

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The current document is Progress Report no. 7, covering the period from January 1 to June 30, 2002. The basis for the activities during 2002 is formed as far as the contents are concerned by the Inception Report for the 51 months (July 1, 2000 to September 30, 2004) and more specifically by the Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2002. The latter document contains a Technical Assistance (TA) budget for 2002 as well as a Financial Assistance (FA) overview for the whole project period.

If the five year project period (October 1999 to October 2004) is taken as the basis, 55% of the project period has elapsed at the start of July 2002. From the 51 months period of the Technical Assistance contract (covered by the Inception Report), 47% has passed.

A major event during the reporting period was the Mid Term Review Mission, which took place from June 18 to June 30. The Mission's findings and recommendations can be found in the Aide Memoire which was presented to the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources on the last day. For the Mission a Review Document (Position paper) and a Planning Document were prepared. The Review Document contained the progress in the January-May 2002 period. The current report obviously heavily leans on the Review Document.

To facilitate comparisons this report has the same structure and the same numbering of chapters and paragraphs as the Inception Report (and the previous Progress Report). Chapter 2 gives an outline of the project. Chapter 3 is in many ways the heart of the report since it highlights the progress of activities. Chapter 4 deals with the project organization, Chapter 5 with the resources needed for implementation of the activities, while Chapter 6 focuses on the financial translation of those resources.

1.2 Approaches and strategies

See previous Progress Reports.

1.3 Linkages

In the January to June period contacts were established with the National Institute for Local Government, the UNDP project on local governance and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. A meeting with Samata was held, a leading NGO in the field of land rights. Samata staff has visited CDSP in the first half of June. A paper on CDSP II was presented at the conference in May in Bangkok on Coastal Zone Asia Pacific.

During a national workshop on modernisation of land records contacts were made with staff of the Adarsha Gram Project. These contacts should be intensified.

Chapter 2 PROJECT OUTLINE

2.1 Development objectives and project purposes

The project objectives and – purposes were not changed. Please see the Inception Report.

2.2 Components, activities and indicators

The project structure with regard to components and activities was not changed. The text of Inception Report still applies. The Logical Framework (with indicators) can be found in annex 1.

2.3 Target groups

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

2.4 Project areas

The project areas for the third component, concrete interventions at field level, are now:

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

The other two components, capacity building of institutions and strengthening the knowledge base are less geographically specific and have, generally speaking, the coastal zone as target area, with an emphasis on the Districts of Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali and Lakshmipur. However, the strengthening of planning capacity at local level (see 3.1.4) and the feasibility study on the catchment area of the Baggar Dona river (see 3.2.2) take place in specific areas.

The addition of Boyer Char at the end of 2001 means that of the now 14 project areas, six are unprotected (2.b, 2.c, 2.e, 2.j, 3.b and 3.c), six are already protected (2.a, 2.d, 2.f, 2.g, 2.h and 2.i) while two will be protected as part of CDSP II interventions (1 and 3.a). It is proposed to and

accepted by the Mid Term Review Mission to include the upstream area of Baggar Dona river as the fifteenth project area. See annex 2 for an overview map. On that map and in the text the numbers in the above mentioned list are used for reference.

Chapter 3 ACTIVITIES PER COMPONENT

3.1 Strengthening of institutions

3.1.1 Introduction

The completion and start of introduction of the software for computerization of land records, the formation of new WMCs and the formulation of the development plans for the four pilot Unions under the local level planning activity were important achievements in the institutional component of the project.

3.1.2. Establishing an ICZM framework

In cooperation with a staff member of PDO-ICZM a short paper on aspects of local governance was drafted for and presented by that staff member at the conference in Bangkok on Coastal Zone Asia Pacific. Regular contacts were maintained with the new Team Leader and other staff of the new ICZM team. Governance, coastal agriculture (including soil salinity) and the planned activities in the upstream area of Baggar Dona river were specific issues that came up for discussion.

The Mid Term Review Mission confirmed once more that CDSP II is a crucial project out of an ICZM viewpoint. The mission emphasized the need for further development of a mutual beneficial relationship between ICZM and CDSP II.

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

The process of production of customized software for the modernization of the land records system was completed at the end of 2001. In the past five months trial runs were held and a preliminary training was organized for officials of the Ministry of Land (MoL) at Upzaila level. This training process was however hampered by transfer of five of the six involved Asst. Commissioners for Land (AC(L)). The training will be picked up again for the new AC(L)s in June and July.

