



Unnayan Shamannay



District - level Workshop on
**Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP): Advocacy Messages
on Agriculture, Energy and Water**

Organized jointly by
Unnayan Shamannay and OVA
TEREDES HOMES, Kurigram
10th May 2016

Event Report

Prepared by



Unnayan Shamannay

25-27, Happy Rahman Plaza, Banglamotor, Shahbag, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

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District - level Workshop on **Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP): Advocacy Messages on Agriculture, Energy and Water**



1. Introduction

Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) is a portfolio investment approach by Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to address the issues of water, food and energy security in South Asia through better regional cooperation, policy reforms, technology transfer and capacity building targeting the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls. This investment strategy has a 12 year horizon which will be realized in three phases. CUTS International is one among the portfolio partners for carrying forward the activities related to SDIP. The targeted areas and the investment portfolio's objectives are broadly stated as follows:

- Confident and cooperative decision-making across jurisdictional borders for the effective and equitable management of shared water resources.
- Increased access to and cooperation on energy
- Increased agricultural productivity and farm incomes through the adoption of more efficient and sustainable agricultural practices and better developed value-added market chains.

Objective of the Event:

To attain these objectives, a District - level workshop has been conducted by Unnayan Shamannay (US) and OVA jointly titled **"Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio**

(SDIP): Advocacy Messages on Agriculture, Energy and Water at TEREDES HOMES in Kurigram on 10th May 2016, at Kurigram Sadar, in order to disseminate the advocacy messages among the people of root level.

Objective of the event is to present the study reports by US and get feedback from participants, how the messages can be spread to farmer or user level and find out the key issues relevant to energy, agriculture and water sector.

Organization of the Conference:

The event was divided into four parts. It was started by opening remarks of Mahbub Hasan Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay of SDIP project. After his remarks, the presentation session was started. Three individual presentation on Agriculture, Renewable energy and Water were presented in this session.

The chief guest Mr. Aminul Islam discussed on the three presentations in the second part of this session. Opinions of pre-selected respondents from different government organizations discussed on the presentations and different aspects of the three areas such as Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Water. Later on, they expressed their views and suggested policy recommendations. Then the discussion was open for all and the participant from different organizations as well as the non-government organizations and civil society organizations actively participated. The seminar came to an end with summary and concluding remarks by Mahbub Hasan Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay of SDIP project.

Opening Remark:

Mahbub Hasan Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay of SDIP project presides over all the three sessions of the event. He welcomes everyone and makes introduced with one another. In his introductory remark, he conveys the audience about the proceedings and objectives of the study. In the view of promoting the sustainable use of our agriculture, water and renewable energy, he stretches on the utmost consciousness of the use of these resources.

Md. Mahbub Hasan

Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay

SDIP project is sponsoring this workshop and a research organizations namely Unnayan Shamannay (US) put effort for the workshop. US is an academic research organization which has contributed to a number of advocacy events on local governance over the last few years. US has worked to provide the analysis and the three policy briefs which are going to be presented today.



Agriculture

Keynote Presentations

Robert Shuvro Guda

Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay



He presents about the advocacy messages on sustainable use of agriculture at the root level. At first, he says about the challenges in acquiring the modern practices of sustainable agriculture, which are found from the whole study. One of the vital challenge is the disincentive for contemporary cultivation process in that region. As kurigram is a flood-prone area, the main message was for disseminating in this sphere- the use of modern irrigation system. Another vital challenge is the cultivation of the more water-consuming (for irrigation) crops in that region. So, shifting of the cropping pattern from more water-oriented to less water-oriented in irrigation should be focused. Besides, emphasis on the cultivation of flood-intensive variety of crops, is another important message.

Bidhu Vushon Ray

Crop production specialist, Department of Agriculture Extension



He responses to the seminar very nicely and has contributed some specific suggestions. He is not agreed on the fact that farmers are unwilling to use modern technologies in agricultural production. He says that the farmers are already using modern agricultural technology which reflected in the volume of national rice production. Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in producing rice so that it should of exporting abroad. According to him the main problem is marketing of agricultural products. If farmers get appropriate price they will be more concerned to use contemporary technologies. If their profit margin is ensured, only then they will go for new variety production. And government has to come forward to ensure appropriate market price of agricultural products. The farmers are to be conveyed about the availability of the less water-oriented crop varieties and the market prices of those, he said. Notably, natural water reservoirs have to be preserved for rain water use. He thinks that for feeding huge population double transplanting is needed because it takes less time to produce compared to direct method. Government steps are necessary to set up more irrigation pumps. Crop diversification may be a reasonable solutions for the agricultural problems of this area. He also mentioned some points about char lands. Though char lands are naturally fertile enough to produce rice varieties but it is used corn production since it is more profitable, he said.

Energy

Keynote presentation

Ayesha Noor

Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay



Mrs. Noor presents about the current situation and future potential of the renewable energy sector and finds out some initiatives for the local people, which have extracted from the study.

