socio-economic development in Bangladesh through promoting Fair trade options for small producers in the sector of agriculture and art & crafts.

### • **Objectives:**

- To provide a marketing channel for small producers in Bangladesh.
- To support producer groups with product development, design, Quality and marketing.
- To support producer groups through providing skill development training, credit, educational, climate change & environmental protection and its impact: adaptation



strategy, health and other development support services (and by linking to other NGOs or donors who can do this).

#### • Who do we work with?

Producer groups in Gazipur, Jessore, Manikgonj, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Bogra and plan to start working with groups in other places of the country.

We work with low income producers in rural and semi urban areas. We are currently working with 12 handicrafts producer groups including 412 group members and 273 are female and 139 are male. In the agriculture sector we are working with around 20000 farmer group (self help group) members including 40% women and 10% ethnic minority. We have sub district, district and regional level producer association elected by the producer group members.

#### • Our Payment systems

We are maintaining transparency and accountability in our trading and payment systems to the producer groups. Mostly we are purchasing products from our producer groups in pic rate because our producers are working at their home and in-between their household work. We always prefer bank transfer/e-payment those have bank or cell phone account. Some cases we bound to pay by cash for small payments because of inaccessibility of bank access. We are also maintaining all payment records at DEW Crafts and in the producer's group level.

### Case Study-01

#### Fair Trade can change artisan's livelihoods

**Name: Nurun Nabi**

**Bamboo producer of DEW**

**Age: 32**



Nurunnabi lived in Borne Dakkhinpara village of Delduar Upazila under Tangail district. People of this village lived on making different bamboo products. The family of Nurunnabi has been engaged in this works for last 25 years. His father has been worked with different producers and Nurunnabi begin to work when he was a boy of 14 years. He studied up to class VIII but he is an expert to design and develop new bamboo products. Then DEW gives him the opportunity to do better work as well as getting fair return through fair trade. DEW includes him as a producer and let him know very well all terms and conditions of fair and ethical trade. After his involvement with DEW (1999) Nurunnabi starts his activity forming a group of 8-9 members and DEW

organize skill development training for the groups. His family members also help him to be a skill and efficient producer of DEW.

Before joining with DEW Crafts his family was homeless and was living in their grandfather's house. When Nurunnabi began to work with fair trade organization like DEW, then it possible for his family to bought a piece of land and build a home of their own. Now he has a nice and clean home with water and sanitation facilities. Owner of a motorbike, operate laptop with internet access, digital camera to take image of the product samples and send them to us through internet, finding technology on bamboo through internet, has nice small workshop with intermediate tools. Achieved social status in the community. Many of Nurunnabi's neighbours are also homeless and do the same work. Nurunnabi put them together and make a group and now he works with them with the support of DEW Crafts as a group leader. He wants they also have a production centre of their own. But there are some problems:

1. They work only when they get orders and this is seasonal.
2. The quantity of order is very small.
3. Because of having no work for long time they lose their interest in this work.

That's why they could not make any new design. So they have to work in local market. But they are keen to get the opportunity to work in foreign market due to fair price. And DEW tries to give them the opportunity.

After began to work with DEW, Nurunnabi Knows various subject and make some new design. In DEW Crafts first he knows about Fair Trade and he informed his group members about the standards and rights of workers for Fair Trade. DEW also gives Nurunnabi and his group members:

1. The opportunity to work on different and new quality designs.
2. The knowledge of quality required for a product for foreign markets.
3. The possibility to work as a producer and group leader.
4. Training on product development and design

Nurunnabi himself collects the raw materials of the product. From Korotia hut he brings the bamboo by van. Then they start working on processing the bamboo. They cut the bamboo in eight / nine pieces and make some slices from it. Then they begin to make the beautiful baskets. They are very careful from first to last to produce a product so that the product would be a high quality product.

Nurunnabi and his group want the opportunity to have large orders so that they can earn their livelihood and expand cultural heritage through all over the world. They also need a storage facility to store their products and also need a production centre to produce together.

DEW Crafts is trying to provide him with this kind of opportunity in consequence they can survive in the competitive market.

