



**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT:
PEASANT WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES**



NARIPOKKHO \ UNIFEM WORKSHOP
10-14 FEBRUARY 1993
DHAKA, BANGLADESH



AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: PEASANT WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES



NARIPOKKHO \ UNIFEM WORKSHOP
10-14 FEBRUARY 1993
DHAKA, BANGLADESH

PREFACE

NARIPOKKHO/UNIFEM'S workshop on 'Agriculture and Environment: Peasant Women's Perspectives provided a unique opportunity to assess, redefine and acknowledge the role of peasant women in Bangladesh. Women are not perceived or accepted as farmers by policy makers, concerned officials nor indeed are women used to thinking of themselves as farmers. For the first time the workshop offered women an opportunity to interact with senior government officials and researchers on an equal footing and enabled all the participants to recognize the real contribution of women in agricultural production in the country. It allowed them to have a dialogue with planners, bureaucrats and activists, instead of the usual practice of being ignored and excluded from all policy dialogues and seminars. The result of this interaction was that a number of preconceived notions could be re-examined and set more in line with realities on the ground. The general consensus of the official was that such information from the field does not usually reach planners and policy makers.

The biggest difficulty Naripokkho faced in organising the workshop was the fact that from the seniormost officials to the ordinary citizen, no one could accept the concept of "women farmers". Persistent questions were raised about the existence of women peasants in Bangladesh. When questioned as to who raised the paddy and other seedlings and did all the post-harvest work, the immediate response was "the farmers' wife". Thus although women undertake 50 percent of all agricultural tasks and responsibilities, they are not given credit for it nor are they accepted as women farmers with the result that women are unable to evaluate their own contribution to the family's economic status.

In spite of the initial misgivings expressed about the need for such a workshop, Naripokkho received a great deal of support from various quarters. Government officials, academics and activists participated in the workshop and heard the views and observations of the peasant women with open minds. Different departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry provided useful literature on agriculture which were distributed amongst the participants.

Naripokkho translated the National Environment Policy into simple Bangla to enable the general people to understand its implications easily. Naripokkho also prepared a booklet of basic information on agriculture in consultation with field workers involved directly with the farmers.

Mostafa Kamal Majumdar a well known journalist and environmental activist, researched and prepared an article on all the recent publications on agriculture and environment for distribution at the workshop.

In the course of their effort to organise this workshop on 'Agriculture and Environment: Peasant Women's Perspectives' Naripokkho received generous cooperation from government and non-government officials, researchers and the people from the media and press. Naripokkho acknowledges their contributions in making the workshop a success.

Naripokkho is confident that the concerned ministries and departments of the Government will take the findings and resolutions of the workshop into consideration in formulating future agricultural policies and programmes. Most importantly, Naripokkho hopes that peasant women will receive the recognition they deserve for their contribution to the agricultural economy of Bangladesh.

Naripokkho
Dhaka

List of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
Chapter 2: The Workshop.....	3
Chapter 3: Recommendations and Findings.....	12
Chapter 4: Interviews with UNCED Delegates	17
Chapter 5: Follow-up	20
Appendix I LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	23
Appendix II QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARTICIPANTS	28
Appendix III BACKGROUND OF PARTICIPANTS.....	29
Appendix IV WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS.....	30
Appendix V GUIDELINES FOR FACILITATORS	33
Appendix VI PRESS CUTTINGS	36
Appendix VII SAMPLE REPLY TO WORKSHOP INVITATION	41
Appendix VIII COPY OF POSTERS ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN BANGLA	42

1

INTRODUCTION

Naripokkho and UNIFEM held a workshop on 'Agriculture and Environment: Peasant Women's Perspective from February 10-14, 1993. The 4 day workshop had 55 participants, of whom 27 were peasant women, 7 from government research and policy-making institutions, 1 from a non-governmental development organisation, 1 from the media, 12 facilitators, and 7 resource persons (see Appendix 1). The workshop was held in Dhaka city at the CARITAS training centre, situated at 2 Outer Circular Road, Dhaka. The venue included residential quarters and catering facilities. An open terrace provided a space for exercise sessions and free-time discussion amongst the women participants.

This workshop was part of a UNIFEM programme of grass-roots consultations towards UNCED and Global Forum and subsequent follow-up. The main objective of this programme is to help develop a strategy that will work towards the transformation of agricultural development in such a way that agricultural plans, policies, education, training and research are environmentally sound and gender-sensitive.

