

CHAR DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT PROJECT-III

চর উন্নয়ন ও বসতি স্থাপন প্রকল্প-৩

BANGLADESH

Progress Report No. 4

1st July to 31st December 2007

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)

26th February, 2008

Euroconsult Mott MacDonald

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC (L)	:	Assistant Commissioner (Land)
AEO	:	Assistant Extension Officer
AGM	:	Annual General Meeting
BARD	:	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
BRAC	:	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRRI	:	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BWDB	:	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CBD	:	Char Baggar Dona
CBT	:	Char Bhatirtek
CDS	:	Coastal Development Strategy
CEGIS	:	Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services
CM	:	Char Majid
CDSP	:	Char Development and Settlement Project
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	:	Evaluation Committee of National Economic Council
EDP	:	Estuary Development Programme
EIRR	:	Economic Internal Rate of Return
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
IWM	:	Institute of Water Modeling
LCS	:	Landless 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
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
SRDI	:	Soil Research Development Institute
SFG	:	Social Forestry Group
UCO	:	Upazila Cooperative Officer
UNO	:	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	:	Union Parishad
XEN	:	Executive Engineer
WARPO	:	Water Resource Planning Organisation
WMA	:	Water Management Association
WMF	:	Water Management Federation
WMG	:	Water Management Group
WMO	:	Water Management Organization

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The Contribution Agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and The Netherlands stipulates in article 8 sub b that every six months a Progress Report has to be submitted by the Project Director and the Team Leader. This is Progress Report no. 4 covering the period from 1st July to 31st December 2007.

The format is the same as the other base documents for CDSP-III. Numbers and titles of chapters, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs are the same as in all previous CDSP planning- and progress documents, facilitating comparison. This Progress Report has to be seen against the backdrop of the Inception Report and Annual Work Plan 2007.

1.2. Approaches and strategies

CDSP continued with the same approaches and strategies as set out in the Inception Report. Poverty alleviation, integration, participation and performing a bridging function were as before dominant elements in the reporting period.

At the heart of the efforts to have a *pro poor impact*, is the allocation of *khas* land to hitherto landless households. Improvement of their economic situation and food security by an increase in agricultural production continued in particular in the DAE component. This will further improve after the area is fully protected and drainage conditions can be managed.

A distinguishing mark of CDSP is its *integrating approach*. It is recognized that its objectives of improving living conditions and decreasing poverty can only be done effectively in a multi-sectoral and cohesive way. The participation of six government agencies (and the BRAC/CDSP programme) demonstrates that approach.

Vital institutions in the participatory *approach* of CDSP are field level institutions as the Water Management Organizations (WMO), Farmers Forums (FF) and Social Forestry Groups (SFG). The functioning of these groups was further improved and additional groups were formed.

The feasibility studies are instruments of the *bridging function* of CDSP-III towards future char development programmes. The draft final report of the feasibility study on Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char was completed in November and a workshop held in December. Reconnaissance surveys of areas suitable for future feasibility studies started.

1.3. Linkages of CDSP-III to other development efforts

Quarterly meetings are being held with the Estuary Development Programme. Topics discussed concentrated in the reporting period were the identification of new char areas for a feasibility study, surveys in CDSP areas to be possibly is carried out by EDP and the workshop on the drainage/accretion issues in the Greater Noakhali area.

Regular meetings took place with the Noakhali based Regional Fisheries and Livestock Component (of the Danida supported Agriculture Sector Programme, phase II). As in the previous reporting period, the feasibility study for new chars, aquaculture interventions in Boyer Char and logistical matters were the most important matters discussed.

Contacts with the Market Access Component (part of the same Danida Sector Programme) about planning rural roads in Char Nangulia and Noler Char (feasibility study areas) continued. The Danida project showed interest. The process has to start to include the new chars in future plans.

Contacts of a similar nature were maintained with DPHE-Danida Water Supply and Sanitation Components. That project did indeed include the new chars for their programme of installing deep tube wells.

The Market Infrastructure Development Project in Char Land Regions, with the project office in Noakhali, did not yet start its field activities. One market in Boyer Char (Hatiya Bazar) has been taken up in the MIDPCR work plan.

The contents of contact with the IPSWAM project centered around the registration of the Water Management Organisations (WMO) by the Department of Cooperatives.

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

In Progress Report no. 1 comments have been included on the different streams of reporting on CDSP-III.

In the previous reporting period, the process of revision of Project Proformas was taken up for five of the implementing agencies: BWDB, LGED, Forest Department and DPHE. The situation on 31st December 2007 was as follows:

- BWDB: Revised DPP was sent to Planning Commission for approval. (In the beginning of January 2008 Planning Commission requested some clarifications and a Planning Commission delegation visited the project area on 29th January. Approval is expected in the ECNEC meeting of February 2008)
- LGED: Revised DPP has been submitted to the parent Ministry (Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development). The DPP has been approved by that Ministry. Further approval by Planning Commission is not required.
- DPHE: The revised DPP has been submitted to and subsequently approved by the Ministry of Planning.
- Forest Department: The revised DPP has been sent to the Chief Conservator of Forest. It can be approved by the Ministry of Forest and Environment, without referring it to the Ministry of Planning. Approval is expected in January 2008.
- Ministry of Land: The text of the PP was revised and the contribution of the Government of Bangladesh was increased. The revised DPP has been approved by the Ministry. Approval from Ministry of Planning is not necessary.

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

In 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 interventions aimed at mitigating the drainage problems in the upstream area of Baggar Dona have yet to start.

The focus of the activities in CDSP-I and II areas were the residual work related to the land settlement process and the support to Water Management Organizations established in those previous project phases.

In December the draft of the final report of the feasibility study for Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char were presented and discussed in a workshop.

For a map of the project areas see 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

The ICZM-project as such is no longer operational, but principles and strategy as described in the Coastal Zone Policy and the Coastal Development Strategy, are in general being applied in CDSP-III. Many of the strategic priorities from the Coastal Development Strategy (CDS) are covered in the CDSP-III programme of activities. During the internalization workshops for the six implementing agencies attention is given to the CDS and copies are given to interested staff members. It directly contributes to an institutional environment that is more conducive for implementation of the Coastal Development Strategy. The participatory approach, the attention for strengthening institutions and the management model of the project itself bear this out. Project interventions as the support for a District Information Centre, the linking up of the project data base to the ICDR data base and the development of educational material on climate change and char development are very much ICZM type of activities. Another example is the meeting organized by CDSP with experts from BWDB, IWM, CEGIS and EDP on issues related to the drainage- and accretion patterns in the Greater Noakhali area, a typical phenomenon on coastal Bangladesh (minutes of the meeting are available).

3.2.2 Strengthening of implementing agencies, including internalisation of CDSP concepts

- Instruments for internalisation

A report on all six regional (meaning Noakhali and Lakshmipur) internalisation workshops is available.

