



DEW an endeavor for –
...upholding a culture of human rights and good governance...Livelihoods security for marginalized farmers...
...Fighting poverty through fair trade.



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World Fair Trade Day 2013

World Fair Trade Day observation is an annual program of Fair Trade Movement. It was first observed in 4th of May, 2002. Since then, all over the world including Bangladesh observes this precious event every 2nd week of May.

ECOTA Fair Trade Forum as a national networking body of Fair Trade Organizations observed the **World Fair Trade Day 2013** through launching a seminar on Saturday, 11 May, 2012 at 12:00pm at St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, 97 Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. The theme of the World Fair Trade Day 2013 was “**Strengthening Fair Trade Relationships**”.

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



Chairperson of ECOTA fair trade forum & Executive Director of DEW Mr. Shah Abdus Salam inaugurating world fair trade day 2013 along with members of ECOTA & Principle Dr. Harold B. Rodriguez



APONE & ALO project planning and staff orientation workshop

Development Wheel (DEW) and Traidcraft Exchange, Bangladesh jointly organized a workshop on ‘APONE & ALO project planning and staff orientation’ at IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka on 29th April 2013. The program was chaired by the Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director of DEW and conducted by Mr. Shahed Ferdous, Country Director, Traidcraft Exchange and Mr. A B M Feroz Ahmed, Program Manager, TX. Mr. A K M Shawkat Hasan, Project Coordinator, APONE, Mr. Ashraf Uddin, Project Coordinator, ALO and all project staffs were present at the workshop. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam gave the welcome speech and recalled regarding DEW past history and working areas in Bangladesh. Then program manger and project coordinators were gone through the aim of these two projects planning workshop. The aim of this workshop was to know the present condition of APONE project with the staff orientation of ALO and finalized what will be the next year plan for both projects. Program manager informed that we have completed first year of APONE projected successfully which assessment was done by INNOVISION consulting firm. We already submitted first year annual report and waiting for response. There were lots of success come out on the report and we expect that this project is on the track. ALO is a similar project combined with APONE because the activities of two projects are similar and for ALO new working area will be Sribordi of Sherpur Sadar and Netrokona Sadar upazilla. So we have to work together in this new area with existing beneficiary. New groups will be formed for ALO project and we will make FGD as soon as possible by this month. Finally facilitators gave special thanks to all staffs to join this workshop and bring with this project also.

First Secretary of Netherlands Embassy visited DEW women leadership program and farmer group at Mymensingh

Ms Ella de Voogd, First Secretary (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) of the Embassy of the kingdom of the Netherlands, and Mrs. Mushfiqua Satiar, Advisor, Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights were visited Development Wheel (DEW)'s women group of LHDP project and farmer group of Agricultural Rights Program (ARP). They also took part in a constructive meeting with the We Can district alliance member held at Mymensingh on 10th May 2013.

As a part of Mymensingh tour, first secretary wanted to visit the women group of DEW women leadership program. As per schedule, on that day she visited a women group at Char Ishwardia. She wanted to know about the aim and objective of women group and she also asked the participants why they formed group. At the end of the discussion she wanted to know the future plan of that women group. Women participant responded enthusiastically and told her about their future plan. After launch they visited a farmer group of DEW under its Agricultural Rights Program (ARP) at Dohakhola village of Gouripur Upazilla. Groups of farmer under DEW previous successful SLIPP project were also present with the newly formed group. They expressed how they succeed and what they achieved from that sort of collective action. Then they back to the DEW regional office, Mymensingh and took part in a discussion meeting with the We can district alliance member as well as civil society of Mymensingh, arranged by DEW. We Can Mymensingh District Alliance Convener Advocate AHM Khalekuzzaman stated that the women are the most deprived group in our society and they are also the victim of social and religious discrimination. 'We Can District Alliance' work for removing all sorts of discrimination against women from the society. Alliance member like advocate, teacher, journalist and other civil society representatives also shared their experience with the first secretary. At last Ms Ella de Voogd gave special thanks to alliance member as well as DEW for nice visit and informative meeting. The next day they also visited different handicraft shops, schools, madrasas and hospitals of Mymensingh district.



