

NARRATIVE REPORT

Name of Organization: Development Wheel (DEW)

Name of the project: Giving voice: Making the collective voice of small and marginal farmers heard

Project Reporting Period: 01st July to 31st December, 2012

Project period: 01 July to 31 December, 2012	Support funding received (Taka): 7,73,848.85 BDT
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1. Target group

a) Number of women and girls reached by the project?

Total number of women and girls reached by the project was 102 and 23 respectively

b) Number of men and boys reached by the project?

Total number of men and boys reached by the project was 293 and 82 respectively

c) Describe the target group.

The main target group was 20. Each group formed by 25 farmers. Total direct beneficiary was 500. We have newly formed 5 farmer organizations. There are one at Boira union and one at Char Anonndopur union under Mymensingh sadar upazilla. Another three farmer organization has been formed at Baruamari union under Gouripur Upazilla, Mymensingh.

d) How has the target group participated in the planning, implementation of the project?

In success of Dew previous project named SLIPP, we established vegetable & fish producer association in Mymensingh district. Before implementing this project we organized preparatory meeting with vegetable & fish producer association. In this meeting govt, private official and civil society representative were also present. They coordinated their programs with our agricultural rights program. They suggested to DEW for implementing so many activities and given necessary direction. Another issue, farmers were so busy to cultivate Boro rice in their crop field. During training period they gave time for us to manage their regular field activities. Some farmers also helped us to manage farmer timely which make ensure hundred percent participants present during training session.

e) Number and Name of working area (District/ Upazila/ Union/ Village)

District Name	Upazila Name	Union Name	Village Name	Total Village Household	No of Household you worked with in this project
Mymensingh	Mymensingh Sadar	Boira	Boira	500	125
		Char Iswardia	Char Anonndopur	200	25
	Gouripur	Vangnamara	Baruamari	1000	350

2. Objectives of the project

- a) **Were activities carried out as planned during the period? Please mention each of the activity that you have carried out during this six months along with methods /strategy and output?**

Yes, activities for the project have successfully been carried out in accordance with the project planning within the project scheduled for six months from July to December of 2012.

The activities that have carried out and outputs are described are as follows:

Sl. No	Activities	Methods /strategy	Output
1	Preparatory Meeting on Agricultural Rights Program	Meeting workshop, Open discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer associations are functioning effectively Farmer associations have the lobbying, advocacy and negotiation skills. They need to engage with other groups and stakeholder Farmer associations are able to identify and prioritise their issues and concerns
2	Training of association on lobbying, advocacy and negotiation skills	Training, Participatory Approach, Group work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer and service providers have the capacity to ensure effective service delivery to small and marginal farmers Farmers are known with the services they receive from public and private service providers A local network of service providers has the capacity to reach out huge number of farmers outside the project target groups. The training course gave refresher training on agriculture policy and extension services.
3	Training of association on improved cultivation practices	Training, Participatory Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This training module developed and delivered by local consultants. Farmers got information directly from consultant have the capacity to provide services to small and marginal farmers on improved production practices Known new technology as well as new cultivation practices
4	Training on vegetable cultivation through Integrated Crop Management (ICM)	Training, Participatory Approach & group work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased understanding of the importance of crop management Increased practical knowledge about improved cultivation practices Improved information sharing, networking and linkages amongst farmers and other stakeholders
5	Training on Gender and equity	Right based approach, participatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved traditional attitude regarding women discrimination Increased awareness and shown positive participation in training Male farmers committed to increase women participation in their regular activities
6	Establish Demonstration	Input material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers observed lower production

	plot	with technical support	<p>costs, increased productivity and quality production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers have access to appropriate and affordable technical and business services • Farmers are motivated to do well in their cultivation practice which better than previous traditional practices • Farmers started organic cultivation practices
7	Regular mentoring support for groups and associations	Regular group meeting & visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers group are active and more functional • Farmers are interested to do this program with more effective and efficient way • Farmers are capable to assess their need and what is require for their wellbeing

b) Detail any deviations from the project plan.

No major deviation from the project plan has occurred during the project period, but one of the activities of the project has been required to add project schedule after budget revise. First of all we felt to organize participatory meeting with our beneficiary for better known and introductory briefing about Agricultural Rights Program (ARP). That's why we organized a meeting with our vegetable and fish producer association using DEW own fund. Then after budget revise we got opportunity to add this program as a part of this small grand project activities which also shared with swallows officials. Other activities have been carried out in accordance with the project plan.

c) Describe other positive and negative effects of the project (beyond those that were planned).