Of the six planned agency wise national internalization workshops, only three could be held in the reporting period: Ministry of Land, DAE and DPHE. (The workshop with LGED was held on 31st January and with Forest Department and BWDB on 27th February 2008). Proceedings of the workshops held in 2007 are available. In general, the workshops were well attended (senior and mid-level management), with lively discussions on the main subjects: what can be internalized and how should it be done. The workshops recommended formation of committees for each of the agencies to take the matter further. Follow-up meetings, for instance with the Secretary, Ministry of Land, have already been held. The incorporation of CDSP experiences in standard courses (see below) was fully supported. Production of manuals for some aspects (as for example on water supply and sanitation and on the process of land settlement) were other recommendations (among many), with an observation of caution that some of the CDSP practices, will have budgetary consequences.

As a follow-up of Mission Report no. 6, a short term consultant was employed to prepare the plan for incorporation of CDSP experiences in standard training events organized by the implementing agencies. The result has been published in Mission Report no. 10 of October 2007. The same consultant will provide support to the training sections of the agencies to implement the plan during the remaining project period.

During the reporting period no specific actions were taken with regard to publication of articles on CDSP in agency news letters or in their respective web sites.

- Strengthening of PMU-ESPP, BWDB:

Mission Report no. 3 (February 2007) highlighted the shortage of man power (10 present against a total approved strength of 23) of the Office of the Project Director CSDP-III (PMU-ESPP). It concluded that the Office cannot cope with the assigned work with the present strength. This was followed by a short assignment on recommendations how to strengthen the PMU-ESPP and how to improve its efficiency. In the report of that assignment (Mission Report no.8 of August 2007) also recommendations with regard to the long term future have been formulated. Both reports have been discussed with representatives of senior management of BWDB, which resulted in proposals to the Board for additional recruitment of staff. Other recommendations will be taken up by the Project Director, BWDB in the course of 2008.

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 number of groups, nor the number of members in polder 59/3C (Bamni, CDSP-II area) changed in the reporting period: 11 Water Management Groups (WMG), with a total of 313 members (55% male, 45% female); three Water Management Associations (WMA) and one Water Management Federation (WMF). A total of 88 meetings were held during the period July-December 2007, which on average are six meetings by each Water Management Organization (WMO). Average attendance rate was 64.5%, with 69% for men and 60% for women. Three Annual General Meetings (AGM), one by each WMA was held during the reporting period. WMA invited beneficiaries in the AGM from all the areas of their jurisdiction

In the main land Noakhali excluding Bamni, 12 WMGs and one WMA exist having a total of 333 members (54% male, 46% female). Average attendance in CM, CBD-I and II (total of 19 meetings) was 71% for male and 58% for female. Average attendance in the Char Bhatirtek (CBT) and Polder 59/3B (for a total of 65 meetings) was 80% for male and 75% for female.

In South Hatiya a total of 20 WMGs, three WMAs and one WMF exist each with a 12 members Executive Committee. A total of 134 meetings were held in the period of July-

December 2007, which on average is 79% of the target. Average attendance rate was 71% for male and 64% for female.

- Issues discussed:

Subject discussed in those meeting (applies to mainland as well as Hatiya) were among others: registration of WMOs with the Department of Cooperatives (DOC); maintenance plan for FY2007-2008; erosion; training; WMO office; illegal occupants in the sluice area and demarcation of sluice area; agreement between BWDB and WMO; Annual General Meeting; removal of cross dams; and canal re-excavation. For Noakhali mainland, special issues was the cut in the cross dam in Noakhali khal and the erosion in the Bamni area.

A workshop was held on 15th December in Dhaka on the drainage and accretion aspects of Greater Noakhali area. Experts from BWDB, IWM, CEGIS, CDSP-III TA Team and two UP Chairman attended the workshop. CEGIS and IWM presented two papers, one on drainage and another about accretion.

- Registration of WMOs:

Staff of TA team along with concerned BWDB Extension Overseer has completed the registration from DOC as per target. During the reporting period, 10 WMGs and 4 WMAs have been registered from DOC (10 WMGs of Boyer Char). To date, including the progress in this reporting period, a total 19 WMGs and 7 WMAs have registered in CDSP-I, II and III areas (out of a total of 53 WMOs).

- Capacity building:

Three one day training events in Polder 59/3C (Bamni), three in South Hatiya and eight in the main land were organized in the reporting period on cooperative aspects. Upazila Cooperative Officer (UCO) mainly, facilitated the training. The main contents of that training was cooperative rules, bye laws of WMOs, accounts/fund management, audits and water management activities etc. In addition, three basic gender trainings were organized: two in Polder 59/3B and another in CBD-II.

Weekly progress meeting have started with the Extension Overseer, BWDB and Project Area Coordinators, TA Team. The meetings review the progress, problems and bottlenecks in the areas of WMOs. Only one review meeting was held in the reporting period (they are supposed to be monthly review meetings) on 29th May presided over by the XEN, Noakhali O & M Division. The meeting reviewed the posting and placement of Extension Overseers and newly posted Assistant Extension Officer (AEO), logistics and other support to Extension Overseers, maintenance work, registration of WMO and field O & M problems etc.

- Staffing:

In the main land at present four overseers are working; One for Polder 59/3C, one for Polder 59/3B including Bhatirtek, one for Char Majid, Char Baggar Dona-I & II and one for the Baggar Dona Upstream area. One WMO facilitator (worked for South Hatiya) left the project in November. The recruitment for a replacement is in process. One Assistant Extension Officer (AEO) has been supervising the activities of overseers.

- *WMOs in Boyer Char:*

- Overview:

One WMA comprising 60 members from 10 WMGs exist in Boyer Char. The WMA has been holding meeting in the CDSP site office. The WMA held four meetings in the reporting period.

The 10 Water Management Groups (WMG), in Boyer Char areas have a total of 277 members. Out of the total 140 (51%) are male and 137 (49%) are female. The 10 WMGs in Boyer Char have been continuing their monthly meeting on a regular basis. The 10 WMGs held a total of 58 meetings out of target 60 in the last six months. Average attendance rate in those meetings were 73.5%, with 75% for men and 72% for women.

- Subjects discussed activities:

Major subjects discussed in those meetings were: bye law of WMGs; registration from DOC; construction of four WMG sheds; LCS formation for community pond excavation/re-excavation; site selection of community pond, roads, culverts/bridge, bus stand; remaining work on embankment; drainage problems; Jarir-Dona / Gabtoli short cuts; DTW; toilets; the land settlement hearings. WMGs have also been continuing the deposition of individual savings to their respective accounts. WMGs deposited savings on an average Tk 20,000/= by each group. The savings scheme enhances the group strength.

Other major activities performed by the WMGs are mentioned below:

- Identified the local problems in the monthly meeting
- Removed cross bundhs, silt from the canals
- Assisted concerned in formation of LCS
- Collected savings. share and deposited in the bank account
- Provide contribution in construction of WMG shed

During the reporting period WMGs assisted implementing agencies in organizing land settlement hearings, site selection, plantation in the roads/embankment, installation of DTWs and toilets. WMGs participated in training organized by agencies (DAE, DoF) and/or TA team.