First secretary Ms Ella de Voogd with Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW are discussing with the farmer group at Dohakhola village under Gouripur Upazilla and attended discussion meeting with We Can District Alliance member at DEW Regional Office, Mymensingh

DEW Celebrated World Environment Day'2013

World Environment Day was observed by Development Wheel (DEW) at Mymensingh on 5 June, 2013, through various programs and activities. The programs and activities included rally, discussion meeting, organizing painting competition and prize distribution, tree fair and distribution and cultural function etc.

Development Wheel (DEW) attended on the rally with Farmer Organization leaders under its Agricultural Rights Program-ARP. The rally was jointly organized by Mymensingh District Administration, Department of Environment, Mymensingh, and Mymensingh Corporation. The rally begins at 9.30 am in front of DC Office. Mr. Mustakim Billah Faruki, District Commissioner of Mymensingh started the rally. The rally was also attended by the government employees, social workers, journalists, students, and various non government organizations. The rally ended at Town Hall compound. "Think-Eat-Save" holding this title a discussion meeting was also held at Town Hall stage. At the end of the discussion meeting the chief and special guests distributed tree plant among school students and the chief guest opened the two days long "Environment Fair".





Folk song campaign on Market Access & Climate Change at Char Anondopur

Development Wheel (DEW) organized folk song campaign on Market Access & Climate Change at char Anondopur, Mymensingh on 09 February, 2013 under the program of Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL) funded by Oxfam CSRL & GROW. This program was chaired by Mr. Amsar Ali, farmer, char Anondopur. Mr. Moazzem Hossein Feroz, Union Parishad Member, was chief guest and Mr. Hasim Uddin fakir and Mr. Prodip Kumar Pundit, Teacher were the special guest of the campaign program. Many local people of this char village were also present in the campaign. As a part of char campaign local Baul group sang awareness raising folk song on access to market and climate change. Baul group sang so many songs on this issues and program officer also discussed on impact of climate change in agriculture. He also discussed on climate change adaptation and market access technique for farmer.



DEW Organized Training on Agricultural Rights of Farmer

Development Wheel (DEW) organized a field based training session for the groups of the farmer under its Agricultural Rights Program (ARP) supported by The Swallows India Bangladesh at Mymensingh Sadar and Gouripur Upazilla, Mymensingh on 01 to 15 June, 2013. The title of the training was “Training on Agricultural Rights of Farmers.”

The main objective of the training was to inform the farmers about their agricultural rights so that they can attain their rights from the public and private service providers and strengthen as a strong farmer organization to get those rights. Mr. Shamsur Rahman, Upazilla Agriculture Officer (UAO), Mymensingh Sadar and Mr. Shahjahan Seraj, UAO, Gouripur Upazilla was present as trainer in the program and trained up the farmers. About 900 farmers from 30 groups (495 male and 405 female) were participated in the training program. In these sessions the trainers discussed about agriculture policy and the agricultural rights of the farmers.



Training on Business Management & Enterprise Development for APONE & ALO Project Staff

Development Wheel (DEW) and Traidcraft Exchange Bangladesh jointly organized training on Business Management & Enterprise Development for APONE and ALO project staff at BRAC CDM, Rajendrapur, Gazipur on 23 to 25 March, 2013. The training was conducted by the Mr. Shahed Ferdous, Country Director, TX-BD and co-facilitated by Mr. ABM Feroz Ahmed, Project Manager of TX-BD and AKM Shawkat Hasan, Project Coordinator, APONE project. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director DEW, was chaired the training and gave opening speech for training objectives and warmly welcomed the newly joined ALO project staffs. He was addressed regarding our farmers who are the most respectable person of our country because of providing food for whole nations. He said dew always wants to upgrade the living standards of small & marginal farmers so that they can develop as well as attain their rights and use their small land as a new enterprise which will ensure their sustainability in agricultural sector. However, this project will also help directly the farmer to be a new entrepreneur and develop an enterprise by using their small land.



