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**CHAR DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT PROJECT-III**

**চর উন্নয়ন ও বসতি স্থাপন প্রকল্প-৩**

BANGLADESH

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**Progress Report No. 5**

**1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Implementing Government Agencies**

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)  
Ministry of Land (MoL)  
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)  
Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)  
Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE)  
Department of Forest (DoF)

August, 2008

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**Euroconsult Mott MacDonald**

**BETS**

**SOCIOCONSULT**

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATION**

AC (L)	:	Assistant Commissioner (Land)
ADC (R)	:	Assistant Deputy Commissioner (Revenue)
AEO	:	Assistant Extension Officer
AGM	:	Annual General Meeting
BARD	:	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
BETS	:	Bangladesh Engineering and Technological Services
BRAC	:	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRAC	:	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (an NGO)
BRRI	:	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BWDB	:	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CBD	:	Char Baggar Dona
CBT	:	Char Bhatirtek
CDS	:	Coastal Development Strategy
CDSP	:	Char Development and Settlement Project
CEGIS	:	Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services
CM	:	Char Majid
DAE	:	Department of Agricultural Extension
DC	:	Deputy Commissioner
DDCC	:	District Development Coordination Committee
DoC	:	Department of Cooperative
DoF	:	Department of Forest
DPHE	:	Department of Public Health Engineering
DPP	:	Development Project Proforma
DTW	:	Deep Tube Well
ECNEC	:	Executive Committee of National Economic Council
EDP	:	Estuary Development Programme
EIA	:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIRR	:	Economic Internal Rate of Return
EKN	:	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
FF	:	Farmers Forum
FIRR	:	Financial Internal Rate of Return
HH	:	Household
HYV	:	High Yielding Variety
ICRD	:	Integrated Coastal Resource Database
ICZM	:	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IPSWAM	:	Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management
IUCN	:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWM	:	Institute of Water Modeling
LCS	:	Labour Contracting Society
LGED	:	Local Government Engineering Department
LGI	:	Local Government Institution
LRMS	:	Land Records Management System
MC	:	Management Committee
MIDPCR	:	Market Infrastructure Development Project in Char Land Regions

MoL	:	Ministry of Land
MTR	:	Mid-Term Review (Mission)
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
NSC	:	National Steering Committee
O&M	:	Operation and Maintenance
PDZ	:	Productivity Zone
PMC	:	Project Management Committee
PMU-ESPP	:	Project Management Unit-Estuary Studies and Pilot Project
PP	:	Project Proforma
RDPP	:	Revised Development Project Proforma
RNE	:	Royal Netherlands Embassy
SFG	:	Social Forestry Group
SRDI	:	Soil Research Development Institute
SSSWRDSP	:	Second Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project
UCO	:	Upazila Cooperative Officer
UNO	:	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	:	Union Parishad
WARPO	:	Water Resource Planning Organisation
WMA	:	Water Management Association
WMF	:	Water Management Federation
WMG	:	Water Management Group
WMO	:	Water Management Organization
XEN	:	Executive Engineer

## **Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Background**

The current document is Progress Report no. 5, covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008. At the end of the reporting period 33 months of the 45 months of the total project period, or about 73% had elapsed.

A major event was the delayed Mid Term Review mission that took place from 12<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May. One of the main recommendations of that mission was to extend the project period with one and a half year to the end of 2010. If that recommendation is accepted by the competent authorities, the total project period will become 63 months, making the mission in hindsight indeed a Mid Term Review.

Much appreciated by all stakeholders was the field visit (from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February) by a delegation of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, led by the Ambassador.

For the Mid Term Review mission, a Position Paper was drafted. That document reflected the progress on the various activities of the project till 30<sup>th</sup> April. This Progress Report adds as it were the progress during May and June.

### **1.2. Approaches and strategies**

The approaches and strategies as set out in the Inception Report did not change during the reporting period. All the elements can be found back in the respective sections of this report:

- Poverty alleviation: allocation of khas land; increase in agricultural production; income from social forestry activities
- Integration: coordination among the six implementing agencies and with the BRAC/NGO programme; cooperation with other projects
- Participation: functioning of the Water Management Organisations, Social Forestry Groups and Farmers Forums
- Performing a bridging function: the feasibility studies

### **1.3. Linkages of CDSP-III to other development efforts**

As a principle and in accordance with the concept of integrated coastal zone management, CDSP continued to pursue an open and active strategy with regard to cooperation with other development efforts.

The closest cooperation is with the BRAC/CDSP programme (see 3.4.7). Other examples in the reporting period are:

- Estuary Development Programme (regular meetings have been held, in particular on the issue of the cross dams between Sandwip, Urir Char and Noakhali mainland)

- Regional Fisheries and Livestock Component of the Danida Agricultural Sector Programme phase III (regular meetings on use of community ponds in Boyer Char for aquaculture and on involvement in the feasibility study on the development of Urir Char)
- DPHE-Danida Water Supply and Sanitation Components (on installation of tube wells in Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char)
- Market Access Component of the same Danida Agricultural Sector Programme (in particular on rural roads in Char Nangulia and Noler Char)
- IPSWAM (on registration and membership of Water Management Organisations).

#### **1.4. Relation of Inception Report to Project Proformas of implementing agencies**

In Progress Report no. 4, the state of affairs on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 was given regarding the process of the approval of the Revised Project Proformas. The pending approvals of the RDPPs of BWDB and Forest Department were obtained in the reporting period.

## **Chapter 2 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE PROJECT**

### **2.1. Development objective and project purpose**

The long term development objective was not amended. It is the improvement of the economic situation and the living conditions of the population in the coastal areas of south-eastern Bangladesh, with special reference to the poorest segments of the population.

The three project purposes continued to be:

- promotion of an institutional environment that sustains CDSP type of interventions
- accumulation and dissemination of knowledge on coastal development
- direct improvement of the economic and social situation of people in coastal chars.

### **2.2. Components, activities and logical framework**

The three project components are based on the three project purposes:

- institutional development
- studies, knowledge management and dissemination
- concrete interventions at field level.

The three project components are dealt with in the next chapter (respectively in 3.2, 3.3. and 3.4).

### **2.3. Target groups**

The settlers in Boyer Char continued to be the most important target group of the project. Through the internalization related activities (see 3.2.2) and dissemination efforts (3.3.3) other target groups, such as staff of government of agencies and local government institutions, civil society at large and other development partners of Bangladesh, were reached as well.

### **2.4. Target areas**

Boyer Char continued to be the main project area. The upstream area of the Baggar Dona river got more into focus in the reporting period due to the increased volume of work on (re)excavation of that river and the Jarir Dona khal (new outlet to the Meghna river). The Additional Drainage Study finally started as well.

The project's involvement in CDSP-I and II areas continued to be the pending land settlement cases and the support to Water Management Organizations.

Work on the feasibility study on Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char continued, while presence of project staff in Urir Char started (household survey).

A map can be found in Annex 1.

## **Chapter 3 ACTIVITIES PER COMPONENT**

### **3.1. Introduction**

The actual achievements of the three project components in the reporting period are given in this chapter: institutional development (3.2); studies, knowledge management and dissemination (3.3.) and activities at field level (3.4).

### **3.2. Institutional development**

#### **3.2.1. Contribution to ICZM**

CDSP continued with applying ICZM principles and strategies as laid down in the Coastal Zone Policy and the Coastal Development Strategy. Previous Progress Reports have given ample examples. Experiences in CDSP can contribute to the identification and formulation of a multi-agency and multi-donor ICZM programme (see also 3.2.7).

#### **3.2.2 Strengthening of implementing agencies, including internalisation of CDSP concepts**

##### *- Instruments for internalisation*

The three remaining of the in total six agency wise national internalization workshops, were held in the reporting period. The workshop with LGED was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January and with Forest Department and BWDB on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Proceedings of all six workshops are available.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the national workshops and to monitor the same, internalization committees are being established in each of the agencies. DAE, Ministry of Land and DPHE already have such a committee, for BWDB, LGED and Forest Department a committee will be formed in the second part of 2008.