## **4.1 Product Line of DEW**

### **Home Decor:**

- i. Basketry: Bamboo, Cane, Hogla (sea grass), Date palm leaf, Kaisa, Recycled products ect.
- ii. Terracotta
- iii. Ceramic (Table ware with, coffee mag, tea cup, flower vase, plant pot ect.) all of our ceramic items are food grade, oven proof.

## **4.2 Textile and hand embroidery:**

- iv. Nakshi Kantha and Hand embroidery (Nakshi Kantha, silk scarf's, Sharee, silk embroidered bag, wall hanging, table mat, table runner, bed sheet and bed cover, cushion cover, dress, baby ware ect.)
- v. Cotton scarf's and gamsha (cotton towel)
- vi. Jute bag
- vii. Textile bag
- viii. T-shirt
- ix. Embroidery dress material/dress/share/scarfs
- x. Ceramics
- xi. Terracotta

In the future we would like to expand to work with textile, organic/safe food items e.g grains, vegetables, serials, chilli, aniseed, organic produce like fruits and salad items.

## **4.3 Product Development and Design**

**DEW Crafts** is providing product development and design support to its producer groups based in different locations in the country to make them able to produce international standard crafts product with aesthetics value and utility. We are also linking them to govt. and other NGO, private sector actors for their capacity building and market access for their products. DEW Crafts is a small social enterprise, so we are always welcomes interns and volunteer designers from our international buyers, donors and partners.

#### **4.4 Market Development**

We are currently marketing DEW Crafts to People Tree and Sisam Inc. a largest Fair Trade Company in Japan, EL PUENTE in Germany, Oxfam Australia, World of Good USA, Rising International USA, Afro Art and ALTERNATIVE HANDEL Sweden, ISEA FNC Company and Ullim Fair trade Company in South Korea and Dharma Door in Australia.

We are planning to market our products to other Fair Trade Company around the globe and Mainstream buyers. DEW Crafts is also planning to open a small local Fair trade shop in Dhaka in the future for creating sustainable income generation opportunity for the producer groups which is depending on buyers, donors and partner's cooperation and collaboration.

#### **4.5 Membership of WFTO and others:**

DEW is an active member of the World Fair Trade Organization-WFTO since 2001, The Crafts centre of CHF, USA, Asia Fair Trade forum - AFTF, Bangladesh Handicraft Manufacturer and Exporter Association and Ecota Fair Trade Forum Bangladesh, Homenet south Asia. DEW is also a partner of the Aid to Artisan, NEST Guild, USA and member of the Crafts Centre at CHF, USA.

DEW has been accredited by WFTO and WFTO Asia as a Fair Trade Organization since 2000 and as a **CERTIFIED GUARANTEED FAIR TRADE ORGANIZATION** (WFTO Membership ID Number 84) in August 2016. WFTO is The Global network of the Fair Trade Organization's around the globe ([www.wfto.com](http://www.wfto.com)).

#### **4.6 Achievements:**

DEW participated World Fair Trade day artisan competition in 2002 organize by ECOTA Fair Trade Forum and DEW artisan awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize in basketry group and receive cash money and award certificates from the organizers. DEW also participated design competition organize by IFAT in Quito, Ecuador in 2005, Newcastle, UK in 2003 and Arusa, Tanzania in 2001 and receive certificates from the organizer. In August 2016 DEW Crafts has been achieved Certified **GUARANTEED FAIR TRADE ORGANIZATION**. DEW Crafts was the secretary and board of director in WFTO Asia board, Ex-Board Chair of Ecota Fair Trade Forum and present Vice Chair in the board.

#### **4.7 Training support to Fair Trade Organizations abroad:**

DEW believes that the Fair Trade organizations should support each other and exchange skills and knowledge also. Fair Trade Group Nepal requested to DEW to provide training assistance to their producers on Bamboo and Date palm leaf basketry. DEW sent 2 producer trainers to Nepal to train Fair trade group producers on Bamboo and date palm leaf basketry. DEW is the 1<sup>st</sup> Fair Trade Organization in Bangladesh to send producer trainer to train other groups in abroad and our producers are highly appreciated by the Fair Trade Group Nepal, Royal family of Nepal.