On May 29 a national workshop was held in Dhaka to present the software to a wide audience (about 80 participants) from institutions somehow related to land records systems.

No training activities took place in the January/June period.

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

Planning meetings were organized in all 27 villages in the four pilot Unions, resulting in Village Development Plans. These 27 plans formed the basis for Union Plans. The Union Plans were published in Bangla, while a limited number of English versions were made available. Copies of the Union Plans were distributed to the concerned Union Parishads, the Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) and the Upazila Development Cooperation Committee (UDCC), the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and UNDP. The plans were subject of a meeting with RNE and WFP. The meeting did not end however with a clear

idea how to proceed further. The new policy of WFP with an emphasis on personal assets seems to have played a role in this respect. CDSP II consultants staff organized meetings with the four UDCCs on the Union Plans.

In the meantime implementation of construction activities prioritized in the Union Plans were taken up: 19 km of rural road in Shaherkhali, a clustered village complex in Char Badam and installation of 450 latrines in Char Darbesh. The planning of interventions in other Unions was taken up.

A start was made with the design of a methodology for formulation of Upazila Plans, an idea fully supported by the UDCCs.

3.1.5. Capacity building of NGOs

Progress on capacity building of NGOs can be found in BRAC's progress report on the BRAC-CDSP programme.

3.1.6. Establishing and strengthening of field level institutions

Local Area Development Committees

The five Local Area Development Committees (LADC) are all in unprotected areas: Char Gangchil-Torabali, Char Lakshmi, Char Mora Dona, Nijhum Dwip (Bandartila) and Nijhum Dwip (Char Osman). Compared to the previous reporting period, the frequency of meetings of the LADCs were the same, on average about two meetings each month. The average overall attendance rate decreased however decreased to from 73% in the previous reporting period to 67% over the January/June period. The attendance rate for women continued to be higher than the attendance rate for men (see table below).

Subjects discussed during the meetings were the progress of ongoing construction activities, proposal for new interventions, the installation of tubewells with NGO involvement, land settlement and women repression.

LADC information for January – June, 2002

Sl. No	Name of LADC	Member			No of meeting held Jan to June'02	Attendance in %		
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
1	Char Mora Dona	11	8	19	2	64%	75%	70%
2	Char Lakshmi	13	9	22	3	46%	59%	53%
3	Gangchil-Torabli	8	4	12	3	63%	75%	69%
4	Bandartila	7	6	13	2	57%	75%	66%
5	Nijhum Dwip/Osman	7	6	13	2	86%	67%	77%

Sub Polder- and Polder Committees

In Muhuri SPCs were formed at the end of 2001 in the three (out of six) most populated *mouzas*. A Polder Committee with 16 members was formed in April. An orientation was given to the PC members of their role and responsibilities.

In South Hatiya the process of formation of seven SPCs (one each in all seven *mouzas*) was completed in January 2002. The process of formation is described in the Inception Report. For both areas not only the settlers inside the areas, but also the legal landowners from outsider the area but living in the region were made eligible to be a member of the SPC. For information on the SPC meetings see the table below.

Muhuri AA

SPC No. & Name	Date of Formation	Member			No of meeting held after formation	Attendance in %		
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
01 Paschim Ichakhali	9-12-01	7	6	13	4	93%	89%	91%
02 North Ichakhali	10-12-01	10	6	16	2	90%	67%	79%
03 Banskhali	9-12-01	10	6	16	1	80%	83%	82%

South Hatiya

01 Bardail	07-01-02	6	5	11	3	83%	80%	82%
02 Sonadia	07-01-02	5	4	9	4	85%	94%	90%
03 East Char Birbiri	08-01-02	6	5	11	3	67%	73%	70%
04 Mohammedpur	06-01-02	8	7	15	4	81%	79%	80%
05 Macpherson	06-01-02	6	5	11	4	79%	80%	80%
06 N. Shukchar	08-01-02	5	4	9	3	80%	75%	78%
07 Muktaria	08-01-02	4	3	7	2	63%	100%	82%

After the decision taken in December 2001 to include Boyer Char in CDSP II, a series of 16 information dissemination meetings were held to inform the settlers on the concept and objectives of the project, the activities and the policy of people's participation. Subsequently the formation of SPCs was taken up. Eight SPCs were formed in four *mouzas*, which deviates from the normal practice to form an SPC for each *mouza*. Instead the local unit (*samaj*) as perceived by the people was used as basis. After formation an orientation session was held. The subjects discussed during the SPC meetings were the physical development plan for Boyer Char, the site selection for cyclone shelters and tube wells, alignment of roads, progress of ongoing activities and the process of land settlement.