For all the courses of the six implementing agencies in which CDSP experiences can be incorporated (see Mission report no. 10, Internalisation of CDSP experience through training, of October 2007) papers have been prepared that contain the relevant experiences. Presently a series of discussions take place between the training departments of each of the agencies and the TA-team on preparing new training modules or adapting existing ones.

Discussions are also going on with regard to the selection of topics for publications in the respective agency newsletters or websites.

##### *- Strengthening of PMU-ESPP, BWDB:*

Not much development can be reported on the strengthening of the office of the Project Director. No initiatives were taken by BWDB as far as the long term recommendations of Mission Report no. 8 are concerned. BWDB has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Water Resources on recruitment of additional staff, but no response was received as yet. Some short term improvements have been implemented, but not of a structural nature.



### **3.2.3 Participatory water management; monitoring of and support to WMOs in CDSP-I and II areas, and in Boyer Char; support for the BWDB Water Management Directorate.**

- *WMOs in CDSP-I and II areas:*

- Overview:

The 11 Water Management Groups (WMG), in Polder 59/3C-Bamni (CDSP-II) areas have a total of 310 members; 55 new members enrolled in 11 WMGs in the month of June 2008. Eleven WMGs have three Water Management Associations (WMA) and one Water Management Federation (WMF). Of the total of 310 members, excluding the additional 55, 168 (54%) are male and 142 (46%) female. A total of 87 meetings were held during the period January-June 2008, which on average are six meetings by each WMO. Average attendance rate was 70.20%, with 72.33% for men and 68.06% for women.

One Annual General Meeting, (AGM) of WMF was held during the reporting period. WMF invited beneficiaries in the AGM from all the areas of their jurisdiction. In the AGM, the issues of a cross dam from Char Elahi to Urir Char and erosion adjacent to the newly constructed 15 vent sluice were discussed, together with other issues.

In mainland Noakhali, excluding Bamni, 12 WMGs and one WMA exist having a total of 362 members. Of this total 57% are male and 43% are female. Three new members enrolled in the reporting period. Average attendance in CM, CBD-I and II (total of 18 meetings) was 73.66% for males and 60% for females. Average attendance in the Char Bhatirtek (CBT) and Polder 59/3B (for a total of 63 meetings) was 70.5% for male and 69.8% for female members.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held for the WMGs in Zillar, Nobagram and in Char Majid. Meetings on the reconstitution of management committee of WMOs as per cooperative rules were held for WMG-Char Majid, WMA- Gangchil, WMG-Kolmi, WMG-Nobogram, WMG-Zillar and WMG-Montaz.

In South Hatiya, a total of 20 WMGs, three WMAs and one WMF exist each with a 12 member executive committee in each WMO. In total, 141 meetings were held in the reporting period, which was more than the target. Average attendance rate in the meeting was 77.83% for male and 87.29% for female.

- Issues discussed:

Subject discussed in the meetings of the WMOs were: among others: fund generation of WMOs, removal of cross dams, maintenance plan execution for FY2007-2008, erosion of embankment, training, WMO office establishment, operation and maintenance, demarcation of sluice areas and illegal occupants of sluice- and embankment areas, agreement between BWDB and WMO (see below), savings, AGM, reconstitution of management committee of WMOs and increase in the WMO membership.

-Agreement between BWDB and WMO

An Agreement between BWDB and Char Majid-WMG for future O&M activities was signed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 at the cyclone shelter premise at Char Majid.

All the necessary papers and documents for agreement of the remaining WMGs and WMAs have been prepared as well and the intention is that these are signed in the next reporting period.

**-Training**

For training / workshops / study tours that were organized reference can be made to Annex 3.

**-Fund generation for WMOs**

All WMGs and WMAs have been continuing the deposition of individual savings to their group accounts. These deposited savings are currently on an average Tk. 22000.00 for each WMG.

The profit or income from the canal re-excavation schemes so far executed by WMO is on an average is Tk. 40,000 to 50,000. So this income will be added as group fund which will contribute to strengthening the WMOs in future. WMG-Zillar, Montaz and Char Majid etc. started the investment of their group funds in income generating activities like cow rearing, cow fattening and shop renting etc. Revenues will be used for WMO purposes as minor maintenance, running of the WMO etc..

**-Registration of WMOs in CDSP-I, II & III areas**

A total 19 WMGs and 7 WMAs have already been registered earlier. No new registrations were completed in the reporting period. Registration of other WMGs is in process. If the WMA is registered, the option exists to include members of WMGs as member of the registered WMAs in future.

**- Capacity building**

Training on cooperative rules and gender, as well as refresher courses was imparted to the WMOs to strengthen them. Staff of BWDB, DOC and TA Team of CDSP-III facilitated those training events.

Weekly progress meeting have been continuing at the conference room of CDSP-III with the Extension Overseers, BWDB engineering staff and Project Area Coordinators/Gender Field Coordinator of the TA team. The meetings reviewed the progress, problems and bottlenecks in the areas of WMOs.

**- Staffing**

In the mainland area at present three Extension Overseers are posted: one for Polder 59/3C-Bamni, one for Polder 59/3B including Char Bhatirtek and one for Char Majid, Char Baggar Dona-I and II area. One WMO facilitator from the TA Team is now working for South Hatiya. BWDB did not post an Extension Overseer for Hatiya. One Assistant Extension Officer (AEO) of BWDB has been supervising the activities of the Overseers. However, no supervision or support is extended to the AEO from higher BWDB levels.

**- *WMOs in Boyer Char:***

**- Overview**

One WMA with representatives from 10 WMGs exist in Boyer Char. The WMA met three times in the reporting period at the CDSP site office.

The 10 Water Management Groups (WMG), in Boyer Char areas have a total of 338 members with 175 (52%) are male and 163(48%) are female. A total 61 new members (35 male, 26 female 26) enrolled in the reporting period.

All 10 WMGs in Boyer Char have been continuing their monthly meeting on a regular basis. They held a total of 62 meetings out of a target 60 in the last six months. Average attendance rate in those meetings was 68.8%, with 66.3% for man and 71.3% for women.

- Activities, issues

Major subjects discussed in the meetings were: LCS work, drainage congestion at different points, enrolments of membership in WMGs, cooperative training, preparation for AGM, reconstitution of the management committee, local level information center, land settlement and resettlement of people from outside the embankment, use of community pond, bus stand, excavation/re-excavation of canals, CV pond, twin houses, field raising of cyclone shelters, culverts, tube wells and toilets etc..

WMGs have also been continuing the deposition of individual savings to their respective accounts. WMGs deposited savings of in total Tk 3,02,029 which is an average of Tk 30,000 for each group. The savings scheme enhances the group strength.

WMGs installed pipes and developed drains to reduce water congestion. They assisted in execution of pond excavation through 13 LCSs, of which two were exclusively women LCSs (enhancing the social recognition of women apart from generating income for them). WMGs also assisted implementing agencies in execution of infrastructure development activities, as installation of deep tube-wells and toilets.

- Capacity building

Eight training events on basic cooperative rules took place in the reporting period. The two women LCSs have received one day training on their duties, payments modalities, work measurement and quality etc.; 72 members from two women LCS s attended the training. One day training was provided by TA team for WMG members (together with Farmers Forum members) on aman cropping. Three metric tons of HYV aman seed were distributed among the participants.

An exposure visit was organized to IPSWAM, SSSWRDSP-LGED and Comilla Didar Samity during the reporting period. Five WMO representatives and AEO-BWDB. TA staff facilitated the visit. The team visited Polder-22, 30 at Khulna under IPSWAM, Bagacra-Badurgacha Water Management Cooperative Association at Khulna under SSSWRDSP of LGED. The team also got an overview on the Comilla Didar Samity

As part of information dissemination campaign among project beneficiaries, two posters and one leaflet were developed on water management and operation and maintenance aspects which were displayed in various locations of the project area.

- Staffing

Two Extension Overseers have been working at Boyer Char for 10 WMGs and 1 WMA. From TA side one Project Area Coordinator, one Gender Field Coordinator and one LCS facilitator have also been working. The LCS facilitator also supports the WMOs.