- Capacity building:

Four training events on basic gender issues to WMGs took place, one day orientation on cooperative records maintaining also to WMGs have been imparted in the reporting period. The 9 LCSs have received one day training on formation, duties, payments, work measurement etc. On an average 52 LCS members attended the training. One day training on rabi cropping was provided by DAE to the WMG and Farmers Forum.

- Staffing:

BWDB has transferred one Extension Overseer to Boyer Char to fill up the vacant post to work in the western part. At present two Overseers are working in Boyer Char. From TA side one Project Area Coordinator and one Gender Field Coordinator have been continuing in Boyer Char since the beginning. One LCS facilitator has also been working since February 2007 to facilitate the LCS related activities. LCS facilitator also supporting the WMO related activities.

- BWDB Water Management Directorate:

The supervision of Extension Overseers is still an unresolved matter. The issue has been brought to the attention of BWDB officials on many occasions, but decisive action has not been undertaken. The PD, CDSP-III has recently agreed to forward a proposal to the competent authority for shifting the supervision of AEO and Extension Overseers working in Noakhali to the Executive Engineer, Noakhali O & M Division. In the meantime, TA Team has taken enough initiative to equip the staffs of BWDB and other IAs through training, logistic support from agencies as well as from TA budget.

The original intention to discontinue all TA support for WMOs in CDSP-I areas per ultimo 2007 has been discarded, based on the present functioning of the Extension Overseers and based on the lack of supervision and support from BWDB side. The TA support will continue to the end of the project period.

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:

A Maintenance Plan was prepared jointly by WMOs and BWDB with support from the TA team. The plans were concluded during a meeting on 18th September, chaired by Ex Engineer BWDB. BWDB has initiated the execution of the plan, but LGED did not do so yet, which has led to pressure from WMOs (often via the TA team) on LGED.

- Boyer Char:

Based on Mission Report no. 11 of December 2007, the project policy is, in the long run, to have the WMOs play a central role in the communication between the communities and the implementing agencies. That is why in 2008 special attention of this aspect will be given in training courses and workshops for WMO members. To this effect a training module will be developed. It has to be noted that there are still no local government institutions present in Boyer Char due to the pending court case whether Boyer Char belongs to Subarna char or Hatiya Upazila. As the water management and internal infrastructure is still being built, there is as yet no Maintenance Plan in Boyer Char. This is a difference with 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. Regular bilateral meetings with the Deputy Commissioner Noakhali took place on project matters.

- District Information Centre:

The short term communication expert (see Mission Report no. 11) comes to the conclusion that the District Information Centre in Lakshmipur does not achieve its objectives due to a number of reasons. Among them are the lacks of proper training of the current operator of the Centre, the vast and diverse communication needs of the District Administration, inadequate support from the TA team (Boyer Char ceased to be a part of Lakshmipur District after the boundary issue was solved), no proper promotion of the Centre. The decision has been taken

to continue with the Centre in Lakshmipur and not to open a second Centre in Noakhali. A practical plan to improve the Lakshmipur Centre will be drawn up early in 2008.

3.2.6. Upgrading and improving functioning of Project Management Committee

No specific activities were undertaken to improve the functioning of the PMC during the reporting period. The newly appointed Project Director, BWDB, has decided that all PMC meetings will take place in Noakhali in order to expose the Dhaka based Project Directors/Coordinators to the field situation of CDSP-III.

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

During the previous reporting period a contribution was provided to the Terms of Reference for a mission that will explore the feasibility of a multi-agency and multi-donor ICZM/Coastal development programme. This was done on request of the Dutch embassy. The fielding of the mission is delayed and is now scheduled to take place in the second half of 2008.

3.3. Studies, knowledge management and dissemination

3.3.1. Drainage study upstream Baggar Dona

- Monitoring:

As reflected in the previous Progress Report, the monitoring programme can obviously only start after the Baggar Dona drains on the Meghna river through its new outlet, the Jarir Dona khal. Only during the reporting period work started. The work will probably be completed during the 2008-2009 season.

- Drainage stud :

During the reporting period BWDB started the tender process for the implementation of the Additional Drainage study for the upstream area of the Baggar Dona river. Final selection of the consultant is expected to take place in February 2008.

3.3.2 Feasibility Studies for char development project in future

- Overall study:

The decision was taken to make a development plan for Zia Char (an area of about 1000 ha adjacent to Char Baggar Dona-I) and to undertake reconnaissance surveys in four areas: Urir Char (between Sandwip and Noakhali coast), Dhal Char (north west of Hatiya island), Teluar Char (in the Meghna, west of Boyer Char) and Kukri Mukri (south of Bhola island). These reconnaissance surveys started in the reporting period. Selection of one of the four areas for a feasibility study is expected to take place in February 2008.

- Feasibility study prior to overall study:

The draft final report of the Feasibility Study for Char Nangulia, Noler Char and Caring Char was made available in November and discussed in a workshop in Dhaka in December.

Observations made in that workshop will be included in the draft, if relevant. In the reporting period the work on the financial and economic analysis (essentially the determination of the FIRR, EIRR) was sub-contracted to CEGIS (draft report was completed in January 2008). The decision was taken to implement a full Environmental Impact Assessment (preparations for tendering this four months assignment started in February 2008)

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 initiatives related to dissemination were undertaken in the reporting period. The project featured on National Television (NTV) and on a local satellite TV network.

- Information flow to and from communities in Boyer Char

CDSP concepts, objectives activities were highlighted in different meeting, orientation, discussion, workshop and training held during the reporting period. Special attention was given to the information flow to and from the female settlers through households visit, organizing Uthan Baithak (courtyard meeting).

A short assignment was carried out on communication aspects in CDSP. The report was published in December (Mission Report no. 11). Based on the report, much attention will be given in the training events for WMOs to their future role in communication between the communities in Boyer Char and third parties such as governmental agencies, NGOs, private sector organizations. Simple information centers will be established at community level (for instance in the WMO sheds or in houses of community leaders).

In the beginning of 2008, a concrete plan to this effect will be developed.

- Linking up of database

In August, the Memorandum of Understanding between BWDB and WARPO on data sharing was signed. In December a contract was signed between the main consultant (Euroconsult Mott MacDonald and CEGIS) for the implementation of linking of the CDSP data base and the ICRD database, managed by CEGIS. The work on the connectivity started in 2007 and is expected to be completed in February 2008. For the actual connection, a protocol between PD CDSP-III of BWDB and the computer section of WARPO is required. This protocol is in preparation.

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 latest survey was carried out in February 2007 and reported on in Progress Report no. 3. During this reporting period no survey was undertaken, nor planned.