DEW also provided skills development training to other Fair Trade fair trade organizations in Bangladesh.

#### **4.8 In future we plan to:**

- DEW is planning to organize strong groups in our main thrust working areas in the Char lands (river island) of river Jamuna and Brahmaputra under Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Sherpur District.
- DEW is planning to expand its product line like food processing and Chili, Soj (Anacid), vegetable and other crops, handmade paper, Hand oven textile and other organic agriculture products.
- DEW is planning to establish a well-equipped training/production/processing/shorting/packaging/display and sales centre for DEW producer groups in Mymensingh.  
DEW has a dream to establish a Fair Trade shop in Dhaka aiming to create sustainable market access in local market. Presently we have a space in the **Jatra Mela** Design & Fashion, 60 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, 1213 Dhaka, Bangladesh to sale our products locally.
- DEW is planning to increase market linkages to marketing DEW handicrafts products in the international market and especially Europe and USA.
- DEW is always appreciating foreign interns/volunteer designers to develop new products targeting to international market for sustainable livelihoods for small producer groups.

## 4.9 Case Study-02



Nazmun Naher and Jesmin Naher they are sisters living in the village of Tarakandhi, Sharishabari under Jamalpur districts. They have lost their parents many years ago. They are 4 sisters and 3 brothers living without parents with extreme poverty because they don't have any land property and no one in the family to earn money to continue their livelihoods.

Both the sisters Nazmun and Jesmin came to DEW Tarakandhi office when they were studying in the school and willing to join with our hand embroidery team to earn money for their family and to continue their study. They had indigenous knowledge and skills on hand embroidery which was not that standard for export market. DEW provided them skill development, design and quality improvement training.

We are happy that Nazmun completed her Bachelor degree with her own income comes from her hand embroidery work and Jesmin is continuing her college level study and also helping their family. They need more embroidery work for their sustainable livelihood.

### • What are Fair Trade and its 10 standards?

"Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the South.

Fair Trade organisations have a clear commitment to Fair Trade as the principal core of their mission. They, backed by consumers, are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade." They can be recognised by the WFTO logo.

Fair Trade is more than just trading:

- It proves that greater justice in world trade is possible.
- It highlights the need for change in the rules and practice of conventional trade and shows how a successful business can also put people first.
- It is a tangible contribution to the fight against poverty, climate change and economic crisis.

## 4.10 The 10 Standards of Fair Trade

- **Creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged producers**  
Fair Trade is a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Its purpose is to create opportunities for producers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalized by the conventional trading system.
- **Transparency and accountability**  
Fair Trade involves transparent management and commercial relations to deal fairly and respectfully with trading partners.
- **Capacity building**  
Fair Trade is a means to develop producers' independence. Fair Trade relationships provide continuity, during which producers and their marketing organizations can improve their management skills and their access to new markets.
- **Promoting Fair Trade**  
Fair Trade Organizations raise awareness of Fair Trade and the possibility of greater justice in world trade. They provide their customers with information about the organization, the products, and in what conditions they are made. They use honest advertising and marketing techniques and aim for the highest standards in product quality and packing.
- **Payment of a fair price**  
A fair price in the regional or local context is one that has been agreed through dialogue and participation. It covers not only the costs of production but enables production which is socially just and environmentally sound. It provides fair pay to the producers and takes into account the principle of equal pay for equal work by women and men. Fair Traders ensure prompt payment to their partners and, whenever possible, help producers with access to pre-harvest or pre-production financing.
- **Gender Equity**  
Fair Trade means that women's work is properly valued and rewarded. Women are always paid for their contribution to the production process and are empowered in their organizations.
- **Working conditions**  
Fair Trade means a safe and healthy working environment for producers. The participation of children (if any) does not adversely affect their well-being, security, educational requirements and need for play and conforms to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the law and norms in the local context.
- **Child Labour**  
Fair Trade Organizations respect the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as local laws and social norms in order to ensure that the participation of children in production processes of fairly traded articles (if any) does not adversely affect their well-being, security, educational requirements and need for play. Organizations working directly with informally organised producers disclose the involvement of children in production.
- **The environment**  
Fair Trade actively encourages better environmental practices and the application of responsible methods of production.
- **Trade Relations**  
Fair Trade Organizations trade with concern for the social, economic and environmental well-being of marginalized small producers and do not maximise profit at their expense. They maintain long-term relationships based on solidarity, trust and mutual respect that contribute to the promotion and growth of Fair Trade. Whenever possible producers are

assisted with access to pre-harvest or pre-production advance payment.

