



Taungya E- Bulletin

A Bi-Monthly News Letter of Taungya

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Editorial Message:

Taungya publishes the Volume-2 Issue-5 (September- October 2017). In this volume it has been tried to highlight the three projects activities focusing the major issues besides a success story of Livelihood Security & Watershed Management Project. It is expected that the volume will provide the readers some information on the last two months of development initiatives undertaken by Taungya.

[Editorial Board- Biplob Chakma, Executive Director & Pranajit Dewan]

Inside the Issue:

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Highlights of Project Activities



Oath taking of Rangamati Sub-district Network committee members by Nabadip Chandra Dewan

5 Sub-district Level VCF Network Committee Formations at Five Sub-district Clusters/Sagala Under Rangamati Hill District

Under the 'Promoting a Network of Village Common Forests and Building Capacity of the Network Members in Chittagong Hill Tracts' in brief- VCF Net Project Taungya project team members successfully completes formation programmes of Sub-district level VCF Network Committee formation from 7th October to 13th October 2017. To facilitate the programme Rangamati District was divided into 5 sub-districts. They are-

1. Rangamati Sub-district Cluster/ Sagala
2. Jurosori Sub-district Cluster/ Sagala
3. Longodu Sub-district Cluster/ Sagala
4. Barkal Sub-district Cluster/ Sagala
5. Thega-Horinga Sub-district Cluster/ Sagala

It is quite rational that geographical context, quantity of community conserved forests that is VCFs, district size that is number of upazila, communication scenario etc. of Rangamati Hill District is unlike Khagratori and Bandarban. So, Rangamati District level Network Committee realizes the necessity of Sub-district Network Committees to manage administrative, coordination, monitoring and troubleshooting issues properly. The committee formation processes were facilitated to ensure participatory or democratic participation of the VCFs where maximum VCFs of respective sub-district representatives exercised their rights to vote for EC member selection. Five election boards were formed at five sub-district clusters to elect EC members of the respective sub-districts. The election boards facilitate the election process under their respective Chiefs of election boards. Finally, with the vote of the participated VCFs' representatives all the five sub-district level network committees were formed. All the five committees were formed with 11 members as per By-laws of the CHT VCF Network.

The programmes were conducted in co-operation and direct participation of the both Central VCF Network Committee and Rangamati District level VCF Network Committee representatives. However, the committee formation programme not only paved the path of strengthening district and central committee members to come close to the VCFs communities but also generated believe in integrity and brotherhood in terms of protecting traditionally community conserved forests in Rangamati Hill District.



Thega_Horinga Sagala Committee formation program



Oath taking of the Jurosori committee members



Oath Taking of the new Committee members of Barkal Sagala



Oath taking of the new committee members at Longodu Sagala

Livelihood Security & Environment Protection Training at Dhupshil-Lota Pahar Area Under LS&WM Project

Community/ PDC level training under the title-"Livelihood Security & Environment Protection has been completed under Taungya "Livelihood Security & Watershed management- LS&WM Project." All the project intervention 17 PDC were trained under 15 PDC level centers. In this regard a local resource person from Hill Flower NGO namely Rupesh Chakma conducts the training as volunteer service. Climate change issues, reasons, community roles and responsibilities, necessity of protecting natural resources were discussed through participatory way besides exchanging community views concerning livelihood security at the concerning PDCs' context.



Trainer Rupesh Chakma with the Hajasora Marm Para PDC members after the training



Training at Down Para PDC



Training at Taktanala Purba Para PDC



Training at Hajasora Marm Para PDC

Day long training were joyful for the communities besides hardship cliché of pastoral life.

Rights Training For The CHT VCF Network Leaders

Five days long training under VCF net Project has been successfully completed from 2nd October to 6th October 2017 at TRTC, Kalyanpur, Taungya. The training was facilitated by a group of local trainers from Adibashi Facilitators Group, Bangladesh. Consultant of the training Mr.

Dipujjal Khisa engages local resources in the training besides their facilitation. Among the resource trainer, honorable Chakma Raja & Chairperson of Taungya, Barrister Devasish Roy, Ms. Sushmita Chakma, Secretary of Taungya Executive Committee and Executive Director and freelance consultant Mr. Ashok Kumar Chakma also conduct session in the training.

The training was formally inaugurated by Executive Director of Taungya, Mr. Biplob Chakma. Participants of the training was from CHT VCF Network member representatives from Rangamati District and VCF EC members representatives of the same district. It is an expected outcome of the training that the capacity building initiatives will result to sustainable preservation and protection of the CHT community conserved forests locally known as VCF.



Honorable Chakma Raja conducting training session



Session moment of facilitator Mr. Ashok Chakma



A moment of session facilitated by Adv. Sushmita Chakma

Highlights of Project Activities

Dispute Resolution Training For The CHT VCF Network Leaders

From 26 October 2017 to 28 October 2107, a three days long capacity building training on “Basic Concept on Dispute Resolution and Management” for CHT VCF Network leaders of three hill district was successfully completed by Taungya VCF Net Project team. Venue

of the training was Taungya Training and Resource Center-TRTC. The program was arranged under VCF Net Project funded by USAID, CHTDF-UNDP. It was the last capacity building training of VCF Net Project. The training was inaugurated by Taungya Executive Director, Mr. Biplob Chakma and facilitated by members of Adibasi Facilitators Group, Bangladesh. Team leader of the facilitators was Mr. Dipujjal Khisa. Other two co facilitators were Mr. U K Mong Marma and Ms. Aney Chakma.