Information of SPCs in Boyer Char

From May - June 2002

SPC No.	SPC Name	Date of formation	Member			No. of meeting held after formation	Attendance in %			Remarks
			Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	
01	Shahabuddin Shop	29-05-02	9	7	16	1	78%	86%	82%	
02	Mohammedpur Bazar	29-05-02	8	7	15	1	88%	71%	80%	
03	Solaiman Bazar	17-04-02	6	5	11	2	83%	80%	82%	
04	Tankir Bazar	15-05-02	9	6	15	2	64%	75%	70%	
05	Ali Bazar	24-03-02	7	6	13	1	57%	83%	70%	
06	Hatiya Bazar	28-05-02	7	6	13	2	50%	92%	71%	
07	Nabipur Bazar	24-03-02	6	5	11	1	67%	100%	83%	
08	Didar Bazar	03-06-02	6	5	11	1	83%	80%	82%	

Water Management Committees

Ten out of eleven formed Water Management Committees (WMC) received a three days training on 'Systems Operation and Maintenance' (training was not given for the ad hoc WMC in polder 59/3C). Main subjects of the training were participatory water management, water management organizations, role and responsibilities of WMCs, BWDB, LGED and local government bodies, conflict resolution, possibilities for fund raising for WMCs and operation and maintenance. All WMCs were provided with a bicycle to be used by the sluice operator.

WMC information for January – June, 2002

Sl. No	Name of WMC	Member			No of meeting held January to May'02	Attendance in %		
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
1	CBD-I	9	8	17	4	83%	94%	86%
2	CBD-II	10	10	20	4	73%	63%	68%
3	CM	10	10	20	3	80%	85%	83%
4	CBT - Nabagram	4	4	8	4	63%	88%	76%
5	CBT – Kalmi	4	4	8	3	83%	92%	88%
6	CBT - Gangchil	9	9	18	5	67%	72%	70%
7	P- 59/3C (Bamni)	11	5	16	1	82%	60%	71%
8	Montaz	6	5	11	2	50%	80%	65%
9	Gopal	5	5	10	3	100%	70%	85%
10	Karim	5	5	10	2	50%	90%	70%
11	Zillar	7	7	14	3	86%	75%	81%

The preparation of a comprehensive maintenance plan for FY 2002-03, site selection for WMC sheds, sluice operation, fund raising and relations with line agencies were the topics most discussed. Six WMCs decided to collect fees of Taka 10-20 a month from the households represented in those WMCs as contribution to run the WMCs and to pay for minor maintenance costs.

In polder 59/3C (Bamni sluice) an ad hoc WMC was formed in 2001. To come to a permanent committee, a rapid water management appraisal was started in the area. Objectives are to identify water management areas that could serve as units for election of WMC members and to have an overview of the most pressing water management and agricultural problems. The study is expected to be completed at the end of June.

An effort was made to involve staff of BWDB more in the support for WMCs and to increase the staff doing so. Recently one extra staff member was posted in the area. At the moment three Extension Overseers (two in Noakhali, one in Lakshmipur) and one Assistant Extension Officer (in Noakhali) are posted in the project area. They are ultimately responsible to Chief Water Management of BWDB, stationed in Dhaka.

Tubewell User Groups

No Tubewell User Groups have received training from the local NGOs participating in the BRAC/CDSP programme.

3.2. Accumulation and dissemination of knowledge

3.2.1. Introduction

The activities in this component have as their primary objective the collection of data or the generation of information and knowledge. The activities are reported upon below in paragraphs 3.2.2. to 3.2.10. Many of the interventions at field level however have a data/information/knowledge dimension as well.

3.2.2. Feasibility Study Baggar Dona River catchment area

Study has been completed and has been appraised. As a follow-up of the report of the Appraisal Mission an RRA was held in the upstream area, while SWMC started surveys focusing on water levels and cross sections of the Baggar Dona system.

