

CCF Hands Over Management Of Fresh Water Pond To Community



Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests of Bangladesh and Mr. Paul Sabatine, Deputy Mission Director of USAID formally handed over the responsibility of managing the re-excavated Kellar Pukur, a fresh water pond and associated pond sand filter to the community of Purba Kalinagar, Munshiganj, Sathkira on September 5. USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project supported the re-excavation of the pond and construction of the pond sand filter. Approximately 500 community members including the high officials of the Bangladesh

Forest Department, representatives of government and CREL staff participated in this high visibility ceremony. Since 2009 Kellar Pukur pond, next to the Maloncha river, has been the key source of water for a diversity of household needs including consumption, cleaning and home gardening for the 550 families of Purba Kalinagar. Over time sedimentation from floods, excessive rainfall, and storm surges have reduced the depth of the pond to a level where its use was negligible resulting in considerable difficulties for the community, particularly women.

Government Of Bangladesh Adopts 'Ecologically Critical Area Management Rules 2016'

The Bangladesh Government has promulgated the Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA) Rules, 2016 under Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 on 25 September 2016. USAID's CREL Project has facilitated the drafting and coordination of inter-governmental agencies, particularly the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to adopt the Rules to ensure sustainable management of ECAs in Bangladesh. The adoption of these Rules is a milestone for fund mobilization for conservation through community-based ECA management and establishing inclusive resource rights with multi-tier stakeholders including ministerial representation.

Ministry Of Land Investigates Ways to Protect Hakaluki Haor and Hail Haor

USAID has been working with the government to conserve biodiversity in Hail Haor and Hakaluki Haor since 1999. In Hail Haor, an urgent need is to formally and physically expand the Baikka Beel permanent sanctuary.

Adjacent canals and wetlands will be added, some of which have been protected by the community but without official recognition, to ensure the ecological integrity of the sanctuary. In Hakaluki Haor, official recognition

as sanctuaries is needed for 1,300 hectares of swamp forests which have been restored and protected by local communities. Recently Additional Secretary Mr. Md. Akram Hossain and Deputy Secretary Mr. Md. Rashedul Islam of Ministry of Land, accompanied by Mr. Md. Abdul Latif Mia, the Forest Department's Project Director for CREL, along with Department of Environment officials and the CREL team visited Hakaluki Haor and Baikka Beel of Hail Haor to investigate the land management issues and identify the next steps for improving and securing wetland ecosystem conservation through permanent legal provisions.



Climate Smart Agriculture Practices For Rainy Days

USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project is promoting the adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices among area farmers. CSA training provided to farmers combined with high visibility signs with brief and clear CSA messages are considered to be key to current successes. Farmers of Dhopachari, Chittagong shared with CREL staff that previously they did not grow vegetables during the rainy season due to the high risk of damage from severe rainfall events. However, after learning from CREL that weather related damage can be reduced by means of raising growing beds, digging deeper canals for quick drainage of water and covering growing beds with plastic sheets, farmers are now successfully growing vegetables using this combination of CSA technologies.



Green Belt For Resilience to Climate Change

Establishing permanent green belts around communities adjacent to protected areas ensures an enhanced future supply of wood resources and contributes to broader climate change mitigation goals. USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project has distributed more than thirty thousand saplings of 12 indigenous tree species to members of co-management organizations, forest dependent people and school students in 7 PAs of the Chittagong region. These saplings were planted in homesteads, government institutions and on embankments. 1,167 VCF members from 61 VCFs received 8,864 saplings, 11,000 saplings were provided to 3,750 students of 10 schools to enhance tree resources in their homesteads and 9,000 saplings were planted around 20 institutions and on one embankment. This important work was carried out in collaboration with the Forest Department and 7 CMCs.



Jeolbhadi- A New Approach For Forest Protection

One of the major crops in the hilly areas of Cox's Bazar region is betel leaf. Unfortunately, the cultivation of betel leaf requires tree saplings to be used for staking and support posts which are mainly collected from the adjacent forests. This practice severely affects the survival of naturally generating tree seedlings, which has negative impacts for ensuring healthy, mature forests. To address this problem, USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) Project is promoting the cultivation of plantations of *Garuga pinnata* tree seedlings, known locally as Jeolbhadi, Jiga, or Kapila. This species can be used to build live fences, can be propagated easily with cuttings and when pruned annually can produce an abundance of small branches ideal for use for betel staking. Larger branches can be

cut and used for support posts which root and can be further pruned each year to supply more staking material. It is widely used as live fence material throughout the country but is not very common in Cox's Bazar District. CREL has worked with the CMC to distribute 458 tree seedlings to betel leaf cultivators of Cox's Bazar region to rapidly propagate the supply of this tree in the betel leaf cultivation area.

