Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The present document, Progress Report no. 4, is the second Progress Report with regard to the 51 months period of July 2000 to October 2004, covered by the contract between the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) and Consultants for Development Programmes b.v. (CDP). It is the fourth in the CDSP II period, which started October 1, 1999.

The Inception Report for the 51 months was formally approved by RNE with a letter dated January 23, 2001 and was accepted by the Technical Committee ICZM (at the same time national steering committee of CDSP II) in its meeting of March 22. RNE took the decision to waive the contractual obligation to submit an Annual Work Plan for 2001. This Plan was taken to be covered by the Inception Report. The annual budget for 2001 was approved by RNE with a letter dated February 4. That budget and the Inception Report formed the basis for the activities during the reporting period.

This report has the same structure and the same numbering of chapters and paragraphs as the Inception Report (and the previous Progress Report) which should facilitate cross checking. Chapter 2 provides an outline of the project, while chapter 3 reports on the progress of activities. Chapter 4 deals with the project organization and chapter 5 with the resources needed for implementation of the activities. Chapter 6 highlights the financial aspects.

An effort is made to keep the report relatively brief. More detailed and more in-depth information can in many cases be found in other documents. That is why in a number of places in the report a reference is made to other publications, in particular Technical Reports and Mission Reports.

1.2 Approaches and strategies

Elements of approach and strategy as described in the Inception Report became more visible during the reporting period. The project works in inherently vulnerable areas with a population that often came to the chars because they lost their property or chances for a decent livelihood somewhere else. It is (in general) much too early to claim that the project indeed improved their livelihoods and indeed achieved something in terms of *poverty alleviation.* A few examples that point in that direction however can be given. Due to re-excavation of *khals*, the south eastern side of polder 59/3B, for instance, has significantly less water logging problems in the current monsoon season, compared to the past. In areas that were under water last year, now seed beds for the *aman* crops can be seen. Rural roads opened up areas and

considerably improved living conditions for settlers in places such as Gangchil-Torabali and Moradona. Repair of houses in CDSP I clustered villages had the same effect. The installation of test tube wells in areas where there was no safe water supply before (such as South Hatiya and Nijhum Dwip/Bandartila), provided an immediate relief for the population living close to these wells. The transfer of actual possession of land in CDSP I polders, albeit a slow process, brought an improvement in the lives of some hitherto landless households.

The *participatory approach* is clearly shown in the activities of the Local Area Development Committees and the Water Management Committees. For the larger infrastructural works, such as the embankments in South Hatiya and Muhuri, the population living in the area has been properly informed, although problems with the alignment of the embankment did occur. The publication of and subsequent public hearings on the results of the plot-to-plot surveys with regard to land settlement are essentially participatory instruments, as is the group approach in agricultural extension, although there are still shortcomings.

In practice CDSP II indeed follows an *integrated approach*. On paper it can be seen in the complementary nature of the Project Proformas of the five implementing agencies and in the field by the fact that different interventions are being implemented in one specific area simultaneously. At project level much effort is put into coordination of all the parties that have a stake in the project, one way or the other. Such an approach will result in a mutual reinforcement of the impact of each of the main sub-components: land settlement, infrastructure and agriculture. Also the activities of CDSP II as a governmental project and those of the BRAC/CDSP non-governmental programme are strictly complementary and are intended to be mutually supportive.

No dramatic results can be reported with respect of the intention to try to *make other parties interested to start programmes in char areas*. The establishment of Non Formal Education schools of BRAC in several project areas (52 to date) and the fact that the Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Extension Project (GNAEP) started its work in char areas are however encouraging steps in the right direction. The overall planning effort aiming at solving the drainage problems in Noakhali, coordinated by BWDB, is an example where CDSP II played a substantial role, though this work has not yet led to additional investments in the char areas.

1.3 Linkages

Linkages with projects in the CDSP II areas were not very prominent in the reporting period, largely due to management changes in GNAEP and the SDC/LGED Noakhali Rural Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Project (NRIDMP; RDP 22). CDSP consultants participated in a NRIDMP workshop on the functioning of Union Parishads, in particular their ability to generate funds for local development. With

Second CERP contacts were maintained, among others on maintenance issues and the CERP sluices in polders 59/3B and 59/3C.

CDSP staff participated in meetings of the DFID initiated network of mostly NGOs and donor agencies that are active in the riverine chars of the country. Regular contacts were maintained with staff of the Programme Development Office of ICZM (see 3.1.2). The project continued to have routine contacts with institutions as the Surface Water Modeling Centre (SWMC), Environment and GIS Water Support Project for Water Sector Planning (EGIS), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and the Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI).

In the private sector links existed with Resource Development Centre (RDC), Development Design Consultants Ltd. (DDC) and Bangladesh Engineering and Technological Services Ltd. (BETS) and InfoConsult. These firms were involved in sub-contracted assignments. BIDS carried out a study for the project on the adoption of agricultural technologies.

The project has firm links with the NGO sector. BRAC and five local NGOs are intensively involved in CDSP through its agreement with RNE (see paragraphs 3.1.5 and 4.2.4).

Project consultant staff attended workshops of the Small Scale Water Resources Development Project of LGED on a district water management plan for Lakshmipur, of DFID in livelihood approaches and of NRIDMP on functioning of Union Parishads, of EGIS/SPARRSO on the use of satellite images for crop monitoring and of EGIS/BUET on remote sensing (high resolution images) and urban planning.

World Bank staff of the Dhaka office, including the Country Director, visited CDSP for two days. The Water Management Committees, NGO groups and (CERP) Embankment Maintenance Groups were the focus of the visit. A number of issues related to the water sector were discussed.

Chapter 2 PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 Development objectives and project purposes

Since there have been no changes in the project objectives and – purposes, reference can be made to the same paragraph in the Inception Report and in Progress Report no. 3.

2.2 Components, activities and indicators

No changes took place, so the text of Inception Report still applies. The Logical Framework can be found in annex 1. It provides an overview of components, activities and indicators. A number of gender specific indicators have been added in the Logical Framework.

2.3 Target groups

Also for this paragraph reference can be made to the Inception Report.

2.4 Project areas

Although they are mentioned in the Inception Report, the project areas are repeated here to make easy reference within the current report possible. The project areas for the third component, concrete interventions at field level, are:

- 1. Muhuri Accreted Area
- 2. Noakhali mainland with:
  - 2.a. Catchment area of Bamni river (polder 59/3C)
  - 2.b. Char Gangchil-Torabali
  - 2.c. Char Lakshmi
  - 2.d. Polder 59/3B (southeastern side)
  - 2.e. Char Moradona
  - 2.f. Char Baggar Dona I (LRP area)
  - 2.g. Char Baggar Dona II (CDSP I area)
  - 2.h. Char Majid (CDSP I area)
  - 2.i. Char Bhatirtek (CDSP I area)
- 3. Hatiya/Nijhum Dwip with:
  - 3.a. South Hatiya polder
  - 3.b. Nijhum Dwip / Char Osman
  - 3.c. Nijhum Dwip / Bandartila

The other two components, capacity building of institutions and strengthening the knowledge base are, in general, obviously less geographically specific and have the coastal zone as target area, with emphasis on the Districts of Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali and Lakshmipur. Exemptions are the feasibility studies (catchment area of Baggar Dona river and Noakhali khal) and the local level planning effort (with four pilot Unions as area of operation).

Of the above mentioned 13 areas, five are unprotected, six are already protected while two will be protected as part of CDSP II interventions. See annex 2 for an overview map as well as for maps of each individual area. On the overview map and in the text the numbers in the above mentioned list are used for reference.

Chapter 3 ACTIVITIES PER COMPONENT

3.1 Strengthening of institutions

3.1.1 Introduction

During the reporting period much emphasis was put on the further strengthening of the land settlement bureaucracy (see 3.1.3) and on local level planning (3.1.4). The project continues to try to support the ICZM process (3.1.1). No new field level institutions were actually established, though many preparations took place for the (re)formation of WMCs. Project staff further supported the existing ones (3.1.6).