Initiating the diverse use of renewable energy rather than rampant energy like electricity and others, depends basically the government level decision and execution. She says that the root level people are to be made conscious enough to create a demand-supply gap, from which the state authority will be compelled to initiate alternative energy market based on the different sources of renewable energy. One of the vital challenge is there is no grid connection in char lands and solar power plant can be solution to this problem, she said.

Md. Ashraful Islam

Executive Engineer, Bangladesh Power development board



He says that alternatives of energy production has to be ensured because it has become one kind of primary need. He thinks that quick rental has contributed a lot to the power sector. Development in energy sector contributes to agriculture and industrial sector. Balanced use of gas, oil, water, coal, solar and nuclear plant should be ensured to reduce pressure on gas. For char lands solar power plant should be provided by government and non-government organizations can also work in this regard. Already government has undertaken initiatives for solar power plant. He says that the government and non-government efforts are to be combined to resolute the problems in energy sector. The system loss in supplying current has been reduced notably. The initial investment from governmental level for renewable energy is getting much higher which will play a positive role in the renewable energy sector. Use of solar can contribute to global temperature reduction and less use of fossil fuel, he added. Besides, people living in Dhaka city should be provided with LPG gas to reduce pressure on gas consumption.

He also mentioned one limitation about a 30 MW solar power plant. For establishing a solar power plant which capacity would be 30 MW, 114 acre government land was acquired at the bank of Dharla River. Everything was set but Bangladesh Water Development Board has given veto to this plant saying that water flow will be disrupted.

Md. Jahir Uddin

Technical Officer, RDRS



He says in his response that as it is a flood-prone area, tree plantation in a large scale is needed for preserving ecosystem. He emphasizes on linkage, negotiation and co-ordination with government in policy level. He suggested the researchers to make one comparative picture of three sector linking with climate change.

Water

Keynote presentation

Priangka Das

Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay



She presents about the challenges of using the water resource sustainably, intrinsic reasons of these challenges and the probable solutions found from the project. The main challenge is the increasing dependency on the groundwater in the purpose of irrigation and others whereas the level of ground water is tremendously decreasing in the Indo-Ganges basin. The local people is to be made encouraged to use surface water for various purposes rather than groundwater. Rainwater reservation can be a very good initiative as an alternative source of groundwater. Besides, the common people are to be competent enough in using the available water in proper ways to prevent the unnecessary uses of this valuable resource.

Md. Ershadul Haque

Teacher, Kurigram

He represents civil society organization. He thinks crop diversification is necessary for controlling water dissipation. In addition, he emphasizes on preserving natural water reservoir.



2. Speech by Chair

Md. Aminul Islam

Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Kurigram Sadar, Kurigram

In his valuable speech, he says that agriculture, renewable energy and water are interrelated to each other. And researchers have to relate deeply with the pulse of common people about their sufferings about these three sectors. Economy of Bangladesh depends heavily on agriculture and it is now self-sufficient in producing rice due to invention of new varieties in agriculture sector. And at field level, farmers are producing rice in line with suggestions provided by agriculture extension officer. They are now aware about the use of pesticides such as Uria and its use has reduced now-a-days. And to ensure that farmers get appropriate price of rice and wheat, Bangladesh government is about to make payment of crops through farmers respective bank accounts, he added. He thinks farmers should make aware of efficient use of energy and water for cultivation. Moreover, dependency on fossil fuel energy has reduced to some extent. Government is now giving subsidies on LPG gas to reduce pressure on gas. Also government do not need to give subsidies to BPC due to recent fall in price of fuel, soyabin oil. He mentioned that we are not rule following nation.



The efficient use of the water resource is to be spread among the common people, he thinks. He also mentioned that water layer is not affected since water recharge is possible in kurigram. The use of water is to be brought at the linking point of intergenerational and intra generational knowledge as a part of sustainable way of development. In initiating the renewable energy such as solar power, the usage of advanced energy saving technologies is to be accelerated. The inconsiderate use of gas is to be controlled. The necessity of the energy in national life is to be internalized properly in the policy level and the steps for making the people conscious about the alternative energy source are to be taken. In kurigram voltage up down problem very severe and to solve this problem a substation is needed. For providing power supply to char lands alternatives should be think of since grid station is not

available there. In this case, non-government organization can work for proving solar power plant in char lands. Finally, he thinks to raise awareness education is a strong factor. For sustainable development, teachers should spread the message of efficient use of energy, and water through their students. In this way, country will be developed.

3. Closing Remark

Mahbub Hasan concludes the session. He says that there is a hope that the findings from this study will be effective for common people as well as policy level. Then he conveys gratitude to all the persons present there including the three sectors to cooperate with the successful completion of the workshop.

