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### Message from Executive Director

Since 1996 DEW has been working to promote self-help poverty alleviation initiatives of the marginalized communities in our country. The main focus of our organization is to promote small and marginal producer groups in the sector of Agriculture and Handicrafts through facilitating the development of small enterprises and agricultural practices.

Thanks and deep gratitude is rightly due for the donor agencies and government institutions who offered their timely response.

We are indebted to the stakeholders of different categories, who extended their spontaneous cooperation and provided necessary information at the cost of their valuable time. We believe that sustained poverty alleviation can be achieved only if the poor becomes efficient economic agents in the market system. We have expanded and enhance our service offering to reflect the current reality of our rural people.



Shah Abdus Salam

**APONE Project Promotion Workshop at Mymensingh and Sherpur**

Development Wheel (DEW) and our partner Traidcraft Exchange jointly organized project promotion workshop under its APONE project at Mymensingh & Sherpur DC office Conference Room on September 12 and 17, 2012 respectively. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW, attended the workshop as the chair. Additional District Commissioner, Dr. Shuvas Chandra Biswash, Mymensingh and Mr. Jakir Hossain, District Commissioner, Sherpur were present as the chief guest.

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



District Commissioner of Sherpur and Executive Director of DEW attended at APONE project promotion workshop

**APONE Project Management Training Workshop at Bogra**

A training workshop on APONE Project Management was held at Hotel Naz Garden auditorium in Bogra recently. This training workshop was jointly organized by Development Wheel (DEW) and our partner Traidcraft Exchange. Maveen Pereira, Head of South Asia Program, Traidcraft, UK graced the workshop with her presence. Executive Director of DEW, Mr. Shah Abdus Salam and Mr. Shahed Ferdous, Country Director, Traidcraft Exchange, Bangladesh were also present in the workshop.

The aim of the training workshop was to equip the APONE project teams with the approaches, skills and techniques for planning, monitoring and learning which enabled them to deliver the planned results of the project, with a special focus on the APONE project. The main learning outcome of the training was to be able to identify why the planning, monitoring and learning are important elements of delivering impact, and to be equipped with at least two skills or techniques for each of the three areas of the workshop and to be able to write an action plan for the next quarter (January-March 2013)



Maveen Pereira, Head of South Asia Program, Traidcraft Exchange, Mr. Shahed Ferdous, Country Director, Bangladesh, Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW and Staffs of APONE in the Project Management Training at Hotel Naz Garden, Bogra

**Nakshi Katha Scarf of DEW Producer Groups**



### UK Experts Conduct M & E Training Workshop for APONE Staff

A two days training on Monitoring & Evaluation for APONE staff was held at the Proshika Training Centre, Koitta, Manikganj from September 30 to October 01, 2012. The training workshop jointly organized by Development Wheel (DEW) and our partner Traidcraft Exchange, Bangladesh. This training was conducted by Liza Stevens, Head of Programme Funding & Evaluation, Maveen Pereira, Head of South Asia Program, Traidcraft, UK, Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW and Mr. Shahed Ferdous, Country Director, Traidcraft Exchange, Bangladesh. The main objective of this training workshop was to understand the importance of monitoring & evaluation of APONE project and why we do it for. The Experts discussed on different aspects of Monitoring & Evaluation process of APONE project. They discussed on M & E requirements, appropriate information collection methods, roles & responsibilities of staff and the necessity of developing effective M & E for APONE. By taking part in different group works in the training, the participants understood the summery of the project activities. At the end of the session, the participants who took part in the training received training workshop certificate.



UK delegates with APONE staffs at the end of M & E training workshop

### DEW Organized Participatory Meeting and Workshop on Agricultural Rights Program (ARP)

On Wednesday, 29 August, 2012, a meeting workshop titled “Participatory Meeting and Workshop on Agricultural Rights Program (ARP)” was held at Spandan training & Facilitation centre in Mymensingh. This program was organized by Development Wheel (DEW) with the support of The Swallows India Bangladesh. There were forty farmer representatives from Mymensingh sadar & Gouripur upazilla were participated in the meeting and workshop. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Founder & Executive Director, Development Wheel (DEW) along with Program Coordinator, Regional Field Coordinator, and Program officer. First session was about ARP, which was conducted by Mr. Shawkat Hasan, Program Coordinator. He said that DEW is implanting ‘Giving voice: making the collective voice of small and marginal farmers heard’ project under Agricultural Rights Program (ARP). He also said the aim of this project is effective participation of poor and marginal farmers in decision making process by which they can attain their rights from public and private stakeholders and improve their income from agriculture.



