



Mangroves for the Future
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Investments for resilient communities

MFF Bangladesh Small Grant Facility Projects 2013-14



MFF Bangladesh

www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/bangladesh

Background of current project sites

Shyamnagar and Sarankhola subdistricts are natural hazard prone areas very close to Sundarban proximity. They were devastated by cyclones Sidr (2007) and Aila (2009) back to back resulting to increased dependency on natural resource extraction. The situation is exacerbating through salinity ingress and other climatic variabilities.

MFF SGF is supporting local communities to cope with changing conditions as well as increasing resilience through improved land use and better natural resource management.

The MFF Bangladesh Small Grants Facility (SGF)

Every year MFF finances limited number of small projects under the priorities identified through social ecological resilience analysis of target area. Highest Fund from MFF for each of these projects is 2 million Bangladeshi taka.

Why?

To support strategic and tailor-made local community action through civil society organizations in response to people's needs for resilience building.

These small projects often produce beautiful results and set examples to be replicated. They also work as means of creating co-finance, leverage and collaboration to support community action for coastal resilience building.

For whom?

Initially, these grants are being awarded for communities around Bangladesh Sundarban. Gradually, these will be available for other parts of Bangladesh coast as well.

Who can apply?

Proposals can be submitted by registered national and local NGOs, CBOs, research and scientific institutes, small scale businesses and enterprises. Having experience of community based projects and natural resource management is pre-requisite.

MFF Bangladesh Small Grants Facility is
overseen by MFF Bangladesh National
Coordinating Body

MFF Bangladesh Small Grants Facility is
managed by IUCN Bangladesh Country
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Adaptation through seasonal land use improvement for livelihood support in Chalrayenda and Chaltebunia villages

Project site: Rayanda, Sarankhola, Bagerhat

Time frame: June 2013 to May 2014

Grant amount: BDT 1.07 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.1 Million

Grantee: Ashroy Foundation

Objectives:

- Increasing reservoir capacity of ponds for irrigation and household use;
- Ensuring supplementary use of fallow lands in dry season.

Activities:

- Re-excavation of ponds;
- Training on Sunflower cultivation with technical support of department of agricultural extension;
- Sunflower and other winter crop cultivation;
- Community based small scale water management.



Community based small scale water management to get benefit of reserved rain water and make best use in dry season.

Accomplishments

- 4 ponds re-excavated creating 1,869 person days of short-term employment opportunity for local labors;
- 15 farmers trained on sunflower and other winter crop cultivation;
- 15 farmers have cultivated 4 hectare of land with irrigation from project ponds. They produced sunflower seeds worth BDT 0.1 Million and other crops worth BDT 0.03 Million;
- 100 families now get access to freshwater for daily use throughout the dry season.

Inspired by the training, along with assurance of irrigation and seed, Jabbar Howlader invested his labor and money to grow sunflower, green chili and pumpkin in a fallow land which he took in lease for the dry season. His success is being admired by fellow farmers.



Enhancing adaptive capacity of Sundarban dependent community through climate resilient livelihoods

Project site: Gabura, Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: June 2013 to December 2014

Grant amount: BDT 1.43 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.24 Million

Grantee: Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)

Objectives:

- To introduce different climate resilient livelihood options to vulnerable community;
- To increase reservoir capacity of local water sources for irrigation.


Activities:

- Introducing crops that require less water, like wheat and maize;
- Promoting salt tolerant rice variety cultivation;
- Integrated fish-prawn-rice cultivation;
- Vegetable cultivation in the homestead;
- Canal and pond re-excavation;
- Strengthening community based small scale water management.

Diversifying livelihood in the face of salinity ingress.

Accomplishments

- 16 farmers trained on integrated rice-fish-prawn culture and 6 farmers were supported to demonstrate that in 6 farms;
- 33 farmers trained on less water requiring crop cultivation. Wheat and maize cultivated in 0.6 hectare fields;
- 30 farmers trained on salt tolerant rice cultivation and 17 farmers were supported to demonstrate that in 2.43 hectare fields;
- 28 farmers trained on low irrigation vegetable cultivation and 24 farmers were supported to demonstrate that in practice;
- Local government and local officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension engaged as trainers and supervisors;
- A 549 meter canal re-excavated along with 7 ponds creating additional fresh water reserves;
- Local community organization strengthened to oversee and ensure equitable water sharing.