This programme began in Bangladesh in 1991 with a workshop on 'Women and Environment: Policies for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources', held in collaboration with ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh). UNIFEM has held similar workshops during the last two years in India, Nepal and Pakistan, also in collaboration with

local development agencies in those countries.

After successful national workshops in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, a regional conference was held in Lahore, Pakistan in February 1992. Each participating country had two representatives in this conference. The conference was also attended by people associated with policy, planning and implementation from both government and non-government sectors of all these countries.

A follow on from the Lahore Conference was the participation of three peasant women organisers (from India, Nepal and Pakistan) at the Global Forum in Brazil in May-June, 1992. These women used this opportunity to address an international audience regarding the effects of deforestation, pollution, chemical pesticides and fertilizers on their families and communities.

Against this background, UNIFEM initiated a second series of post-UNCED follow up workshops in all the participating countries. These workshops will focus on the agreements reached in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, both at the official UNCED Conference in the form of Agenda 21, and the unofficial Global Forum, in the form of the Sustainable Development Treaty, and their impact on the lives of peasant women.

The first of the follow-up workshops was held in New Delhi, India, in November 1992. The second workshop was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from February 10-14, 1993. The workshop was held in collaboration with Naripokkho, a women's organisation engaged in advocacy, research and training on the position of women in Bangladesh. This workshop highlighted women's status as equal partners in the development process, and aimed to place women in a position where

they can play their rightful and due role in the development of the society and nation.

The Dhaka programme had another component, which was to interview

UNCED delegates, in order to find out about their plans for following up the agreements at the country level, and what they hoped to accomplish from these programmes.



2

THE WORKSHOP

2.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

Naripokkho organised the workshop with three main objectives in view:

- 1) The first aim was to establish the status of women as farmers, and to gain recognition for them as such. Despite the fact that women are actively engaged in agriculture, and perform at least 50% of agricultural tasks, they are not recognised as farmers. Women do not think of themselves as farmers either. Therefore, it was important to raise peasant women's awareness of their own professional status.
- 2) On the basis of the discussions in the workshop, to produce a list of recommendations to be subsequently presented to relevant departments, ministries and agencies.
- 3) To create a forum amongst the participating women farmers, so that they can continue the discussion amongst themselves, and develop a sense of solidarity as women farmers.

2.2. PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP

As it was a follow-up workshop, the main effort was to draw participants from the previous workshop so as to establish a sense of continuity. Therefore half of the participants were sought from the previous workshop. However, they were difficult to locate, and finally 14 could attend. The new participants were contacted through a questionnaire which was sent to small, local grass-roots women's organisations. This same questionnaire was also sent to the earlier participants (Appendix 2). The main

purpose of this questionnaire was to determine the particular kind of agricultural activity the women were involved with. Some larger organisations were also included, as their main focus of work is on peasant women. A total of 99 women responded to this questionnaire, of whom 39 were from the earlier workshop and 60 were new. Of the respondents, 40 were selected, 20 old and 20 new participants.

The criteria through which the women were selected took into consideration various factors, such as (i) geographical/ecological region, (ii) various forms of agricultural activity and (iii) religion. Participants were drawn from every region, so that each agro-ecological region was represented. Similarly, different agricultural activities, including different types of cropping were considered. Thirdly, women from different religions and cultural communities were selected to represent the cultural diversity in Bangladesh (Appendix 3).

From the government sector, participants were drawn from the relevant ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Land, Department of Women's Affairs, Directorates of Environment, Fisheries and Livestock, BRRI (Bangladesh Rice Research Institute) and BARI (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute). Moreover, an agronomist from an NGO (Gonoshasthaya Kendra) also took part in the workshop. As is the practice in our country, government and policy-level people always distinguish themselves from other participants. Naripokkho emphasised a non-hierarchical interaction and dialogue and stressed on the equal status of all participants at the workshop, particularly that there was no difference between attending government personnel and other participants, especially the rural women. This was to be an experience-sharing exercise, where information from

the field was as important as the researchers' or policy-planners' knowledge.