Taungya Project Reporting & Documentation Associate Palash Khisa facilitates the inauguration session



Group work session

However, only two trainings subject was identified by the network leaders through training need assessment. One is Dispute Resolution and the other one is Organizational development and Financial Management. According Taungya VCF Net Project Officer, Pranajit Dewan, “As per decision of the partner NGOs lead by Zabarang Kallyan Samity, Humanitarian Foundation of Bandarban Hill District decides to arrange ODFM and Taungya project team decides to organize DR considering the most preferable need of Rangamati Hill District.” On the last day of the training, Chief Technical Advisor-Forestry & NRM, SID- CHT Mr. Ram Sharma of and



Training facilitator, Ms Aney Chakma conducting session



Consultant of the training Mr. Dipujjal Khisa at training facilitation



Group work and grooming



Participants at group works

Yulia Senina, Junior Professional Consultant- JPC, SID- CHT guided by Program Officer (Forest & Environment), CHTDF-UNDP, Mr. Nikhilesh Chakma visit the training and pass sometime with the participants. During their visit the participants and the guests introduced each other and share some issues on dispute resolution in terms of CHT VCFs management.



Training participants introducing themselves with the guests



Yulia Senina, Junior Professional Consultant- JPC, SID- CHT speaks with the participants



PDC Members with their Community Volunteer



EC members of the PDC

Identification of The Best PDC Under “Livelihood Security & Watershed Management Project”

Hajasora Marma Para PDC has been identified as the best PDC among the 17 PDC of the LS&WM Project. Strong leadership, smooth coordination, participatory decision making practice, project ownership, positive attitude towards alternative IGA and success, unity and social cohesiveness, organizational management skill, transparency and accountability etc. were indicators to identify the best PDC of the project.

Project Monitoring Visit Conducted By a Visit Team From UNDP at Farua Union

On the 30th October 2017 a project monitoring visit to “Livelihood Security & Watershed management Project- LS&WM”, was conducted by representative from UNDP, Bangladesh at Hajasora Marma



Para PDC & Orasori Uttar Para PDC under remote Farua Union of Bileisori Upazila of Rangamati Hill District. The team was led by Chief Technical Advisor-Forestry & NRM, SID- CHT, Mr. Ram Sharma. Yulia Senina, Junior Professional Consultant- JPC, SID- CHT also present in the visit. Team was coordinated to field trip by Program Officer (Forest & Environment), CHTDF-UNDP, Mr. Nikhilesh Chakma and Bihita Bidhan Khisa.



PDC Chairperson of Orasori Uttar para warmly receives Mr. Sharma with flower bucket



PDC members cordially receives Yulia Senina, Junior Professional Consultant- JPC, SID- CHT

The team was warmly received by the PDC members of Hajasora Marma Para and Orasori Uttar Para PDC members. The first meeting was arranged at Hajasora Marma Para PDC. The PDC has been identified as the best PDC among 17 PDCs from the Project Management Team of “Livelihood Security & Watershed management Project- LS&WM” considering PDC’s role of good management system, leadership, coordination, decision making process, successful IGA intervention, ownership in the project etc. Mr. Sharma gives some good advices to the PDC members during meeting with the members. After the meeting the visit team starts for Orasori Uttar Para PDC which is adjacent to Hajasora Marma Para PDC. Members of Orasori Uttar Para PDC warmly receive the team and arrange a meeting with the visit team.



Meeting at Hajasora PDC



Meeting at Orasori Uttar Para PDC

However, during the visit the team participates in two PDC meetings at Hajasora Marma Para PDC & Orasori Uttar Para PDC. Discussion on PDC adapted small scale income generating activities from the project and natural resource management was main topics of the meetings. The team also collects necessary information from the PDC members for their visit. At the end of the visit the team safely returns to Rangamati.

Feasibility Study Visit By Additional Deputy Commissioner- Revenue, Bandarban

On the 29th October 2017, a feasibility study visit was conducted by Md. Sofiul Islam, ADC, Revenue of Bandarban Hill District, under the CHTRDP Phase II Project (land acquisition and resettlement part) implemented by Taungya. On behalf of the Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban, the team led by Mr. Sofiul Islam visits the sub project site “Lama Upazila to Baniarchar- Gojalila Road”. In this regard Manager of the proejct, Mr. Ritesh Roy facilitates the team with his project staff Rupayan Chakma, District Facilitator, Bandarban and Tanak Chakma, District Facilitator, Khagrasori. During the visit the team check information for land acquisition and talks with the local affected communities and beneficiaries. Mauza headman, Karbari, Ward Members and community peoples were present and share opinion and information with the visitors.



However, it was a routine visit that must complete by concerned DC Office of the concerned district in CHT after preparation of *land acquisition and resettlement plans* by the implementing organization.



Surveyor, Elton Chakma providing necessary information to the team



The team walking through the project site



DF, Tanak Chakma sharing information of the sub project