- *Soil salinity:*

Since 2006, SRDI collected 48 samples from 24 spots, one top and one sub-soil from eight project areas (including Boyer Char) in the months of April and December. However, in December 2007 no samples were taken because of the high moisture rate due to the tidal surge in the middle of November (SIDR). The soil sample will be taken in January 2008.

- *Adoption of modern agricultural technologies:*

Transect survey in seven polders in CDSP-I and II areas have been undertaken in the month of September for aus and in the month of November for aman. The results of the survey are shown in the following table:

Polder Name	T. Aus Season 2007		T. Aman Season 2007	
	Local (%)	HYV (%)	Local (%)	HYV (%)
Char Baggar Dona-II	27	19	76	24
Char Bhatirtek	46	14	78	22
Char Majid	28	9	86	14
Char Mora Dona	19	8	70	30
Char Lakshmi	25	7	87	12
Char Gangchil Torabali	31	4	89	11
South Hatiya	49	33	72	28

3.4. Intervention at field level in particular in Boyer Char

This progress report covers the period from 1st July 2007 to 31st December 2007. This period largely falls outside the season in which construction can take place. This means that especially for earthwork only very little progress could be made in this period, but also for all other kinds of construction work the progress has been limited due to the conditions in the field. There was however considerable in the preparatory process, as for instance tendering. The progress in the revision of the DPPs (see 1.4) was slower than expected, especially for the revised DPP of the BWDB.

If the achieved progress at the end of 2007 is compared with the Annual Work Plan for 2007, substantial differences can be observed. The delays are mainly due to too optimistic planning in October 2006 (the time when the AWP 2007 was drafted), shortage of staff of the implementing agencies and the matter of the revised DPPs. Planning has become more realistic in 2007, resulting in modified goals.

3.4.1. Ministry of Land

- *Land settlement in CDSP-I and II areas:*

The number of cases pending at the end of June 2007 was 2956; out of which 969 cases have so far been disposed of during the period under this report, making the total of 1864 disposed cases in 2007. The stage-wise overview of the pending cases as stands on 31st December is shown in the next page:

Nature of work	Pending				
	Subarna char	Companiganj	Hatiya	Mirsarai	Total
Jamabondi preparation	-	-	-	-	-
Jamabondi approval :					
a) Upazila Committee	179	-	-	-	179
b) District Committee	-	13	34	236	283
Realization for Salami	20	141	220	250	631
Kabuli at execution	-	53	243	322	618
Kabuliyat registration	60	11	138	-	209
Khatian preparation	57	-	10	-	67
Khatian distribution	-	-	-	-	-
	316	218	645	808	1987

The intention to complete all pending cases within 2007, as expressed in the AWP 2007, was not realized. It should be noted however that the number of pending cases (2897 at the end of 2006) was increased with 954 in the first half of 2007 (see Progress Report no. 3). Of the revised total of 3851 pending cases, 1864 were completed in 2007 (48.4%): 895 in the previous and 969 in the current reporting period. Disposal of cases was badly affected by the changes in the posts of the AC (Land)'s and UNO's of several Upazilas who play a major role in different stages of the land settlement activities. These officers were also busy with flood, cyclone and the law and order situation, in addition to activities related to the upcoming elections. Further more, the disputes over declaration of 'Chingri Mohal' in Mirsarai and Companiganj Upazilas and illegal possession of the allotted land of the landless by outsiders also delayed the process of settlement. However, efforts are being made to complete these works as early as possible.

- Land settlement under CDSP-III (Boyer Char):

Progress of the land settlement process in Boyer Char at the end of the reporting period was as follows (also see Annex 2):

Nature of Work	Project target (HH)	Progress (HH)	Remarks
Plot to Plot Survey	9500	9500	
Approval of sheet Maps	33	25	
Consolidation of PTPS Works	9500	9500	
Hearing of Landless Families	9500	2600	
Landless families selected	9500	1734	
Settlement Case initiated	9500	1347	
Jamabondi prepared	9500	1308	
Jamabondi approval by Upazila Committee	9500	1148	
Sent to District Committee for approval	9500	1148	
Approval of the list of the landless by District Committee	9500	1148	
Settlement Cases back to AC (L) office after approval by the DC	9500	823	
Order for Salami realization and execution of kabuliyat	9500	389	
Kabuliyat Execution by Landless	9500	300	
Kabuliyat Registration	9500	247	
Khatian Preparation	9500	100	
Realization of khatian fee & opening Holding	9500	0	
Khatian distribution	9500	0	

Presently, the progress in the settlement cases is hampered due to the fact that the Sub-Registrar at Hatiya who will register the Kabuliats (deed of agreements) is not available. The Sub-Registrar of Chatkhil Upazila has been looking after the works of Hatiya in addition to his own duties of Chatkhil. As a result, he can not give sufficient time for Boyer Char works although works of CDSP-III have to be attended on priority basis. The Deputy Commissioner, Noakhali and the MoL have been requested to make arrangements so that the registration works can be expedited.

- Assessment of actual quantum of land for settlement:

Works of assessment of the land for different interventions and infrastructural activities and including the alignments in the mouza sheet maps have been continued during this period. Shifting of alignment of some roads and canals has been creating dislocation in the schedule of land of the settlement cases. The implementing agencies have been continuously pursued for completion of the assessment works and to avoid shifting of alignments as far as possible. The progress is as follows:

Agencies	Interventions	Quantity of works	Alignments done	Percentage of works done
WDB	Embankments – Sea side	12.69 Km	12.69 Km	100 %
"	" - Marginal dyke	7.61 Km	-	0%
"	" - Jarir Dona	6.50 Km	6.5 Km	100 %
"	" - Guide dyke	7.50 Km	6.5 Km.	87 %
LGED	Cyclone Shelter	22 nos.	16 nos.	73 %
"	Rural roads	60 Km.	45 Km.	75 %
"	Ponds	50 nos.	45 nos.	90 %
RDP	RDP-23	13 Km	13 Km.	100 %
MOL	Cluster villages	9 nos.	9 nos.	100%
"	Ponds	35 nos.	35 nos.	100%
Forest Dept.	Foreshore plantation	200 ha.	45 Ha.	20 %

- Reallocation of the landless from outside the embankments:

A comprehensive plan has been drafted for re-settlement of the households. Based on a survey, it appeared that the total households to be re-located were 1373, less than the originally mentioned 1800 (see Inception Report): 281 households have been found living within the alignments of the embankments and canals; and 1092 households have been found outside the embankments. To accommodate these 1373 households, 9 clustered villages (ponds with twin houses) and 35 normal ponds will have to be excavated. The plan and estimates have been prepared and the TA Team has already given concurrence to the plan and estimates.

Due to the transfer of the UNO and AC (Land) the progress has not been satisfactory. In order not to impede the progress of the works, arrangements have been made for immediate shifting of the families falling within the alignment of the embankments. The TA team held a survey of the area and listed 91 households whose houses fell within the alignments and arranged to shift 37 families to a safer place on payment of shifting cost of Tk. 3,65,000/-. Similar arrangements have been made for households living in the alignment of the short cut to the Jarir Dona khal. All relocated families will be taken up in the process of distribution of khas land and will continue to be candidates to receive a khatian for a plot of land in Boyer Char.