3.1.2. Establishing an ICZM framework

During the reporting period frequent interactions took place on a range of issues, both in Dhaka and Noakhali, with staff of the Program Development Office (PDO) of ICZM. Subjects discussed were, a.o. organizational alternatives for ICZM in the institutional framework of the Government of Bangladesh, local level planning, agricultural development in coastal areas, relations with the Forest Department, training on ICZM, water logging as a typical issue in coastal areas with huge sedimentation in front of the coastline and the value of CDSP II in an ICZM perspective. CDSP consultants provided assistance with the organization of a workshop on ICZM in April for staff of government institutions, NGOs and projects located in Noakhali. PDO organized a mission on the contribution of projects in the coastal region to ICZM. This mission visited CDSP in the second half of June. CDSP wrote a contribution on soil salinity for the ICZM newsletter. PDO staff mediated in and provided assistance with the preparation of a regional study tour for Project Directors/Coordinators and other staff of the five implementing agencies in CDSP II (see also paragraph 5.5).

The Technical Committee of ICZM, of which Team Leader CDSP II is a member, held its third meeting on March 22, the only meeting during the last six months. Uncertainty continued about the future of PDO-ICZM in terms of its funding, staffing and exact scope of work. At least for the time being, CDSP's inputs in the ICZM process seem to spring more from personal relations and personal involvement than from the requirements of a comprehensive and generally accepted ICZM framework.

3.1.3. Improving land settlement bureaucracy at District - and Upazila level

The efforts to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the bureaucracy dealing with land management and – settlement matters at District- and Upazila level will be twofold:

- training for staff aiming at a better performance of current work methods

- modernization of the working process through introduction of computerization.

The target group for the *training* is staff from four Districts (Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur) and six Upazilas (Mirsharai, Sonagazi, Companiganj, Sadar, Hatiya, Ramgati). The training programme started in he second half of 2000 (see previous Progress Report). In the first six months of 2001 the following training activities took place:

- training of kanungos, surveyors, office supervisors and tahsildars in laws and circulars related to land settlement; the five days course, held at BARD in Comilla, was attended by 27 participants; the 10 trainers were attracted from a number of institutions
- training of office assistants and assistant tahsildars in the same subjects; also a five days course at BARD; 26 participants
- one day orientation workshop for members of the Upazila Agricultural Khas Land Management and Settlement Committee of Mirsharai, at Upzaila head quarters; 13 participants; workshop was on the methodology of land settlement in the project.

During this reporting period it became clear that staff of DGLRS would not be available for assistance with regard to the *computerization* of work processes related to land management at Upazila level, as was anticipated earlier. In a meeting with the Secretary of the Ministry of Land, the decision was taken that CDSP consultants would float a tender in Bangladesh for selection of a firm that would develop the software required for the computerization. Seven firms were shortlisted, while five bids were received. On technical and financial grounds InfoConsult was awarded the contract (signed in the first week of July). The steps in this assignment will be: need analysis, software development, testing of software in two Upazilas, training of staff, introduction of computerized system in six Upazilas. This process is expected to be completed in February 2002.

3.1.4. Strengthening of planning capacity at District-, Upazila-, and Union level

In the reporting period a start was made with the implementation of the action plan on local level planning as agreed upon with WFP and RNE in November 2000. The first step, the formation of village data bases, was nearly completed at the end of June. After selection of the survey teams for the four pilot Unions (Saherkhali, Char Darbesh, Jahajmara and Char Badam) consisting of four (male) team leaders and 35 surveyors (of which 14 were women), individual surveys were conducted among all the households in the four Unions (in total 25,726). In order to collect more information for the village data bases and to make the population aware of the ongoing planning efforts, in each of the 26 villages meetings were held (separately for male and females).The household surveys and the village surveys (result of the meetings) led to 26 village profiles (data bases), that were available mid-July. Discussions on how to proceed with the next step, the actual planning process,

started at the end of June. The preparation of that phase will take till the end of August.

Members of the Union Parishads of the four pilot Unions received a one week training (in two batches) at BARD, Comilla. The title of the course was "Union Parishad Management and Local Level Planning". Subjects were a.o. the role of UP in development; relation between UPs and NGOs; various laws and procedures; office management and conducting meetings; concepts of participation and participatory local level planning. In total 28 persons attended the training: all Chairmen, all Secretaries, 92% of the female members and 89% of the male members.

3.1.5. Capacity building of NGOs

The responsibility for capacity building of local NGOs is in CDSP II shifted from the consultants to BRAC. Hence, reference can be made to the Progress Reports of BRAC/CDSP. The regular coordination meetings among BRAC and the five NGOs were always attended by a representative of the CDSP consultants team.

3.1.6. Establishing and strengthening of field level institutions

The term field level institutions refer to those institutions that are composed of representatives of the char population and give shape to the concept of people's participation. CDSP II is directly involved with the following institutions: Local Area Development Committees (LADC), Sub Polder Committees (SPC) and Polder Committees (PC), Water Management Committees (WMC) and Tubewell User Groups (UG).

Local Area Development Committees

The five Local Area Development Committees are all in unprotected areas: Char Gangchil-Torabali, Char Lakshmi, Char Moradona, Nijhum Dwip (Bandartila) and Nijhum Dwip (Char Osman). They all met on average twice a month. Average attendance was around 60%. The main subjects discussed were related to the infrastructure and land settlement in the respective areas. Female members of LADCs of Mora Dona, Gangchil-Torabali and Lakshmi were trained in aspects of gender and development

Sub Polder- and Polder Committees

SPCs and PCs will be formed in the two areas that will be empoldered as a CDSP II activity: Muhuri and South Hatiya. Because the land settlement process in those areas has not yet proceeded as far as the allotment sheets, after which it is known who will receive land titles in the area, the formation of the SPCs and PCs has not yet been taken up.

Water Management Committees

Out of the six WMCs formed, five convened in the reporting period. The sixth one, for the drainage area of the Gangchil sluice, did not meet due to the fact that it will be transformed. It used to have members only from the Char Bhatirtek area. In the new form, representatives from the whole drainage area will be included in the WMC.

The five other WMCs, all in the three CDSP I polders, met averagely twice in the six months of the reporting period. Attendance was 69%, about the same for male and female members. Most frequent subjects discussed during the meetings were related to operation (opening and closing of slide gates) and maintenance (re-excavation of *khals*, repair of roads, removal of cross dams etc.). Less frequently, WMC members discussed sources of income. The Executive Committee of each WMC (existing of manager, assistant manager, operator and cashier) received a one day training in management and sluice operation. With four WMCs (Char Baggar Dona II, Char Majid and Char Bhatirtek 2x) a workshop was held on the relation between agriculture and water management. See Mission Report no.14 of July.

Preparations were made for new WMCs for Momtaz- and Gopal sluices in polder 59/3B (constructed under CERP II). The amended rules were followed in the process of formation. WMC Momtaz and WMC Gopal have each six male and four female members. The WMC for Gangchil was newly formed, with one male and one female representative of the catchment areas of each of the *khals* streaming into the Gangchil. It now has 13 male and eight female members. For the sluice in the Bamni river, polder 59/3C, a temporary WMC was formed, existing of the six UP Chairman, eight UP Members and two others. Of the total of 16, there are five women. A WMC was urgently needed because the sluice became operational in the reporting period. The permanent committee will be formed in the latter part of 2001. The four new WMCs have been installed just after the reporting period, in July.

The Ministry of Water Resources published the Guidelines for Participatory Water Management as approved by the Executive Committee of the National Water Council in November 2000. Consultants wrote comments on these Guidelines from the viewpoint of rules and experiences in CDSP. An important question is whether the rules as applied in CDSP (and approved by the national steering committee and the Ministry of Water Resources) have to be amended in the light of the Guidelines. RNE arranged a meeting with the Task Force that drafted the Guidelines. The meeting is scheduled for beginning of August.