APONE & ALO project staffs during the training session

Organized Human chain to protest against countrywide rape & killing

Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot Mymensingh organized a human chain to protest against countrywide recent incidence like rape & killing and to make a precedent punishment of rapist on 11.00 am, 12 January 2013 at Shahid Feroz Jahangir Chatter, Mymensingh. Supporting with We Can and Development Wheel (DEW), many political leader, teacher, student, NGO & Human Rights representative were attended in that human chain.

In Human chain, leaders said that we have to increase social awareness to protect this type of crime. Government has to play more accountable role to restrain such crime.

Advocate A H M Khalekuzzaman, Chairman of Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot, Advocate Emdadul Haque Millet, Advocate Sadik Hossain, Advocate Moazzem Hossain Babul, Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu, Chairman of Mohila Parishad Ferdous Ara Helen, Advocate Sibbir Ahmed Liton, Ataul Karim Khokon, Principle Alhaz Ziauddin Shakir, Fahmida Yasmin Runa, Nasrin Ahmed, Sajeda Begum Saju, Nurul Kabir and other leaders were participated in Human Chain program.



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

Women Transformative Leadership Training



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



Meeting with service providers

Development Wheel (DEW) organized a meeting with service providers under its LHDP (Let Her Decide and Participate) project at Muslim Institute, Mymensingh on April 23, 2013. Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW, presided over that meeting. Dr. Shuvas Chandra Basu, the Additional District Commissioner (General), Mymensingh was present as a chief guest of this event. The representative of Many NGOs and Service Providers such as Nishtha Unnoyon Shangshta, Shuktara, SUPRO, Mohila Parishad, BLAST, Women Leaders and 23 women leaders of DEW women clubs were also participated in the meeting.

The main objective of this meeting was to promote LHDP project and ensure every kind of service for deprived and poor women in Mymensingh Sadar through right information and practices of information. Primarily it's working with Aqua, Kashor, Boyra, Vabokhali, Char Ishwardia and Char Vobanipur under Mymensingh district. It's also working with 5 educational institutions named Sayed Nazrul Islam College, Muslim Girls' High School and College, Anandamohon College, Gohailkandi High School and Muktagacha Degree College. This project is funded by Oxfam-GB and implemented by Development Wheel (DEW).

Dr. Shuvas Chandra Basu, Additional District Commissioner (General), Mymensingh gave welcome speech in the meeting. Nasrin Ahmed, project facilitator of LHDP project, discussed on the objectives and effects of this project. After the session all service providers are committed to provide all services to deprived and poor women.

Quarterly Meeting with Thana Youth Group

Development Wheel (DEW), in association with Steps Towards Bangladesh and Dhaka Development Forum (DDF), has been working for a long time to reduce violence against women at institutional level under the project of "Strengthen Movement to advance Women human rights and Gender Equality". In the continuation of this journey, on 27 June, 2013 DEW arranged a quarterly meeting of Thana Youth Group at DEW conference room in Dhaka. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director of DEW, graced the meeting with his presence. In his welcome speech, he told that at first we have to ensure human rights for women that ultimately help us to reduce violence against women and build up a society where everyone will enjoy equal rights. Tania Sharmin, project coordinator and representative of Dhaka development Forum, was also present in the meeting. She discussed on the High Court declaration of violence against women and according to High Court declaration what are regarded as violence against women at institutional level and what measures must be taken by educational institution. There were 16 youth group member were present in the meeting and also participated in the open discussion regarding violence against women. They shared their knowledge and experience among them regarding this matter. At the very end programme officer and focal person concluded the meeting by giving thanks to all.



Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director of DEW talked with Thana youth group during meeting session

International Networking and Development Activities Photograph



In WFTO Asia Board Meeting at Bangkok



WFTO Rio Global Conference 2013



Partnership Network Meeting at Sweden



Effective group operation and Leadership training session



Focus group discussion of ALO project and Farmers field day



Awareness raising student rally and discussion meeting at school level



Awareness raising campaign and observed international women day 2013



Case Study



A story of farmer

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

Case study



A bamboo producer of DEW

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.

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