A man with a dark complexion and a headband is sitting on a rocky bank next to a pond. He is shirtless and wearing light-colored checkered pants. He is holding a large, light-colored fish with long antennae in his hands. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a small building with a white roof.

Mohashekh is an iconic farmer who has excelled in diverse agricultural activities and has set an example for others. He was trained by the project and has also been supported with seed input.

Tree plantation and fodder growing on shrimp farms and villages of Shyamnagar coastal area

Project site: Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: September 2013 to October 2014

Grant amount: BDT 1.35 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.18 Million

Grantee: Center for Coastal Environment Conservation

Objectives:

- Supporting local community through plantation programmes for future goods and services;
- Piloting agro-forestry in shrimp farm dykes.

Activities:

- Coconut plantation in river embankments through social forestry;
- Fruit, fuel wood, fodder and mangrove plantation at village level with household level benefit sharing;
- Road side plantation engaging local government;
- Plantation programme engaging school children;
- Mangrove plantation in shrimp farm dykes.



Plantation to regreen landscapes in Shyamnagar degraded by cyclone Aila

Accomplishments

- About 3000 coconut saplings have been planted along river embankment through social forestry;
- River bank beside Burigolaini Adarsha village has been planted with mangroves. Besides, 70 homesteads and the community pond dykes in the village has been planted with fruit, fuel wood and medicinal plants with the lead of the local community;
- 1 kilometer roadside has been planted under the supervision of Burigoalini union parishad (local government);
- Dykes of two shrimp farms have been planted with mangrove saplings and fodder grass under the supervision of Khulna University as a pilot case.

Inspired by the plantation programme, local government of Burigoalini union has taken the responsibility to oversee and take care of the plants.



Increase Income of Women Headed Families to Reduce Dependency on Natural Resources

Project site: Atulia, Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: September 2013 to December 2014

Grant amount: BDT 1.65 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.1 Million

Grantee: Nabolok Parishad

Objectives:

- Livelihoods diversification and income increase of selected natural resource dependent poor women in Atulia union.

Activities:

- Integrated fish-vegetable-duck farming;
- Introducing Mele (*Cyperus javanicus*) cultivation as raw material for mat-making;
- Brackish water aquaculture;
- Demonstration of apiculture.



A woman with a joyful expression, wearing a yellow and white patterned shawl over a pink top, stands in a vibrant green field. The background is filled with tall grass and a dense line of trees under a bright sky. A blue net is visible in the distance on the right.

Livelihoods diversification as adaptation strategy and alternative income for natural resource dependent women.

Accomplishments

- 100 women have been organized under a community organization. These women are dependent on natural resources as primary source of their living;
- The community organization has been supported to:
 - Establish 6 integrated fish-vegetable-duck farms;
 - Demonstrate *Cyperus javanicus* locally called mele, in a 1.22 hectare plot;
 - Practice brackish water aquaculture farms in 12 ponds;
 - Initiate apiculture and set up 40 honey boxes;
- The group has started benefiting by selling the produces.

Group members are now confident business women engaged with the multi-window venture; no more 'just a fish fry collector'.

Community Initiatives for Climate Resilience

Project site: Burigoalini, Shyamnagar, Shatkhira

Time frame: September 2013 to March 2015

Grant amount: BDT 1 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.36 Million

Grantee: LEDARS

Objectives:

- Increasing freshwater reservoir capacity in agricultural landscape of Kolbari and Burigoalini villages;
- Promoting salt tolerant rice cultivation and alternatives to high irrigation crop varieties;
- Capacity building of marginal farmers through organization and training.

Activities:

- Pond re-excavation;
- Climate field school sessions for farmers;
- Recycling used freshwater and re-using for vegetable cultivation.

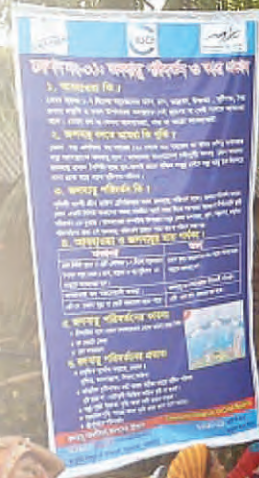


Changing agricultural landscape to adapt with salinity ingress and seasonal rainfall variability.

