

Introduction

Development Wheel (DEW) www.dew.org.bd is 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 organization 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 is also active in the fields of climate change and environment, livelihoods security, agricultural promotion, gender issues and women empowerment, human rights and good governance in partnership and collaboration with different international and national organizations.

DEW Vision:

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 Mission:

DEW is dedicated to improving livelihoods security of the poor segments of the society in Bangladesh through increasing their participation (particularly women) in small scale economic activities by creating the provision of a range of business and life skills for them.

Approach:

Right based, integrated, participatory and partnership approach.

Development Programs of DEW

Promotion of Fair Trade: Empowerment of Grassroots Artisan Groups

DEW Crafts is a sister concern Social Enterprise of Development Wheel (DEW) actively involved in creating sustainable employment and income generation opportunities for the disadvantaged artisan groups in rural and urban areas through promoting their arts and crafts in the Fair Trade markets (www.dewcrafts.com).

DEW Crafts 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 Crafts is a certified **GUARANTEED** Fair Trade Social Enterprise by WFTO. DEW Crafts Arts and Crafts groups produce hand-embroidered products, Handloom cotton products weaving by the women ethnic minority committee, jute, terracotta table ware and planters, ceramic, t-shirt, bathroom and kitchenware 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, 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, Italy etc.



DEW also provides skill development training support to other fair trade organizations within and outside the country.

Sustainable Livelihoods through Small Scale Agriculture:

DEW implemented a five years long small scale agriculture project titled “Sustainable Livelihoods for Poor Producers in Mymensingh and Netrokona, Bangladesh (SLIPP)” co-funded by European Union (EU) and Traidcraft Exchange (TX) from April 2007 to March 2012. SLIPP’s objective was to reduce poverty among poor and marginalized communities in Mymensingh and Netrokona district of Bangladesh

through small scale agriculture (vegetables cultivation, fish culture and duck rearing).



Based on very successful implementation of SLIPP model now DEW is implementing two new projects in Mymensingh, Sherpur and Netrokona districts titled “Alleviating Poverty in North East Bangladesh-APONE” from April 2012 co-funded by the UKaid, and Traidcraft Exchange and “Alternative Livelihood Options-ALO” from November 2012 co-funded by Big Lottery Fund and Traidcraft Exchange. These projects will ensure sustainable livelihoods for poor and marginal communities, particularly women, in northern Bangladesh through improvements to small-scale agriculture. By organizing farmers and linking them to information, skills, services and markets, the



project will reduce costs of production, increase productivity and improve access to resources. This will lead to a 50% increase in income, directly benefiting 12,000 households owning less than 0.3 hectares of land and not covered by our previous projects (40% women including 30% ethnic minority) and their families (60,000 people).



300 private and public service providers will also be indirectly benefited through increased capacity to provide appropriate and affordable services to farmers. 3 local CSOs (Grameen Manabik Unnayan Sangstha-GRAMAUS, and Rural Development Society-RDS, Sabalamby Unnayan Samity-SUS) are already working along with DEW as a local partner in the target areas will have their capacity built in project management and implementation so that they can support farmers (on collective working, service delivery, savings, disaster preparedness, advocacy etc.) during and after the project.

DEW is also implementing another Agriculture Rights programme titled **“Making the collective voice of small and marginal farmers heard”** with the support of Swallows aiming to established

independent farmers organizations, strengthened &



functioning, and services providers supports increased and effective participation of poor and marginal farmers (especially women) in Mymensingh in decision-making processes and trained them in various capacity building training workshop make their collective voice so that they can attain their rights from public and private stakeholders and increase their income from agriculture, increased ecosystem based agriculture and enhanced on farmer’s rights and knowledge management for sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable Supply chain of KENAF in Bangladesh:

DEW has implemented another livelihood project titled “Sustainable Supply chain of KENAF in Bangladesh” aiming to increase kenaf production by the poor and marginal farmers through enhancing the farmer’s technical knowledge related to kenaf (Kenaf is one variety of Jute) production, ensure access to quality seeds, services and marketing facilities and environmental protection.

DEW is providing training to the farmers to comply SAN (Sustainable Agriculture Network) standards by Rain Forest Alliance. BMW is using KENAF fiber made board to their latest model cars dashboard and side boards. To ensuring supply chain with maintaining SAN standards and sustainable livelihoods for poor farmers is the main objective of the project which we are implementing in Tangail districts.



family on limited land and the influence of climate change.

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 farmer's contribution and need for policy measures to promote women rights as farmers.



Agriculture Marketing Programme:

Based on long experience with working for small and marginal farmers in Bangladesh DEW identified that need to create a sustainable market access for its agriculture producers produced safe/organic products to the consumers. Because middleclass society is growing in our counter and now they are health concuss, looking for safe/organic products for them.