The positive effect of this project was farmer's capacity building training. First of all we planned only cultivation practice and lobby, advocacy training for farmer. But due to currency gain and swallows additional budget fact created more activities for farmer. Integrated Crop Management training was very effective for the farmer and also time demanding. Other side Gender training was very new for our farmer. They made so many debates on Gender related issues during training session. Finally they understand Gender discrimination and they ensured us that they will increase women participation in their every work. But it was very difficult to change their understanding level due to long living experience. Most of the time they measured everything based on their own life. At the end of training, farmers confess that really patriarchy is the main barrier of this type of thinking.

Negative effect was that we didn't get to arrange our training program actual time due to approval of NGO bureau affairs. Its affect our commitment with farmer which we declared in participatory meeting of Agricultural rights program. So farmers were eagerly waiting for that training. Finally we organize those training in the month of November and December which was at the end period of this small grand project. In that time farmers were very busy in their crop field and it was very difficult to manage their time.

d) **State the objectives/results of the project as given in your small grant project proposal? How much have you been able to achieve? Explain this as per your project aim and objectives?**

Objective	Activities	Results
<p>Overall objective: Reduced poverty and more sustainable livelihoods amongst poor and marginalised communities in northern Bangladesh.</p> <p>Specific objective: 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Meeting and workshop on Agricultural Rights program • Training of association on lobbying, advocacy and negotiation skills • Training of association on improved cultivation practices • Training on vegetable cultivation through Integrated Crop Management (ICM) • Training on Gender and Equity • Demonstration plot establishment • Regular mentoring support for groups and associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members of the associations understand and are aware of their rights from different stakeholders • Farmer's associations are able to influence local level institutions to ensure their representation in different committees and forums concerning their issues • The knowledge and capacities of the farmers' associations is increased to build linkages with and engage public and private stakeholders • They share their learning with their group members • Knowledge and information on improved cultivation practices are available to farmers' associations • Farmers are capable to practice improved agricultural technologies • Farmers' associations are sharing their learning on improved cultivation practices to other members • Farmers associations are interested to employ their learning into practice • Farmers' association can identify issues concerning their rights and are able to organize collective voice

e) What are the challenges/risks you have faced during this time and how you have managed those?

During the project period, no major risk has been faced in execution as farmers are found to be more organized within the project area by the successful implementation of earlier SLIPP project by DEW. The main challenge we have faced to manage or mobilize farmer in a uniform way during the training session. Some trained or our lead farmer tried to motivate other general farmer for influence to get extra benefit from us. We strictly prohibit such kind of farmer and totally avoid this farmer group with maintaining good relation.

f) During this project time what has been your Learning?

- Farmers are so busy in their field. It's very difficult to manage or arrange a two or three days training schedule.
- First of all we need to given prior farmers want and demand. According to their wants we have to arrange any events. Most of the time we try to arrange meeting or training as per our time which may create many problem with them.
- Upazilla agriculture officer may play vital role to farmers capacity building as well as increase agricultural knowledge and technology
- Farmers may receive very few information from lecture method. It's better to understand while get practical training like IPM or ICM.
- Resource farmer or farmer experience sharing may enhance to others farmer capacity
- Young farmers are more capable to understand gender related issues than aged farmer

3. Environment

a) How has the project help change discriminatory structures and attitudes surrounding access to natural resources?

Land, water and forests are the primary resources of agricultural production, and are the resources essential to maintain human life and well-being. The use of these resources must be balanced with conservation to support sustained national development, and to avoid environmental degradation and losses in agricultural productivity. The natural resource base provides many benefits to different groups of people in both urban and rural areas.

This project helps us organic culture practice which has good impact on soil, water and environment. Farmers observed bad impact of soil degradation done by their access use of inorganic fertilizer in agricultural practices. Results day by day soil polluted, decreasing soil fertility, water table decreasing and long term effect on environment as well as human health. This project assists to change farmer attitude along with practical use of organic practices. Now they are trying to use this practice in their cultivation practice only for their family. So, we have to change this attitude not only for their own but also whole people of this nation.

b) What positive and/or negative effects has the project had on the environment?

Dew established demonstration plot on organic vegetable cultivation practices. Farmer did not use any chemical fertilizer in the demonstration field. They use compost and Tricoderma compost fertilizer. We know inorganic fertilizer decreases soil health day by day. Farmer shows that their production was higher than using inorganic fertilizer. This type of practice encourages other farmer to motivate using organic fertilizer. They are well known about the benefit of organic fertilizer in improving soil health. This practice is also positive impact on environment. Our planned activities had no negative impact on environment.

c) How has the project strengthened awareness regarding environmental issues among the target group, in Partner (your) organisation and in society?