- Construction of houses and ponds:

The Ministry of Land asked the Deputy Commissioner, Noakhali to act for implementation of this component through the UNO, Hatiya. The Project Implementation Committee (as per PP of MoL) headed by the UNO, Hatiya has selected the sites for ponds. The PIC has prepared the plan and estimates for the ponds and twin houses and had the estimates approved by the Project Coordinator, Ministry of Land. The PIC, Hatiya has decided to execute the construction through tenders instead of the 'Project Implementation Committee for Cash for works Programme' as there is no elected Chairman, Union Parishad for Boyer Char to head such Committee. The Project Coordinator has approved the proposal of the PIC. The UNO issued notices for tenders for excavation of 6 ponds and 96 twin houses with 10th

December 10, 2007 as the closing date. Since no bids were received, from any contractor. The UNO has again issued notice for tenders with 15th January, 2008 as the last date for submission of bids.

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

Presently the system (for details see Progress Report no. 2) is being 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 the areas settled under CDSP-I and II. When required, support is provided by the TA team. Preparations have been made for application of the system for both the Khas and private lands of a few mouzas of Ramgati Upazila of Lakshmipur district. The briefing of the officers and staff has been done. The administrative approval of the Deputy Commissioner is under process.

3.4.2. Bangladesh Water Development Board

For detailed information see Annex 3

- *Construction of peripheral embankment*

- i. Sea facing embankment (10.87 km): So far work has started on 7.955 km in both Lakshmipur and Noakhali O&M Divisions. For the remaining part of 2.915 km the tender evaluation is in progress. The overall physical progress of the sea facing embankments is 52% (against a target for 2007 of 60%), which is the same as it was at the end of the previous reporting period..
Of this 7.955 km 3.5 km in Noakhali has been 100% completed, 1.72 km in Lakshmipur has a progress of 65% and 2.735 km in Lakshmipur has a progress of 39%. Cause of delay in Lakshmipur work was a land acquisition problem. The problem was solved in early in 2008.
- ii. Interior dyke along Hatiya river (8 km): Fieldwork has not yet started. The tender evaluation for this work is under process. The dyke forms part of the RDPP.
- iii. Individual guide dyke (2.965 km): The work order for the first 2.165 km has already been issued and work started, but no mentionable physical progress has been achieved yet. For the remaining 0.80km the tender evaluation is under process. Progress is far behind the target in AWP 2007.

- *Drainage improvement works*

- i. Re-excavation of 10 km of the Baggardona river: Tender evaluation is in progress under Noakhali & Lakshmipur O&M Division. Target for 2007 was 30% completion. This work forms part of the RDPP.
- ii. Excavation of the Jarir Dona shortcut including guide dyke cum rural road (3.5 km): Overall progress of the shortcut is 9%. Work has started for 1.00 km under Noakhali O&M Division, progress in this part is 27%, compared to June this means an increase of 12%. For 1.00 km in Lakshmipur the work order has also been issued, but work could not be started and it has been re-tendered. The tender evaluation for the remaining 1.5 km is in progress. Progress is much behind the 2007 target of 70% completion. This work is subject of the RDPP.
- iii. Re-excavation of the Jarir Dona khal including guide dyke cum rural road (3.535 km): Work has not been started yet. For 0.91 km the work order has already been issued,

while for the remaining 2.625 km the tender evaluation is under process. Progress is nil, compared to the 50% target for 2007. This work is included in the RDPP.

- iv. Excavation of the Gabtoli khal drainage channel in Boyer Char (6.0 km): The tender evaluation is in progress. This work is subject of the RDPP.
- v. Secondary drainage channels in Boyer Char (21 km): Work on the improvement of secondary drainage channels in Boyer Char has not yet started. The current status is that for the Noakhali part (15 km) the design and estimate have been completed. For the Lakshmipur part (6 km) the survey has been completed and the design data have been submitted to prepare the design.

- Sluices and closures

- i. Gabtoli sluice (7vents-2.20m x 2.20m): work has started in November and is going on. The current progress is still limited to 3%, against a 2007 target of 10%.
- ii. Tankir khal and Chatla khal sluices (each-2v x 1.50m x 1.80m): Tender evaluation is in progress. This work is subject of the RDPP.
- iii. Closures: design and estimate have been completed for the closure on Hatiya river at downstream of Jarir Dona shortcut, near Char Baggar Dona-I (CBD-I), far behind the target of 60% completion in 2007. For the second closure, downstream of Banshkhali outlet, a new design had to be made after it was decided to change the location of this closure.

3.4.3. Local Government Engineering Department

For detailed information see Annex 3

- Roads

- i. Paved road (18.7 km): Work order has been issued and work started in some parts in Noakhali district on 7.6 km, though the physical progress is still limited to only 1%, versus a target of 20% in AWP 2007. For 9.97 km of the paved roads in both Lakshmipur and Noakhali districts the tender was floating in December. 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 roads is 48%, which is 1% more than the progress as in June and below the target of 70%. The work orders have been issued for 39.5 km of earthen roads in both Lakshmipur and Noakhali and work is going on. For 3.2 km road in Noakhali the tender evaluation is done and work order is under process, while for 11.8 km in Lakshmipur estimate completed and submitted to TA team for concurrence.
- iii. Cyclone shelter approach road (2.7 km): To connect the cyclone shelters with nearby roads, 2.7 km approach roads will be constructed. Tender has been floated for the roads under Executive Engineer LGED Noakhali, not yet for the Lakshmipur division of LGED

- Bridges and culverts

- i. Three bridges: The tender has been floated. Target was 20% completion for five bridges.
- ii. Box culverts (28 nos): In revised PP box culverts have been increase from 15 to 28 nos. as per field requirements. The overall progress of the box culverts is 14% (versus a

target of 70%), and progress achieved in preparatory process of tendering has been considerable.

Construction work for three box culverts in Noakhali district had already been almost completed before July, only some earth filling and turfing is yet to be done, progress is 95%. For another six box culverts, in Lakshmipur and Noakhali district the work orders have been issued and for two of them work has just started, progress being not more than 1%. For seven box culverts the tender has been floated, while for the remaining twelve box culverts field survey and estimate is under process in Noakhali district.

- iii. Pipe culverts (38 nos): In revised PP pipe culverts have been increase from 15 to 38 nos. as per field requirements. The overall progress of the pipe culverts is 14%, which is a small increase compared to June.

Four pipe culverts have been completed in Noakhali district in this period, and for four more construction work is going on. For five pipe culverts in Lakshmipur work orders have been given, but work has not yet started. The design and estimates have been concurred for twelve pipe culverts in Noakhali the tenders for those have been floated in December. The remaining thirteen pipe culverts do not have any progress yet.