The RRA focused on the internal drainage system and related issues of the upstream area. It comes with specific recommendations for the internal drainage of the area as well as for alternate drainage routes, in addition to the outfall via the Jarirdona khal (to be excavated). It advises to establish Water Management Committees for each of the twelve systems (water management areas) it has identified, overarched by a federation. The study report will be published as a Technical Report in August.

3.2.3. Feasibility Study Noakhali khal

The final report of the South Comilla/North Noakhali Integrated Drainage Project study has been published. It is not yet known what the position of the BWDB is with regard to the recommendation of the report. The report supports excavation of Algir khal, an activity that is proposed to be undertaken under CDSP II. Mission Report no. 18 concludes that using Algir khal would be a cost-effective way of establishing a link between Noakhali khal and Bamni sluice. It supports composite option no. 5 of the South Comilla/North Noakhali study, in which indeed Algir khal plays an important role.

3.2.4. Study on storage of fresh water

The field work for the fresh water survey (sample of 700 households in CDSP NII areas) was completed and the data processed. The technical survey on 90 ponds (both perennial and seasonal) was carried out. These surveys were sources of information, among others, that contributed to the overall draft final report of the fresh water study. That draft report is available. It will be published as Technical Report in August.

One immediate follow-up of the study is to introduce on a pilot basis methods of rainwater harvesting in the project areas. Even if tube wells are available for drinking water, harvested rainwater can be of immense value for domestic purposes at the end of the dry period, when many ponds have dried up.

3.2.5. Water related measurements

The programme of measurements as described in the previous Progress Report was maintained in the July/December period. In addition, hourly measurements were started at Bhuiyer Hat (downstream part of Baggar Dona river) on request of SWMC to be used in the model made for the Baggar Dona Feasibility study.

In each of four polders (Char Baggar Dona I and II, Char Bhatirtek and Char Majid) salinity was measured from 10 shallow- and 5 deep tubewells in October/November. The same measurements were repeated in April 2002, at the end of the dry period.

3.2.6. Soil related measurements

For monitoring purposes, soil salinity was measured in February, April and June in each of the three CDSP I polders and on 7 places in CDSP II areas. In Char Mora Dona a small study was carried out on soil drying patterns.

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

As reported in Progress Report no. 4, CDSP has suggested to carry out a limited survey programme on *hydro-morphological processes* in coastal waters in front of the CDSP project areas (see Mission Report no. 13). The newly formulated Estuary Development Project would be the proper project to carry out such surveys.

The construction for *the low embankment* that protects a part of Gangchil-Torabali has been completed, though a part of it has been washed away. This section has to be repaired again before monitoring of the impact of low embankments can start.

No work was undertaken with regard to the *elements in polder design* (including appropriate land levels; design and location of sluices, embankments and outfall channels; shape and size of polders), except for an inventory and time schedule of activities to be undertaken (see Annual Work Plan 2002).

3.2.8. Study on potential of coastal agriculture

Technical Report no. 5 on the agricultural potential in seven of the new CDSP II project areas was published in February. A workshop on zonation was held in Naokahli. See also paragraph 3.3.4.

The process of data collection for such a study has been so far satisfactory.

3.2.9. Monitoring of developments in the three CDSP I polders

Technical Report no. 6 on the results of monitoring of a number of variables in the three CDSP I polders, roughly covering the years 2000 and 2001, was published in March. For main findings see the respective chapters on land settlement, infrastructure and agriculture.

3.2.10. Cost benefit analysis

No activities.

3.3. Direct improvement of economic and social situation

3.3.1. Introduction

This component consists of land settlement (3.3.2); construction of water management related and other infrastructure (3.3.3); and productive development, largely focused on improved agricultural practices (3.3.4). Gender aspects of these three sub-components are highlighted in 3.3.5.