Tubewell User Groups

No Tubewell User Groups have been formed yet by the local NGOs participating in the BRAC/CDSP programme.

3.2. Accumulation and dissemination of knowledge

3.2.1. Introduction

As stated in the Inception Report, the function of further accumulation and dissemination of knowledge is mainly threefold:

- to improve the design and implementation of future interventions in CDSP itself
- to improve the functioning of institutions at various levels
- to contribute to the data base and subsequently to the policy formulation in the ICZM framework.

Hopefully all three aspects will indirectly result in an improvement of the situation in the chars, via more effective future interventions, better functioning institutions and improved policies.

The activities mentioned below in paragraphs 3.2.2 to 3.2.10 have as their primary objective the collection of data or the generation of information and knowledge. Many of the interventions at field level, the subject of Chapter 4, obviously have a data/information/knowledge dimension as well.

3.2.2. Feasibility Study Baggar Dona River catchment area

Late January a workshop was held in Lakshmipur on the Interim Report of the Feasibility Study on the development of the Baggar Dona river catchment area, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Lakshmipur. The nearly 40 participants came from governmental institutions (BWDB, LGED, DPHE and Department of Forest), from District- and Upazila administration, from Union Parishads from the study area and from the CDSP consultants team. The primary objective of the meeting was explaining the most significant findings and conclusions of the Interim Report and exchanging views on the option preferred by the feasibility study consultants (DDC/BETS team). This preferred option is the closure of the Baggar Dona / Hatiya river at the eastern side (near Bhuiyerhat), the diversion of the river through Jarirdona and a *khal* in Boyer Char, including two regulators, and the protection of Boyer Char. Participants supported the preferred option, but different opinions were expressed as far as the status of Boyer Char is concerned. The Department of Forest claims that the area is reserved forest, while the District- and Upazila administrations are of the opinion that all of Boyer char is *khas* land and available for distribution among landless households.

SWMC, responsible for the modelling as part of the feasibility study, submitted the Draft Final Report in May and the Final Report at the end of June. The main report of the Draft Final Report (of DDC/BETS) of the overall study was completed in the

second week of June, while the four appendices were furnished at the end of June. In the last week of June a meeting was held chaired by Additional Director General (Planning) of BWDB, with representatives of RNE, BWDB, the feasibility study team and the CDSP consultants team. The most important outcome of the meeting was that RNE and BWDB (and the other four implementing agencies) will provide comments on the Draft Final Report after which the Final Report will be completed, while BWDB will take the initiative to start the preparation of an appraisal mission.

Mission Reports no. 11 (March) and no. 13 (May) contain comments on the feasibility study of the short term civil engineer and morphologist/hydraulic engineer. Recommendations of the environmental/fisheries experts can be found in an unpublished report of March.

3.2.3. Feasibility Study Noakhali khal

As reflected in the previous Progress Report, a full-fledged feasibility study on the Noakhali khal might not be required, given the work done in the framework of the Baggar Dona study and the expected results of the ongoing South Comilla/North Noakhali Integrated Drainage Project study, funded by the Government of Bangladesh. CDSP consultants participated in a field visit organized by BWDB- and SWMC staff and staff of the consultants (EPC) assigned for this study. At the end of the reporting period it was clear that conclusions can be reached in September with regard to the drainage network in polder 59/3C (in particular the catchment area of Bamni river sluice). These conclusions will have bearing on work to be implemented under CDSP II. It seems that the sedimentation of Noakhali khal is indeed one of the significant causes of the drainage problems. The SWMC model for this area, which is complementary to the model for the Baggar Dona area (see above) and the other components of the study point to solutions of the water logging by diverting drainage water through the Bamni sluice and, possibly, Gangchil sluice.

3.2.4. Study on storage of fresh water

The survey on the use of fresh water in the three CDSP I polders and one unprotected area, Gangchil-Torabali, was completed during the reporting period. The Technical Report on the survey is in preparation and will be published in August. The survey highlights the various uses of fresh water in char areas and the different sources. It gives ample attention to agricultural use, both for homestead and field crops. The methods of coping with water crises in the dry season are investigated. Most issues are discussed in a gender specific manner. The findings were published in August (Technical Report no. 4).

The project intends to publish a comprehensive Technical Report on the subject mid-2002. This report will be based on

- the survey report mentioned above
- a similar survey but with a larger sample and for a larger area

- a technical survey focusing on the reasons why some ponds are perennial and other dry up in winter
- a ground water survey based on secondary sources, already carried out for a large part
- a study on the feasibility of large community owned and managed fresh water bodies.

3.2.5. Water related measurements

Daily water level and salinity data continued to be collected in nine locations:: Muhuri (at Feni regulator), Bamni sluice, Char Bhatirtek, Char Majid, Bhuiyer Hat, Char Baggar Dona I, Char Baggar Dona II, South Hatiya and Nijhum Dwip. Salinity data of open water (sea or river) is collected at the same places, except Bamni sluice and Bhuiyer Hat and of inside (polder) water in the three CDSP I polders plus Char Baggar Dona I. Rainfall and ground water are measured in the three CDSP I polders, South Hatiya, Nijhum Dwip and Muhuri. All data are collected from the field on a monthly basis, processed and stored in the database of the team of advisers and are supplied to SWMC. See also Mission Report no. 11, chapter 4.

3.2.6. Soil related measurements

The previous Progress Report mentioned that soil tests (salinity, nutrient status; 400 x 500 m grid) were carried out for Muhuri and South Hatiya. In the first six months of 2001 similar tests were completed for all other new areas: Char Gangchil-Torabali, Char Lakshmi, Char Moradona, Nijhum Dwip (Bandartila) and Nijhum Dwip (Char Osman). For all these areas zonation maps are being made (see also 3.3.4). A Technical Report is in preparation on the results of all the tests and of the zonation exercise.

In February, April and June the routine soil samples from the three CDSP I polders were taken as a part of the monitoring process (see 3.2.9). Analysis is done in the SRDI laboratory in Dhaka.

3.2.7. Pilot activities in the area of land- and water engineering

CDSP has suggested to carry out a limited survey programme on *hydro-morphological processes* in coastal waters in front of the CDSP project areas. It is not the intention that the surveys are carried out in the CDSP framework. Other projects, for instance the follow-up of MES II (if any), or institutes could be made responsible. See also Mission Report no.13.

In the reporting period the decision has been taken to construct a *low embankment* in the 2001/02 dry season around a part of Char Gangchil-Torabali for protection of agriculture by decreasing the frequency of inundation. This will be done by LGED and not by BWDB, in view of the size of the area being protected. Because this

should be seen as a pilot activity, much attention will be given to monitoring the effect of this low embankment and to matters of maintenance. This pilot activity is expected to

- provide better insights in the effect of reduced flooding on crop damage and damage to infrastructure in the area
- generate experience with maintenance of these kind of submersible embankments
- provide information on construction aspects on low embankments and on outlet structures in relation to drainage requirements.

With regard to the issue of *elements in polder design* (including appropriate land levels; design and location of sluices, embankments and outfall channels; shape and size of polders), the first step will be an inventory of existing information available in BWDB about land levels of polders. This will be followed by a series of meetings and, possibly, workshops after which an action plan will be formulated to arrive at a set of guidelines. This plan will probably be available in the second half of 2002.

3.2.8. Study on potential of coastal agriculture

Much time was spent in the reporting period on the zonation of project areas in view of agricultural perspectives. Identifying the most promising agricultural technologies for each of the zones is the next step as far as the areas are concerned that were newly taken up in CDSP II.