- Bus stand

The site has been selected and the design has been made in this period. The estimate is under process. The target for 2007 was 10% completion.

- Community ponds (50 nos.)

The overall progress of the community ponds is 37% against a target in AWP 2007 of 50%. Labour Contracting Societies in Noakhali district had already finished six community ponds before July, and for another fifteen ponds the progress is 83%, as it was in June. For five ponds in Lakshmipur the work orders have been issued, but the work has not yet started. The tender for nine more ponds in Lakshmipur have been floated and for four LCSs have been formed. For another eight ponds in Noakhali the designs and estimates have been concurred and LCSs formed for execution. For the remaining three ponds sites have been selected, survey and calculation of estimates are under process.

- Cyclone shelters (20 nos.)

Over all progress for 20 cyclone shelters is 49%, higher than the target of 40% set in AWP 2007.

- i. Seven cyclone shelters (Lakshmipur): Work orders have been issued for all cyclone shelters in this period. Work has just been started for five shelters; progress is still only 1%.
- ii. Thirteen cyclone shelters (Noakhali): Construction work is going on for all thirteen cyclone shelters, in total 70% progress has been made, of which 22% since June.
- iii. Field raising for cyclone shelters: Tender has been floated for the field raising near thirteen cyclone shelters in Noakhali district, in Lakshmipur district there is no progress yet.

3.4.4. Department of Public Health Engineering

For detailed information see Annex 3.

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

- i. Deep tube wells (600 nos): The overall progress of dtw's is 38% against a AWP 2007 target of 50%. Of the first lot of 102 dtw's all sinking has been completed and the total progress is 90%. Of the second lot of 200 dtw's 144 have been sunk and 70 platforms have been constructed, giving a progress of 70%. For the third lot of 58 dtw's the work order has been issued. There is no progress yet for the remaining 240 dtw's.
- ii. Ponds with sand filter (10 nos): The tender procedure has been completed and the work order is under process. The target was completion of four sand filters.
- iii. Rainwater harvesting (20 nos): The work orders have been given for all 18 rainwater-harvesting schemes. The number was reduced from 20 due to the limitation in the PP amount. The 2007 target was completion of four systems.

- *Sanitation latrines*

- i. Single pit latrines (8500 nos): The overall progress of the latrines is 35%, versus a target of 25%. For the first lot of 5000 single pit latrines work is going on. About 3100 sets have been cast so far (1600 since June) and 1800 have been placed. The progress of this lot is 60%. For 500 latrines the work order is under process and another 500 latrines have been re-tendered. For the remaining 2500 latrines there is no progress yet.
- ii. Public toilets (20 nos): The total progress for the public toilets is 33% versus a target of 50%. For the first lot of 10 public toilets construction work is going on with an overall progress of 57%, of which 30% has been realized since June. In the second lot the work order has been issued for five toilets and work started in four nos. For the remaining five public toilets the tender has been floated.

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 July- December no Farmers Forums have been formed. The total farmers' forum is in now 25 (twenty five). These 25 Forums are evenly distributed over the whole area. Among those, numbers of female farmers are 149 (20%) and male farmers are 601. Details of 25 FF have been published in Progress Reports 1, 2 and 3. The women members of FF have been continuing their efforts in agricultural extension activities. The fact that they are recognized as farmers have increased their enthusiasm and confidence. Women will be provided special orientation and training in the first half of 2008. In 2008, five more forums will be formed (this was earlier planned for 2007). Then there will be 30 Farmers Forums. With the field staff of DAE of three persons, this means 10 Farmers Forums per staff member. This is considered to be a maximum per extension officer.

- *Extension: demonstration, training, meetings:*

During the reporting period, agricultural extension activities were carried out for *aus* season and *aman* season. The results of the zonation study have been used in designing the extension strategy. Demonstration farms were established in the high, medium high and medium land (PDZ-1, 2 and 3 areas) to demonstrate the performance of proven T. aus HYV and T. aman rice. For the *aus* season a total 45 demonstration plots were established on BRRI-27, BR-26, BR-21 and BR-14. Forty farmers participated in demonstration activities directly and five of them were women.

For the *aman* season a total 75 demonstration plots were established on BR-22, BR-23, BRRI-39, BRRI-40 and BRRI-41. Sixty farmers participated in the demonstration activities directly and ten of them were women.

Table: Agricultural extension activities in Boyer Char in T. aus season (2007) and T. aman season 2007.

Activity	T. aus season	T. aman season
Demonstration (Full+Motivation+Test)	45	75
Seeds	208 Kg	300 Kg
Variety introduced	BRRI-27, BR-26, BR-21 and BR-14.	BR-22, BR-23, BRRI-39, BRRI-40 and BRRI-41.
Input supply Fertilizer (kg)		
-Urea	720	1200
-TSP	450	900
-MOP	360	600
Training -Farmer training (crop management, seed production and seed preservation)	25 nos. batch (1 batch=30 nos. farmer). Seven hundred and fifty members of Farmers Forum received training on T. aus (HYV) rice crops production technologies and preservation of seeds. A total of 149 women participated from the Farmers Forum.	25 nos. batch (1 batch=30 nos. farmer). Seven hundred and fifty members of Farmers Forum received training on T. aman (HYV) rice crops production technologies and preservation of seeds. A total of 149 women participated from the Farmers Forum.
Supply of Support Materials		
-Spray Machine	None	
-Paddle Thresher	None	
-Plastic Drum (Seed preservation)	Seventy - four (74) plastic drums were distributed among the best performing demonstration farmers for preservation of aus and aman HYV seed.	

Crop cut	Two hundred and ninety (290=140+150) of crop cuts were done in the demonstration plots and farmer managed crop both in aus and aman season respectively to assess the yield performance of T. aus and T. aman crops. It has to be mentioned that due to the SIDR cyclone on 15 November 2007, damage was done during the flowering to milking stage for both local and HYV aman; grain formation was approximately 15- 20% damaged. As a result it was found that the yield performance was less compared to the last year.
Field day	Field days are an effective tool for dissemination of technologies. Eight (8) field days were arranged in different places of different demonstrated Aus crops. Twenty (20) field days were organized in different places of demonstrated T. aman (HYV) crops. About 1200 farmers were present in those field days.
Motivational Tour	Three Motivational Tours were organized in the reporting period for 90 participants (30 in each group). The participants were members of FF and WMGs. The venues were as follows: BARD Comilla, & Nimshar Horticultural Centre, BRRI of Comilla, Comilla Spices Resources Institute and Rural Development Academy Bogra
Farmers forum meeting	Twenty-eight (28) nos. Farmers Forum meetings were held. Approximately six hundred and fifty (650) Forum members and other local people were present in the meetings. About 22% of the participants were women.
Training of trainers	Two events TOT training were organized during the reporting period for the staff of DAE. The two events were focused on capacity development and on coastal agricultural technology. In the last batch the participants were District and Upazila level officers of DAE.
Seasonal Survey	Two (2) seasonal surveys were conducted to assess the T. aus and T. aman crops coverage of Boyer Char to assess the performance of demonstration programs. Similar surveys were done last year. The survey result will be analyzed after two more seasons to analyse the impact of adoption of technologies.