3.3.2. Official settlement of households on *khas* land

a. Progress with regard to the land settlement process at the start of June was as follows:

CDSP-II : Land Settlement

Area/Polder	PTPS H/H	H/H estimated that will receive Khatian	Hearing Completed		Landless Selection		Settlement case open		Remarks
			H/H	%	H/H	%	H/H	%	
Moradona	2245	1200	1892	84	931	49	400	43	More hearings needed. *
Gangchil-Torabali	1651	800	881	53	805	91	500	62	F/hearing of mouza Torabali 618 H/H suspended due to excessive Court cases.
South Hatiya	4805	2300	3230	67	1020	32	500	49	More hearings needed *
Nijhum Dwip	780	260	385	49	105	27	105	100	More hearings needed *
Bandartila	609	370	350	57	175	50	175	100	More hearing needed *
MAA	2870	1000	507	17	-	-	-	-	People of the area are not willing to treat themselves as land less. More hearings needed. *
Total	12960	5930	7245	56	3036	42	1680	55	

CBD-I Individual Khatian

Area/Polder	PTPS H/H	H/H estimated that will receive Khatian	Hearing Completed		Landless Selection		Settlement case open		Remarks
			H/H	%	H/H	%	H/H	%	
CBD-I	918	918	587	64	541	92			One further hearing will require

The land settlement process is progressing faster than in CDSP I, mainly due to the experiences of CDSP I, the simpler procedures and the better trained staff. The process can be completed before the end of the current project period in all areas but Muhuri. The differences in opinion between the Ministry of Land and local people (often big land owners) on the status hamper the progress to such an extent that intervention from the Secretary, Ministry of Land and the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division seems necessary.

There was relatively good progress in the process of handing over the possession of land in the three CDSP I polders from illegal occupiers to people who received a *khatian* but not the land continued. In the January to May period an additional 404 transfers took place, leaving a balance of 194 cases (see table below)

Handing over possession: CDSP-I

Polder	H/H needed hand over	Already handed over	To be handed over	Remarks
CBT	492	350	142	In CBT People are not responding.
CM	261	218	43	
CBD	83	74	09	
Total	836	642	194	

At the end of May 48 court cases were pending in different courts of Noakhali and Hatiya related to the settlement or construction activities under CDSP II. Many of the cases relate to the landsettlement process in Char Gangchil Torabali with claims that land had already been settled in an earlier operation.

The plot-to-plot survey in Boyer Char was completed for about 65%. Remaining part will be done after the monsoon season.

The monitoring survey on land settlement in CDSP I polders was completed and published as a part of the monitoring report (Technical Report no. 6; see 3.2.9). Important findings were that, based on a sample, 4.3% of the households that received a *khatian* had (illegally) sold their land (on average in the past two to three years), which means a retention rate of more than 95%. More than 75% of all households that received land were cultivating their own land; about 9% gave their land out for share cropping and nearly 16% mortgaged their land out. The percentage of landowners that did not operate their own land was highest among the smaller landholders.

3.3.3. Construction of infrastructure

Technical Report no. 20 provides upto date and detailed information on the progress of the infrastructure activities. The information need to be repeated here. That report and the Mid Term Review Mission come to the conclusion that overall about 70% of the programme planned for the first three years has indeed been implemented. The figures for the individual agencies differ substantially: BWD 17% , LGED 32% and DPHE 73%. The MTR Mission has the opinion that the backlog can be overcome in the next construction season. Concerns are expressed in Technical Report no. 20 about the quality of some works, about the progress of construction of sluices and about progress of works of LGED and DPHE in general. Delays have occurred both during the process of awarding contracts as during implementation. Completion of the planned programme within the current project period will require the greatest effort of the implementing agencies and the contractors involved.

With BWDB and LGED a review meeting was organized to on the maintenance plan of 10 WMCs. After a day long discussion, priority works were submitted to both agencies to be included in the ADP for 2002/03. Technical Report no. 6 on the results of monitoring the Maintenance Plan for CDSP I polders shows that, compared to the contributions committed in that Plan, LGED has a result of 535, BWDB of 28%, the Union Parishads of 50% and the WMCs of 36%.

The monitoring report indicates that 25% of the tube wells installed under CDSP I are not working properly. It reports on difficulties in functioning of sluices in 2000, with an improvement in 2001. The drainage khals are in general found to be in good condition. The physical condition of the rural roads however was not satisfactory. In 2001 some maintenance work was taken up. The condition of culverts, bridges, cluster villages and cyclone shelters was on the whole good.

3.3.4. Productive development

A. Field crops

A.1. Baseline information

Soil salinity in the three CDSP I polders and on seven sites in CDSP II polders was measured in February, Aril and June. In Char Mora Dona the soil drying pattern was investigated.