Another topic during the first six months of 2001 was the relation between water management and agricultural production. This can be seen as a follow-up of the conclusion reported in the previous Progress Report that the adoption of HYV crops was slower than anticipated. That relation proved to be significant, not surprisingly, and will continue to be an important issue for further investigations. See also Mission report no.14, published in July.

Other major issues on the agenda for the coming years are the methods for agricultural extension, in particular the group approach, and the effect of sharecropping arrangements, incidence of share cropping and pattern of landownership on adoption of modern technologies in agriculture.

A comprehensive report on all the experiences and lessons to be learned will be published in 2004.

3.2.9. Monitoring of developments in the three CDSP I polders

The monitoring programme of developments in CDSP I polders as set out in the Internal Resource Report of July 2000 continued in the reporting period as far as infrastructure and agriculture are concerned. Checks on status of infrastructure have been carried out by the engineering unit of the consultants team, while an inventory

was made on the contribution to maintenance by the parties to the Maintenance Plan (see 3.3.3).
Transect surveys have been carried out to collect information on *rabi* crops in all three polders, while soil salinity was measured in February, April and June.
The survey on changes with regard to land settlement will be carried out in the second half of this year.

With assistance from EGIS, a database has been designed to process and store all monitoring data. It is the intention to publish a Technical Report on the results to date in February 2002.

3.2.10. Cost benefit analysis

The cost benefit assessment of South Hatiya polder was completed and published in March. This report (Technical Report no. 3) is the last one in a series of reports which, combined, can be said to constitute a feasibility study. The 1998 feasibility study made by MES was no longer applicable because the project as it is implemented now, is very different from the one envisaged in the MES report.

3.3. Direct improvement of economic and social situation

3.3.1. Introduction

This component aims at bringing about direct improvements in the economic situation and livelihood of the settlers. It consists of three sub-components: land settlement (3.3.2); construction of water management related and other infrastructure (3.3.3); and productive development, in particular through improved agricultural practices (3.3.4).

3.3.2. Official settlement of households on *khas* land

The procedural steps in the land settlement process can be found in Progress Report no. 3. The progress at the end of June in each of the six project areas where this process started in CDSP II is mentioned below. For all areas the plot-to-plot survey was completed, except for a small part of Muhuri, a disputed area between Sonagazi and Mirsharai Upazilas. The areas surveyed are those areas of the total that are not old, ancestral land (for which legal *khatians* exist). The surveyed areas comprise *khas* land and land settled under more recent settlement operations, after the land was accreted:

a. Muhuri Accreted Area (1): area surveyed was around 3,075 acres of total area of 4,896 acres; 1,537 acres of *khas* land were identified, available for official settlement

b. Char Gangchil-Torabali (2.b): total land surveyed: 2,467 acres, which comprises the total area plus a small part outside the actual project area; *khas* land found: 1,234 acres; hearings completed; land settlement process already started for 100 households
c. Char Moradona (2.e): of total area of 4,896 acres 3,022 were surveyed; 1,814 acres identified as *khas* land; subsequent hearings are ongoing;
d. South Hatiya polder (3.a): a total area of 6,669 acres was surveyed, of which 3,547 acres is *khas* land
e. Nijhum Dwip/Char Osman (3.b): the whole area of 1,307 acres was surveyed; 392 acres found as *khas* land
f. Nijhum Dwip/Bandartila (3.c): of total area of 1,976 acres, 550 acres surveyed, which were all *khas* land; other land was settled in an earlier operation.

It is estimated that in the above mentioned project areas a total of about 9,100 acres is *khas* land, available for official settlement of landless households. With an average of 1.5 acres per household, this would mean that around 6,100 households can receive a *khatian*.

The process of handing over the possession of land in the three CDSP I polders from illegal occupiers to people who received a *khatian* but not the land started moving again during the reporting period, but only slowly. The biggest constraints are the influence of the illegal occupiers of the land and the non-availability of government staff to initiate and guide the process. Of the 836 households that still had to receive the land at the beginning of 2001, 127 actually got possession during the first six months. That means that 709 households (nearly 16% of the total households that received title deeds during CDSP I and 85% of households that needed handing over of land) are still waiting for their rightful land.

The conversion of the cooperative *khatians* to individual *khatians* in Char Baggar Dona I made some progress. A total of 2,264 acres are subject to this process, involving 918 households.

For the sake of completeness, no land settlement activities are undertaken under CDSP II in the remaining three project areas: catchment area of Bamni river in polder 59/3C (2.a), Char Lakshmi (2.c), polder 59/3B (2.d).

3.3.3. Construction of infrastructure

Though much work was done with regard to construction, progress on the whole was not satisfactory. A number of factors played a role, a.o. the late approval of PPs leading to a shortage of funds in case of, for instance, DPHE; delays in design due to slow progress in the design offices or due to differences of opinion with consultants; re-tendering of works because the first call did not produce acceptable results; problems with land acquisition, in particular with the embankments in Muhuri and South Hatiya. In a few cases differences of opinion with the Forest Department on

the status of the land caused the discontinuation of work. Most of the internal infrastructure in Muhuri and South Hatiya was not yet taken up, because the (Sub) Polder Committees were not formed. This will be done as soon as it is known who will be settled in the areas; only then the (Sub) Polder Committees can be formed.

The situation of each of the project areas at the end of June is given below. The plan for the whole project period as mentioned in the Inception Report is printed in *italics* while the actual achievement is given in normal font. Mission Report no. 15 (July) provides more information.

a. Muhuri AA (1)

- BWDB (peripheral): *11.5 km embankment; 2 sluices; 2 irrigation inlets; foreshore afforestation.* Overall completion of the embankment stands at 75%, of which 55% was done in the reporting period. Preparation of plan for afforestation has been started.
- BWDB (internal): *32.2 km. khals* . Implementation will start in 2001/02 season.
- LGED: *13.6 km. rural road; 1 bridge; 12 culverts; 10 cyclone shelters; 32 ponds; 8 cluster village complexes (with 864 houses).* Of 3 km of rural road, 59% has been completed. The construction of two cyclone shelters has started; progress about 10%. The Ministry of Land selected the type of house to be built in Muhuri and South Hatiya (see also 3.3.5).
- DPHE: *97 tube wells; 864 latrines.* Five test tube wells have been installed, results however are not yet officially known.

b. Bamni catchment area in polder 59/3C (2.a)

- BWDB (internal): *27 km. khal; 10 km. sluice approach road; 3 culverts.* A start was made with 15 km of *khal*, of which 70% was completed at the end of the reporting period. Progress on the approach road (8.10 km) stands at 85%. Work on culverts has not yet started.

c. Char Gangchil-Torabali (2.b):

- BWDB (peripheral): *5 km. low embankment.* Start is planned for 2001/02 season. The low embankment is shifted to LGED.
- LGED: *6 km. rural road; 3 culverts; 1 cyclone shelter.* Work on the road is completed for 80%. Three culverts have been tendered, work orders are issued. Cyclone shelter is planned for 2001/02. The low embankment (see above) is included in LGED's next year programme.
- DPHE: *62 tube wells; 990 latrines.* Two test tube wells have been completed. Results not yet known.

d. Char Lakhsmi (2.c)

- LGED: *7 km. rural road; 1 bridge; 5 culverts; 3 cyclone shelters.* Road has been completed, except a stretch of 300 m in an area disputed by Forest Department. One culvert is tendered, work order has been given. Construction of cyclone shelters will be done in 2001/02.