The 6 resource persons included a professor from the Department of Botany, Dhaka University; a professor from the Department of Chemical Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; Divisional Chief and Deputy Chief (Agriculture), Ministry of Planning; Executive Director of an NGO (Centre for Mass Education for Science) dealing with science and environment; a member of Naripokkho who represented the organisation at the Global Forum in Rio; and an environmental journalist. A well-known dramatist, conducted the theatre improvisation sessions. Two resource persons were in charge of physical training and exercise.

The workshop was conducted by 11 facilitators from Naripokkho, who were helped by 12 volunteers working as rapporteurs and in assisting with the general management of the workshop. These volunteers were drawn mainly from Dhaka University students and from Naripokkho members.

2.3. PLANNING OF THE WORKSHOP

Naripokkho organised a series of meetings amongst themselves in the initial planning phase of the workshop. The Environment Group of Naripokkho held over-all charge of the programme.

The main issues that would form the basis of the workshop discussions were determined through two Rapid Rural Appraisals, conducted in two areas of Dhaka district (Savar and Jirabo). Twenty-six women were interviewed in this process, 11 in the first and 15 in the second group. These interviews revealed three important facts:

- i) despite working directly in agriculture, these women did not think of themselves as professional farmers;

- ii) the services of the government-run agricultural extension programme did not reach them; and,

- iii) they used pesticides and chemical fertilisers, without any training or know-how about the correct methods of application.

These findings helped greatly in identifying issues for the workshop discussions. On the basis of these findings, workshop participants were divided into four groups. A detailed guideline was prepared for the facilitators in each group. Moreover, prior interviews with UNCED delegates and government personnel also helped us to identify the discussion themes that would be useful and relevant.

Naripokkho prepared a booklet in simple Bangla compiling important information on agriculture and Bangladesh government's policy on environment. This information was collected through interviews with relevant persons in the departments of agriculture and environment as well as from documents collected from these persons. This was printed and distributed to participants.

Naripokkho also collected various agricultural extension leaflets and posters for distribution to the participants.

2.4. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop was held from February 10-14, 1993. Participants arrived on the evening of the 10th and were duly registered. Due to a transport strike only 27 participants out of 40 were able to attend.

The workshop began at 6 p.m. with an introductory session. Of the 27 participants, 14 were participants from the previous workshop, while 13 were new participants.

The introductory session was devoted to the women speaking about their position as women farmers, and in trying to relate their personal experiences to women's position in Bangladeshi society as a whole. In this session, personal life stories and experiences were shared. Naripokkho facilitators introduced the concept of maternal identity, and encouraged women to introduce themselves not only through their husbands or fathers, but also through their mothers. The session was very lively, and established good ground for communication between Naripokkho and the women participants.

A complete description of the day-to-day activities of the workshop is given in Appendix 4 and the programme schedule of the workshop in Appendix 5. The workshop used a variety of formats and methodologies.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE

A 45-minute exercise session was the first programme for each day. Physical inhibition is a great barrier in women's self-expression and spontaneity. Physical exercise sessions were meant to break this inhibition and to show how physical restrictions hamper communication and expression. Physical exercises and games on an open terrace were indeed an invigorating experience, and for many participants it was the first time that they had allowed their limbs such freedom in the open air. These sessions were conducted by Nasreen Huq, member of Naripokkho assisted by Obaida Haque, a Naripokkho volunteer. The exercises included physical training, calisthenics, self-defence, yelling exercises, games and singing. This gave women an opportunity to open up to each other even before the day's activities started, providing a space for sharing.

THEATRE IMPROVISATION

These sessions were lively and created a lot of interest amongst the women. As part of physical relaxation and learning new modes of self-expression, these sessions helped the women to act out many of the issues that they had been discussing during the day. It also helped to relate personal experiences and problems to the over-all situation of women, enabling women to project themselves and their problems to a wider audience. The improvised skits were based on the women's personal experiences, and were not limited to the discussion schedule of the workshop, but dealt with wider issues affecting women's lives, such as violence, dowry, and gender discrimination. These sessions, though lively and enjoyable, were at the same time intensive. The skits were produced through a process of discussion and the acting capacities of the participants were released through exercises such as role-playing and games. No observers were allowed, as performers were required to be equally participating in the sessions. This seemed to create some problems for some resource persons, as well as for the video team who were not allowed to film these sessions in the beginning.

IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS

This was done in group discussions divided into four main topics - high land agriculture, low land agriculture, forestry and horticulture. Fisheries and livestock were discussed in all the groups. These thematic divisions were determined through the questionnaires, which had been sent to the participants prior to selection. Previous consultations with the facilitators were made and a guideline for discussion prepared accordingly (Appendix 6).