Accomplishments

- 18 ponds excavated in agricultural landscape with 20% co-finance from the community;
- 2 farmer's clubs established which are operating 'Climate field school' sessions with technical support of the department of agricultural extension;
- 68 farmers were trained in 30 field school sessions which increased their knowledge about climate resilient agriculture;
- All beneficiaries have cultivated saline tolerant paddy varieties in their field and expected production is much higher than last few years after cyclone Aila;
- A rapport has been developed between local agricultural extension office and farmers for sustenance of the initiative.

Farmer's clubs have organized the farmers and trained them on climate resilient crop production. This initiative has given a great opportunity to the farmers to produce more crops; even under changing conditions.





Ensure safe drinking water through rain water harvesting

Project site: Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: September 2013 to March 2015

Grant amount: BDT 1.2 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.1 Million

Grantee: EADA

Objectives:

- To ensure safe drinking water for communities in Shyamnagar;
- To raise the awareness at the community level of potential impacts of climate change and possible adaptation strategies identified at the community level.

Activities:

- Establishing community managed large and medium rain water harvesters;
- Distributing earthen water reservoirs at household level for rain water harvesting;
- Repairing old and degraded rain water harvesters engaging with the local community;
- Raising awareness about adaptation techniques for salinity ingress and seasonal variability of rain fall.

Helping community to make best use of rainwater to reduce vulnerability to drinking water shortage in dry season

Accomplishments

- Repaired 40 degraded rain water harvesters, which are now functioning properly;
- Installed 13 new rainwater harvesters (three 20,000 liter units, and ten 2,000 liter units)
- 80 new earthen water reservoirs now being used by marginalized Munda community
- Established a community-based management system for water sharing and maintenance of the rainwater harvester units;
- Continuing awareness about best practice on adaptation techniques to safeguard drinking water from salinity ingress.

A large rainwater harvester stores drinking water for 20 families upto 3 rainless months



Community based conservation of coastal canal for better irrigation

Project site: Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: February 2014 to February 2015

Grant amount: BDT 2 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.47 Million

Grantee: Caritas Bangladesh

Objectives:

- Increasing reservoir capacity of a silted up canal for irrigation in dry season;
- Bringing seasonal fallow lands under additional crop production.

Activities:

- Canal Re-excavation;
- Engaging local community with microlevel water management.



*Helping people adapt with salinity
ingress and creating income
opportunity for marginalized Munda
community*

Accomplishments

- A canal has been re-excavated which is 550 meter long, 21.64 meter wide and 2.1 meter deep from ground level with 2.1 meter high dykes above ground;
- Local community organization for canal water management led the re-excavation work in collaboration with the local government;
- The community water sharing mechanism for dry season has been strengthened;
- A hard to reach community has been connected with road network through a renovated canal dyke;
- Opportunity for 27 hectares of seasonal fallow land to be cultivated using water from the re-excavated canal;
- Sides of the canal planted with 2600 saplings.



Members of local Munda community now have hope for work and crop in the dry season

Promoting access to safe drinking water for the vulnerable community in Kultoli village

Project site: Munshiganj, Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: February 2014 to February 2015

Grant amount: BDT 1 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.1 Million

Grantee: Nakshikantha Mohila Unnayan Shangstha

Objectives:

- To rehabilitate freshwater ponds in Kultoli village which were degraded in 2009 by cyclone Aila.

Activities:

- Re-excavation of ponds to act as rain water reservoir;
- Distribution of plastic tanks to reserve rain water;
- Support low-income families to cultivate vegetables in pond dykes;
- Promote public health awareness among the pond water users.



Ensuring a more convenient source of fresh water for drinking and household use in Kultoli village.

Accomplishments

- 5 ponds re-excavated to reserve rain water and improve access to fresh water. Each pond supports two hundred people;
- A source of fresh water is now available within the vicinity, making it more convenient for women who previously had to collect fresh water from a distance of upto 3 kilometres;
- 33 plastic tanks distributed among the aged, disabled and the underprivileged to reserve rain water for drinking;
- The availability of fresh water supports the pond owners and low-income women to cultivate crops and vegetables;
- 5 pond management committees have been created for micro level water-governance, monitoring and protection of ponds;
- Continuing initiatives to promote public health awareness among water users through pond management committees.



Benevolent pond owners have shared water use right where each pond supports 200 persons every day.

Development of community led ecotourism in Shyamnagar

Project site: Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: February 2014 to February 2015

Grant amount: BDT 1.65 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.1 Million

Grantee: Joar

Objectives:

- To establish community led ecotourism facility that will diversify livelihoods and engage community in conservation of forest resources.