- DPHE: *53 tube wells; 600 latrines.* Three test tube wells have been installed. Results not yet received.

e. Polder 59/3B (south east) (2.d)
- BWDB (peripheral): *2 sluices; 7 lift gates.* Designs for sluices and tender process have been completed. Construction can start in 2001/02 season. Also the lift gates in the CERP sluices will be started next dry season.
- BWDB (internal): *42.8 km. khal; 13 culvert.* Progress is 95% for *khals* and 80% for culverts.
- LGED: *5 km. rural road.* This work has been fully completed.

f. Char Moradona (2.e)
- LGED: *7 km. rural road; 5 culverts; 1 cyclone shelter.* The road has been completed. Construction of two cyclone shelters (one more than planned on request of LADC) is ongoing; progress 10%. For 3 culverts tender is completed and work order has been issued.
- DPHE: *83 tube wells; 1,450 latrines.* Three test tube wells have been installed; no results yet.

g. Char Baggar Dona I (2.f)
- BWDB: *2 box culverts* These 2 culverts, carry over work from 1999/2000 have been completed

h. Char Baggar Dona II (2.g)
- LGED: *repair of 196 c.v. houses.* Repair of 48 houses has been completed; 3 ongoing. .
- DPHE: *repair of 71 tubewells.* Only preparatory work was done.

i. Char Majid (2.h)
- LGED: *repair of 367 c.v. houses.* Forty one houses have been repaired; 32 ongoing.
- DPHE: *repair of 62 tubewells.* Only preparations were done.

j. Char Bhatirtek (2.i)
- LGED: *repair of 215 c.v. houses.* Repair of 38 houses completed; 5 ongoing.
- DPHE: *repair of 87 tubewells.* Only preparations were done

k. South Hatiya (3.a)
- BWDB (peripheral): *20.9 km. embankment; 3 sluices; 2 pipe sluices.* Overall progress on the embankment is 80%. The designs of the 3 sluices are ready and the tender process is done. These sluices and the pipe sluices will be constructed in the 2001/02 and 2002/03 seasons.
- BWDB (internal): *6 km. khal; improvement of guesthouse. Khals* will be started next season. Work order for the guesthouse is issued.
- LGED: *20 km. rural road; carpeting of 1.2 km link road;13 bridges and culverts; 8 cyclone shelters;12 ponds; 1 cluster village complex.* Of 5 km road,

45% has been completed. Construction of 1 cyclone shelter is ongoing; progress 10%. For the second one the tender procedure has been completed. Progress on link road carpeting is 5%. Other works not yet started. The Ministry of Land selected the type of house out of three models that were built in South Hatiya (see also 3.3.5).
- DPHE: *175 tube wells; 2000 latrines.* Five test tube wells have been installed; results are awaited.

l. Nijhum Dwip/Char Osman (3.b.)
- LGED: *5 km. rural road; 6 bridges/culverts; 1 cyclone shelter.* Only 1.25 km of road has been finished. Due to a problem with the Forest Department the work has been stopped. No other work has been started.
- DPHE: *59 tube wells; 550 latrines.* Four test tube wells have been completed; results not yet known.

m. Nijhum Dwip/Bandartila (3.c)
- LGED: *5 km. rural road; 2 bridges/culverts; 3 cyclone shelters.* Due to an objection from the Forest Department construction of road has been discontinued after 0.75 km. Tender procedure for 2 cyclone shelters has been completed.
- DPHE: *78 tube wells; 450 latrines.* Two test tube wells are installed; results not yet known.

For the three CDSP I polders the project assisted in drafting Maintenance Plans agreed upon and signed by the implementing agency (BWDB and LGED), the Union Parishad and the Water Management Committee. The basic pattern is that the agencies are responsible for periodic maintenance and the UPs and WMCs for preventive maintenance. The UPs and WMCs have implemented 20-40% of their obligations under the plan. For BWDB and LGED this is much lower: around 10%. A positive development is that the funds for maintenance from BWDB are from the revenue budget. For LGED the money comes from the development budget.

3.3.4. Productive development

A. Field crops

A.1. Baseline information

For the following seven project areas the process of collecting baseline information is completed: Muhuri AA, Char Gangchil-Torabali, Char Lakshmi, Char Moradona, South Hatiya polder, Nijhhum Dwip (Char Osman) and Nijhum Dwip (Bandartila). As far as the remaining six project areas are concerned: in polders 59/3C and 59/3B, and in Char Baggar Dona I the project did not initiate agricultural activities, while in the three CDSP I polders a monitoring programme is going on (see below under C). The baseline information on the seven above mentioned project areas contains data on: land levels (topographic maps); land types according to farmers' observations;

flooding depths; soil salinity; soil fertility; cropping patterns for all three seasons. For each of the areas a zonation map and a land use map will be produced.
The next step is to identify the optimal technologies for each zone. Based on the number of cropping patterns, there will probably be a division in eight to nine zones. In all areas zones with high, medium and low production will be identified. This work will take most of the second half of this year.

A.2. Agricultural extension

The activities in the different project areas are reported below:

a. Muhuri AA (1): 33 tests with different *rabi* crops; one discussion with farmers forum on *kharif I (aus) crop*; many visits to individual farmers by Field Agriculturist of consultants team; no Block Supervisors of DAE as yet present
b. Char Gangchil-Torabali (2.b): two test plots on *rabi* crops and three on *kharif I* ; 3 meetings of farmers forum
c. Char Lakshmi (2.c): 33 tests on *rabi* crops and 18 on *kharif I*; 4 discussions with farmers forum
d. Char Moradona (2.e): 145 tests with *rabi* crops and 212 with *kharif I*; 19 meetings with farmers forum
e. South Hatiya polder (3.a): 70 *rabi* crops tests and 14 *kharif I*; one farmers forum meeting; one farmer's training with 16 participants on *aman* crop
f. Nijhum Dwip/Char Osman and Bandartila (3.b and 3.c): 17 *rabi* crops tests, two *kharif I* tests

Results with adoption of HYV crops have not been encouraging, as was already reported in the last Progress Report. The method of extension can very well be one of the factors. This method has to be reviewed with DAE and NGOs (as far as the use of groups is concerned for extension). An effective mix of several instruments as farmers fora, individual visits, field days etc. has to be formulated.

Much attention has been given to other factors that can contribute to the slow adoption rate. Technical Report no.2 identifies 13 different factors that could hamper the adoption rate. A number of them are outside the purview of the project and can therefore not be directly influenced by project interventions. Unjust sharecropping arrangements, lack of money and of credit facilities, the market price and the taste of HYV rice are examples. Other impeding factors, however, can be influenced. Extension activities can address, and indeed do so, the lack of proper knowledge of production management, the attacks by pests (training on IPM), the lack of good seeds (provision of seeds, seed exchange), decrease of soil fertility (introduction of organic matters) and constant care for the crops. Over time, infrastructural interventions as flood protection and drainage improvement contribute over time to a reduction of crop damage, of the problem of water logging and of soil salinity. Workshops were held with the WMCs in the three CDSP I polders, in which the

WMC members emphasized the water management problems (O&M of sluices, sedimentation of outflows) that led to an environment not conducive for introduction of HYV crops. See also Mission Report no. 14 of July.

A.3. Monitoring

Soil salinity tests in the three CDSP I polders were done by SRDI in February, April and June. A transect survey on *rabi* crops was carried out by DAE and consultants in March. A Technical Report on monitoring results will be published in February 2002.

A.4. Input supplies

Based on the low response of farmers described in the previous Progress Report, no activities were undertaken during this reporting period. It can be expected that an increase in the adoption of HYV crops will stimulate the demand for fertilizer and pesticides. At such a time the project will again approach farmers that might be interested in commercial activities related to agricultural inputs.

A.5. Social forestry

No social forestry activities took place in the reporting period. One of the five local NGOs involved in the BRAC/CDSP programme, YPSA, was asked to make a proposal for the foreshore afforestation of Muhuri embankment. This proposal was received mid-July.

B. Homestead gardening

The primary responsibility for homestead gardening in CDSP II will be with BRAC and the five local NGOs. BRAC will have a homestead specialist in its CDSP support team.
The role of DAE and of the consultants will be one of providing resource persons more than one of actually participating in the implementation.