Rural people have extensive knowledge about their environments, and about the sustainable use of their areas. However, many of these people are being squeezed by a number of interacting processes. We provided environmental sound practice for better production of their crop. We suggest always use organic culture such as organic fertilizer, pesticide etc. We received many training and workshop form swallows. It's clear to understand swallows approach. So we convey this environmental sound message towards our farmer and discussed on this issues in the training session. Although practically it's very difficult to practice wide spread area for higher production. Therefore farmer are trying to increase uses of organic practice instead of inorganic fertilizer. They believe it will bring good environmental affect for them and also their society.

4. Other

Cooperation between Swedish NGO and partner organisation

a) What has worked well and what has worked less well in your organisation?

The best thing of swallows is that they give first prior to partner organization by participatory and right based way from program planning to implementation level. Results partners are become more strengthen and confident during project implementation. Besides swallows organized different capacity building training series by Aio O Salish Kendra for the partner organizations. It was really effective and efficient for all partners which were proved when we are transferring this knowledge to farmer level training. Each and every time swallows wants to strengthen partner organization capacity though they can establish a common forum for doing agricultural rights program in our society as well as our country. In future this partner organization may lead in this sector for the farmer and also will have developed strong farmer organization once.

And the things that worked less well are not so big major issues. We think steering committee should be more active and strengthen than before. That's needs to organize more structured ways because of some partner organization are mixed their other program with agricultural rights program which are not part of this program and also want to show others program output to this ARP program. It's necessary to capture overall control in swallows hand during meeting session. So that they can't do same type of activities in Steering committee meeting. We should make a common forum for further sustain partnership among the partners with the help of swallows.

b) How has project management within your organisation worked? What can be improved?

Dew working with so many national and international donors in Mymensingh region and implementing different projects for changing livelihood and awareness building for people. Focal person of those projects also assists our agricultural rights program. They played direct role to mobilize farmer and also help to organize farmer for establish new farmer organization. Executive Director has monitored this program by regular field visit and attended different training and events. He always gave advice and direction to smooth running of this project.

We have to improve and maintain our previous farmer organization leaders because of SLIPP project they are more empowered than before. So that, they tried to motivate our new farmer which created many problem during event management.

c) Within the project, have you also cooperated with other organisations and stakeholders in the region?

DEW has been working for improve small and marginal farmers well being in Mymensingh region. We are implementing several project based on improve their livelihood. Dew also assists several organizations to help who working for farmer's development. Sometime swallows partner organized different program regarding livelihood. We attended and disseminate that knowledge to our farmers. We organized so many training for farmer capacity building with coordination with DAE and Department of agricultural Extension (DAE) play great role in Bangladesh. But their scope is very few for better coverage of our farmer. We are trying to increase this coverage by doing this program with the help of Upazilla agriculture officer which directly help to our agricultural development.

5. Case Study (2) with picture

Mokles purchase pump machine by increasing vegetable production

Mr Moklesur Rahman is one of the lead farmers of Boira village; Mymensingh sadar under agricultural rights program supported by swallows India Bangladesh. In 2012, Mokles 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 & *Trichoderma* fertilizer. His yield was significantly higher than his usual yield in previous year. Mokles 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 *Trichoderma* compost fertilizer only.



Mokles reported that since the demonstration, about 30 farmers wanted to know the reason for getting higher yield and what was his strategy? Mr. Habibur Rahman Hobi, a neighbouring farmer also cultivated as follow as Mokles cultivation technique. This bottle gourd production enhanced Mokles image in the village as a good farmer. Mokles 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 have eaten bottle gourd so many times. So, now it's less demandable in my family. i distributed it's to my relative and neighbours. They are also quite happy to get this vegetable'.

Kohinoor's livelihood has changed through vegetable cultivation

Ms Kohinoor 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 2011, she cultivated bottle gourd, Brinjal, Chilli in Rabi season, in 50 decimal of land. Total production cost and sales revenue were BDT 15000/- (excluding labour cost) and BDT 21000/-, respectively; so, gross profit stood at BDT 6000.



After joining with ARP program, she became aware and 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 2012, she received improved cultivation practice and integrated crop management, integrated pest management, lobbying & advocacy training. In 2012, 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 2012 were BDT 17000/- (8% increased in production cost) and BDT 31000/-, respectively, and gross profit stood at BDT 14000/-. Ms. Kohinoor 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 ARP training for increase production.