The sessions concentrated on the experiences of the women, and were

spontaneous and lively. These sessions were restricted to participation by the women farmers and workshop facilitators. Government participants were not included in this session, as their presence may have inhibited the women. Problems were identified on the basis of the women's own observations, and emphasised their position both as women and farmers. For example, the women talked about the ill effects of chemical fertilisers, whose application may yield a good crop the first year, but not in the following seasons. Also, they noticed the ill effects of pesticides. Only big farmers can afford to use them. Often, small landholdings are affected when they are situated next to larger holdings, as pesticide effluent is washed into them. Along with the usual problems associated with deforestation, the women identified a special problem which affects women only. Lack of trees means a lack of privacy and shelter, hindering women in their toilet needs. Also, lack of trees results in a greater confinement for women, as they are often reprimanded by family elders for even standing in the family courtyard, which is now exposed and not hidden by trees as it had been in the past.

SEEKING SOLUTIONS

This was also done in the four groups, but this time both the government and NGO participants were included, joining groups according to their interests. The emphasis was on dialogue, and it was stressed that government and policy-level people and the women needed to learn and hear equally from one another. The hierarchy between the two was broken, and both listened to each other. Many a time the women disagreed with government policies and criticised them freely. For example, women farmers strongly objected to the use of chemical fertilisers, on the basis of their personal experience with fertiliser use. They reported that the use of such fertilisers

decreases the fertility of the land. They claimed that the amount of fertiliser needed for the same yield increases every year. However, many of the Government officials and researchers did not agree with their observations. These discussions formed the basis from which the final recommendations were drawn. These group discussions culminated in a plenary session, where the problems highlighted in each group were discussed, as well as the recommendations that had been made.

INTERACTION WITH GOVERNMENT

The need for a continued dialogue between peasant women and government was emphasised. Conversations in the group discussions brought out dramatically the kinds of issues that Naripokkho wanted to highlight. For example, in the high land agriculture subgroup, Monwara Akhter, a landless woman, was asked on what basis she identified herself as a farmer. She replied that she may not have any land, but she drives a tractor for her organisation. She thought that the nature of her work defines her as a farmer.

Similarly, in the low land agriculture group, participants discussed the problems of women farmers. This discussion extended from the special problem of women farmers to discuss the problems that are common to all women. Mumtaz Begum from Faridpur surprised everyone present when she asked one of the researchers, Daulatunnessa Chowdhury of BARI, whether she faced any discrimination at her place of work. Daulatunnessa replied that she did not get the same facilities as her male colleagues, e.g. she was not given a motor cycle. The issue of discrimination was discussed as a general problem for all women, no matter where they are situated.

After the plenary session on the second day, Dr. Shamsuzzaman Majumdar,

Division Chief (Agriculture) of the Ministry of Planning, admitted that most planners were completely unaware of many of the problems he had heard discussed that day, and that the planning process often overlooked real issues. Planners should and must listen to problems from the field. He said that attending this workshop had been a great experience for him, as he had never attended such a workshop before and had no idea that peasant women could articulate their problems so fluently and seek and recommend solutions so intelligently. He agreed with the findings of the workshop and assured his support for the implementation of the recommendations in all future programmes and policies.

INTERACTION WITH UNCED AND GLOBAL FORUM DELEGATES

One of the aims of the workshop was to inform participants about some of the issues discussed and decisions reached at the Earth Summit in Rio in May 1992: This was done through a series of presentations by Bangladeshi delegates who had attended UNCED and the Global Forum. Each speaker was asked to make a 15 minute presentation, allowing 30 minutes for discussion on each speaker.

The most popular presentation in this series was by Professor A.Z.N. Tahmida Begum who presented a paper on '**Alternatives to Chemical Fertilizer in Bangladesh**'. Her paper was based on her own research, which is looking at the use of natural organic fertilizer as nitrogen fixers, as well as other nutrients in the soil instead of chemical fertilizer. She brought samples from her experimental work for demonstration. The participants collected seeds of plants which would be helpful in fixing nitrogen and nutrients in the soil.