C. Fisheries

The project does not entertain any direct interventions with regard to fisheries. The Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Extension Project is prepared to provide training to staff of the partner NGOs in the CDSP/BRAC programme, as in the past. In the reporting period no such training was given. CODEC, the national NGO specialized on fisheries, working as the lead NGO in GNAEP, extended its extension work to the char areas, though not to the clustered villages (with community ponds) in the CDSP I polders. The number of ponds is just too big to be covered by CODEC. Training of staff of the BRAC/CDSP NGOs and a close cooperation between BRAC and CODEC seem to be the best steps forwards at the moment.

The previous Progress Reports mentioned the surveys held among fishermen (marine and inland) in Muhuri and South Hatiya. The surveys mainly focused on two issues: the potential impact of the polders on the livelihoods of the fishermen households and on the harbor facilities for fishing boats. The construction of the embankment in Muhuri will have negative consequences on both accounts. The fishermen stand to lose the possibility of monsoon fishing in the *khals* when the water runs fresh. The system of embankment and sluices will prevent water coming into the *khals*. They will also lose the landing sites for their boats, which used to be inside the *khals.* Mitigating measures that will be applied are the construction of trolleys that facilitate the lifting of the boats over the embankment and a priority to affected fishermen households in the process of land settlement. In Hatiya the negative impacts are much less prominent due to the fact that the fishermen are mainly engaged in marine fishing and to the fact that they can moor their boats in the forest area outside the recently constructed embankment. Attention will be given to the road connection between the old and the new embankment.

3.3.5. Gender aspects in land settlement, infrastructure and agricultural development

The text below refers to the issues mentioned in the Inception Report in the same paragraph. The issues can be found and are elaborated upon in Technical Report no. 1.

A. Land settlement

- The principle of treating landless female-headed households as a priority group in the land settlement process is strictly followed. Though the actual settlement is not yet in process, cases of female-headed households during the survey process and the hearings have all been dealt with on a priority basis.
- Conventionally, the name of the male spouse is put first in the *khatian* This gives males a favorable position to exercise the power of ownership. For example, in case a land title is used to secure a bank loan, the bank manager will usually check only the first name. This means that in practice one of the owners can mortgage the land. Putting the wife's name first in the *khatian* is strictly within the law. The issue was raised by consultants in meetings at Upazila and District-level. However, no firm commitment was obtained yet. If necessary, the matter should be taken to the Ministry of Land.
- Widowed or deserted women without an able-bodied son are not entitled to get agricultural *khas* land. However, this restriction does not apply in case of victims of river erosion. Because river erosion is a common feature in coastal areas, widowed or deserted women, lacking an able-bodied son, are listed as erosion affected families. In this way they are entitled to participate in the land settlement process as any other landless household. The idea to provided widows or deserted women with larger homesteads, as previously planned, is not required if the present strategy indeed proves successful.
- The list containing all the names of female-headed households has not yet been completed, after the plot-to-plot survey. As soon as this is the case, the list will be given to the concerned NGO.
- Before the reporting period 38 female UP members have been trained. In the tour to West Bengal, where land issues were discussed quite extensively, 13 female UP members participated. Most of the female UP members have indeed played an active role during the plot-to-plot surveys and the subsequent hearings.
- Except for Muhuri, information dissemination meetings for women were organized in all concerned project areas on land settlement laws and procedures. Feedback to women on the progress of this component will start after the hearings are concluded. In Muhuri only about one sixth of the households that will have land at the end of the process are currently present in Muhuri. The information meetings will be held when more is known about the final list of settlers.
- In four areas a Women Desk was organized in April. Around 1,200 women visited the desk. The issues that were discussed most frequently were land settlement affairs, water and sanitation, and homestead agriculture.

B. Infrastructure

Women are indeed members of the LADCs (out of 69 members, 21 are female) and play an active role in planning the infrastructure in their respective areas. The Polder Committees and Sub Polder Committees for protected areas (Muhuri and South

Hatiya) still have to be formed, as explained in 3.1.6. In WMCs, the committees that play a crucial role in operation and maintenance of structures, the influence of women has substantially increased by the new rules for formation of the WMCs. The involved Union Parishads have been briefed on the procedures of developing PICs and female members were made aware about their role, responsibilities and rights as chairperson or members of PICs. Tubewell User Groups, to be formed by NGOs, have not yet been established.

BWDB and LGED have been approached, also with letters, to form female Road Maintenance Groups and Embankment Maintenance Groups. For structures built under CDSP, this has not yet happened. CDSP II will make funds available for such groups, in case they are formed.

Women have been consulted about the design of cyclone shelter and their comments have indeed been taken into account in the shelters that are presently under construction. Women provided their views on the design of the houses. Three different model houses were built in South Hatiya. A survey was held among men and women about people's preferences.

C. Agriculture

Women are included in the farmers forum (see 3.3.4) as farmers. All model (534) and general (1,646) vegetable, homestead growers are women. They have received formal and informal training as well as input support from NGOs under the BRAC/CDSP programme.
NGOs employ female field workers for the communication with female farmers. However, it proves to be difficult for DAE however to attract female Block Supervisors, in particular for char areas.

Chapter 4 PROJECT ORGANIZATION

4.1. Introduction

The overall project organization did not change in the reporting period. CDSP II continued to be present at four administrative levels: national, District, Upazila and Union. The activities accounted for in chapter 3 relate to four Districts: Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali and Lakshmipur, and to six Upazilas in these Districts. The concrete interventions at field level (the third component) took place in five Upazilas in the first three Districts: Mirsharai (Chittagong), Sonagazi (Feni), Companiganj, Sadar, Hatiya (Noakhali). The concrete interventions are located in a total of 18 Unions.

4.2. The parties involved and their responsibilities

4.2.1. Implementing agencies

The five governmental implementing agencies involved are: Bangladesh Water Development Board (also lead agency), Local Government Engineering Department, Department of Public Health Engineering, Department of Agricultural Extension and Ministry of Land. The Ministry of Water Resources is the sponsoring institution.

The Project Proformas (PP) of each of the agencies were approved during the reporting period.

4.2.2. Local government bodies

Union Parishads, the only existing elected local government body, were involved in practically the whole range of project interventions. In the first place they participated in local level planning (see 3.1.4), but also in planning (bilateral discussions, membership in LADCs), implementation (formation of PICs in WFP supported works) and operation and maintenance of infrastructure (membership of WMCs). UP Chairmen are members of the Upazila Agricultural Khas Land Management and Settlement Committee, while UP members are usually present during the field hearings in the settlement process. In the agricultural extension activities, the involvement of UP members is less pronounced. This kind of relations exists between about 20 UPs and CDSP II.

Two groups of Union Parishad members participated in a study tour to West Bengal, India. The first group consisted of 12 UP Chairmen. Their visit took place from January 29 to February 4. The second group was formed by 13 female members of Union Parishads (February 5 to 11). Both study tours followed the same pattern. The core subject of the visit was the functioning of the local government system in India. Other subjects touched were land reforms and women participation.

4.2.3. Field level institutions

The field level institutions are essential in giving shape to CDSP II's policy of people's participation. Central in CDSP are the (Sub) Polder Committees, the Local Area Development Committees, the Water Management Committees and Tube well User Groups. Progress during the reporting period can be found in paragraph 3.1.6.

4.2.4. Non Government Organizations

The responsibility of supporting, coordinating and supervising local NGOs is in the hands of BRAC. CDSP II consultants assisted BRAC in the production of the Inception Report for the NGO activities in the framework of CDSP II, now known as the BRAC/CDSP programme. That Inception Report was submitted to and approved by RNE during the reporting period. Earlier in this report the fact was highlighted that the two Inception Reports, CDSP II and BRAC/CDSP, were complementary to each other.

