Findings from the District Level Stakeholders Workshop in Ramgoti, Lakshmipur by DECCMA Bangladesh

DECCMA Bangladesh team organized 2nd District Level workshop at Ramgoti Upazila of Lakshmipur District on November 18, 2015. The objectives of the workshop were:

- i. To explore migration, adaptation and governance issues of Ramgoti Upazila related to climate change.
- To compare the findings with the 1st District Level Workshop held at Khulna on August 31, 2015
- iii. To sensitize different upazila/local level stakeholders about the DECCMA project



Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET) jointly organized the workshop with the help of the local Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO). There were 104 participants (69% Male and 31% Female) from different communities, government organizations, NGOs and media.

To conduct the group discussion, the participants were divided into five different groups: three community groups, one government officials and one media and NGO representatives. Each group was facilitated by a DECCMA member who collected the responses from the relevant group. A lively and informative group discussion took place which was later shared and validated among other groups through the oral presentation from different groups.

The responses from different stakeholders on different issues are as following:

Hazard Types

River erosion	Storm surge	Salinity	Tidal Flooding
Cyclone	Waterlogging	Drought	Sea level rise

Migration: Types, Reasons and Destination

Patterns:

- a) Seasonal /Temporary
- b) Permanent

Type:

- a) Internal
- b) International (very low)

Nature:

- c) One Family Member
- d) Whole family (The number is moderate or high when they migrate within the same upazila, but the number is very low when they migrate to other places e.g. other upazilas, district town and divisional towns)

Reasons:

- 1. River erosion
- 2. In pursuit of better life (voluntary)
- 3. Storm surge
- 4. Sea level rise
- 5. Temporary migration for climatic hazards
- 6. Lack of job opportunity

Destination:

- 1. Upazilla (Sub-district)
 - a) Within same upazila: Char to Char
 - b) To other upazilas within the same district
- 2. District Town
 - a) Within the same district: Lakshmipur
 - b) To other districts (but not divisional town): Noakhali, Feni, Bhola
- 3. Divisional Town
 - a) Within same division: Chittagong
 - b) To other divisions (but not the capital): Barisal
- 4. Capital: Dhaka
- 5. International: Oman

Adaptation: Types, Results and Recommendations

Types:

- 1. Government Initiatives:
 - a) Resettlement Projects: Guchhogram, Asrayon project
 - b) Shelter Projects: Cyclone Centre, Killa
 - c) Protection Initiatives: Polders (Past), Bank protection measures, sluice gate (to reduce congestion)
 - d) Agricultural Intervention: Cultivation of flood tolerant rice variety,
 - e) Fishing Intervention: Restriction in fishing during breeding/reproduction season

<u>Relevant Organizations/Projects</u>: Prime Minister's Office; Water Development Board; Department of Fisheries; Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO); Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)

- 2. NGO Initiatives:
 - a) Resettlement Projects: Guchhogram, resettlement centres
 - b) Agricultural Intervention: Cultivation of hybrid crops
 - c) Advocacy Initiative: Awareness building

<u>Relevant Organizations</u>: Community Development Centre (CODEC); Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)

- 3. Self-initiatives:
 - a) Tree plantation in vacant land and mangrove forest
 - b) Change of Profession: (i) fisherman/farmer to rickshaw puller, Brick field workers, micro business; (ii) fisherman to farmer
 - c) Employment of Female Members: (i) garment workers in divisional town (Chittagong); (ii) local income earning activities: making caps, mats etc.
 - d) Raising livestock (hen, duck)
 - e) Raising plinth
- 4. Other Interventions:
 - a) Reserve rain water adjacent to Killa
 - b) Drinkwater from river using Phitkiri (Alum)

Result of Adaptation (Successful Adaptation/Maladaptation):

- 1. Successful Adaptation:
 - a) Meghna river bank protection
 - b) Asrayon project
 - c) Livestock farming (hen, duck)
 - d) Soybean cultivation
 - e) Women Employment: Cap making
- 2. Maladaptation:
 - a) Reducing depth of connecting canals/ water bodies
 - b) BishwaBeri

Barriers:

- 1. Inefficient money transaction
- 2. Insufficient funding
- 3. Lack of sustainability/proper planning
- 4. Lack of coordination with experts/interagency
- 5. Management and supervision

Recommendations:

1. Increased height of the roads

Governance Issues:

Existing Gaps/problems:

- 1. Embankment and river protection mechanisms are not efficient
- 2. Irregular river dredging
- 3. Inequitable distribution of resources

- 4. Lack of proper management of in resettlement interventions(*Guchogram*, resettlement centres)
- 5. Inefficient number cyclone centres and Killa
- 6. Lack of coordination in among different stakeholders in different development interventions
- 7. Lack of forest coverage

Gender Issues:

- 1. Women's Participation in income generation activities followed by disasters (garment worker, cap and mat making)
- 2. Fewer natural resources (firewood, vegetables, fruit) available to provide family members
- 3. Increased domestic (duck/ hen rearing) and financial responsibilities

Considerable number of participants from different stakeholder groups (government officials, NGOs, media personnel, community members) participated in the workshop and expressed their opinions willingly. Learning about the potential of DECCMA project, participants shared their knowledge with DECCMA Bangladesh team members without much reservation. Significant number of female participation also enlightened DECCMA Bangladesh with their concerns. Overall, the workshop provided DECCMA Bangladesh team with insightful and interesting information for their research activities.

Appendix-I: List of participants

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