

Char Development and Settlement Project Phase IV

Social Forestry Program in Coastal Chars

The Social Forestry Program in CDSP IV

This program is part of the 'Protection from Climate Change' component in the CDSP IV project. Char lands are initially stabilized by the Forest Department by tree plantations, which facilitate sustainable agriculture in the long run. The coastal line is protected against natural calamities by establishing a green belt on char lands, shores and banks and by maintaining mangroves.

In line with the forest policy, community forestry is promoted by giving priority to poorer communities and poorer members of the community, in the allocation of contracts for tree plantation. Women and poor people who do not have a land based source of income are employed on a priority basis in nurseries, plantations, forest management, harvesting and industrial work.

All five of the CDSP IV selected chars, Noler Char, Char Nangulia, Caring Char, Char Ziauddin and Urir Char, fall under the social forestry program.

Objectives

- establishment of tree belts to protect chars from storms and cyclones;
- formation of Social Forestry Groups;
- benefit generation for members of the SFG's, both from employment by the Forest Department, as from a share in the income generation from selling of tree products; and
- the production of fuel wood to alleviate the severe fuel shortage that exists in the project areas.



Targets and status

The Forest Department carries the responsibility for all the plantation activities in the chars, except on homesteads. The support for homestead forestry and private tree nurseries is coordinated by the four project NGO's: Brac, Sagorika Samaj

Unnayan Sangstha (SSUS), Dwip Unnayan Songstha (DUS), and the Society for Development Initiatives (SDI).

In table 1 an overview is provided on the implementation status for the different type of plantations, dyke construction and household rehabilitation. Regarding household rehabilitation, in total 350 households will have to be rehabilitated in the areas where foreshore dyke plantations are planned. This is done in coordination with the land settlement program within CDSP IV.

Table 1. Implementation status Social Forestry Program

Activities	Unit	Target	Status (12/2014)
Block plantation	ha	140	35
Canal side plantation	km	205	30
Embankment plantation	km	41	21
Foreshore dyke plantation	ha	250	0
Institutions plantation	no.	95	71
Killa plantation	no.	16	6
Mangrove plantation	ha	7400	4000
Roadside plantation	km	300	148
Dyke construction	ha	250	0
Household rehabilitation	no.	350	0

Workshops and trainings are organized by the Social Forestry Program for staff of the Forest Department, NGO's, SFG's, Water Management Groups (WGM's), Local Government Institutions and the public. Additionally the program organizes periodically information and awareness campaigns on a variety of topics. Table 2 provides an overview on the number of workshops and trainings that the project has facilitated thus far.

Table 2. Facilitation status workshops and trainings

Activities	Unit	Target	Status (12/2014)
One day staff workshop	batch	6	6
Two day staff training	batch	12	8
Initial SFG training	batch	630	274
Follow-up SFG training	batch	630	71
SFG benefit agreement workshop	batch	630	274
Plantation watcher training	batch	20	0
Workshops with the public, LGI's and NGO's	batch	110	53



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Social Forestry Groups (SFG)

To implement the social forestry activities, first of all the beneficiaries are selected and they form a Social Forestry Group themselves. Generally the beneficiaries are selected from the local people living within one km periphery of the social forestry area; the following people get priority in the beneficiaries' selection process:

- the landless;
- land owners with less than 50 decimal land (1 decimal is 1/100th acre);
- widowed, separated or destitute women;
- families affected by the Social Forestry Program; and
- disadvantaged people, freedom fighters or their children.

Once a Social Forestry Group is formed there are certain duties and responsibilities the participants are expected to take on. These include:

- participate in the planning process of social forestry management;
- forestry planning preparation and implementation in collaboration with the Forest Department;
- perform duties on the tree plantations;
- perform pruning and training activities as per the FD approved planning; and
- attend social forestry meetings.

The new SFG will receive a percentage of the profit raised from the social forestry activities. The Forest Department has established a profit sharing mechanism that provides the members of the SFG with a share, dependant on the activity. Table 3 shows how, according to the Social Forestry Rule 2010, the benefits achieved from different social forestry activities should be shared among different stakeholders.

Table 3. Social forestry activity shares

Parties	Embankment and roadside plantation share	Foreshore and mangrove plantation share
Forest Department	10%	25%
Land owner	20%	20%
Beneficiaries (SFG's)	55%	45%
Union Parishad	5%	–
Planting Fund	10%	10%

In all cases of plantation, the length of the agreement is 10 years, which is renewable up to 30 years. A Divisional Forest Officer can renew the agreement by following the process of the Forest Department and taking consent of the parties under the agreement.

In conclusion

Given the importance of afforestation in the process of coping with the increasing consequences of climate change, it is essential that the knowledge and information this Social Forestry Program carries is widely distributed among the coastal population, the Forest Department and the involved NGOs. Large scale campaigns and training are applied to assist in achieving this goal.



The Social Forestry Groups play a crucial role in the efforts to reach and involve coastal communities. To ensure that the latest insights and newest technologies are applied, frequent refresher courses for all coastal Forest Department personnel are incorporated into the program.

Latest information and contact details

If interested in the latest CDSP IV news and progress updates, please visit our website on www.cdsp.org.bd.

For questions or comments please contact us directly through:

Project Coordinating Director (Md. Mahfuzur Rahman)

Char Development and Settlement Project IV – BWDB
Office: 23/1, Motijheel Commercial Area, Hasan Court
(2nd floor), Dhaka 1000 Bangladesh.

☎ (+880)-2-9559298

✉ cdsp.noa@gmail.com