CDSP consultants are present during the (now) bimonthly coordination meetings. From the side of the Government, the wish was expressed for better information flows and enhanced coordination between the NGOs and government agencies. A start has been made by participation of a BRAC representative in the PMC meeting. BRAC should also be invited to the Technical Committee ICZM and to the ICC. BRAC management committed itself to provide government agencies with relevant documentation on the activities in the BRAC/CDSP programme. It must be mentioned that at field level frequent contacts between NGO staff and government staff can be observed.

To repeat earlier reports, BRAC engaged the following five local NGOs for the various CDSP II areas:
- Young Power in Social Action (YPSA): Muhuri
- Sagarika: Char Majid, Char Moradona (part), Char Lakhsmi
- Upoma: Char Baggar Dona II, Char Moradona (part)
- Noakhali Rural Action Society (N-RAS): Char Bhatirtek
- Dwip Unnayan Sangstha (DUS): South Hatiya / Nijhum Dwip.

The BRAC/CDSP programme is monitored by RNE.

4.2.5. Team of advisers

In the Inception Report the responsibilities of the team of consultants was described as follows:
- To advise the implementing agencies on all relevant issues and to stimulate coordination among them

- To stimulate the project's involvement in the elaboration of ICZM principles, concepts, approaches and organizational framework
- To administer and supervise surveys and studies, while involvement of government agencies should be ensured in selection of the consultant in case of sub-contracting, in monitoring the progress and in discussing the outcomes
- To carry out monitoring activities, distribute the results and discuss them with relevant agencies
- To provide training and other support related to the institutional strengthening component
- To provide clearance for construction of infrastructure works, to monitor the quality control of these works and to approve reimbursements for the costs of construction
- To coordinate and supervise all expenditures from technical assistance funds.

All of these tasks were indeed performed by the team. Because a large part of the first half of the calendar year can be considered as construction period, much attention from the consultants side was given to the aspects of clearance of infrastructure works, monitoring the quality control and reimbursement of costs. Much of the day- to-day coordination at project/field level is done by consultants.

4.3. Coordination Mechanisms

4.3.1. At District level

After a decision in the Technical Committee ICZM, the Project Management Committee was re-instated. It consists of representatives from the five government agencies from District level (Chittagong, Feni and Noakhali), from the consultants team and from BRAC (the liaison officer based in Noakhali). The Project Director CDSP II of the lead agency, BWDB, chairs the PMC. The Committee met once in the reporting period. The intention is to have bimonthly meetings. CDSP II was on the agenda of the monthly meetings of the Noakhali District Development Coordination Committee, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner. One or more CDSP consultants attended the meetings. The actual time and attention given to the project varied from meeting to meeting. The Feasibility Study on the development of the Baggar Dona catchment area, with its consequences for Boyer Char, was extensively discussed. In other districts CDSP II is not a separate issue on the agenda of the DDCCs, most probably due to the limited size of the field level interventions in those Districts. In future however, Muhuri has to be on the agenda of the Chittagong DDCC.

4.3.2. At national level

The Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee for ICZM, at the same time the national steering committee for CDSP II, convened once during the reporting period. During

its meeting on March 22 it approved the Inception Report. The discussion on CDSPII was not held with the full Committee, but in a smaller meeting, prior to the meeting with the whole Committee on ICZM. This is a formula that should be maintained in future. A disadvantage of this situation is, however, that the timing of a meeting of the Technical Committee is determined by the needs of ICZM. This might be avoided by taking the above mentioned formula one step further by establishing a Sub- Committee on CDSP II with its own meeting schedule.

Also the Inter Agency Co-ordination Committee (ICC) met once, quite contrary to the intention to have meetings every other month. BWDB should recognize the importance of coordination in a multisectoral project like CDSP II. It should live up to its role as lead agency and take this coordination mechanism more seriously. A schedule of bimonthly ICC meetings should be strictly maintained. To make the ICC also a platform for coordination with the BRAC/CDSP activities, a BRAC representative should be invited to the meetings.

4.4. Reports and publications

In the reporting period Progress Report no. 3 (July 1 to December 31, 2000) was published, as well as four Mission Reports and two Technical Reports. The Mission Reports were on drainage of polder 59/3C and fresh water in char areas (no. 10); on progress and planning of infrastructure (no. 11); on general backstopping (no. 12); and on the Baggar Dona Feasibility Study and coastal morphological studies and surveys (no. 13). The mission of the environmental/fisheries expert with regard to the Baggar Dona Feasibility Study was not published as a Mission Report, because it basically contained an explanation of a method to the feasibility consultants with imaginary examples. The Technical Reports covered the adoption of new agricultural technologies (no. 2) and the assessments of costs and benefits of the South Hatiya polder (no. 3). On sub-contracting basis, DDC/BETS published the Draft Final Report on the development of the catchment area of the Baggar Dona river, while SWMC submitted the Draft Final Report on modelling in the framework of this feasibility study.

For a complete overview of reports and documents published under CDSP II, see annex 3.

4.5. Review and evaluation missions

RNE confirmed that a Joint Mid-Term Review Mission is scheduled for the beginning of 2002. A Joint Evaluation Mission is planned at the end of 2003.

Chapter 5 REQUIRED RESOURCES AND TIME-FRAME

5.1. Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the resources that were applied to implement the activities as they were highlighted in Chapter 3. The different kinds of inputs are grouped in the same manner and dealt with in the same sequence as is done in the standard Technical Assistance budget in Dutch development cooperation: personnel, investments and equipment, operational support and training. The costs in money terms are the subject of the next chapter.

The chapter closes with a look at the time-frame and the risks facing the project that might threat the pace of implementation

5.2. Personnel

5.2.1. From the Government of Bangladesh

Although all five PPs were approved during the reporting period, the staffing situation from the side of the Government of Bangladesh at the end of June was not yet as stipulated in the PPs. This seems to be particularly true for the Ministry of Land and DAE. The implementing agencies have committed themselves to provide information on staffing for the next Progress Report.

An important development was that the overall Project Director CDSP II, at the same time Project Director BWDB, was replaced. The new Project Director took office on April 19. He continued to have his office in Dhaka. Staff of his office received basic office computer training (Words, Excel) paid from Technical Assistance funds. This five day training was given to five staff members.
Also for LGED the (Dhaka based) Project Director was changed. DAE appointed the Deputy Director in Noakhali as Project Director, while DPHE and the Ministry of Land appointed Dhaka based Project Coordinators.

5.2.2. Team of advisers

Annex 4 contains a list of the functions (and names of the present members) in the resident team as well as the number of months that the function will be maintained.

The Team Leader was present during 153 of the total 181 days in the January/June period. He was out of the country for 28 days in April. The 114.5 expatriate short term consultancy days were distributed as follows over the various disciplines:
- backstopping management (19.5)
- land- and water engineering (22)
- morphology, surveys, feasibility study (25)

- civil engineering (23)
- agriculture (9)
- fisheries, environment, feasibility study (15)
- economy (1).

Among the Bangladeshi consultants, one change took place and one was announced. The Institutional Development Adviser left the project as from March 15 (for a function with a UN organization in Dhaka), while the Local Level Planning Adviser submitted his resignation as from July 15 (because of migration to Canada). The successor of the latter will join on August 19, while the recruitment of a new Institutional Development Adviser is going on. This recruitment was delayed because of uncertainty whether this position would be continued.

5.2.3. NGO staff

During the reporting period BRAC replaced its Dhaka based Project Coordinator.

5.3. Materials and investments

5.3.1. Materials and equipment

A. From the side of the Government of Bangladesh

There is no proper survey available of the goods procured by each of the five implementing agencies within the framework of their respective PPs. Implementing agencies will furnish information for the next Progress Report.

B. From the side of the Government of The Netherlands

On the Financial Assistance budget the construction of the first floor on one of the buildings in Sonapur was taken up in the second half of 2000 and was still not finished at the end of the reporting period. The design of the construction of the BWDB guesthouse on Hatiya was completed. Construction will start in the next dry season. This building is also funded from Financial Assistance. From Technical Assistance funds a last payment was made for the site office in South Hatiya, as well as payment for the repair of a retaining wall, next to the site office.