Technical Report no.5 was published in February. Volume I contains all the baseline information collected on the individual project areas while volume II concentrates on identification of suitable technologies. A workshop was held in Noakhali on zonation for agricultural purposes attended by about 50 representatives of government agencies and NGOs.

A.2. Agricultural extension

Progress Report no. 5 gives information on Farmers Forum. A guideline about the role of these for a and the roloe of DAE, NGOs and consultants have been worked out and accepted by the

parties involved. The Farmers Forums combined had 66 meetings in the January to June period: 27 in Char Mora Dona, 5 in Char Lakshmi, 3 in Muhuri, 2 in Gangchil-Torabali and 29 in South Hatiya. They did not convene in Char Osman and Bandartila.

Activities during the reporting period in each of the seven areas are given below:

- a. Muhuri AA (1): 3 test- and 5 demonstration plots for *rabi* crops; 150 kg of *kharif I* rice distributed;
- b. Char Gangchil-Torabali (2.b): 2 test- and 4 demonstration plots for *rabi*; 53 kg of *rabi* seeds distributed, 30 kg of *kharif I* rice and 3 kg of vegetables;
- c. Char Lakshmi (2.c): no test plots and 4 demonstration plots for *rabi* crops; 54 kg of *rabi* seeds distributed, 50 kg of *kharif I* rice and 4 kg of vegetable seeds;
- d. Char Mora Dona (2.e): 15 *rabi* test plots 11 demonstration plots; 156 kg of *rabi* seeds distributed, 265 kg of *kharif I* rice and 12 kg of *kharif I* vegetables
- e. South Hatiya polder (3.a): 5 test plots and 20 demonstration plots of *rabi*; 40 kg of *kharif I* rice seeds were distributed;
- f. Nijhum Dwip/Char Osman (3.b): no test nor demonstration plots for *rabi*; no seed distribution;
- g. Bandartila (3.c): as Char Osman

A.3. Monitoring

Results of the transect survey during *rabi* season can be found in the table below.

Project site	Cultivated	Fallow	Remarks
Char Majid	26.3	73.7%	
Char Baggar Dona II	36.2	63.8	
Char Bhatir Tek	32.1	67.9	
Char Mora Dona	24.9	75.1	
Char Laskmi	10.3	87.7	
Char Gangchil – Torabali	34.9	65.1	
South Hatiya	54.7	45.3	(Khesari 14.6%)
Bandartila (ND)	0	100	
Char Osman (ND)	26.4	73.6	
Muhuri	55.7	44.3	(Khesari 55.1%)

See 3.2.6 and 3.2.9.

The report on monitoring of CDSP I polders (see 3.2.9) indicates that soil salinity as could be expected is lowest in October, at the end of the monsoon season, when salts are pressed down by rainwater. Salinity increases during the dry season through capillary rise, with peaks in April. Dynamics of soil salinity over a longer period are however less clear. The assumption that salinity would gradually decrease over the years is as yet not borne out by the CDSP I data. It is apparent from the data that there is a sharp decrease over a period of six years (1995 to 2001) of important nutrients as nitrogen, phosphorus, iron and manganese, suggesting an urgent need of applying organic manures.

The adoption of HYV varieties show large fluctuations from year to year. Reasons for change from HYV back to traditional varieties and for slower than expected adoption of HYV have been investigated (see Technical Report no. 2 and Mission report no. 9).

Yields were in general higher over the years for HYV varieties, while yield for local rice varieties increased in the 1996-1999 period but showed a decrease from 1999 to 2001.

A.4. Input supplies

From technical assistance funds 485 kg of *kharif I* rice seeds were distributed and 15 kg of seeds of summer vegetables (see also A 2).

A.5. Social forestry

No social forestry activities were implemented in the reporting period. A meeting with BWDB in Feni was held on the foreshore afforestation of the Muhuri embankment. In principle the decision has been taken to carry out the work with the Sup Polder Committees of Muhuri, supervised by BWDB and with technical support of the Forestry Department.

B. Homestead gardening

DAE completed the infrastructure of three horticultural nurseries, while three seed beds were prepared (one each in Noakhali Sadar, Hatiya and Mirsharai Upazilas). As reported in Progress Report no. 4, the major responsibility for homestead gardening in CDSP II is with BRAC and the five local NGOs. Reference can be made to the BRAC-CDSP progress reports.