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4. **Md. Nuruzzaman**, Field Manager, OVA
5. **Md. Aminul**, TDS
6. **Md. Ali Azgar**, ARDO, BRDB
7. **Md. Ershadul Islam**, Teacher, Kathalbari Degree College, Kurigram
8. **Md. Jahirul Islam**, Representative, BRAC
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12. **Md. Nowshed**, Farmer, Mogholpasha
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15. **Md. Lutfur Rahman**, Farmer, Ghogadoho, Kurigram
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20. **Md. Shafiqul Kabir Jewel**, Govt. Officer, Railway
21. **Md. Zulfiqar Islam**, Project Manager, ESDO, Kurigram
22. **Md. Mahbub Hasan**, Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
23. **Md. Abdus Sattar**, UNO Office
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কুড়িগ্রামে কৃষি জ্বালানী ও পানির উপর কর্মশালা অনুষ্ঠিত

কুড়িগ্রাম প্রতিনিধিঃ বেসরকারী সংস্থা কাট ইনটারন্যাশনাল ঢাকা'র আয়োজনে সাসটেইনেবল ডেভলপমেন্ট ইনভেস্টমেন্ট পর্টফলিও এডভোকেসি ম্যাসেস অন এগ্রিকালচার, ওয়াটার এন্ড এনার্জির উপর উন্নয়ন সমন্বয় সভা মঙ্গলবার টেরেডেস হোমস কনফারেন্স রুমে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়'র সমন্বয়কারী মাহাবুব হানের সভাপতিত্বে প্রধান অতিথি'র বক্তব্য রাখেন, কুড়িগ্রাম সদর উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম। বিশেষ অতিথি'র বক্তব্য রাখেন আশরাফুল আলম মন্ডল



নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী পাওয়ার ডেভলপমেন্ট কুড়িগ্রাম ও বিধু ভূষণ রায় কৃষিবিদ খামার বাড়ী কুড়িগ্রাম। অংশ গ্রহনমূলক বক্তব্য রাখেন মুরুজ্জামান ওভা লালমনিরহাট, জিএফ পিএফপি শিরি প্রজেক্ট। অনুষ্ঠানের প্রধান অতিথি আমিনুল ইসলাম কৃষি, জ্বালানী ও পানির উপর জ্ঞানগর্ভ বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করেন। সংস্থাটির প্রতিবেদনে জানা যায়, বাংলাদেশ, ভারত, ভুটান, নেপাল ও পাকিস্তান এই পাঁচটি দেশের উপর সমন্বিতভাবে স্টাডি করেন কৃষি, জ্বালানী ও পানির উপর। কৃষি, জ্বালানী ও পানির টেকসই ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণই স্টাডির মূল লক্ষ্য।

কৃষি-জ্বালানী-পানির উপর

রাখেন আশরাফুল আলম মন্ডল নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী পাওয়ার ডেভলপমেন্ট কুড়িগ্রাম ও বিধু ভূষণ রায় কৃষিবিদ খামার বাড়ী কুড়িগ্রাম। অংশ গ্রহনমূলক বক্তব্য রাখেন মুরুজ্জামান ওভা লালমনিরহাট, জিএফ পিএফপি শিরি প্রজেক্ট। অনুষ্ঠানের প্রধান অতিথি আমিনুল ইসলাম কৃষি, জ্বালানী ও পানির উপর জ্ঞানগর্ভ বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করেন। সংস্থাটির প্রতিবেদনে জানা যায়, বাংলাদেশ, ভারত, ভুটান, নেপাল ও পাকিস্তান এই পাঁচটি দেশের উপর সমন্বিতভাবে স্টাডি করেন কৃষি, জ্বালানী ও পানির উপর। কৃষি, জ্বালানী ও পানির টেকসই ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণই স্টাডির মূল লক্ষ্য।

কৃষি-জ্বালানী-পানির উপর কুড়িগ্রামে কর্মশালা অনুষ্ঠিত



উপর উন্নয়ন সমন্বয় সভা গতকাল মঙ্গলবার টেরেডেস হোমস কনফারেন্স রুমে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়'র সমন্বয়কারী মাহাবুব হানের সভাপতিত্বে প্রধান অতিথি'র বক্তব্য রাখেন, কুড়িগ্রাম সদর উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার আমিনুল ইসলাম। বিশেষ অতিথি'র বক্তব্য রাখেন মুরজ্জামান ওভা লালমনিরহাট ও বিধু ভূষণ রায় কৃষিবিদ খামার বাড়ী কুড়িগ্রাম।

মোস্তাফিজুর রহমানঃ বেসরকারী সংস্থা কাট ইনটারন্যাশনাল ঢাকা'র আয়োজনে সাসটেইনেবল ডেভলপমেন্ট ইনভেস্টমেন্ট পর্টফলিও এডভোকেসি ম্যাসেস অন এগ্রিকালচার, ওয়াটার এন্ড এনার্জির উপর উন্নয়ন সমন্বয় সভা গতকাল মঙ্গলবার টেরেডেস হোমস কনফারেন্স রুমে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়'র সমন্বয়কারী মাহাবুব হানের সভাপতিত্বে প্রধান অতিথি'র বক্তব্য রাখেন, কুড়িগ্রাম সদর উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার আমিনুল ইসলাম। বিশেষ অতিথি'র বক্তব্য রাখেন মুরজ্জামান ওভা লালমনিরহাট ও বিধু ভূষণ রায় কৃষিবিদ খামার বাড়ী কুড়িগ্রাম।