



Taungya E- Bulletin

A Bi-Monthly News Letter of Taungya

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Editorial Message:

Taungya publishes the Volume-4 Issue-4 (July- August 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]

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Project Activities

Ms. Subarna Chakma, CEO of CHT Regional Council assures to continue cooperation

On the 26 & 27 August 2017 two separate community consultation meetings were held at Baghaisori UP Hall and Adorsha Govt. Primary School, Talukder Para under Baghaisori Sadar Union Parishad. In this regard Taungya CHTRDP II Project team members organized the meetings in consultation with the local stakeholders and community leaders. According to Project Manager, Ritesh Roy, *“the meetings are very important and first step of land acquisition process from Taungya part. Through these meetings we shared all the necessary issues that the communities & local stakeholders need to know. After this event we will conduct Socio-economic Survey to prepare Land Acquisition & Resettlement Plan (LARP) following project guidelines, proper process and procedures.”*



Ms. Subarna Chakma assures to continue cooperation from CHTRC part



Consultation Meeting at Baghaisori UP Hall



Consultation meeting at Adorsha Govt. Primary School

However, the first meeting was arranged at Baghaisori UP Hall and it was presided over by Sunil Bihari Chakma, honorable UP Chairman of Baghaisori Sadar UP and the second one at Adorsha Govt. Primary School, Talukder Para of Baghaisori Sadar UP which was presided over by Dipankar Talukder, a Karbari from Baghaisori mauza. CHT Regional Council representative Ms. Subarna Chakma, Executive Director of Taungya, Mr. Biplob Chakma & Social Impact Specialist (SIS) Consultant Ranabir Chakma were present as special guests in the both meeting. Among the other participants- concerned headmen, Karbaries, Ward Members, community peoples and Taungya Project team members were present in the meeting.

CHTRDP II Project Manager, Ritesh Roy conducts as moderator of the both meetings and delivers the welcome speech focusing on various necessary information that the community need to know before land acquisition process starts. Mr. Biplob Chakma, ED, Taungya also shares about the *Policy Statement of ADB Safe Guard Policy-2009*, allocation process, role of Taungya and etc with flip chart presentation.



Mr. Biplob Chakma talks about project goal, objectives and Safe Guard Policy of ADB

CEO of CHTRC, Ms. Subarna Chakma delivers formal speech in the both meetings. She talks about the role of *Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council- CHTRC* and wishes cooperation from the community to implement the road construction. She also assures that CHTRC will continue cooperation to implement the road construction as it has been doing since the beginning of the project.

It is noteworthy that the road (8.490 km long) construction is going to directly benefited more than 16 villages and road communication within the three unions namely- Baghaisori Sadar, Marishya and Sarwatali unions as well three mauzas. Local community peoples were dreaming of the road for a long time so if it is constructed local traders, agricultural producers will be able to carry their trade goods easily and with minimum cost besides overall community people will be able to travel easily saving their valuable time.

Success Story

Sukhi Lal Tanchangya, the Community Volunteer

Son of Duble Kumar Tanchangya and Bhaggyati Tanchangya, 20 years old Sukhi Lal Tanchangya lives with his father at remote Orasori Purba Para under Farua Union of Beleisori Upazila. His wife is Chitra Rekha Tanchangya; a teacher of UNICEF funded pre primary level Para Kendra School at their village. They have no children yet and live happily with their family members. They also work hard for their family agricultural income too. He was HSC graduated from Karnaphuly Degree College and now enrolled himself in the BA course under National University of Bangladesh. Besides his regular academic activities he also received a 6 months long training course on livestock, Agriculture, Poultry and Fisheries from Rangamati Youth Development Office. At this time one day he was informed from the villagers that a volunteer post has been vacant who used to work at Haja Sora Marma Para. But as there was no qualified person available there, villagers advice him to contact with Taungya, Bileisori Office. He becomes interested and applies for the post. Taungya office management appoints him to work as *Project Volunteer* for Haja Sora Marma Para which is the village just beside their own village. Haja Sora Marma Para is inhabited with very poor Marma community who basically live on Jum cultivation and daily labour. Very few have little mixed fruit orchards which are even less to support their minimum need. So, poverty stricken Marma people were living very vulnerable life in every aspect. Even more no development organizations ever worked on socio-economic development there as per community opinion.