C. Fisheries

In Mission Report no. 16 (January 2002) it is proposed to include aquaculture support in the BRAC/CDSP programme due to the fact that the density of support from the Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Extension Project is too low in the char areas. It is also proposed to provide support to the development of a methodology specifically suited for small ponds.

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

A. Land settlement

Overall, around 12% of the selected landless households are female headed. This is more or less double than the percentage of female headed households among all households, based on the data provided in the baseline surveys. The impression exists however that the figures in these surveys are lower than the actual situation.

The issue of putting the name of the women first in the *khatian* was discussed with the Ministry of Land. Officials confirmed that there is no legal impediment to such a procedure. The ADC (Revenue) of Noakhali fully supports the idea and has promised to prepare a circular to this effect. It will take some time however before the first *khatians* under the CDSP II land settlement will be issued.

Five Women Desks were organized during the January/June period: two on Nijhum Dwip (January and April), one in Char Gangchil-Torabali (January) and one in Char Moradona (February). Main issues that were mentioned by the women were related to land settlement, the construction of clustered villages, distribution of tube wells, women's health and abuse of women. The Upazila health officials and NGOs were informed about the concerns of the women.

B. Infrastructure

The text of the previous Progress Reports still applies.

C. Agriculture

Since the Farmers Forum are in a process of regrouping, it is not clear what the percentage of women members is.

In the reporting period three Women Desks were held: in Nijhum Dwip (Osman), Bandartila and in Char Gangchil-Torabali, with 75, 50 and 21 participants respectively. Land settlement, construction of houses, the tubewell and latrine programme, health, education and women oppression were the most frequent topics that were raised.

Chapter 4 PROJECT ORGANIZATION

4.1. Introduction

See previous Progress Report.

The project is implemented through five government agencies (see 4.2.1), while local government bodies, in particular the Union Parishads (4.2.2.), field level institutions (4.2.3) and NGOs (4.2.4) all have a function in the project.

4.2. The parties involved and their responsibilities

4.2.1. Implementing agencies

See previous Progress Report.

4.2.2. Local government bodies

See previous Progress Report.

4.2.3. Field level institutions

See paragraph 3.1.6.

4.2.4. Non Government Organizations

CDSP consultants attended the coordination meetings of BRAC and the five local NGOs: YPSA (Muhuri), Sagarika (Char Majid, part of Char Mora Dona, Char Lakshmi), Upoma (Char Baggar Dona II, part of Char Mora Dona), N-RAS (Char Bhatirtek) and DUS (South Hatiya / Nijhum Dwip). During the reporting period two meetings took place (in February and May).

Meetings with BRAC and NGOs were held on the functioning of and support to the Farmers Forums (see also 3.3.4).

BRAC representatives participated in CDSP coordination mechanisms at District and national level, the PMC and ICC respectively (see 4.3 below).

4.2.5. Team of advisers

See previous Progress Report.

4.3. Coordination Mechanisms

4.3.1. At District level

In the January/June period two meetings of the Project Management Committee took place, chaired by the Project Director CDSP II, BWDB.

CDSP II was on the agenda of the monthly meetings of the Noakhali District Development Coordination Committee, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner. One or more CDSP consultants attended the meetings.

4.3.2. At national level

The Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee for ICZM, also the national steering committee for CDSP II, did not meet during the January to June period. The Inter Agency Coordination Committee met only once, in March.

4.4. Reports and publications

During the January/June 2002 period Progress Report no. 5 (July 1 to December 31, 2001) was published, as well as five Mission Reports (no. 16 to no. 21) and two Technical Reports (no. 5 on agriculture and no. 6 on monitoring in CDSP I polders). See annex 3 for a list of publications.

4.5. Review and evaluation missions

As reported in the first paragraph of this report, the Mid Term Review Mission was a major event in the January to June period. The mission took place from June 18 to 30, while the mission members stayed in Noakhali from June 20 to 27. They visited all project areas except South Hatiya and Nijhum Dwip.

Chapter 5 REQUIRED RESOURCES AND TIME-FRAME

5.1. Introduction

The resources that were used to implement the project activities as described in Chapter 3 are the subject of the current chapter. The same sequence is followed as in the standard Technical Assistance budget: personnel, investments and equipment, operational support and training. The financial translation of the resources used can be found in Chapter 6. The chapter concludes with a reflection on the time-frame and at factors that impeded the progress.