Maximum controversy followed Mostafa Kamal Majumdar's discussion on

'**Toxicity and Chemical Fertilizer**'. It may be mentioned here that Mostafa Kamal Majumdar is a journalist and was the only speaker in this session who had not been present at the Rio conferences. He presented a paper on incidents of toxicity of chemical fertilizer usage as reported to him. The participant researchers opposed some of his conclusions strongly. The lively debate that followed pointed out the difficulties of demystifying science. It also brought out the gap between scientific research and actual field application. Scientists carry out their research confined in a laboratory and are not integrated with actual field application. As such, they do not know how their research can actually be applied in the field. They were unwilling to listen to this field experience, so that a meeting-point between scientific research and its application remained very difficult.

The other presentations included Professor Ikhtyar Omar's talk on '**Atmospheric Conditions in Bangladesh and Their Impact on The Lives of Our People**'. His main focus was on environmental degradation, and the man-made causes that have led to this phenomenon. Deforestation was one of the main causes that he stressed. Slides were used extensively to illustrate these points.

Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, from the Centre for Mass Education in Sciences (an NGO) talked on the issue of '**Bio-Diversity**'. He highlighted the extinction of varieties in crops and fishes. He also gave a brief and simple resume of the discussion on bio-diversity in the Global Forum.

Shireen Huq of Naripokkho presented a talk on '**The Global Forum: Women and the Environment Conference**'. She presented the main debate surrounding women at the global forum. Firstly, she explained the tendency to link women to nature because of their biology and

biological role and dangers of pursuing such a strategy. Women were seen primarily as preservers of the environment and there was a tendency to confine them to this role. Secondly, she highlighted the debate around reproductive rights and population policy.

PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

About 250 people, from a wide range of disciplines, were invited to the closing session. Journalists, NGO workers, development workers, members of women's organisations, agriculturalists, government officials and interested individuals attended.

The function began with a reading of an excerpt from Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, a celebrated feminist writer in Bengali literature (1880-1932). The excerpt described the lot of farmers in Bangladesh at the beginning of the century. This helped to place the present discussion within a wider historical and cultural context.

The highlight of the closing session were the skits presented by the women. These skits had been developed in the theatre improvisation sessions. The workshop recommendations were presented by Archana Rani Dey, a participant from Sylhet, with the help of transparencies and an overhead projector. Zulekha Begum, participant from Gaibandha, gave a concluding speech on behalf of all the participants, spelling out what the workshop had meant for her and others. She stressed the need for such workshops, at the local, national and international levels, as well as the need for continued dialogue between government and women farmers. Short speeches were also given by Eva Freidlander, UNIFEM consultant and Fazila Bano Lily, Convenor Naripokkho, both of whom gave a background of the programme from the perspectives of their respective organisations.

Special thought was given to planning the closing session. The participation of all the peasant women in the concluding session was considered important. Given that not all the women were literate, reading out of written material was ruled out as the main presentation form. Moreover the tradition of reading out speeches and long lists of recommendations does not draw the audience into the spirit of things, and often proves to be tedious and uninteresting. An attempt was made to break out of the mould of speeches, and to present the recommendations and findings in a manner that would not only enable non-literate persons to present, but at the same time be lively and engage the audience actively into the programme. In this regard, the theatre improvisations were very successful, as was the use of the overhead projector in presenting the list of recommendations.

TOUR OF DHAKA CITY

After the closing session, the peasant women participants were taken on a bus tour of Dhaka city. At the end of the tour, the bus took them to the old part of the city where they dined at a restaurant. This was a very exciting experience for many, as this was the first time they had visited Dhaka or eaten at a restaurant.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Each day ended with a review session of the day's proceedings. On the basis of this review, the programme for the following day was discussed and when necessary revised. Each day, the discussion sessions began with a resume of the previous day's activities, which was presented by two of the participants.

The participants' evaluation was made at the end of the third day of the workshop, when they were asked to give their frank opinions of the workshop.

a) Their first reaction can be gauged by the happiness they expressed at receiving letters directly addressed to them, rather than through organisations. For many, it was the first letter that had been addressed to them and they had saved these letters with care. The follow-up participants specially appreciated this personal touch, as the invitation for the first workshop (in 1991) had been sent to the directors of their organisations, and they had subsequently been chosen to attend the workshop. For many of the new participants this was their first workshop, and for others, it was their first trip to Dhaka.