Having a flashback, USAID and CHTDF, UNDP funded “Livelihood Security & Watershed Management Project” is a development intervention only for the communities of Reserve Forest located in Dhupshil-Lota Pahar area and Alekhyong. Taungya has been working at 17 Para of Dhupshil area since last one year. The project focused on- to reduce unsustainable forest dependency of the communities living in the selected Reserve Forest area besides to protect watersheds and biodiversity of the forests and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the communities of the inhabitants of the area. Hence, implementing alternative IGA has some critical challenges. Such as- illiterate and unaware community, remoteness, lack of technical support, marketing complexities, weak institutional capacity of the community peoples, natural calamity, almost no network communication etc. Overcoming these, Haja Sora Marma Para PDC is about to stand on the margin of success for a devoted PV is notable example. However, after jonahing as PV, like all other PVs, he participates in ToT on agriculture, poultry and livestock from the project. He enjoys and actively participates in the training. The 3 days long training was very helpful for him to refresh & improve his technical knowledge. Then he was assigned to assist his responsible Community Facilitator to arrange the training at his assigned PDC. Participation in the two trainings makes him more confident and realizing the need of technical support for the community, he understands his roles and necessity of his technical knowledge for the poor community people of their area. He becomes more dedicative and sincere when PDC members start to goat, pig rearing or poultry from project IGA allocated grants. He regularly facilitates PDC monthly meetings and awareness sessions besides his monitoring of PDC IGA.



Sukhi Lal Tanchangya loves to work for the community People

Success Story

So, at a time he aware community people on various positive issues, provide technical support, communicate with the concerned VFA for critical issues which made him more responsible to project IGA intervention in that area.

To have a flash back, being educated, Sukhi Lal always thinks to work for his poor community people. So he was preparing himself besides his study and looking for opportunities to make his dream comes true. The chance to work as a PV paved the path for him to close to the communities not only for his assigned Para but also nearer two more villages. He passionately talks about nature and environment, environment friendly scientific cultivation and chances of alternative income generating activates like goat raring, pig raring besides regular farming. “Livelihood Security & Watershed Management Project” oriented IGA support grants becomes favorable and his assigned all 28 HH of Haja Sora Marma Para PDC members start implementing Goat and pig raring with his technical support.

According to the Project Coordinator babu Tripan Chakma, “A total amount of 1, 71,850/- (BDT); each HH 6,000/- to 6,200/- BDT, were disbursed to 28 HH of that PDC. All the 28 HH bought 29 goats and 24 HH bought 29 pigs & on HH basis. Now, after selling 6 pigs with good price there is total goat 47 & 36 pigs and Thowai Cha Ching Marma (HH No. 1270018) lost one pig died for dog bite injury. If everything goes well the villagers are surely going to profit double or triple by the end of the year with keeping the capital invested in the same first animals.”

“Taungya gave us grants to increase our income. We all discussed and decided to invest our fund in goat and pig raring considering our local resources and marketing situation here. Besides, we all wanted small projects that will demand less time to invest for. Now we are very happy that our HH basis small projects are still on the profitable track. Till date only one goat died for dog bite and all the animals are in good and in healthy condition. It was possible for timely technical support like vaccination and de-worming by Sukhi Lal Tanchangya. As you see we don’t have communication and rapport with the government livestock office and for remoteness GoB Officers cannot come regularly. Mobile network here is also not good to communicate with them. So, Sukhi Lal support is very important here as he knows the technical side” says Cha Thowai Marma, chairperson of Haja Sora Marma Para PDC.