- ***BWDB Water Management Directorate:***

Discussions are going on with Project Director, Chief Water Management, Executive Engineer and TA management for monitoring the activities of Extension Overseers in the

CDSP-area. TA Team has provided one computer with printer, six raincoat, calculator, stationeries and some furniture to the AEO and Overseers to facilitate the running of their activities. The AEO has been supervising the job of Overseers. But higher management of BWDB is still not engaged in supervision and monitoring of the WMO related activities. Also the involvement of Overseers in WMO strengthening is still weak in the CDSP area.

The TA Team has informed BWDB about the discontinuation of TA support to WMOs in the CDSP-I areas after 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2009 (the MTR mission expressed the same view). A proposal to shift the supervision of the AEO and Extension Overseers working in Noakhali to the Executive Engineer, of Noakhali O & M Division, has been in discussion for a long time, but no decision has been taken yet.

### **3.2.4 Strengthening links between communities, local government institutions and implementing agencies in CDSP I and II areas and in Boyer Char**

#### ***- CDSP-I and II areas:***

LGED started tendering for O&M activities taken up in the Maintenance Plan during the reporting period. But implementation will start at the end of this year. Preparation of a new Maintenance Plan for 2008/2009 has started.

#### ***- Boyer Char:***

A workshop was held on the results of the short term assignment on communication in the project (see Mission Report no. 11 of December 2007). The recommendation to start 10 rural information centers, using the office sheds of the WMGs was accepted and implementation has started.

For WMO training a module have been developed on the role of WMOs in the system of communication flows in the area.

The court case whether Boyer Char belongs to Subarna Char or Hatiya Upazila is still pending and consequently no local government institutions exist in Boyer Char. As the water management and internal infrastructure is still being built, there is as yet no Maintenance Plan in Boyer Char. These are significant differences with the situation in CDSP-I and II areas.

### **3.2.5 Greater involvement of District Level in the project**

#### ***- District Development Coordination Committee (DDCC)***

Representatives of six implementing agencies and TA team regularly attended the monthly DDCC meeting in Noakhali. A number of bilateral meetings with the Deputy Commissioner Noakhali took place on project matters. The Dutch Ambassador and her delegation had discussions with the Deputy Commissioner of Noakhali and so did the Mid Term Review mission.

#### ***- District Information Centre:***

A plan has been developed to improve the functioning of the District Information Centre in Lakshmipur (see Mission report no. 14). Implementation of that plan is being taken up. An important element of the plan is an improved “marketing” of the centre by a focused information campaign about its services, including workshops, seminars etc. Activating

the management and monitoring of the centre, training of the facilitator and improving the quality and quantity of the available information are other recommendations.

#### **3.2.6. Upgrading and improving functioning of Project Management Committee**

Meetings of the PMC (see also paragraph 4.3) were held on a more regular basis than in previous years, and usually in Noakhali. Renewed preparations for the study tour to The Netherlands started at the end of the project period. The tour is scheduled to take place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September. No other specific activities were undertaken to improve the functioning of the PMC. During the meeting with the MTR mission, the PMC members expressed their satisfaction with the PMC performance.

#### **3.2.7. Preparation of funding arrangements for char development interventions after 2009**

It became known during the reporting period that the preparations by the Dutch embassy of a mission that will explore the feasibility of a multi-agency and multi-donor ICZM/Coastal development programme were progressing and that a mission is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2008. CDSP staff made a contribution in the process of drafting the Terms of Reference of the mission.

### **3.3. Studies, knowledge management and dissemination**

#### **3.3.1. Drainage study upstream Baggar Dona**

##### *- Monitoring:*

As reported before, the monitoring programme can start only after the diversion of the Baggar Dona River through the Jarir Dona khal is completed. According to present planning, this will be the case in February 2010.

##### *- Drainage study:*

During the reporting period, BWDB completed the tender process for the implementation of the Additional Drainage study for the upstream area of the Baggar Dona River. A contract was signed with a consortium of Kranti and IWM. The draft Inception Report was published in June and a meeting on that report was held on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Comments made during the tripartite meeting (BWDB, TA-team and consultant) and through other means are currently being processed.

#### **3.3.2 Feasibility Studies for char development project in future**

##### *- Overall study*

The Mid Term Review mission supported the selection of Zia Char and Urir Char for feasibility studies (see progress below). This selection was based on a screening process through reconnaissance surveys.

##### *- Feasibility studies prior to overall study*

Comments made on the draft final report of the Feasibility Study for Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char were taken into account in the text of the draft Main Report. The decision to have two additional studies, a full fledged Environmental Impact

Assessment and a modeling study (focused on the proposed drainage system) were implemented. For both studies contracts were signed (with CEGIS, after tendering, and with IWM, on single source basis, respectively) and draft Inception Reports were published in the reporting period. The final report of the economic and financial analysis (undertaken by CEGIS) was published as well.

The draft development plan for Zia Char has been completed. The final version will be available in the second part of 2008. The report is being prepared by CDSP's TA-team.

After discussions with BWDB, EKN and PMC (and supported by the MTR mission), the decision was taken to include in the Feasibility Study for Urir Char a mathematical/modeling study on the feasibility of cross dam(s) connecting Urir Char with mainland Noakhali on the one hand and Sandwip on the other hand. A contract was signed with IWM for this modeling study, after a simplified international bidding procedure. The draft Inception Report has been completed in the meantime.

For the main feasibility study for the development of Urir Char, a tender process was started. Selection of the consultant is expected to take place at the end of August.

### **3.3.3 Knowledge management: Improving flow of information to communities in Boyer Char; linking project data base with Integrated Coastal Resources Data Base of ICZM; dissemination of CDSP achievement on a wider scale**

#### *- Dissemination:*

No specific new initiatives related to dissemination were undertaken in the reporting period. IUCN organized a workshop in Noakhali on 7<sup>th</sup> February with stakeholders with regard to the project on development of educational materials on climate change and coastal issues. The largest section of participants was representatives of high schools from the area. Subjects discussed, among others, were selection of topics to be addressed in the materials, ways of dissemination and selection criteria for schools that will be involved in an active way in the further development. Fifteen schools in four Upazilas (Noakhali Sadar, Subarna Char, Kabirhat, Hatiya) have since been selected (most high schools, but also a madrasa and a primary school). Work on material development and communication strategy is ongoing.

#### *- Information flow to and from communities in Boyer Char*

The Uthan Baithaks (courtyard meetings) continued during the reporting period (in total ten were held), usually at the courtyard of a WMG member. Subjects discussed included the land settlement process, relocation of households from outside the embankment, latrine distribution, women's rights (landed property, divorce), issues related to agriculture and social forestry. These meetings certainly have a function in the flow of information in Boyer Char.

The establishment of rural information centers (see 3.2.4) is meant to facilitate the flow of information further and to strengthen the position of the WMOs in this respect.

- *Linking up of database*

The technical work on the connectivity (linking the project data base system with the Integrated Coastal Resources Database) was completed in February 2008. For the actual physical connection, a protocol between PD, CDSP-III of BWDB and the computer section of WARPO was finalized and signed in May. This protocol deals with the different layers of data and areas of interest. To facilitate the use of the new connection two half day training sessions were held in Noakhali for concerned agency staff and TA team in the beginning of June. A letter has been issued from the office of the Project Director, CDSP-III to WARPO for keeping the ICRD server in operation during office hours. This concluded the linking with the ICRD Database.

**3.3.4 Increasing knowledge about impact of past interventions in CDSP-I and CDSP-II area: monitoring land retention in CDSP I and CDSP-II areas; monitoring soil salinity; monitoring HYV adoption**

- *Land settlement*

The annual survey for 2008 is planned for the second half of the year and will thus be reported on in the next Progress Report.

- *Soil salinity*

For monitoring the changes in soil salinity level, SRDI have collected forty-eight samples from 24 spots, one top and one sub-soil from eight project areas (including Boyer Char) in the months of December and April as a continuous process since 2006. For December 2007 no soil sample has been collected due to high retention moisture because of the tidal surge that occurred in middle of November. That soil sample was collected in the middle of January 2008. In April the regular sample was taken. It is the intention to publish the results of the soil salinity surveys in a Technical Report (combined with the monitoring results on land settlement and adoption of HYV technology) within the next six months.