**The standards we work by are:**

We are accredited by WFTO: DEW Crafts is a Fair Trade Organization accredited by the Global network of Fair Trading Organizations WFTO. DEW has submitted its self-assessment report to the WFTO regularly and on time. The external international consultant and auditors of WFTO has externally verified and audited DEW self-assessment report time to time and that was highly appreciated by them and based on auditor's report DEW Crafts has been achieved as a

#### **4.11 GUARANTEED FAIR TRADE ORGANIZATION.**

- *Our Team*

The DEW Crafts headquarters is in Dhaka. We have five offices in Mymensingh, Netrokona, Jamalpur, Savar and Jessore.

Our team consists of 15 people 06 are women and 09 are man. We have 10 members' volunteer groups. Our team is experience and qualified and having a strong development professional skills. In our core team we have sociologist, anthropologist, marketing, business, finance background professionals.

DEW also provided exposure trip for its coordinator of Art and Craft sector to Denmark, Netherlands, Philippines, India and Nepal to see the developments of their handicrafts. To see Asia's reaches art and craft development centre and also to get some ideas what type of intermediate technology they are using to produce finest quality of hand made products. DEW also encourage to inshore DEW staffs to participate different workshop/seminar organize by the ECOTA/WFTO Asia/WFTO/Banglacraft and other craft based networking organizations for their capacity building and human resource development for the organization.

The team meet once a month and all the staff and volunteers meet once a year. DEW provides a fair salary and staff development opportunities to maintain a high morale and a motivated team. DEW staffs fill like that they all are in a family.



### Case Study-03

Rozina Begum lives in Borne Dakkhinpara village of Delduar Upazila under Tangail district. She studied up to Class 5. When she was only 15 years old her parents arranged her marriage with Masum Miya. After her marriage she learned making Bamboo basketry and other bamboo products from her husband to increase family income. Her husband involved with this work from his early age. Because people of the area have been making these products for many years. They have traditional knowledge on it. Rozina has been working with our producer Nurrunabi for long time. At the beginning she works at home between household chores. But our producer Nurrunabi has made a working shade for his artisan group where they are work together. Thus like others she also works in the shade from 8am to 4:30pm including her lunch time for 1 hour (1pm to 2pm). Her house is nearby of her working place so she can go at her home easily for lunch and other household work in the lunch break. She does most of her household chores (cooking, cleaning etc.) early in the morning before coming work. She can cut the bamboo and make slices from it. Then she begins to make the beautiful baskets. As her opinion she is very careful from first to last to produce a product so that the product would be a high quality product. She is paid US\$2.5/day. There is no male female salary discrimination in Dew Crafts bamboo basketry group. She is from poor family and the income of her husband is very poor for maintaining family. So she needs to contribute her income different kind of family purposes (for children, maintaining household, repaying loan - She had to micro credit loan from NGO's for solved some family problems, etc.). She also bears some of the household cost and total study cost of her children. She has two children (1 son and 1 daughter). Her son reads in class 4 and her daughter reads in class 2. She aware about Fair trade. However she thinks she works hard so it would be better if she got little more payment in daily basis production. She is very happy to do this work because she likes this work. On the other hand she cannot survive without this work.



This work gives her some opportunity to buy something for her children or her own. In addition by doing this work she made change in her livelihood. Now her family have sanitary latrine, tube-well, Electricity, TV. Recently she and her husband repaired their house by saving some money from their income also she bought some poultry by her money which is the source of egg and extra income. Now she is likely better than before because they have some local order, she wants it to be continued as this is the only source of their income and sustainability. Now she is very busy by slicing bamboo and weaving base of fruit basket (set of 3) for DEW Crafts to export EL PUENTE. She likes to make these types of basket and be happy to have much order for her sustainable livelihoods.