Executive Director of DEW addressing to the workshop participants

**Forum Syd & Swallows Delegates Visited Field and Farmer Organizations of DEW**



The official delegates of Forum Syd and The Swallows, Sweden conducted a daylong meeting and field visit on 20, November 2012 at Baruamari village of Gouripur upazilla and Boira village of Mymensingh Sadar. Annica Sohlstrom, Secretary General, Maria Kempe, Head of program, Margoth Sonnebo, Program Officer, Forum Syd, Monica Erwar, Director, Swallows, Cecilia Ward, Communication officer, Swallows, Sweden and two interns of Swedish university were visited DEW's field & farmer organizations and took part in a meeting. Swallows Dhaka office representative Shuily Haque and Sadia Sultana were also present in this meeting. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW conducted a meeting with them & represented the views and goals of Development Wheel (DEW).

Forum Syd and Swallows delegates required to know DEW working area and program experiences. They also mentioned what they assumed about partner. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam explained about the DEW's early period and currently running projects. He discussed on the main focused area of DEW such as sustainable livelihoods, women rights and fair trade programs. He also focused on sustainable livelihood program like APONE and shared previous experience of SLIPP project success. Firstly, Forum Syd & Swallows delegates visited Boira village under Mymensingh sadar. Then they met with the farmer organizations and talked with farmer directly. They wanted to know why they formed group and how they maintain their collective action.

**DEW Organized Improved Cultivation Practices Training for Farmer Organizations**

'Farmers are the most important person in our county because they are providing food for whole nation. But they are not being paid their proper worth in our society. Small & marginal farmers have faced so much discrimination in accessing government services including fertilizer distribution, soil testing, production advices, agricultural subsidies & loans. They get low quality inputs & low prices and incurred higher costs of transportation and rental of equipments. It is essential to improve Agricultural governance and production system. This can only be done effectively by organizing small and marginal farmers into a strong organization. So they can utilize their collective power to voice, negotiate & accomplish their rights and service. This project will build the capacity of farmer organization to attain their rights & negotiate more in dialogue from public & private service stakeholder' said by Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW in the opening day of the training session. Development Wheel (DEW) organized two days farmer training on improved cultivation practices for winter vegetables on 21 to 22, November 2012 at SPANDAN training & facilitation centre, Mymensingh as a part of Agricultural Rights Program (ARP). Thirty farmers of Baruamari village under Gouripur upazilla were participated in this training. Training session was facilitated by Mr. Shahidul Islam, Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Mymensingh and Mr. Sadekur Rahman, Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Khamarbari, Dhaka.



Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW, was attended and Mr. Shahidul Islam, UAO, Mymensingh and Mr. Sadekur Rahman, UAO, Khamarbari, Dhaka were conducted the training session

### Let Her Decide and Participate-LHDP

DEW started a new project on women leadership called “Let Her Decide and Participate” LHDP from November 2012 with the support of Oxfam-GB. The new project LHDP will be implementing in Mymensingh. LHDP project will facilitates and support stronger individual and collective capacities to make lasting change. Encourage women’s articulation of a political voice to assert their personal rights and access resources and creates an enabling environment for women to practice leadership at all levels and in all domains (family, community, organizations, state, and social formal and informal institutions).

#### Goal

High level of social and political acceptance of women’s roles contribution at family, social, political and economic aspect and recognized as agent of transformational change.

#### Objectives

- Influencing others to bring about fundamental change and facilitation and the empowerment of others – at home, formal and in formal milieus among others.
- Increased women’s voice through build up self-esteem and self confidence and have greater influence over their own lives.
- Increased women’s participation in service provider organizations and stand collective forces.
- Women and organizational staffs are clear on women transformational leadership (social, political and economic) and influences others project and policies within the organization.



DEW organized Human Chain at Mymensingh

#### Outcomes

- Women confident in creased to challenges injustice and inequalities and claim rights and entitlements and increased participation in decision making process at formal and informal structure.
- Developed social collective stand of women and men to challenge the incidence of VAW and increased sensitivity of the service providers to get access of survivors of VAW in the justice system.
- Women and organizational staffs are clear on women transformational leadership and agreed to promote gender equality.

### We Can District Alliance Meeting

DEW organized we can district alliance meeting on 29 August, 2012 at Mymensingh. Advocate A H M Khalekuzzaman, Chaired the meeting. He welcomed every one and went through a discussion on agenda. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam discussed on the new strategies of We Can. He said Development Wheel (DEW) will take lead at Mymensingh region. DEW will be working here as a connecting organization. First time we will work with three local organizations of three districts under Mymensingh region. Three local organizations are GONOCHETONA-Jamalpur; Family Ties-Kishorgonj and SERRA-Netrokona district. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam shared program and budget allocation of We Can for this year. He said we have already arranged March campaign and have to get emphasis on November campaign program. He also shared head wise budget expenditure for transparence to We Can district alliance committee.