3.4.6. Department of Forest

- *Formation of Social Forestry Groups*

In the reporting period an additional 13 Social Forestry Groups (SFG) were formed with a total of 302 members of which 170 men and 132 women. At the end of the reporting period a total of 92 SFGs existed. It is expected that another 19 SFGs will be formed in 2008 (14 for embankment- and 5 for mangrove plantation). The situation on 31st December 2007 was:

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

Name of the Activities	No. of SFG	Male	Female	Total participants
Roadside plantation	45/03	699/42	409/28	1,108/70
Embankment plantation	14/04	166/49	98/32	264/81
Mangrove plantation	10/06	155/79	95/72	250/151
Foreshore plantation	23/00	350/00	187/00	537/00
Total	92/13	1,370/170	789/132	2,159/302

These SFGs are responsible for roadside, embankment, mangrove and foreshore plantation. They are also responsible for maintenance of the planted trees. A series of meetings, workshops, field visits and training activities were organized for wider disseminating of plantation information, motivational aspects and group formation activities.

- *Land lease and benefit sharing agreements*

Land lease and benefit sharing agreements in old roadside plantation (30 km) have been completed. Photocopies of these deed agreements have also been distributed to social forestry group (SFG) members for their future reference and rights. These agreements will reduce the fears among char dwellers that they will not receive the benefits from the sale proceeds of harvested trees and intermediate benefits. Deed agreements in new roadside plantation (30 km) and embankment plantation (10 km) have been completed with due signed by involved parties (SFG members, Divisional Forest Officer, XEN of BWDB and LGED and UP chairmen). In total 1334 agreements have been signed of which 68 in the reporting period.

- *Establishment of nurseries*

In the reporting period one additional nursery was established in Habibia, as was the plan for 2007.

- *Road and embankment plantation*

A total of 60 km (planting length) roadside plantations have been established along different roads in Boyer Char. In this reporting period 3 km have been completed (target for 2007 was achieved). In each planting km length in an average 1000 trees of different varieties seedlings have been planted.

Road plantations (July – December 2007)

Sl. No.	Name of road	Actual road length (Km)	Planting length (Km)	No. of seedlings planted	No. of SFG involved	Remarks
01	Yousuf shop to Gabtoli Embankment	1.50	1.50	1,500	1	Alexander Range
02	Siddique house to Gabtoli khal	1.50	1.50	1,500	1	
	Total	3.00	3.00	3,000	2	

Of a total 10 km of embankment plantation (planting length) so far completed (which was the target for 2007), 7 km have been established in this reporting period. In each planting km more or less 3550 seedlings of different varieties (including Coconut seedlings) have been planted in both sides of embankment slopes. Total 35,500 seedlings have been planted in 10 km planting length (FD calculate planting km according to no. of seedling planted i.e. for embankment 3550 seedlings per km). Three to four rows of seedlings on the country side and five to seven rows of seedlings on the river side have been planted with average 6 feet spacing from plant to plant and 5.5 feet (average) from row to row.

Embankment plantation (Total / plantation in reporting period)

Sl. No.	Name of Area	Planting length (Km)	No. of seedlings planted	Name of species planted	No. of SFG involved	Remarks
01	Shahabuddin house to west Dash Dag	5 / 3	17,750/10,750	Akashmoni, Jhau, Neem, Arjun, Jam, Koroi, coconut & eucalyptus	5 / 3	Alexander Range
02	Tunkir khal to west Dash Dag	5 / 4	17,750/14,350		5 / 4	Habibia Range
	Total	10 / 7	35500			

- *Foreshore plantation*

No foreshore plantation activities were done in this reporting period. In this case, the original PP plantation target (800 ha) was revised and a different design and model (large mounds) were chosen following discussions between the Forest Department, TA team and short mission consultants. The new design will be more compatible and environment friendly with regard to the existing situation of seasonal tide and we action. Revised PP target of 200 ha foreshore plantation will be established following large mound plantation in 2008 (an area of 200 m along the sea facing embankment of about 10 km). Previously formed 23 foreshore groups will be re-organized according to changed design and model. During this reporting period 6 foreshore SFGs have been re-organized, the other 17 will follow in 2008.

- *Mangrove plantation*

Mangrove plantation has been established on 500 ha of newly accreted lands (target fulfilled). In 2006 already Jaliar char 300 ha and Teluar char 200 ha were planted and maintenance has been done. In the reporting period 6 SFGs were formed and remaining groups will be formed end of the year 2008. During reporting period Teluar char 200 ha mangrove plantation were washed out. No plans exist for re-planting due to budgetary shortages.

- *Village Afforestation Programme :*

During the first half of 2007, an additional 10 villages were brought under village afforestation, bringing the total to 20 (target achieved). A total of 3655 households were

included in this programme with plantation of different fruit, timber and medicinal species. Maintenance has been done in the reporting period by the villagers themselves.

- *Capacity building*

- (a) One pest and disease management training has been organized for Forest Department staff (Range Officer, Foresters, Watchers, forest guards) for 2 days at a training center in Noakhali. One reputed facilitator on integrated pest management for timber species and on agro-forestry approach participated in the training.
- (b) Based on the recommendations of Mission Report no. 4, two experience sharing exchange visited were organized between old and new Social Forestry Groups focusing on group approach, disseminating information, motivation and awareness building among new groups.
- (c) The plantation manual handbook is ready for printing and will be distributed to SFGs, Forest Department staff, WMOs and NGO staff.

3.4.7 BRAC/CDSP

Representatives of TA Team participated in the three bi-monthly coordination meetings held at Noakhali BRAC office, chaired by Project Manager from BRAC. Heads of all five local NGOs and concerned Field Coordinators-NGO attended the meetings. The meetings reviewed the progress and problems in collection of contribution money for deep tube well, installation of tube wells and the beneficiary's opinion in this regard. The meeting also discussed the selection of latrine beneficiaries, supply of single pit latrines, social afforestation etc.

Five field level coordination meeting were held in Boyer Char in the reporting period chaired by Project Liaison Officer, BRAC. From the TA team the Project Area Coordinator, the Gender Field Coordinator, and Project Engineers participated in the meetings. Topics were, among others: tube well site selection and collection of contribution money, functioning of tube wells, formation of Farmers Forums and other coordination issues.

3.4.8 Training

A Training Plan was developed (see Progress Report no. 3) and is available as Internal Resource Report. Based on this plan the training activities in the reporting period were undertaken. Annex 4 provides an overview of the progress.

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 related 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

Nothing to report.

