Final Report

GREEN JOB ASSESSMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SECTOR OF BANGLADESH

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Assessment of Green Jobs in Agriculture and Forestry Sector in Bangladesh

CONTENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The concept of green job is a new one. It focuses in particular on the climate change impacts on earth and search the ways for sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection at national, regional and global level. This includes jobs that help to reduce the consumption of energy and raw materials, protect and restore eco-system and biodiversity, minimize the production of waste and pollution and reduce emission of green house gases. As a part of the global green job regional initiative to familiarize the concept of green job the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) organized a conference on green job in Niigata Japan in April 2008 where Bangladesh also participated. As follow up of that conference a national workshop was held in Bangladesh in July 2008 to raise awareness of the concept of green jobs. Subsequently a formal launching of the green job initiative was held on 4 December 2008 in which it was agreed, among others, to

- formulate draft action plan of green jobs
- to make an inventory of green jobs on "who is doing what" that would support the draft action plan and other policy intervention.

As follow up of the initiative the ILO in consultation with the Ministry of Labours and Employments has launched two assessment studies in selected sectors- one on waste management, renewable energy and construction and the other on agriculture sector including forestry.

The main focus of the present study "Green Job assessment in agriculture sector" is to

- make an inventory "which organization or agency is doing what" in terms of practicing green jobs in agriculture and forestry sectors.

- identify potential employment intensive green technologies which are currently ongoing or being planned in future and those have an impact on poverty reduction, employment generation, sustainable environment and decent work.

The study was conducted as per work plan and methodology approved by ILO. It was initiated first by developing a pre-selection matrix of ongoing agricultural practices and organization involved that helped in selecting the activities and organizations. Next a data collection format was developed following "Green Job Assessment Tool" of the ILO. Then necessary information and data were collected by visiting 25 organizations. The information and the data were analyzed, compiled and presented in the report.

In agriculture sector, out of twelve, seven activities were identified as practicing green jobs. These are, of course, the major ones but not exhaustive. The activities were ranked in descending order on the basis of no. of green jobs created as follows- Mushroom cultivation, Bioslurry, Sericulture, Organic farming, Pesticide free vegetable cultivation, Bee keeping and Rain water conservation.

Besides the detail information on each activity i.e. the volume and value of the product, organizations involved in promoting the activity, constraints, if any, and development potential is presented in the report. In total 13960048 man days work has been identified in these activities which is equivalent to 38247 regular jobs.

In forestry sector five activities were studied in the same way as agriculture and presented in detail in the report. In this sector conservation of forest and biodiversity alone created more that 50% of sectoral total green jobs and ranked 1st followed by nursery, afforestation, social forestry and agroforestry. The total job created in this sector is 9681129 man days which is equivalent to 26523 regular jobs. Therefore in total (38247 + 26523) 64770 regular jobs are existing in both the sectors.

As regards successful partnership in promoting green jobs, bioslurry is the number one activity which is being promoted by 28 organizations with a strong financial support from IDCOL. It has also a very high ambitious expansion programme in future. The bioslurry being an organic matter also improves soil health for sustainable productivity. The next activity is bee keeping which is being promoted with GO (BSCIC) and about 10 others NGOs. Sericulture and mushroom culture are also being promoted by GO and NGO partnership.

In forestry sector, of course, the main activities like conservation of forestry, afforestation, and social forestry are being promoted by the Department of Forest and in some cases in partnership with Proshika. The nursery business is promoted in partnership with DAE, BADC, BRAC, Proshika with technical and financial support from Intercooperation (IC) of SDC.

The Trade Union of labourers is absent in the agriculture sector except the govt. owned farms. The union leaders are aware about the working environment, health hazards and also how to protect the environment but the general workers are unaware about these. Their awareness may be built through training, motivation etc.

The Research Institutes have taken up some adaptation and mitigation research to evolve technologies for sustainable production through countering the climate change effects. Some notable ones are submergence tolerant and salt tolerant rice variety, water logging tolerant sugarcane variety, late blight resistant potato variety, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), controlled irrigation (drip), conservation of soil health through improved cropping pattern etc.

The technologies, which has high development potential and needs to be replicated in suitable areas are re-excavation of derelict water bodies and rain water catchments, bioslurry, social forestry, agroforestry in the northwestern part, IPM, sand bar culture and mushroom cultivation, for protection of environment and sustainable production, and poverty reduction, especially of rural women.

Finally it is also recommended that value chain analysis (VCA) needs to be carried out for some of the commodities from production to consumers (transportation, processing, pacKazing etc.) so that the impact of each activity of the whole chain on the environment can be judged and necessary measures can be taken to reduce the impact and also some more green jobs can be depicted. At the beginning the commodities like mango, tea, jute and scented rice (which has local as well as export potential), may be considered.