DEW Crafts at JATRA MELA



Artisan at work

**Image from the field**



Collecting vegetable from the field  
Crafts staff



visiting silk embroidery group in the south west part of Bangladesh by DEW



Checking quality by People Tree Japan at DEW



Hand embroidery is going on



Jute (golden fiber) harvesting from the field Bamboo basket made by tribal community producer group

## 5. 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:**

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 resource center and guest rooms at Mymensingh just beside the river Brahmaputra

## Case Study

### Taz Uddin has changed his life by increasing vegetable production



Mr Taz Uddin is one of the lead farmers of Char Bhabanipur village under Sirta union of Mymensingh sadar of Mymensingh under farmers rights program supported by swallows India Bangladesh. In 2018, Mr Taz Uddin began cultivation of Bottle gourd on 0.2 acre (20 decimals) of land on his area to establish a demonstration plot on organic vegetable cultivation practice using compost & Tricoderma fertilizer. His yield was significantly higher than his usual yield in previous year. Taz Uddin earned BDT 30,000 (USD 375) from selling his bottle gourd. His production cost was not so higher because of he received all inputs like seed, fertilizer and material free from Development Wheel (DEW) and also received ICM and improved cultivation practices training. So that his total cost was BDT 3000 and he used 50kg Tricoderma compost fertilizer only.

Taz Uddin reported that since the demonstration, about 30 farmers wanted to know the reason for getting higher yield and what was his strategy? Mr.Mahatab Uddin, a neighbouring farmer also cultivated as follow as Mr Taz Uddin cultivation technique. This bottle gourd production enhanced Taz Uddin image in the village as a good farmer. He used his extra income to buy a shallow pump machine with accumulated money from other sources. He said that 'I used this sell income for purchasing shallow pump machine and now getting continuously income source from this. Water is very crucial for Boro rice. Now i am trying to help other farmer providing water with BDT 240 for 6 decimal land of watering. My family has eaten bottle gourd so many times. So, now it's less demandable in my family. i distributed it's to my relative and neighbors. They are also quite happy to get this vegetable'

### Majeda is a light of hope



Ms Majeda Begum, a producer in Vangnamara under Gouripur upazilla has increased his production and income through vegetable production by using organic compost fertilizer and testing soil. In the year 2018, she cultivated bottle gourd, Brinjal, Chilli in Rabi season, in 50 decimal of land. Total production cost and sales revenue were BDT 15,000/- (excluding labour cost) and BDT 21000/-, respectively; so, gross profit stood at BDT 6000. After joining with FRP program, she became aware and was motivated about the importance of compost fertilizer and modern cultivation practice as well as soil test through different group meeting, training and workshops. Afterwards, in 2018, she received improved cultivation practice and integrated crop management, integrated pest management, lobbying & advocacy training. In 2018, she cultivated bottle Gourd, Brinjal and Chilli in the same land and used appropriate doses of compost fertilizer as suggested by upazilla agricultural officer. The land returns BDT 31000/- (50% increase in productivity). Total production cost and sales revenue in 2018 were BDT 17000/- (8% increased in production cost) and BDT 31000/-, respectively, and gross profit stood at BDT 14000/-. Ms. Majeda said “I have increased my production through soil testing service and compost fertilizer. My husband and I are very happy with this result. Now he helps me during on-farm activities like staking, harvesting of vegetables”. Her two children are going to school now. Her future plan is that to take more land lease for more vegetable cultivation. Behind all these things there were the motivations of FRP training for increasing production.