4.2.2. Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands

A number of discussions took place at the embassy between RNE staff and project staff. As before, the most important issues discussed were the disappointing progress of the infrastructural development activities, in particular as far as BWDB is concerned, and the revision of the PPs. Among others subjects discussed were the study tours to Europe, the planning of the Mid Term Review mission, the progress of the feasibility study for new chars and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment, and the development of educational material on climate change and char development.

4.2.3. Bangladesh Water Development Board

Shortage of staff from the side of BWDB continued to be an issue during the reporting period. No additional staff was posted on the project. Mission report no. 8 was published on strengthening the office of the Project Director (PMU-ESPP). See 3.2.2. In December BWDB appointed a new Project Director, CDSP-III.

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.

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 AC (Land) for Hatiya Upazila was appointed.

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 are 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 53 days on the project, of which 49 days in Bangladesh: six days in July, 21 in August and 22 in October. One short mission was fielded on quality control infrastructure development in September (a total of 19 days).

The Information and Dissemination Adviser and the Social Forestry Adviser completed their long term assignments as members of the TA team. BETS supplied 26.68 person months in long term - and 5.10 months in short term consultancies. For Socioconsult this was 10 and four months respectively. Short missions were on design, training, organizational development, communication and dissemination (library).

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 four times in the reporting period: 9th PMC on 4th July, 10th on 21st August, 11th on 22nd October and 12th on 12th December. Compared to the previous reporting period this was an increase of 100%. Attendance rate of the actual PMC members (Project Directors/Coordinators) was 75%

The revision of the PPs and agency wise progress of activities featured on the agenda of every PMC meeting. Among other subjects discussed were: internalization workshops, Progress Report no. 3 and Annual Work Plan 2008, the feasibility for new chars including the EIA and reconnaissance surveys for new areas, cooperation with NGOs, the role of WMOs in quality control, and study tours.

4.4. Monitoring, reporting and review

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

During the reporting period the following project reports were published:

- Progress Report no. 3 (1st January to 30th June 2007), August 2007
- Mission Report no.8: Report on strengthening of the Office of the Director , PMU-ESPP, BWDB, August 2007
- Mission Report no. 9: Quality control infrastructure development, September 2007
- Mission Report no. 10: Internalization of CDSP experience through training, October 2007
- Mission Report no. 11: Study on the communication aspects in CDSP-III, December 2007

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

During the reporting period a revision was made of the Project Proforma of five of the six implementing agencies. Paragraph 1.4 gives an overview of the status of the revision process at the end of the 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

SL No.	Name of Agency	Revised PP	Expenditure upto 30-06-07	Exp. 01/07 - 30/12/07	Total Expenditure	%
1	BWDB	899.20	197.58	39.77	237.35	26.3957
2	LGED	507.54	90.00	98.00	188.00	37.0414
3	DPHE	87.50	9.00	2.00	11.00	12.5714
4	MoL	516.00	115.22	76.84	192.06	37.2209
5	DAE	16.07	5.144	0.749	5.893	36.6708
6	DoF	24.05	5.80	0.411	6.211	25.8254
Total :		2050.36	422.744	217.770	640.514	31.2391

5.3. Contribution of the Government of the Netherlands

- Financial Assistance

Up to 31 December July 2007 requests for re-imbursement were received for a total of Taka 112,006,689 of which Taka 54,349,219 in the reporting period. Of the received requests an amount of Taka 103,580,687 was indeed recommended for re-imbursement by RNE of which Taka 52,021,972 in the reporting period. The table gives the agency wise break up

REIMBURSEMENT POSITION AS ON 31-12-2007 OF CDSP-III

Sl No	Agency	Claimed Amount (Tk.)	Recommended Amount (Tk.)	Pending Amount (Tk.)
01	BWDB	23,515,504	23,515,504	-
02	DAE	2,611,145	2,593,145	18,000
03	Forest Department	18,862,528	18,415,527	447,001
04	LGED	50,203,756	47,881,906	2,321,850
05	DPHE	16,813,756	11,174,605	5,639,151
Total		112,006,689	103,580,687	8,426,002

- *Technical Assistance*

The total claimed amount at the end of the reporting period stands at Euro 1,096,998. This is 45.9% of the available budget of Euro 2,390,342, while 40% of the project period of 45 months has elapsed. Details about the TA expenditures can be found in Annex 5.

5.4. Money flows and financial reporting

Money flows and ways of financial reporting remained the same.

5.5. Time frame

At the end of the reporting period (31st December 2007) 27 months had passed since the inception of CDSP-III on 1st October 2005, which is exactly 60% of the total project period of 45 months (till 30th June 2009). It is realistic to expect that in the remaining 18 months not all planned interventions will be completed with regard to two of the six implementing agencies (BWDB and Ministry of Land). RNE clearly indicated at several occasions that the project will not be extended. This is an issue that has to be addressed by the Mid Term Review mission.

Chapter 6 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

- *Timeliness of availability of funds:*

Progress has been made in the reporting period with the revision of the DPPs (see 1.4), though slower than expected. Especially for the BWDB works this has been and continues to be a major factor hampering implementation. If formal approval by ECNEC of the BWDB DPP is not given early in 2008, this would have considerable implications for the works that can be completed before the project period elapses (sluices, secondary drainage channels, Jarir Dona excavation, Baggar Dona re-excavation, closures). Apart from the DPP issue, a few instances occurred in which money could not be supplied in time because of the slow system of disbursement within the GoB framework of procedures.

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

A major and continuing issue is the availability of adequate numbers (and quality) of staff. As reported earlier, two short assignments were devoted to the functioning of the Office of the Project Director, BWDB. Recommendations for additional staff have only been followed up to a minimal extent. The same can be said of shortage of field staff. The issue has been raised with BWDB management at several occasions. Problem with the acquisition of land for infrastructure (especially in case of BWDB) has caused considerably delays in the past. Many of the bottlenecks have been solved, but still acquisition problems remain, in particular in the case of the (re)excavation of Jarir Dona khal. A recurrent problem is the quality and punctuality of contractors. Stringent quality control by the agencies and close monitoring by the TA team are remedies to address this issue.

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

For availability of staff, see above. The PMC meets regularly and fulfils its function as coordination mechanism, though improvements are still required. The NSC should meet more frequently however in order to exercise its mandate in an adequate way (it did not meet at all in the reporting period). The Project Director, supported by the PMC, will take the initiative to improve the situation in future.

- *Political support and political stability:*

The political situation in the country has been favourable for the greater part of 2007 and is expected to continue to be the same during a large part of 2008.

- *Favourable weather conditions:*

In the reporting period, the weather has some impact on the implementation of the project. The surge of mid-November caused by cyclone SIDR caused a high rate of moisture in the soil, hampering agricultural production and the collection of soil samples. The cyclone had some adverse impact on the construction activities because of logistical problems with the supply of materials. Another negative impact was the increase in prices of building materials.

List of Annexes :

1. Map of Project Areas
2. Progress of Land Settlement
3. Progress of Infrastructure Development
4. Progress of Training Activities
5. Technical Assistance Budget

Map of Project Areas