5.2. Personnel

5.2.1. From the Government of Bangladesh

See Progress Report no. 5. Vacancies among project staff still exist.

5.2.2. Team of advisers

The following mutations occurred in the Bangladeshi team: the new Local Level Planning Adviser joined on August 19, the new Institutional development Adviser on September 1, the Female Field Coordinator for the western and southern part of the project area on August 21 and two data collectors on October 1. The last three functions are additional posts. The complete list of staff at the end of the reporting period can be found in annex 4.

The Team Leader was away from the project for 46 days for holidays abroad. The 108 expatriate short term consultancy days were distributed as follows over the various disciplines:

- civil engineering (19)
- agriculture (14)
- land- and water engineering (28)
- morphology/hydraulic engineering (16)
- fisheries (14)
- general backstopping (17)

5.2.3. NGO staff

See previous Progress Report.

5.3. Materials and investments

5.3.1. Materials and equipment

A. From the side of the Government of Bangladesh

There is no proper survey available of the goods procured by each of the five implementing agencies within the framework of their respective PPs.

B. From the side of the Government of The Netherlands

One 4WD vehicle was ordered, but did not arrive yet in the country.

The most important expenditures from Technical Assistance funds for equipment etc. concerned furniture (for new staff), agriculture related instruments, office equipment and mobile phones. Annex 5 gives the inventory list of project goods.

5.3.2. Project Offices

Progress of construction of the BWDB guesthouse on Hatiya is 80%. This building is also funded from Financial Assistance and will be completed this year.

5.4. Operational support

See Progress Report no. 5.

5.5. Training

The following courses and other training events took place during the January/June 2002 period:

- Training for 10 newly formed WMCs was organized (see 3.1.6)
- Eight SPCs in Boyer Char received orientation training
- Contractor training courses
- Computer training for project staff
- A workshop on zonation for agricultural purposes was held in Noakhali (see 3.3.4)
- A national workshop in Dhaka was organized on the modernization of the land records system (see 3.1.3)
- Follow-up workshop on local level planning
- Contribution to the activities on International Women's Day in South Hatiya

In April a Training Impact Assessment was held by the University of Newcastle with regard to the ICZM course in Chennai. Results of the assessment are not yet known.

5.6. Time-frame

The duration of CDSP II is set at five years (October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2004) with the first nine months as bridging period. On July 1, 2002, the remaining period is 27 months. It is still possible that all activities taken up in the Inception Report and AWP 2002 will indeed be completed before October 2004. This needs however the full support of the management of especially LGED and DPHE.

The Mid Term Review Mission will recommend to extend the project period to October 2006. The two additional years are necessary to complete the interventions in Boyer Char and the upstream area of the Baggar Dona river.

5.7. Risks

See Inception report, previous Progress Reports and AWP 2002.

Chapter 6 BUDGET

6.1. Introduction

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

6.2. Contribution of the Government of Bangladesh

No information is available on the exact expenditures by the five implementing agencies from the budgets taken up in their respective PPs. The information concerned has been provided to the Mid Term Review Mission and will be reflected in its final report.

6.3. Financial Assistance funds of the Government of The Netherlands

In total an amount of Taka 161,362,864 was recommended by the consultants to be reimbursed against a total of claims of Taka 168,783,380. The distribution among the agencies was as follows: BWDB Taka 122,483,339, LGED Taka 23,580,240, LGED/Ministry of Land Taka 12,615,569 and DPHE Taka 2,683,716. The total would represent an amount of Euro 3,253,283 at a rate of 49,6 Takas in one Euro, against a total available amount of Euro 10,346,188 (Dfl. 22.8 million of the grant agreement on CDSP II).

6.4. Technical Assistance funds of the Government of The Netherlands

Expenditures for the first six months of 2002 amounted to Euro 500,148, which is 46% of the available budget of Euro 1,079,773. If the remaining amount of Euro 579,625 would actually be spent in 2002, at the end of this year 41.5% of the overall TA budget would be available for the remaining 41.2% of the project period. Annex 6 provides details.

6.5. Contribution in wheat of the World Food Programme

In the January/June period 865.486 MT of wheat was utilized, based on figures the consultants received from the implementing agencies. The overall utilization, again based on the same sources, would stand at only 1,898 MT against an original commitment of 10,123 MT of wheat. This utilization figure seems far too low. The data received have to be checked with data available with WFP.