- *Adoption of modern agricultural technologies*

Transect surveys in seven polders (three in CDSP-I areas and four in CDSP-II areas) have been completed in the month of April 2008 for the rabi season. Results of this survey can be found in the table below:

Polder Name	Rabi season FY 2007-2008	
	Cultivated (%)	Fallow (%)
Char Baggar Dona-II	75	25
Char Bhatirtek	79	21
Char Majid	40	60
Char Mora Dona	49.46	50.54
Char Lakshmi	37.02	62.98
Char Gangchil-Torabali	50	50
South Hatiya	82	18

### 3.4. Intervention at field level in particular in Boyer Char

This progress report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008. This period falls in the actual construction season in Bangladesh. A good physical progress in all kind of works has been made in this period. Progress in the preparatory process of tendering has also been considerable. Land settlement suffered a set back due to a new court case.

#### 3.4.1. Ministry of Land

##### *- Land Settlement in CDSP-I and II areas.*

At the end of the CDSP-II, 4985 cases were pending for disposal (see Progress Report no. 1), which had been taken up by CDSP-III for disposal. Since commencement of CDSP-III, 1430 more cases have been added raising the total of pending cases to 6415. Out of these 6415 cases, 5265 have been disposed of so far, leaving a balanced of 1150 cases. The balance at the end of 2007 was 1987, which means that the achievement in the reporting period stand at 837 cases.

The stage-wise overview of the pending cases at the end of the reporting period is shown below:

Nature of work	Pending per Upazila				
	Subarna Char	Companiganj	Hatiya	Mirsarai	Total
Jamabondi preparation	-	-	-	-	-
Jamabondi approval:					
a) Upazila Committee	79	-	-	-	79
b) District Committee	4	6	-	95	105
Realization for Salami	55	7	100	144	306
Kabuliat execution	77	47	119	100	343
Kabuliat registration	43	14	192	-	249
Khatian preparation	-	-	68	-	68
Khatian distribution	-	-	-	-	-
	258	74	479	339	<b>1150</b>

While some cases are pending only for registration of the kabuliats and preparation of the khatians, many other cases are involved with the declaration of the areas as ‘Chingri Mohals’ (Shrimp land), disputes over ancestral claims, illegal and forcible possessions by unauthorized occupants, civil litigations, absence of the settlement holders from the local areas, etc. However, all out efforts are being made to dispose of the cases within the project period.



*- Land Settlement under CDSP-III (Boyer Char)*

Progress of land settlement process in Boyer Char so far achieved during the reporting period was as follows:

Nature of Work	Progress 1-1-2008	Progress 1-7-2008	Result in rep. period
Plot to Plot Survey	9500	9500	0
Approval of sheet Maps	25	32	7
Consolidation of PTPS Works	9500	9500	0
Hearing of Landless Families	2600	3500	900
Landless families selected	1734	2581	847
Settlement Case initiated	1347	2224	877
Jamabondi prepared	1308	2224	916
Jamabondi approval by Upazila Committee	1148	2006	858
Sent to District Committee for approval	1148	2006	858
Approval of the list of the landless by District Committee	1148	2000	852
Settlement Cases back to AC (L) office after case-to-case approval by the DC.	823	1877	1045
Order of AC (Land) for Salami realization and execution of Kabuliyat at Tahsil.	389	1877	1488
Kabuliyats Executed by Landless	300	1534	1234
Kabuliyat Registration	247	1227	980
Khatian Preparation	100	1211	1111
Realization of khatian fee & opening Holding	0	505	505
Khatian distribution	0	505	505

As was extensively reported upon in previous Progress Reports, the land settlement activities could only start for about 18 months into the project period for two reasons (i) the Hon'ble Supreme Court (High Court Division) passed "Stay Order" on the Deputy Commissioner, Noakhali in Writ case no. 1837/2005 filed by some people of Hatiya and Subarna Char over the matters relating to the formation of two Unions namely 'Horni' Union with Boyer Char areas and 'Chanandi' Union with Char Rashid, Char Ajmal, Char Amanat, Noler Char, etc. under Hatiya Upazila and (ii) a long drawn inter-upazila boundary dispute between Ramgati and Hatiya Upazilas. The writ case had not been disposed of. However, a legal opinion had been procured from the Ministry of Law to the effect that there is no legal bar in proceeding with the land settlement activities under CDSP, as these activities are the normal administrative functions of the Deputy Commissioner. Activities could be taken up in May 2007.

However, on 23 March 2008, another Writ Case No. 2454/2008 had been filed by some people of Ramgati Upazila of Lakshmipur District against the (i) Ministry of Land, (ii) DC, Noakhali, (iii) UNO and (iv) AC (Land) of Hatiya and some others as respondents

challenging the notification issued by the DC Noakhali forming two Unions including 'Horni' Union with 'Boyer Char' area and alleging 'Boyer Char' is part and parcel of Ramgati Upazila of Lakshmipur District. The Hon'ble High Court Division issued 'Rule Nisi' and an order for maintaining "Status Quo" upon the respondents till disposal of the case. On receipt of the "Status Quo", the officers of the District and Upazila administration stopped land settlement activities of Boyer Char areas apprehending the violation of the orders of the court. The land settlement activities of the CDSP therefore, has been facing great deadlock again from April 2008. Subsequently, at the initiative of the TA Team, the Deputy Commissioner, Noakhali submitted a statement of defense and a separate proposal has also been submitted to the Ministry of Land for seeking legal opinion from the Ministry of Law (as was done previously in respect of the earlier writ case).

There were however some promising developments during the reporting period. Women put their signature at the first place on the khatian, before the name of their husbands (which has not only a symbolic significance but can be important for instance in cases where the land is given as collateral for loans). For the first time the Ministry of Law decided to have field registration camps in Boyer Char during which deed agreements can be registered.

***- Assessment of actual quantum of land for settlement:***

As per Government rules, all the agencies involved with the implementation of the interventional activities of the CDSP, will have to procure settlement of the lands required for all the interventions of their Departments from the Deputy Commissioner. But so far no agency has applied for such settlement. The matter has been discussed in the PMC meetings. All the PCs / PDs of the concerned implementing agencies have been requested to apply to the Deputy Commissioner for allocation of the lands in favour of their Department, so that no encumbrances occur in future in respect of any interventions of CDSP.

Assessment and identification of the different interventions and infrastructural activities and reflected the alignments in the mouza sheet maps have continued during this reporting period. However, shifting of alignment of some interventions has been creating complications in the schedule of land, which ultimately could create problems in the land settlement activities. The progress is as under:

Agencies	Interventions	Quantity of works	Alignments done	Percentage of works done
WDB	Embankment-Sea side	10.87 Km	10.87 Km	100 %
"	" - Marginal dyke	8.00 Km	8.00 Km	100%
"	" - Jarirdona	7.35 Km	7.35 Km	100 %
"	" - Guide dyke	6.50 Km	6.50 Km.	100 %
"	Canals	27.15 Km	14.00Km	52%
"	Sluice structures	3 nos.	3 Nos.	100%
"	Closure	1 no.	1 no.	100%
LGED	Cyclone Shelter	22 nos.	22 nos.	100 %

Agencies	Interventions	Quantity of works	Alignments done	Percentage of works done
"	Rural roads	60 Km.	45 Km.	75 %
"	Ponds	50 nos.	49 nos.	98 %
LGED	RDP-23	13 Km	13 Km.	100 %
MOL	Cluster villages	35 nos.	25 nos.	71%
"	Ponds	9 nos	9 nos.	100%
Forest Dept.	Foreshore plantation	200 Ha.	100 Ha.	50 %

***- Reallocation of the landless from outside the embankments.***

On physical verification, 1373 households (281 hhs living within the alignments of the embankments and canals; and 1092 households living out side the embankments) have been selected which would need rehabilitation within the embankment. Thirty five ponds will be excavated for accommodating these households around the banks of these ponds. The TA Team has already given concurrence to the plan and estimates for the purpose. Excavation of 25 out of 35 ponds with an allocation of Tk. 210 Lac had been included in the program of 2007-08. Work order for all the 25 ponds had been issued by the PIC. However, works of 19 ponds had been started but 6 ponds had not been started. The average progress of the 19 ponds was around 62%.

Further, 146 households have been shifted from different alignments and an amount of Tk.15.275 Lac has been paid to these households as compensation for shifting cost.