b) The workshop inspired the women participants to identify themselves as farmers and peasants. They agreed with Naripokkho that social recognition of women as farmers is missing, but they said that they had never identified or thought of themselves as such. This new identity which the workshop had made them aware of awakened a professional pride in them. 'I have two kathas (3 decimals) of land, my husband does the ploughing only. I do all the rest. But no-one recognises me as a farmer,' commented one of the women. Another woman commented that 'It is said that it is unlucky for women to work in the fields, but we know that is not true.'

c) The atmosphere in the workshop allowed for questions, discussions and comments from which participants had benefitted greatly, and felt inspired to continue such discussions with other women in their own areas. The easy atmosphere and the emphasis on discussion rather than training was a new experience; something that was really useful in expressing themselves. The need for many more such workshops was stressed, but the comment was that they should be regional or area-based workshops, where peasant women can come together.

d) Participants appreciated the leaflets, booklets and posters that were distributed during the workshop. A booklet prepared by Naripokkho contained a simplified version of the government's environment policy as well as primary agricultural information. Other booklets had been collected from different government departments such as fisheries, agricultural extension, livestock and poultry, as well as from research organisations such as BIRRI and BARI. The women felt these booklets were very useful and they would be able to use them extensively in their own meetings. Naripokkho's own posters on International Women's Day, on the Girl Child and commemorating Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain were also distributed. These posters could serve as a link between them and the overall concerns of the women's movement.

e) The favourite sessions were the theatre improvisations, which were really novel, and helped to 'liberate' latent acting talents. 'I didn't know I could act', was the comment of many. Not only could women act, they could put together plays on their own. They felt they could impart similar training to their friends in future and continue with such activities in their own areas. The exercise sessions were equally appreciated.

2.5. NARIPOKKHO'S EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP

This was done in working sessions after the completion of the workshop. Both the planning and implementation of the workshop was taken into consideration in the evaluation.

PLANNING STAGE

a) It was difficult to contact participants from the previous workshop as their addresses were not available in

the report presented by ADAB. Only names and districts were mentioned in the report, and they were finally contacted by a very complicated system, i.e. by getting in touch with the district organisation, and then following them through at their personal addresses. Naripokkho took special care to keep the contact at a personal level, writing to the women directly. The effort was to bring the women in directly instead of through their organisations. Correspondence was started in the month of December, and a close connection was established with the participants even before the workshop began.

b) It was difficult to get government participants, as many of them were not willing to admit the significance and importance of such workshops. However, there was a change in this attitude amongst those government participants who attended the workshop, as they themselves reiterated the need for such dialogues to continue. It must be mentioned here that none of the government participants attended the daily review sessions.

c) The questionnaire for the UNCED delegates was cumbersome and complicated, so that many of the delegates were unable to answer the queries.

d) February is not a good month to hold a workshop in Bangladesh. This month is devoted to the memory of the language martyrs of 1952, and many people and organisations are engaged in programmes connected to this event. The press is geared to cultural and literary happenings, rather than other issues. Despite this, the press covered the workshop proceedings, and a sample of that is attached (see Appendix 7).

e) Interviewing UNCED delegates was difficult, specially as government officials were not easily available or cooperative. A

lot of time and energy had to be spent in arranging these interviews.

f) The word 'peasant women' (krishak nari) met with a lot of surprise and resistance from everybody, including government participants, reporters and resource people. One of the achievements of the workshop is the acceptance that this term got, as even newspaper reports talked about it as a workshop on women peasants. This awareness was initially missing in many of the women participants themselves and they left with a recognition of their professional identity and a sense of pride and dignity.

IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

a) The opening date of the workshop unfortunately coincided with a nationwide hartal or strike, which deterred many participants from making the long journey to Dhaka. That is why, of the 40 invited women, only 27 came to the workshop. The letter included in Appendix 8 is from a woman who could not eventually come to the workshop, proving that despite interest and enthusiasm, many women could not participate. Women had to face many obstacles on their way to Dhaka. Their families were not willing to let them travel under the circumstances. Then there were unnecessary delays and harassments on the way. Similarly, the workshop ended on the eve of a 48-hour transport strike making the journey back equally difficult.

b) The workshop venue was not at a good location, situated as it is in the heart of the city. A better and more appropriate venue would have been in one of the agricultural research institutes, situated on the outskirts of the city. However, the residential and catering facilities at the centre are excellent and the cost is very reasonable.

c) A few of the participants were not directly engaged in agricultural activities.