As far as transport is concerned two motorcycles were procured from Technical Assistance funds. The Financial Assistance has funds earmarked for the procurement by BWDB of a sea-going vessel, suitable to ply the Bay of Bengal, with a radius of 100 km. In June BWDB and consultants agreed on the design. The design is vetted by BUET. The consultants did not concur however with the cost estimate, which would open the way for the tender procedure. This was not because of the estimate itself, but because a management plan for the vessel was lacking. Such a plan should

indicate the responsibilities for the operation of the ship, including the mode of financing of its running costs.

Other purchases from the Technical Assistance budget included, among others, books, equipment for the agricultural unit, furniture for the Hatiya site office, air conditioners for the new office floor in the Sonapur office, a refrigerator for the Muhuri office, mobile phones, and multi media software (annex 5 contains the inventory list).

5.3.2. Project Offices

In the previous Progress Report it was reported that the office of the Project Director CDSP II, BWDB was only partly shifted to the building in Dhaka (Gulshan) where the liaison office of the consultants is located. This created an unsatisfactory situation that should be resolved by a decision of BWDB to restore the old situation: all staff of the Project Director's office are a part of the PMU-ESPP office located in Motijheel, which certainly makes the coordination between Project Director and consultants team more difficult. This coordination is anyhow complicated by the fact that the Project Director is posted in Dhaka and the consultants in Sonapur, Noakhali.
However, communications between the Sonapur office and Dhaka however improved considerably through the installation of a mobile telephone and the opening of a digital telephone exchange in Noakhali.

5.4. Operational support

From the Technical Assistance budget all operational costs related to the work of the consultants were paid such as rent for the liaison office in Dhaka (the offices in Sonapur are provided rent-free by BWDB), the running costs of offices, operation and maintenance of equipment, vehicles and speed boats (between Noakhali mainland and Hatiya and between South Hatiya and Nijhum Dwip) and field operations. The most important cost items under field operations during the reporting period were the plot-to-plot surveys for land settlement (about 50%) and the collection of data for the village data base for local level planning (about 20%). Other costs referred to the fresh water survey, agricultural activities and a survey on the status of tube wells.

5.5. Training

The Technical Assistance budget contains funds for training. At the request of the Technical Committee ICZM (the national steering committee of CDSP II) the Team Leader submitted a proposal of distribution of training funds among the implementing agencies, taking into account the fact that also training activities are

needed that can not be attributed to one of these agencies (for instance for local government bodies). The proposal, accepted by the Project Directors/Coordinators of the agencies, also shows the three different budget lines : training in Bangladesh; training in the region; and workshops and seminars.

Training activities during the January/June 2001 period included:

- training on land management subjects to staff involved in land settlement at Upazila -and Union level; the one week training was given in two groups (see also 3.1.3)
- study tour of Union Parishad Chairmen and female Uinon Parishad Members to West Bengal, India (see 4.2.2)
- training on Union Parishad functions and local level planning (see 3.1.4)
- a series of workshops with WMCs on water management and agriculture (see 3.1.6 and 3.3.4)
- one day training for the management team of five WMCs in WMC management and sluice operation (see 3.1.6)
- one day training for contractors involved in the construction of the embankment in South Hatiya
- one day training of demonstration farmers in South Hatiya on *aman* crop cultivation with 16 participants (see also 3.3.4)
- five day basic training on gender and development issues for 22 participants (female members of LADC, UP, Upazila Agricultural Khas Land Management and Settlement Committee)
- one day follow-up workshop on gender issues for previously trained women
- a series of workshops for female members of the LADCs on gender issues (see 3.1.6)
- computer training for staff of office of Project Director CDSP II (see 5.2.1).

At the end of the reporting period the preparations for a study tour to Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India was taken up. The tour contains a training at the Anna University of Chennai, in collaboration with the University of Newcastle, UK, on integrated approaches in coastal development. The 12 day course is scheduled to take place late August.

5.6. Time-frame

The duration of CDSP II is set at five years (October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2004), with the first nine months as bridging period. The current contract with the consultants runs for 51 months from July 1, 2000 to the end of the project period. The Inception Report is based on the 51 months time-frame. At the end of the reporting period four of the total 17 quarters (23.5%) had passed. If October 1 is taken as starting point, 35% of the project period had elapsed.
Assessing the progress to date, completion of all activities included in the Inception Report can be completed at the end of the project period, assuming that the

materialization of the risks (see next paragraph) stays within limits. The delays in construction work (see 3.3.3) are of course a matter of concern, but there are still three dry seasons left (2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04). In view of the fact that much of the design work is completed, all planned works can be finished within the project period.

5.7 . Risks

Basically, the same sort of risk related issues can be reported as for the July/December 2000 period. Although at the end of the reporting period all PPs were approved, the delay in this respect caused delays in the availability of resources from the side of the Government of Bangladesh, such as staff for agricultural extension and land settlement coordination, equipment and vehicles.

The synchronization between ICZM policy and strategy formulation and the delivery of project outputs, termed as necessary in the Inception Report, continued to be difficult. The formulation of an integrated strategy for the coastal zone did not yet take off in a substantial way and is not likely to do so before 2002.

The law and order situation in the project areas continued to cause concern. Staff of a survey team of MES, working on request of CDSP on Hatiya river, were beaten up and robbed upon arrival. The survey still was taken up, but had to be aborted few weeks later due to fights between groups with opposing political allegiance over control of one of the recently accreted chars. Intervention of RNE led to an instruction of he Home Ministry to local police to investigate this case.

The early and unusually heavy rains led to an early end of the construction activities on a number of works, notably the South Hatiya embankment and the construction of cyclone shelters in Muhuri, Noakhali mainland and South Hatiya.

Chapter 6 BUDGET

6.1. Introduction

The funding of the resources described in the previous chapter will come from three sources: the government of Bangladesh, the government of The Netherlands and the World Food Programme. The Dutch assistance will be in the form of Technical Assistance and of Financial Assistance (for investments). Assistance from WFP will be in the form of wheat, essentially for earthwork.

6.2. Contribution of the Government of Bangladesh

At the time of reporting no information was available on the exact expenditures by the five implementing agencies from the budgets taken up in their respective PPs. The agencies have promised to provide figures to be included in future Progress Reports.

6.3. Financial Assistance funds of the Government of The Netherlands

Consultants recommended the following amounts for reimbursements during the reporting period: BWDB Taka 59,583,692 and LGED Taka 3,485,637. No requests for reimbursements were received from DPHE. The data reflect the observations made earlier about the progress of infrastructural works (see 3.3.3). The Netherlands Investment Bank actually reimbursed Dutch guilders 1,779,901 during the same period. A number of the recommendations for reimbursement still have to be processed by the NI Bank.

6.4. Technical Assistance funds of the Government of The Netherlands

Of the annual budget for the year 2001 of Dfl. 2,404,500, Dfl. 1,229,145 (51.1%) was used in the first six months. However, if the losses on the exchange rate were taken into account (Dfl. 37,474 in six months), the expenditures would have been 49.6% of the budget. The budget item of purchases and investments (code 400) showed proportionally under-expenditures (due to the fact that no vehicle was procured), while the other main groups showed balances of less than 50%, in most cases due to a seasonal bias: relatively many field activities in the dry season and the above mentioned fluctuation in the taka/guilder exchange rate. The amount for contingencies was not drawn on. Details are given in annex 6.

6.5. Contribution in wheat of the World Food Programme

For earthwork approximately 1,300 tons of wheat were distributed, of which 842 tons for BWDB works (re-excavation of *khals* in polder 59/3B) and 458 ton for LGED works (rural roads in Muhuri, Noakhali mainland, South Hatiya and Nijhum Dwip).