



International
Labour
Organization

Green Jobs Initiative in Bangladesh

Towards decent work in a sustainable economy



Courtesy: Grameen Shakti

“Green growth can become a strong driver for sustainable development if green jobs are also decent jobs and if there is a just transition for enterprises and workers. A decent work approach includes the promotion of green enterprises and green jobs.....”Juan Somavia, Director General ILO.

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DECENT WORK
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What are Green Jobs?

Green jobs reduce the environmental impact of enterprises and economic sectors, ultimately to levels that are sustainable, while also meeting the standards required of ‘decent work’. They use efficient strategies to help to cut the consumption of energy, raw materials and water, so de-carbonizing the economy and minimizing - or avoid altogether - waste and pollution, so protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity.

Green jobs are found in many sectors of the economy, including energy supply, recycling, agriculture, construction and transportation.

In Bangladesh, green jobs create opportunities for employment for the poor in the renewable energy sector such as solar home systems and bio-gas. Other green jobs could be created in organic, plastic waste and lead acid battery recycling, or by construction projects – such as digging rivers and canals, constructing water reservoirs and building roads.



Courtesy: Waste Concerns

The Green Jobs Initiative in Bangladesh

The ILO Regional Office for Asia Pacific is implementing the Green Jobs Initiative in Bangladesh, China and India. The primary objective is to create links between employment and environment policies and bring them closer to sustainable development. Secondly, it aims to develop a network to document and share experiences and good practices relevant to the region.

In Bangladesh the Green Jobs Initiative is a joint Programme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the ILO. It aims to empower women and men at local level by creating green jobs that will help reduce poverty and environmental damage, and ensure decent work.



Courtesy: Ministry of Labour and Employment

The Way Forward:

On July 30, 2008, a national workshop on the Green Jobs Initiative in Bangladesh was organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the ILO in Dhaka. The aim was to encourage the active participation of policy makers and stakeholders in the Green Jobs Initiative. The workshop recommended inter-ministerial and inter-agency collaboration, the compiling of a comprehensive inventory on green jobs, awareness-raising and resource mobilization to promote the Initiative in Bangladesh.

The Initiative is being rolled with the ILO's tripartite constituents; the Government, Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), the National Coordination Committee for Workers Education (NCCWE). Other organizations are also working as partners, notably Grameen Shakti and Waste Concerns.

Key Areas of Work in Bangladesh:

1. *Assessment of green jobs in four sectors: agriculture, renewable energy, waste management and construction.*
2. *Strengthening the work of the existing partner organizations, such as the training of women entrepreneurs.*
3. *Enhancing policies, particularly the links between those that relate to green jobs, decent employment and sustaining the environment.*
4. *Sharing knowledge, lessons learnt and documenting results.*



Transporting Solar Panels by Rickshaw Vans, Courtesy: Grameen Shakti

For further information please contact

Mr. T.I.M. Nurunnabi Khan,
Programme Officer,

ILO Dhaka Office,
Road 12, House 12, Dhonmandi R/A, Dhaka 1209.
Tel: 8114705, 9112876

http://www.ilo.org/asia/countries/lang--en/WCMS_DOC_ASI_CNT_BGD_EN/index.htm