Kongsa Karbari certifies Sukhi Lal's good work for the poor community people of four villages

Since Sukhi Lal involved as PV in the LS&WM Project, he was providing technical support for the four PDCs namely- Haja Sora Marma para PDC, Jamu Sora PDC, Orasori Purba Para PDC & Orasori Uttar Para PDC. Now he became well known to all the nearer villagers. “He does not discriminate weather project animals or personal animals of the communities. He treats all equal as per his capacity but give priority to the project animals from his sense of responsibilities. Community people are happy to have a local technical resource like him for his polite nature & cooperative mentality. He is a very kind and cooperative young man helping the poor villagers from his heart. Most of the villagers cannot pay him properly for his support but to give only the price of the vaccines tablets or any treatment. Sometime he only gets some money to have snacks and he never claimed against his service.” says- Kongsa Karbari of Orasori Purba Para.

“Villagers call me when they need technical support or advice and when I find the issue critical I contact with VFA, Sunil Baran Chakma and Bishwamitra Chakma dada who always help me in need. Before my appointment as PV, I did not even know them properly. But they became very close to me after ToT and when they conducted technical training at my assigned para Haja Sora PDC. So, gradually communication and intimacy grew and I also call them for technical advice and suggestion. Now, I am truly happy to help the poor villagers who are also my neighbors.” says- Sukhi Lal.

On the other hand, Sukhi Lal heartily supervises all organizational work of his assigned PDC. “His first activities report astonished me because I did not except such good reports from the very beginning of his joining in the project.” says, Tripan Chakma, Project Coordinator, LS&WM Project, Taungya

It will not be exaggeration here to mention that Sukhi Lal would remain just like other young man in their community if he would not have the chance to work in the project. No matter what is his honorarium or benefits he gets from Taungya. It could be considered a success that a young person like him became a dedicative volunteer who works for the poor community and for his mental satisfaction. He is also belongs to a poverty stricken farmer family and his income is also less than his need. But his sincerely work engagement in the project as PV and sense of responsibility made him a true Project Volunteer.

Considering the critical situation in the job market, Sukhi Lal dreams of his own IGA on poultry but challenge is cash amount. He thinks his technical skill and hard labor can bring him success in animal or poultry farming which has very good demand in the local market.



Sukhi Lal at interview by Taungya representative

Project Activities

Gravity Flow System (GFS) set up work is going on at Dhuppani Sora PDC

Expending 4,42,445 BDT a complete GFS is under construction at Dhuppani Sora para. Two collection points will supply fresh natural water to the 14 HH of the Para, their famous Pagoda and the passersby who regularly walks through their village to remote Lota Pahar Pangkhua Para, Lota Pahar Marma Para and Gobosori Para. LS&WM Project Coordinator, Tripan Chakma says, “Two PDCs were supposed get water supply from one GFS. They are Jamu Sora PDC and Dhuppani Sora PDC. But after technical feasibility study it is found that Dhuppani Sora will be given priority for there is no water technology installed and community peoples live on drinking streams water and Jamu Sora PDC though have good water collection location there are enough ring wells or tube well. Moreover, geographical distance between the two para require extra budget to cover. So considering all the facts finally it was decided by the Project Implementation Committee to set up the GFS at Dhuppani Sora PDC.”

The total set up works is being done through formal tender notice and an experienced contractor has been assigned to complete the task. It is assumed that the set works will complete by the end of the project that is by October 2017. Anyway, a total number of three new ring wells at Jamu Sora PDC, Orasori Uttar para PDC, Orasori Purba para PDC and along with two repairing at Orasori Uttar para PDC, Orasori Purba para PDC, one tube well at Ulusori para PDC. Another infiltration gallery (IFG) technology is going to be installed at Haja Sora Marma Para PDC.



A collection point at the middle point of the village



The GFS line at Dhuppani Sora



Bricks and pipes are carrying out to the project site



Pipes are gathered to carry to the project site



Survey team leader, Ranabir Chakma at information collection



DPO Kanous Chakma at data collection

Socio-economic Survey

A seven days long (23 August to 29 August 2017) socio-economic survey was conducted at the proposed road construction site in Baghaisori Upazila to prepare Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan-LARP under CHTRDP II Project. The survey team was comprised with a consultant, District Project Officer and District Field facilitator which was led by Social Impact Specialist Consultant Ranabir Chakma. The team collects all the necessary information and prepare a map of the proposed construction site to record and identify affected list of land as well as community.