DEW is promoting their products from its head office and selling to the consumers directly and online as well to establishing sustainable supply chain of their products.

Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Livelihoods:

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

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



Women Farmer's Campaign in Bangladesh

Development Wheel (DEW) is implementing another campaign programme with the support of Oxfam GB titled **women farmer's 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

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.

Human Rights and Good Governance Program:

DEW has implemented a human rights project called “A Broad-based Coalition and Advocacy for Human Rights” in Sharishabari, Jamalpur district, supported by Aus Aid (the Australian High Commission). The

project aims to improve human rights and reduces the incident of violence against women by means of cooperation with cross-section people change agents both within civil societies and government institutions, and influences policy environment and decision making processes. To establish responsive advocacy, women & child rights, gender equity, development and peace of the society through ensuring active participation of the local communities in Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, New market, Uttara and Tejgaon Thana under Dhaka City Corporation area in collaboration with Dhaka Development Forum (DDF).

With the technical support from Oxfam GB and Steps towards Development, the project is funded by Oxfam Novib, the Royal Netherlands Embassy and Swedish Embassy. The project objective is to establish good governance, women and human rights, social justice in every part of the society, which will be free from all gender discriminations.

Gender and Development Programme:

Bangladesh has the second highest rate (47%) of domestic violence in the world. The incidences of domestic violence, murder, abduction, trafficking, rape, eve-teasing, acid throwing etc, targeted at women are increasing alarmingly day by day.

DEW has been implementing various projects in preventing the infringement of women rights in various forms in greater Mymensingh and Dhaka city areas under the “Community Mobilization Project to End Violence against Women”. The project, was supported by Oxfam GB, aims to promote local network / platform to combat domestic violence against women and to achieve greater understanding



and consensus towards curbing violence in the greater Mymensingh districts and Dhaka city areas. We Can is now a national level separate entity and DEW is leading We Can campaign in the greater Mymensingh districts through its partner NGO's.

Now we have 20000 Change makers with electronic database and most of them are young women and men. From October 2012 DEW has been started another Women Leadership project titled “Lets Her

Decide and Participate-LHDP” with the assistance from Oxfam GB aiming to create women leadership opportunity in our community.

Presently DEW is implement a gender awareness training project called “Gender Equality Awareness Project for Fair Trade Organizations in Bangladesh”. The project is providing gender equity training for midlevel managers of national Fair trade networks member organizations and peer groups who will provide training to selected producer groups. The project has been developed a training module on Gender Equality and Leadership to train other Fair trade organizations in Asia region. The project is supported by the Christian Aid UK and Bangladesh and People Tree Foundation Japan and UK.

Digital Literacy for Small Farmers

DEW is implementing “Digital Literacy for Small Farmers” project with the support of Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and ICT aiming to transform Small Farmers (Including 50% women) through Digital Literacy training for harnessing potential of ICT in Agricultural development in Bangladesh. The initiative will sustainably contribute in integrating Small Farmers with a Digitally Empowered knowledge Economy. DEW has been completed its



2nd phase in December 2021.



Research for Knowledge and Development:

DEW has a strong, cohesive pool of professional researchers engaged in research activities with several reputed national and international organizations. The aim of this programme is to analyze and identify the social problems faced by the underprivileged and marginalized people and to design development support services.

Areas of the Research:

The main areas of research activities- Livelihoods, Education, Basic Services, Climate Change, Arts & crafts, Indigenous Communities, Fair Trade, Business Development Services (BDS) and Challenges of Religious Fundamentalism.

DEW has implemented a research project titled “An Actor Oriented approach to NR Sector value addition: investigating post harvest networks and coalitions to enhance livelihoods in the Bangladeshi char lands” funded by DFID/CPHP-NRI”. Presently DEW is

implementing a research project on Poverty Reduction and Women Economic Leadership in Asia: Roles, Potentials and Challenges of Social Enterprises with the collaboration of Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia-ISEA and Oxfam.

Ongoing Gender Equality project:

DEW is implementing “Gender Equity Awareness Training in Fair Trade Artisan Groups” the project aims to build awareness of Gender Equity in handicraft sector in Bangladesh. National Fair trade network ECOTA supports about 55 Fair Trade organizations, which work with over 120,000 artisans in the country, 80% of whom are women. The project will Piloting with six members organization - CORR the Jute Works, Artisan Hut, Kumudini Handicrafts, Thanapara Swallow, DEW Crafts and Prokritee. It has been designed with two key components. Firstly, we will build the capacity of member organizations mid-management by providing training and mentoring support with the aim of developing policy and system to replicate the training in the HR policy. The trained staff and member organizations mid-management will pass on the knowledge they develop to emerging mid-level peers, replicating the process to create a gender sensitive and equitable workplace. Secondly, we will promote the rights and agency of artisans by building the capacity of peer educators through training and mentoring. Peer educators will be selected and empowered to support the rights of women artisans. Their capacity will be developed through training package consisting of developed modules on basic human rights, gender sensitivity, sexual and reproductive rights, VAW and leadership to bring long-term changes. The PEs will bring awareness to their peers by conducting sessions for their peer groups passing on the knowledge on

human rights and VAW. Depending on the size of the six groups, they will be four peer educators who will work with each group closely to bring awareness on gender equity among the fellow artisans. In the long run, we hope that the project will increase the awareness of mid- management staff and artisans and strengthen women’s role in decision making processes. Moreover, the project will produce a replicable training model, peer educators and materials for application in other industries and regions.