Activities:

- Provision of eco-tourism capital (e.g., eco-cottages, eco-boats, and engine boats) to generate income for local villagers;
- Training locals to become tour-guides;
- Training locals to gain information on eco-tourism and its benefits;
- Culinary training of local women.



Promoting community-led ecotourism to benefit local community.

Accomplishments

- Repaired 5 engine boats and 2 eco-boats to be used for eco-tourism activities;
- 4 eco-cottages built and linked with members of the community as suppliers of goods and services;
- 25 stakeholders trained on eco-tourism and its benefits;
- 25 community members have been trained to become eco-guides;
- 10 local women trained to cook local, national and international cuisines for tourists.

Community based eco-cottages gradually gaining popularity in Shyamnagar where communities host tourists.



Community based livelihood opportunities for fisher families

Project site: Mathurapur, Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: February 2014 to February 2015

Grant amount: BDT 0.59 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.18 Million

Grantee: Sudiptee Shomaj Unnayan Shangstha

Objectives:

- To create supplementary income for poor Sundarban dependent fisher households.

Activities:

- Organizing fishers under a community organization;
- Initiating business venture of hygienic dry fish production and vegetable growing.

A small business venture to empower ten fishers of Sundarban.

Accomplishments

- Fish drying and shrimp drying units installed, and are now being used by 10 fishers;
- Marketing of vegetable, fish, crab, dried fish and shrimp products started;
- With co-finance from the grantee the venture has expanded and the fishers are also doing aquaculture and vegetable cultivation around the shrimp drying unit.

Mana (35) was widowed by a tiger. She and the rest of the members now have hope for a living with less risk.





Protect embankment and adjacent communities of Burigoalini and Munshigonj Unions from cyclone and tidal surge through mangrove rehabilitation

Project site: Shyamnagar, Satkhira

Time frame: February 2014 to February 2015

Grant amount: BDT 1 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.692 Million

Grantee: Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Objectives:

- Promoting mangrove rehabilitation as a soft engineering support to protect coastal embankment;
- Engaging civil society organization for mangrove rehabilitation;
- Capacity building of community organization for mangrove protection.

Activities:

- Mangrove plantation in different river banks of Burigoalini and Munshiganj unions;
- Establishing shared governance mechanism between community based organization and local government.

Ecosystem based approach for protecting river embankments in Shyamnagar

Accomplishments

- A 16-hectare mangrove plantation, with a protective fence built around it, was established;
- Continuing capacity development on shared natural resource governance for the community-based organization.

‘Federation of Sundarbans Dependent Poor’, a community based organization, now envisions to rehabilitate mangroves in all the mudflats outside river embankments of Shyamnagar.



Sunflower oilseed processing and marketing in Sarankhola

Project site: Rayanda, Sarankhola, Bagerhat

Time frame: February 2014 to February 2015

Grant amount: BDT 1.65 Million; Co-finance: BDT 0.47 Million

Grantee: Prodipan

Objectives:

- To create income opportunities for forest dependent community by engagement by introducing sunflower and other seed crushing business;
- To promote and create additional value for sunflower as a water-saving and salt tolerant crop.

Activities:

- Installing seed crushing mills managed by cooperatives of forest dependent community;
- Building strong network of sunflower cultivators;
- Production of sunflower oil and linking with national market.

Engaging natural-resource dependent communities in sustainable business practice.

Accomplishments

- 200 forest dependent persons selected through baseline survey and organized in two cooperatives;
- Initial infrastructure developed for two mills;
- Seed crushing mills for sunflower oil production will be operational by December 2014.

Two hundred villagers dependent on forest resources are now organized through two cooperatives, and are receiving training on income generation through the seed crushing mills.





About Mangroves for the Future

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. Co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, MFF provides a platform for collaboration among the many different agencies, sectors and countries which are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues.

The goal is to promote an integrated ocean-wide approach to coastal management and to building the resilience of coastal communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Mangroves are the flagship of the programme, but MFF is inclusive of all types of coastal ecosystem, such as coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, sea grasses and wetlands.

The emphasis is on generating knowledge, empowering local communities and governments, and working to promote policy solutions that will support best practice in integrated coastal management.

Moving forward, MFF will increasingly focus on building resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities by promoting nature based solutions and by showcasing the climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits that can be achieved with healthy mangrove forests and other types of coastal vegetation.

MFF is funded by Danida, Norad and Sida.

Learn more at: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org