***- Construction of houses and ponds***

Construction of 96 out of total 144 twin houses had been included in the program for 2007-08. But the contractors dropped tenders claiming more than 25% above the estimated costs. The Ministry of Land also found the estimates inadequate considering the sudden rise in the cost of the construction materials and thereby, the overall cost of the components would be enhanced. This increase in the cost, would involve activities for amendment of the allocation of the GoB fund. For assessment of additional money for the component, a fresh tender notice was issued by the PIC. But contractors did not respond to the tender nor drop any tender for the work. Issue of further tender notice is under process by the PIC. Hence, no physical progress of this component can be reported.

Excavation of 6 out of 9 ponds was undertaken under GoB during the program of 2007-08. Work orders for all the 6 ponds had been issued and progress of the works of all the 6 ponds was 87%.

***- Implementation of Land Records Management System (LRMS):***

Since the period of CDSP-II, the LRMS (for details see Progress Report no. 2) has been used in the offices of the AC (land) of Noakhali Sadar, Subarna Char, Companiganj and Hatiya of Noakhali district and Mirsarai of Chittagong district for management of the records of the lands settled under CDSP. The system has now been used more intensively in the Hatiya Upazila land office as massive settlement activities are going on for both CDSP-II and CDSP-III. The Ministry of Land has already issued directives to the District and Upazila administration for conducting a pilot activity at Companiganj of Noakhali district and Ramgati Upazila of Lakshmipur district. Under the purview of the internalization of the experiences of the CDSP-I & II, the objectives of the pilot activity

is to prove that the LRMS software is capable to handle and manage all the records of an Upazila (that means including all non-CDSP settlements). Based on the result of the pilot activity the Ministry is expected to consider replication of the system in other Upazilas of the country.

The duration of the pilot activity will be 6 months. A comprehensive plan has been prepared for the purpose, comprising overall planning of hiring data-entry operators and supervisors for each Upazila, hiring a coordinator for guiding the manpower of both the Upazilas, procurement of equipments, furniture and related accessories, etc. The plan also includes the code of activities and conduct of the responsibilities for the officers and staff for these Upazilas. The TA Team has given concurrence for the plan and has agreed to implement the plan by the allotment of fund available with the PC, MoL under the concerned head of the GOB contribution to CDSP.

The briefing of the officers and staff has been completed. As a preparatory activity, a training program of LRMS had been conducted at Dhaka in April 2007 (as reported in Progress Report no.3) which was participated by the ADC (Rev)'s, UNO's and AC (land)'s of the concerned Districts. As some of the trained personnel have left their station on transfer, a refresher course will be organized soon. It is also expected that hiring temporary staff and training of the additional and the existing staff will be completed shortly.

In order to link the office of the Deputy Commissioner and ADC (Rev) with the land records of the AC (Land)'s offices, computers have already been supplied to the District offices. A District LRMS Cell may be established in due course.

### **3.4.2 Bangladesh Water Development Board**

For detailed information see Annex 2.

#### *- Construction of embankments*

i. Sea facing embankment (10.87 km): So far work has started on 10.87 km in both Lakshmipur and Noakhali O&M Divisions. The overall physical progress of the sea facing embankment is 63% (against a target up to June 2008 of 84%), with an achievement of 11% physical progress during the reporting period.

Of this 10.87 km 3.5 km in Noakhali has been completed 100%, work is going on in 2.915 km with little progress. In Lakshmipur 1.72 km has a progress of 98% and 2.735 km has a progress of 61%. Most of the contractors are using excavator for earth cutting.

ii. Interior dyke (8 km): Construction work has been started in all five groups of 8.00 km interior dyke and achieved progress is 13% in the reporting period under Noakhali O&M Division.

iii. Individual guide dyke (2.965 km): Work for the full 2.965 km length is completed in Noakhali O&M Division.

#### *- Drainage improvement works*

i. Re-excavation of 10 km length of the Baggardona River: Overall progress for re-excavation of Baggardona River on 10 km length is 15%. For 6.90 km under Noakhali

O&M Division work started for 4 groups out of 5 and achieved progress is 5% on average. For 3.1 km under Lakshmipur O&M Division work started for all 3 groups. Achieved progress is 38%.

ii. Re-excavation of the Jarirdona khal including guide dyke cum rural road (3.535 km): Overall progress for the re-excavation of Jarirdona khal including guide dyke cum rural road is 24%. Work started for 0.91 km under Lakshmipur O&M Division and achieved 85% progress. Work order was issued for all four groups for the remaining 2.625 km but work started for only two groups and achieved progress is 3%.

iii. Excavation of the Jarirdona shortcut including guide dyke cum rural road (3.5 km): Overall progress of the Jarirdona shortcut including guide dyke cum rural road is 57%. For 1.00 km under Noakhali O&M Division, progress is 95%. In Lakshmipur O&M Division work started for all 5 groups on 2.11 km length and achieved 50% progress, for the remaining 0.39 km tender has been floated.

iv. Excavation of the Gabtali khal drainage channel (6.155 km): Work started for all 4 groups and achieved 89% progress against planned progress of 29%.

v. Secondary drainage channels in Boyer Char (21 km): For Noakhali (15 km) and Lakshmipur (6 km) tendering process is completed and work order is under process.

*- Sluices and closures*

- i. Gabtali sluice (7vents-2.20m x 2.20m): Work started in November 2007 and current progress is 62%.
- ii. Tankir khal and Chatla khal sluices (Each-2v x 1.50m x 1.80m): Work has been started and progress is limited to collection of construction materials in case of Tankir khal sluice; 2% progress for Chatla khal sluice (Some concrete cement block constructed) has been achieved.
- iii. Closures: For closure-01, downstream of Banshkhali outlet, design and estimate are under process. Design has been completed for closure 02 on Hatiya river at downstream of Jarirdona shortcut and estimate is under process.

*- Maintenance works:*

-Under Noakhali O&M Division - for CDSP-I & II areas:

- i. Re-excavation of drainage Khal by contractor: 7.10 km length of khal for the drainage improvement (Munshi Nangulia and Algir khal) has been re-excavated by the contractors and achieved 100% progress.
- ii. Re-excavation of drainage khals by WMO: 19.940 km length of khal in 17 khals for the drainage improvement has been re-excavated. Physical progress is 100%.

-Under Feni O&M Division - for CDSP-I & II phase area of CDSP-III.

- . Re-sectioning of embankment for 2.631 km from km. 4.000 to km 5.377, km. 9.00 to km. 9.824 and km.10.170 to km. 10.600 at Muhuri accreted area has

been done in the FY 2006-2007. In addition, during the reporting period re-sectioning of embankment has been done for the length 1.097 km from km. 6.403 to km. 7.500.

### **3.4.3 Local Government Engineering Department**

For detailed information see Annex 2.

#### ***- Roads***

- i. Paved road (18.7 km): Overall progress of paved roads is 38%. Work started for 10.57 km paved road in Noakhali LGED and achieved 40% progress. For 5 km paved road under Lakshmipur LGED achieved progress is 58% and work order has been issued for the remaining 2 km paved road but work is yet to be started. For the remaining 1.13 km. no progress has been made as yet.
- ii. Earthen road (55 km): The overall progress on the construction of earthen road is 87%. In Noakhali LGED work has been started for 13 roads having a length of 32 km. out of which 12 roads with a total length of 28.60 km. are completed. Total progress in Noakhali is 98%. In Lakshmipur LGED work has been started for 12 roads (22.35 km) out of 13 roads (22.60 km). Achieved progress is 72%.
- iii. Cyclone shelter approach roads (2.70 km): To connect the 8 nos. cyclone shelters under Noakhali LGED with the nearby main roads work on 2.70 km. approach road has been started (7 completed) and achieved progress is 91%.