## **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.

## 6. Visitors:



FAO team visited our Bamboo producer groups in Tangail



Distributing sports materials to school girl's



Case study with bamboo producer groups





Dr. Gary Dexture from Asthma International from England visited DEW Mymensingh programme areas and the community



Buyer from Australia visiting DEW and selecting DEW Crafts for their market



Managing Director of SISAM Inc., Japan visiting DEW and ceramic group of DEW



Swallows India Bangladesh team from Sweden and Bangladesh country office team visited DEW field

6.1.1 Activities of DEW through photograph

Some images in the field of Kenaf project:



Harvesting Kenaf from the field



Buying Kenaf by the NFC from farmers door

## 7. Networking of the organization UNCCD



On behalf of Asian CSO's DEW presentation in the main plenary session of the COP-13 on Land Rights and Gender in Asia and with the environment minister of China



All the CSO delegates in the COP-13 at Ordos, China

## BRIFPCER



DEW presentation to the Belt and Road International Forum on Public Cooperation for Ecological Remediation conference and with the President of China Green Foundation



Participants of the Belt and Road International Forum on Public Cooperation for Ecological Remediation conference



DEW Executive Director and Programmer Officer participated in a workshop at Mumbai, India to develop South-south exchange project with Fair Trade Forum India with the support of FK- Norway



Participants of the FK-Norway and Fair Trade Forum organized workshop at Mumbai

## 8. Major Success, Learning's and Challenges during this year

### Success:

- DEW has successfully delivered KENAF, ALO, Her Respect, Digital Literacy for Small Farmers project
- DEW has been awarded as an accredited members of UN Environment Programmer
- DEW has been awarded by the Green Climate Fund as an observer member
- DEW has been awarded by the Belt and Road International Forum on Public Cooperation for Ecological Remediation as a founding member.
- FRP started its full phased program for 2017-21 phase
- Different foreign delegation from donor and buyers visited DEW field and producer organizations
- DEW executive director attend different international networking meeting, seminar and conferences
- DEW executive director elected Vice Chairman of ECOTA Fair Trade Forum
- Handicraft product shipment has been done successfully to People tree, SISAM Inc in Japan and El Puente, Germany
- Attend Crafts Fair at the USA Embassy and Nordic club
- Organized DEW handicraft exhibition at DEW office for buyers
- DEW Executive Director leading different national and international networks

### Challenges:

- Organizational sustainability as a non credit (MFI) organization
- Severe 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 getting project approval from the donor, NGO affair bureau takes long time, to get fund release/approval also takes long time from the govt. authority which hampered field operational activity.
- Political instability may play great role during implementing activities
- Stop potential staff drop out and finding quality replacement

## 9. Present and past 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 ICT
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Women Affairs
- Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Jote (We Can)





Annual General Meeting-AGM of DEW

## 10. The Executive Committee of Development Wheel (2016-18):

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Sex	Profession
01	Professor Dr. Ainoon Nahar Ph.D	Chairperson	Female	Teaching Professor of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University
02	Professor Dr. Syed Shariful Islam Ph.D	Member	Male	Teaching Professor of Public health, Bangabandhu Shekh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU)
03	Mr. Shah AbdusSalam	Founder and Secretary General	Male	Sociologist, Development professional
04	Mr. Sk.GolamKibria	Treasurer	Male	Business, Managing Director Ken Business Corporation
05	Mr. Lutful Kabir	Member	Male	Development Consultant Ex-International Director GIZ
06	Ms. Bertha Gitee Baroi MBA	Member	Female	Director Coor the Jute Works
07	Ms. Selima Akhter MBA	Member	Female	Consultant Garment Sector Specialist

## Chapter-5

### Audit Report 2017-2018: Enclosed

### Office Information

#### Head Office

House # 13-A/4-A, (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), Block –B, Babar Road,  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Cell: +8801731512716, 01715120140

Phone: 02-9135499, 9101226

Fax: +9101226

Email: [dewsalam@gmail.com](mailto:dewsalam@gmail.com), [info@dewbd.org](mailto:info@dewbd.org)

Web: [www.dewbd.org](http://www.dewbd.org)

#### Mymensingh Regional office

264, Dholadia (Opposite to BADC office)

Khagdohor, Mymensingh

Tel: 091 66373, 63872

Cell: +8801767435961, 01914907286

#### DEW Learning Center and Guest House

264, Dholadia, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

(Opposite to BADC office and next door to Silver Castle Resort))

Khagdohor, Mymensingh

Tel: 091 66373, 63872

Cell: +8801767435961, 01914907286