Overall Objective: To empower women artisans by raising their awareness and building their capacity to take leadership roles and to ensure gender equity in the workplace.

Objective 1: Increase the capacity of ECOTA and member organizations middle management to reduce gender-based discrimination in the workplace through trainings on system and practices, VAW, gender sensitivity and legal rights so that they can replicate training within their HR planning.

Objective 2: Promote the rights and agency of artisans to reduce gender-based discrimination in the workplace



The project is supported by the Christian Aid UK and Bangladesh and People Tree Foundation UK and Japan.

Ongoing Research Project:

DEW is implementing a research project **"Inclusive Resistance to Climate Change Plain Land Ethnic Minority People's Climate Change Vulnerability and Culture Sensitive Adaptation Pathways"** Project as an implementing partner of Dean's Office, Social Science Faculty, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka. The project is supported by the Climate Trust Fund, Govt. of Bangladesh.

The objectives of the project is to understand the climate change related vulnerabilities of ethnic minority groups and enhance their adaptive capacity to climate change induced salinity and floods by applied adaptation knowledge and innovation.

The specific objective of the project are as follows:

-To develop comprehensive knowledge regarding



ethnic minorities' multi-dimensional vulnerabilities to salinity and floods.

-Support in-depth academic investigation (Masters) on the issues of climate change induced vulnerabilities of ethnic minorities and their adaptation pathways.

-Dissemination of the academic findings with various implementing entities (GoB, UN, INGO, NGO, Private Sector) to implement those adaptation innovations in a culturally appropriate manner and document those applied research knowledge for future scale up.

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 and SDG goal 2030 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 4G Technology with ever decreasing price of ICT Tools, Equipments.

Aiming to ensuring basic computer literacy and access to digital information service DEW has been implemented a project titled "Digital Literacy for Small Farmers" in Mymensingh with the support of ministry of ICT, govt. of Bangladesh.

The intended project seeks to transform Small Farmer (Including 50% 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.

Legal Status:

Development Wheel (DEW) is registered with NGO Affairs Bureau under the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Registration # 1752. DEW is also registered with Ministry of Social Welfare. Registration # DHA-03663.

Affiliations:

The organization is affiliated with different national and international organizations such as: World Fair Trade Organization-WFTO (Certified Guaranteed Member), WFTO Asia (Ex-Board Secretary and Director), Accredited CSO member of UNCCD (Country Focal Person), UN Environment Programmer-Accredited Member, Accredited Observer Member of Green Climate Fund, Belt and Road International Forum on Public Cooperation and Ecological Remediation-BRIFPCER, Global Environment Facility-GEF-CSO Forum, Association for International Social Work-AISW, World Alliance for Citizens Participation-CIVICUS, International Civil Society Forum for Democracy-ICSFD, Asia Solidarity Economy Forum-ASEF (Steering Committee Member and Country Focal Person), Fellow-International Network for Bamboo and Rattan-INBER, Climate Action Network South Asia-CANSA, Home based Workers in South Asia-HANSA, WFDA, Habitat International Coalition-HIC, AWED, Market Development Forum-MDF, We Can Campaign, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods-CSRL, My Rights for Quality Primary Education Campaign, ADAB, ECOTA Fair Trade Forum (Vice Chair), Banglacraft, Dignity Forum, Coalition for Urban Poor-CUP, Habitat Council etc.

Development Partners of DEW:

- UK aid
- Christian Aid
- Swisscontact
- Traidcraft Exchange-UK
- Big Lottery Fund
- European Union-EU
- Oxfam GB
- Manusher Jonno Foundation/GCEF
- DANIDA
- Swallows India Bangladesh
- DFID/CPHP-NRI
- People Tree Foundation
- Global Waste Cleaning Network - GWCN
- World Fair Trade Organization-WFTO
- The Asia Foundation
- Amrai Pari Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Jote-We Can
- My Rights Campaign for Quality Primary Education
- Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods-CSRL
- World Fair Trade Organization in Asia
- International Network for Bamboo and Rattan-INBAR
- Climate Action Network in Asia-KANSA
- Climate Action Network Bangladesh
- Ecota Fair Trade Forum

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