#### ***- Bridges and culverts***

- i. Three bridges: Work has been started for all the three bridges simultaneously and overall progress is 60%.
- ii. Box culverts (28 nos): Overall progress of the box culverts is 28%. For 2 box culverts in Lakshmipur LGED work has been started and achieved progress is 38%. For the remaining 5 work orders have been issued but work yet not started. For 14 box culverts out of 21 under Noakhali LGED work is going on for 10 and 4 yet to start, achieved progress is 71% (8 are made final). For 4 work orders have to be issued and for 3 estimates are under process.
- iii. Pipe culverts (38 nos): The overall progress of the pipe culverts is 53%. For 5 pipe culverts in Lakshmipur LGED work has been started and achieved progress is 94%. For the remaining 2 a work order has been issued but work has not yet started. Out of 31 pipe culverts in Noakhali LGED a work order has been issued for 25 pipe culverts but work has been started for 22 (3 yet to start), achieved progress is 49% (with 12 completed). Work orders are under process for the remaining 6.

#### ***- Bus stand***

Work has been started and achieved progress is 40%.

*- Community ponds (49 nos.)*

Overall progress of the community pond is 92%. Out of 20 ponds in Lakshmipur LGED one is dropped due to a site problem; work has started for the remaining 19 and achieved progress is 86%. Labour Contracting Societies in Noakhali LGED have undertaken 15 community ponds and already finished 14 ponds before June 2008, overall progress is 98%. Under Noakhali LGED 15 community ponds have been done through contractors and overall progress is 94% (9 are completed).

*- Cyclone shelters (20 nos.)*

Over all progress for 20 cyclone shelters is 70%.

- i. Seven cyclone shelters (Lakshmipur): Work order has been issued for 7 nos. cyclone shelter in the year 2007. Work was started for 6 nos. but currently work is going on for 5 and for the 6<sup>th</sup> one work is stopped due to a court case on. The work order has been cancelled for the 7<sup>th</sup> one for unusual delay for starting work by the contractor.
- ii. Thirteen cyclone shelters (Noakhali): Construction work has been started for all the cyclone shelters, overall progress is 96% (8 are completed).
- iii. Field raising for cyclone shelters: In Noakhali district work has been started for all 13 sites and achieved 97% progress (12 made final). In Lakshmipur LGED 7 sites will be developed later.

*- Maintenance works:*

In the reporting period, the following maintenance was done:

- i. Maintenance of Steamer ghat - Hatiya Bazar – Chairmanghat - Hatiya Upazila Connecting road
- ii. Maintenance of cyclone shelter at Ali Bazar.
- iii. Maintenance of cyclone shelter at Mohammadpur Bazar.
- iv. Maintenance work of cyclone shelter at Amin Bazar at Char Bhatirtek Polder.
- v. Maintenance work of cyclone shelter at Zubair Bazar at Char Majid Polder.
- vi. Maintenance work of cyclone shelter at Samitir Bazar at Char Baggardona Polder.

### **3.4.4 Department of Public Health Engineering**

*- Water: deep tube wells, ponds with sand filter and rainwater harvesting*

- i. Deep tube wells (600 nos): The overall progress of deep hand tube well is 48%. Work orders has been issued for 360 deep tube wells out of which 295 have been sunk; achieved progress is 79%. There is no progress yet for the remaining 240 deep tube wells as the south western zone of Boyer Char is saline; progress is almost stopped due to this situation..
- ii. Ponds with sand filter (10 nos.): Work order has been issued for all 10 pond sand filters (PSF). In one pond, PSF base has been developed. Overall progress is 2%.
- iii. Rainwater harvesting (20 nos.): Work order has been issued for 18 nos., work started and all the water tanks have been taken to the site but installation is waiting. Overall progress is 75%.

**- Sanitary latrines**

i. Single pit latrines (8500 nos.): The overall progress of the single pit latrine is 53%. Work has been started for 6000 single pit latrines and achieved progress is 75%. Manufacturing has been completed for 4622 nos. and 3387 nos. have actually been installed. Work order is under process for the remaining 2500.

ii. Public toilets (20 nos.): The overall progress for the public toilets is 76%. Work order has been issued for all 20 but construction has been started for 18.

**- Maintenance works:**

So far DPHE has completed tendering procedure for the maintenance work amounting to Tk.3.10 lakh for 126 deep hand tube wells of CDSP-I and II areas but no physical work has been done yet.

See also Annex 2.

**3.4.5. Department of Agriculture Extension**

**- Benchmark survey:**

The field survey has been carried out in November-December 2006 and was published as Technical Report no. 2 in March 2007.

**- Identification of productivity zone:**

The work on the identification zones was completed in 2006. Results are published in Technical Report no. 1 of June of that year.

**- Group approach, formation of Farmers Forums:**

In the reporting period five additional Farmers Forum have been formed. The total Farmers Forum stands now at 30. They are evenly distributed over the whole area. Among those FFs, number of female farmers is 182 (22%) and male farmers are 716. Details of 25 Farmers Forums have been published in previous Progress Reports.

**- Extension: demonstration, training, meetings:**

During the reporting period, agricultural extension activities were carried out for *Rabi season* and *Aus season*. The results of the zonation study have been used in designing the extension strategy. For the rabi season in the reporting period, a total of 50 demonstration plots were established on water melon, soya bean, mung bean, maize, sweet potato, chilli, okra and sweet gourd. Fifty farmers participated in demonstration activities directly; seven of them were women.

For the ongoing *Aus Season*, a total 45 demonstration plots are in process of establishment on BR-21, BRRI dhan-27. Forty five farmers participate in the demonstration activities directly and five of them were women



**Agricultural extension activities in Boyer Char in Rabi season (FY 2007-2008) and T. Aus season-2008.**

Activity	Rabi season	T. Aus season
Demonstration	50	45
Seeds	150 kg seeds used for demonstration of Rabi crops and 2000 pieces of seedlings	208 kg used for demonstration
Variety introduced	Different varieties of proven rabi crops	BRRI-27, BR-21 and BR-14.
Input supply Fertilizer (kg)	Distributed as follows:	
-Urea	594	720
-TSP	555	450
-MOP	542	360
Training -Farmer training (crop management, seed production and seed preservation)	35 nos. batch (1 batch=30 nos. farmer). 1050 members of Farmers Forum and WMG members received training on rabi crops production technologies and preservation of seeds. A total of 290 women participated in the training program.	20 nos. batch (1 batch=30 nos. farmer). Six hundred members of Farmers Forum received training on t.aus (HYV) rice crops production technologies and preservation of seeds. A total of 121 women participated from the Farmers Forum.
On farm testing	24 demonstrations on 6 different crops	
Supply of Support Materials		
-Spray Machine	25	
-Paddle Thresher	25	
-Plastic Drum (Seed preservation)	12	
Crop cut	Ninety crop cuts were done in the rabi demonstration plots to assess the yield performance. Yields were recorded in a data base.	
Field day	Field days are an effective tool for dissemination of technologies. Twelve (12) field days were arranged in different places of different demonstrated rabi crops. About 800 farmers were present during those field days.	

Activity	Rabi season	T. Aus season
Motivational Tour	Twelve Motivational Tours were organized in the reporting period for 180 participants (30 in each group). The participants were the members of FF and WMGs. The venues were as follows: BARD Comilla, Nimshar Horticultural Centre at Comilla, and at Khagrachari, Bandarban, BRRI at Dhaka, Comilla Spices Resources Institute and RDA, Bogra.	
Farmers meeting	Forum	Twenty-five (25) nos. farmers forum meeting were held during the reporting time. Approximately six hundred and fifty (650) nos. of forum members and others local peoples were present in those meetings. About 22% women were present.
Training of trainers	One Training of Trainers (TOT) was organized during the reporting period for the staff of DAE. The event was focused on capacity development and Coastal Agricultural Technology. Officers of DAE.	
Seasonal Survey	One (1) seasonal survey was conducted to assess the rabi crops coverage of Boyer Char and evaluated the performance of demonstration program. The survey result will be analyzed after coming two seasons.	
Seminars/workshops	One annual workshop on 24 <sup>th</sup> June	

The women members of FF and WMGs have been continuing their efforts in agricultural extension activities. The fact is that they are recognized as farmers have increased their enthusiasm and confidence. Women will be provided special orientation and training in the next reporting period. The TA team has provided training on rabi crops production to 150 exclusively female farmers who were not the members of FF or WMG. In addition the TA Team has provided training on T. Aman HYV cultivation techniques to 600 members of FF and WMG and distributed 3 tons HYV seed instead of training allowances.