Meeting session of WE CAN District Alliance members at Mymensingh Regional Office



**Our Fish Producer, Convener, Farmer District Association, Mymensingh Mr. Abdul Halim has been passed away on 25 December, 2012**

**“We sincerely sympathize with his family and producer groups the entire for this painful loss”**

**We are Deeply Mourn**

### Discussion Meeting and Prize Giving Ceremony on Begum Rokeya Day' 2012

Since 1996 DEW had a dream to provide sustainable livelihoods, human rights and fair trade program to the disadvantage and poor people of our society. Since its 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 district networking organizations such as Family Ties, Kishorgonj, SERRA, Netrokona and Gonochetona, Jamalpur. In this regard DEW and Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjato Protirodh Jote jointly organized the prize giving ceremony of essay competition in Begum Rokeya Day on 08 December, 2012 at Mymensingh Muslim institute auditorium.

DEW organized an essay competition titled 'Role of Begum Rokeya in Social Change' on Begum Rokeya Day at Gohailkandi High School and Police Line High School. There were twenty students participated in this competition. In discussion session, chairperson of We Can Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote, Advocate A H M Khalekuzzaman chaired 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. On the other hand, teachers of different school, delegates of different cultural & development organizations, member of civil society, journalists, students, guardians, and change makers were also attended this program. After discussion session prize was given among the participants. Finally chairperson concluded the program with giving special thanks to all.



Discussion meeting session on Begum Rokeya Day' 2012 and We Can Mymensingh district alliance chairperson Advocate A H M Khalekuzzaman giving prize among the participants

### Celebrating International Literacy Day, 2012

Development Wheel (DEW) is a national level NGO working for Human Rights and Good Governance, Sustainable livelihoods, Fair trade, Advocacy and Campaign for Ensuring Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh from 1996. At this connection DEW with the help of "Amar Odhikar Campaign (AOC)" and "Oxfam Bangladesh" organized a rally and arranged a dialogue titled "Literacy and Primary Education Dialogue" on the occasion of International Literacy Day, September 8, 2012 at Upazilla Parishad Auditorium, Savar. Mr. Touhid Jong (Murad), M.P was present as Chief Guest of the Event. Besides that Upazilla Nirbahi Officer, Mr. Kabir Hossain Sardar, Upazilla Education officer, Mr. Taposh Sarkar, Vice Chairman, Savar Upazilla Mrs. Rokeya Haq was in the honorable guest panel. A concept paper was formed and presented by Assistant Upazilla education Officer, Ms. Afia Choudhury on the theme of this year literacy day "Literacy will bring peace and prosperity". The paper was an overall evaluation of education system of Savar Upazilla and full of related information. Over hundreds of Teachers, student, local leaders, government and non-government officials, and local journalist participated in the event.



DEW Celebrating International Literacy day' 2012 with Policy Maker, Government officials, teacher and students

**Handmade & Eco-Friendly Handicraft Products of DEW**



**Development Wheel (DEW) Holds its 16<sup>th</sup> AGM and Executive Committee Election**

DEW held its 16th AGM and executive committee election on December 27, 2012. DEW Chair, Prof H.K.S Arefeen, Ph. D chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants. Founder & General Secretary of DEW, Mr. Shah Abdus Salam presented the annual report and activities plan for the next fiscal year. DEW Treasurer, Mr. SK Golam Kibria, Treasurer gave opportunity to Mr. Shanti Pada Saha, Manager Account & Admin to present the audit of financial report for the fiscal year 2012-2013 and to propose budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014, then new executive committee was formed with the vote of all members. All of proposed decisions were unanimously approved by the member representatives of DEW. DEW Chair, Mr. Prof HKS Arefeen ended the meeting by giving thanks.

**NEW Executive Committee**

Prof. H K S Arefeen, Ph. D	Chairperson
Prof. Ainoon Nahar, Ph. D	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Shah Abdus Salam	Secretary General
Mr. SK Golam Kibria	Treasurer
Prof. Syed Shariful Islam, Ph. D	Member
Mr. Monjurul Haque	Member
Ms. Masuda Faruk Ratna	Member



**New Member of DEW Family**

Ms. Nasrin Ahmed, Project Facilitator, LHDP, Mymensingh  
 Md. Tanvir Ahmed, Community Mobilizer, ARP, Mymensingh  
 Md. Mokter Hossein, Driver, ALO, Dhaka



AGM Board Meeting session at DEW Head Office, Dhaka

### Case Study

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



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

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

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

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