#### **3.4.6. Department of Forest**

##### *- Formation of Social Forestry Groups:*

In the reporting period an additional three Social Forestry Groups (SFG) were formed with a total of 78 members of which 48 men (60%) and 30 women (40%). An extra 41 members (male 26 and female 15) to whom land was allocated after plantation, were included in existing roadside plantation groups. At the end of this reporting period a total of 95 SFGs existed. It is expected that another approximately 15 SFGs will be formed or have to be rearranged in 2008 and beginning of 2009 (13 for embankment and 2 for mangrove). This is mostly because of embankment alignment shifted in some locations

and thus foreshore and embankment related SFGs had to rearranged and organized. The situation on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 was:

**Social Forestry Group (SFG) Formation (Total/formed in reporting period):**

Name of the Activities	# of SFG	Male Nos.	Female Nos.	Total Participants
Roadside Plantation	45/00	725/00	424/00	1149/00
Foreshore Plantation	23/00	350/00	187/00	537/00
Embankment Plantation	15/01	186/18	108/10	294/28
Mangrove Plantation	12/2	185/30	115/20	300/50
<b>Total</b>	<b>95/03</b>	<b>1446/48</b>	<b>834/30</b>	<b>2280/78</b>

**- Land lease and benefit sharing agreements**

Land lease and benefit sharing agreements in all roadside and existing embankment plantations (except 3 km in Ramgati side) have been completed. Up to this reporting period, photocopies of these deed agreements have been distributed among 1149 nos. roadside project beneficiaries and 185 nos. embankment beneficiary members respectively for their future reference and user rights (in total 1334). In the reporting period no new agreements were signed. Deed agreements are being prepared for all new embankment plantations, mangrove plantation and foreshore plantations that will be established next year.

**- Establishment of nurseries**

No nursery was established in the reporting period. Seedlings for embankment plantation establishment and vacancy filling activities in old roadside plantations were raised in existing nurseries.

**- Roads and embankment plantation:**

A total of 4 km (planting length) new embankment plantations have been established in June 2008 along with vacancy filling in different roadside plantations in Boyer Char. Species were planted according to BWDB embankment plantation guidelines (though it was not much different from Forest Department's previous year plantations). In each planting km length in an average 3,550 different varieties seedlings have been planted.

A meeting was held on 24th June on how to address the issue of the planting of deep rooted seedlings in the upper reaches of the embankment. A solution was agreed upon between BWDB and Forest Department, supported by the TA-team.

Vacancy fillings and other maintenance work have been completed in last year old roadside plantations and embankment plantations. One row arbor hedgerow has been established along old roads to protect young planted seedlings.

**Embankment Plantation 2007-08 (in reporting period):**

Sl. #	Name of area	Planting Length (Km)	(#) of Seedlings Planted	Name of spp. planted	# of SFG involved	Remarks
1	Tankir bus stand to Sanu Mazi house	1	3500	Guava, Shupari, Coconut, Korai, Lemon, Akasmoni, Jhau, Neem,	1	Habibia Range

Sl. #	Name of area	Planting Length (Km)	(#) of Seedlings Planted	Name of spp. planted	# of SFG involved	Remarks
				Mehogoni, Amloki, Babla,		
2	Nur Islam house to Gabtoli Mosque road	3	10500	Guava, Shupari, Coconut, Korai, Lemon, Akasmoni, Mehogony, Jhau, Neem, Eucalyptus, Ipil- Ipil, Bohera, Amloki	3	Alexander Range
<b>Total</b>		<b>4 km</b>	<b>14000</b>			

From last year roadside plantations (2006-07), SFG members with the help of Forest Department staff collected 312 kg arhor *dal* and 1810 kg fuel wood (cuttings of arhor branches). They have sold arhor *dal* for Tk. 18,720/-. The fuel wood was for domestic purposes. The fuel wood gives them additional cooking materials, as these are very scarce especially during lean season (May-September).

*- Foreshore Plantation*

No foreshore plantation activities were done in this reporting period. Foreshore plantations of 57 ha were planned but finally due to contractors unwillingness, early monsoon and delay of resettlement process for foreshore dwellers the activities are delayed till September 2008. Revised PP target of 200 ha foreshore plantation will be established following the large mount model with dyke plantations in 2008-09 and 2009-2010 involving local people.

*- Mangrove Plantation*

During the reporting period, vacancy filling (through direct planting) and other maintenance work have been carried out in previously planted mangrove plantations in Jaliar Char.

*- Village Afforestation Program:*

No plantations have been established during this period.

*- Capacity Building:*

Two orientation workshops on the concept of foreshore plantations have been organized for foreshore inhabitants in Char Majid CDSP site office. Staff of both the Forest Department and the TA team facilitated these workshops. A Tree Plantation handbook has been printed and subsequently distributed among SFG members, FD staff, WMGs and NGOs staff. Five gender related training events for SFG members were organized to stimulate a more gender sensitive approach in implementing social forestry activities at field level.

### **3.4.7 BRAC/CDSP**

As in the previous reporting periods three bi-monthly coordination meetings were held at Noakhali BRAC office, chaired by the Dhaka based Project Manager from BRAC. Heads of all five local NGOs, concerned NGO Field Coordinators-NGO, members of the TA-team and BRAC's Project Liaison Officer participated. Subject of those meetings are the progress of each of the eight components of the five NGO programs in Boyer Char. Budget revision was one of the important topics.

At field level in Boyer Char the monthly coordination meetings were held on schedule that means six meetings in the first half of this year. Project Liaison Officer, BRAC, chaired the gatherings. Representatives of the five NGOs and field staff of the TA team participated in the meetings. Homestead gardening, tube wells and pit latrines and the newly established five Farmers Forums were among the subjects that came to the table.

### **3.4.8 Training**

A Training Plan was developed (see Progress Report no. 3) and is being implemented. For progress see Annex 3.

## **Chapter 4 PROJECT ORGANIZATION**

### **4.1. Introduction**

CDSP-III is sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources and is implemented by six government agencies. In Boyer Char a set of complementary activities is undertaken by five local NGOs, coordinated by BRAC. Project interventions of CDSP-III take place in a number of Districts, Upazilas and Unions. This chapter relates to the main stakeholders and to the coordinating mechanisms.

The text below focuses on changes in the set up or in changes of key personnel of the main stakeholders, or on some significant issues.

### **4.2. The parties involved and their responsibilities**

#### **4.2.1. The Ministry of Water Resources**

A new Secretary of the Ministry joined in January.

#### **4.2.2. Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands**

An embassy delegation headed by the Ambassador visited the project from 9th to 12th February. The programme included activities of all six as well as of NGOs in Boyer Char<sup>4</sup>. Short visits were made to Char Nangulia and Noler Char.

A series of discussions took place between EKN staff, Project Director and TA staff. Issues discussed were, among others, the progress of infrastructural development, of land settlement and the preparation of the MTR mission.

#### **4.2.3. Bangladesh Water Development Board**

The Add. Director General Planning was replaced in January.

#### **4.2.4. Local Government Engineering Department**

No changes to report.

#### **4.2.5. Department of Public Health Engineering**

In the reporting period, the Executive Engineer Noakhali was replaced at the end of May.

#### **4.2.6. Department of Agricultural Extension**

No changes to report.

#### **4.2.7. Forestry Department**

A new Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) was appointed in Noakhali.

#### **4.2.8. Ministry of Land**

A new Deputy Commissioner Noakhali joined in late March.

#### **4.2.9. Government at local levels**

The matter of the administrative jurisdiction of Boyer Char (either Hatiya or Subarna Char Upazila of Noakhali District) was not resolved during the reporting period, resulting in a continued vacuum as far as local government institutions are concerned.

#### **4.2.10. Community based field level institutions**

For progress with regard to the Water Management Organisations (WMO), Farmers Forums (FF) and Social Forestry Groups (SFG) reference can be made to paragraphs 3.2.3, 3.4.5 and 3.4.6.

#### **4.2.11. NGOs**

Coordination matters between CDSP-III and the BRAC/CDSP programme are dealt with in 3.4.7, while progress of the NGO activities is taken up in the BRAC progress reports.

#### **4.2.12. Technical Assistance team**

Inputs of staff from the side of the main consulting firm, Euroconsult Mott MacDonald were as follows. The Chief Technical Adviser spent 65 days in Bangladesh (35 days in January/February and 30 days in May) Two short missions were fielded: one on preparation of an EIA for Char Nangulia / Noler Char / Caring Char (in January, 16 days) and one on quality control of infrastructure development (in March, 19 days).

BETS supplied 25.44 person months in long term consultancies and Socioconsult 5.85 months. Together they supplied 4.84 months in short term experts.

Annex 4 contains a list of the members of the Technical Assistance team on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **4.3. Formal coordination mechanisms**

#### *- National Steering Committee:*

The National Steering Committee (NSC) did not meet during the reporting period.

#### *- Project Management Committee:*

The PMC met five times in the reporting period: 13<sup>th</sup> PMC on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> on 17<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Three meetings were held in Noakhali (of which one in Boyer Char), one in Lakshmipur and one in

Dhaka. Attendance rate of the actual PMC members (Project Directors/Coordinators) was 57%, much lower than during the previous reporting period.

Apart from the progress of the activities of each of the six agencies and of BRAC, the subjects discussed were, among others, revision of the PPs, internalization, study tours, WMOs, Progress Report no. 4, the feasibility studies. The members of the MTR mission participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> PMC meeting.

The composition of the PMC at the end of the reporting period is given in Annex 5.

#### **4.4. Monitoring, reporting and review**

The main monitoring instruments remained the meetings of the PMC, field visits and discussions, among others at EKN.

During the reporting period the following project reports were published:

- Progress Report no. 4 (1<sup>st</sup> July to 31st December 2007), February 2008
- Mission Report no. 12: Preparation of an EIA for development of Nangulia, Noler and Caring Chars, Noakhali District, February 2008
- Mission Report no. 13: Quality control infrastructure development, March 2008

Inception Reports were published by sub-contracted consultants on development of educational materials on climate change (IUCN); mathematical modeling on drainage and sedimentation in Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char (IWM); Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed development plan for Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char (CEGIS); additional drainage study for the upstream area of the Baggar Dona river (consortium led by Kranti; under Financial Assistance). CEGIS published the final report on the economic and financial analysis of the plan for Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char.

The delayed Mid Term Review mission was implemented between 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May. The mission members spent 10 days in Noakhali for visits to Boyer Char, Char Nangulia and Noler Char. Discussions were held with the Deputy Commissioner and local representatives of the governmental implementing agencies, BRAC and local NGOs. On 25<sup>th</sup> May a summary of their findings and recommendations was presented to the PMC. At the end of the reporting period the full final report has not yet been distributed.

The Project Coordination Board of the three consulting firms Euroconsult Mott MacDonald, BETS and Socioconsult did not meet in the reporting period.



## **Chapter 5 BUDGET AND TIME FRAME**

### **5.1. Introduction**

As reported in paragraph 1.4, the process of revision of the DPPs was completed during this reporting period.

### **5.2. Contribution of the Government of Bangladesh**

The following table reflects the agency wise expenditure from the side of the Government of Bangladesh

Tk. in Lac

Name of Agency	Revised PP amount (GoB)	Exp. Up to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2008	Expenditure in %
BWDB	899.20	449.63	50
LGED	507.54	217.20	43
DPHE	87.50	18.00	21
MoL	516.00	126.02	24
DAE	16.07	7.16	45
DoF	24.05	7.21	30
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2050.36</b>	<b>825.22</b>	<b>40</b>

### **5.3. Contribution of the Government of the Netherlands**

#### *- Financial Assistance*

Up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 request for re-imbursement were received for a total of Taka 2425.27 lakh of which Taka 553.41 lakh in the reporting period. Of the received request an amount of Taka 1740.49 was indeed recommended for re-imbursement by TA Team of which an amount of Taka 704.68 lakh in the reporting period. The remaining amount is expected to be checked and recommended for re-imbursement by July 2008. The table gives the agency wise break up.

#### **Reimbursement position on 1-7-2008 (Tk in Lakh)**

SL No.	Agency	Revised PP amount (RPA)	Claimed amount	Recommended amount	Amount not yet disposed.
01	BWDB	4412.07	939.94	551.80	388.14
02	DAE	66.50	30.73	30.55	0.18
03	FD	535.43	205.71	204.11	1.60
04	LGED	2910.00	1001.60	842.28	159.32
05	DPHE	800.00	247.30	111.75	135.55
06	MoL	496.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>9220.00</b>	<b>2425.27</b>	<b>1740.49</b>	<b>684.79</b>

See for more details Annex 6.

- *Technical Assistance*

Technical Assistance expenditures during the reporting period amounted to Euro 316,036 against a budget for 2008 of Euro 772,662 (see AWP 2008). In the first half nearly 41% was spent. At the end of the year an over expenditure on the budget line O&M Transport can be expected. This is due to the fact that one car was completely overhauled (and was then transferred to another project) and to the considerable price increases in transport related items such as fuel, oil, filters and tires.

At the end of the reporting period total expenditures since the start of the project were Euro 1,413,034, 59% of the total available budget (in 73% of the project period). Details about the TA expenditures can be found in Annex 7.

**5.6. Money flows and financial reporting**

Money flows and ways of financial reporting remained the same.

**5.7. Time frame**

At the end of the reporting period (1st July 2008), 33 months had passed since the start of CDSP-III on 1st October 2005. This is 73.3% of the total project period of 45 months (till 30th June 2009). As was recognized by the Mid Term Review mission, not all planned project activities will be completed before the end of that date. This is especially the case with regard to the Ministry of Land and BWDB. The MTR mission recommended an extension with 18 months to the end of 2010.

## **Chapter 6 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

In the Inception Report the following critical factors were identified with regard to risks:

- *Timeliness of availability of funds:*

The process of revision of the respective DPPs was completed during the reporting period. At least the formal basis on which release of funds can take place does no longer pose a threat to the progress of activities. Though there were instances where the actual availability of money was cumbersome, it was not a factor that impeded progress in the field.

- *Timeliness of availability and of quality of inputs:*

Adequate numbers of staff continued to be a largely unresolved issue, especially in the case of BWDB.

A few issues of land acquisition remain, in particular in Lakshmipur BWDB jurisdiction. As before, the quality of the work of the contractors was a permanent concern for both the agencies concerned and the TA team.

Another considerable cause for concern was in the increase in prices of building materials. In case of cyclone shelters did this indeed had a negative effect on the pace of implementation.

The scarcity of suitable water in the western part of Boyer Char hampered the construction of a number of objects.

- *Cooperation of all involved institutions, properly functioning of coordination mechanisms:*

The NSC did not meet in the first half of this year. As reported in 4.3. the PMC met five times in the six months period and is discharging its responsibilities in a satisfactory manner.

- *Political support and political stability:*

The political situation in the country continued to be favourable during the reporting period. The court cases that hampered the progress of land settlement had (and have) however a (local) political dimension.

- *Favourable weather conditions:*

Heavy rains caused damage to already implemented earthwork (embankments, roads). The works concerned will have to be repaired during the next dry season. The first kilometer (starting at the Baggar Dona side) of the excavation of the Jarir Dona khal suffered from sliding of the guide dyke and berm and of an overflow and partial breach of the cross bundh dividing the excavated part from the Baggar Dona river bed. This was caused by the heavy downfall and by exceptionally high water levels (late April, Nargis storm and beginning of August, moon eclipse). The cross bundh will be repaired following a design of the BWDB design office. It is expected that the re-sedimentation that was caused by the damage will be flushed away once the water is diverted through the Jarir Dona khal.

## **Appendices**

- Annex-1 : Map of CDSP-I, II and III areas
- Annex-2 : Infrastructural Progress work upto 30<sup>th</sup> June
- Annex-3 : Information on Training / workshop / study tour from Jan 2008 – June 2008
- Annex-4 : List of Technical Assistance Team Members
- Annex-5 : List of Project Management Committee
- Annex-6 : Item wise FA budget and Re-imbursement
- Annex-7 : Technical Assistance Budget
- Annex-8 : Comments on Draft Progress Report no. 5 by EKN and it's reply by PD,  
CDSP-III



## CDSP I, II and III Areas