Despite the detailed questionnaire that was sent to them, some participants were not farmers. For example, one of the participants was a primary school teacher and another was associated with a handicraft project. However, they were all rural women and as such had some connection with agricultural activities. Also, the questionnaire method did not prove to be adequate for contacting real women farmers, i.e., women who actually work on the land. In the areas where a Rapid Rural Appraisal was carried out, it was easier to contact women farmers and participants from these areas were women who worked directly on the land.

d) The workshop created a friendly and congenial atmosphere, where meaningful interchange of ideas could take place. The workshop was designed to overcome pre-existing social hierarchies and make people from all social and professional levels come together on a common platform.

e) A good outcome of the workshop was the contact that was established between these women and Naripokkho, between the women themselves and with the government representatives who attended the workshop. These contacts must be maintained and strengthened.

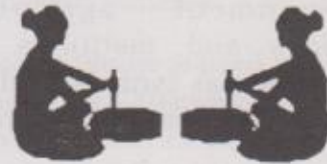
f) The group discussions emphasised on agriculture and environment, with the result that specific women's issues were not brought up in the recommendations. The question of violence was not discussed at length, and neither were the special difficulties women have in accessing rural and agricultural resources. Despite this, some specific problems, such as lack of privacy or difficulty of training were brought up.

g) The workshop planning started in the month of December, but payment from the UNDP Dhaka office was only made on the 8th of February, 1993, one day before

the workshop was due to start. This caused a lot of tension to both Naripokkho and UNIFEM, and it was only through the special efforts of Chandni Joshi, the Regional Programme Adviser of UNIFEM that the payment was finally made. Naripokkho, in the meantime, had to borrow money to meet the expenses involved in preparing for the workshop. It must be remembered that a woman's voluntary organisation cannot readily provide funds to conduct such a programme and care should be taken to make the payment promptly.

h) The video team was an obtrusive and disturbing presence, interrupting the flow of discussion and activities. The video team had not been previously integrated into the programme and were not part of the planning process.

i) Last-minute requests for interpretation facilities had to be provided for both the video team and the UNIFEM consultant. As these had not been planned previously, the interpretation could not be satisfactory and many facilitators had to double as interpreters, thereby hampering their own work.



3

RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

The recommendations and findings are presented under 4 broad headings as follows:

3.1. AGRICULTURE

The main problem is that though women perform at least half of the agricultural tasks they are not recognised as farmers. Therefore women are not considered in government policies and plans on agriculture. In the media, women are never presented as farmers and their role and participation in agriculture is completely invisibilised.

SOLUTIONS PROPOSED WERE:

a) Government agricultural organisations and institutes must recognise women as farmers, and make special allocations available for them as farmers.

b) Women must be identified and presented as farmers and their role in agriculture must be highlighted in the government-controlled media and other organisations.

c) In government statistics and census figures, women engaged in agriculture must be identified and recognised as farmers.

d) To increase awareness of this issue, more research and other programmes have

to be undertaken both at the government and non-governmental levels.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

FERTILIZER

The use of chemical fertilizers is proving to be harmful to the soil. The reasons for this were identified as follows: i) inappropriate use of fertilizer; ii) inadequate use without determining nature of soil; iii) lack of knowledge on the part of farmers regarding application of fertilizer and iv) distribution and use of toxic fertilizer.

The negative effects of such use are visible in the spread of toxicity in the soil and environment and reduction of soil fertility.

SOLUTIONS PROPOSED WERE:

a) A specific and pragmatic agricultural policy has to be undertaken and the participation of farmers in the policy-framing has to be ensured.

b) Information regarding the use of fertilizer has to be disseminated to the field level.

c) To disseminate this information, the following steps have to be taken:

- Agricultural training has to be ensured for both male and female farmers.
- The use of organic and natural fertilizers has to be enhanced.
- Agricultural extension services have to be reached both to male and female farmers.
- A committee has to be set to evaluate and monitor agricultural extension services at the field level. This committee should be composed of both male and female farmers.
- A speedy transmission of information about agricultural methods must be ensured at the field level.
- The public media has to be geared to spread such information.

PESTICIDES

The use of pesticides has been detrimental for the soil, crops and people. The main detrimental effects identified are:

- i) The creation of environmental imbalance;
- ii) the pollution of both surface and ground water;
- iii) soil degradation and atmospheric pollution and
- iv) the destruction of insects and animals which protect the environment.

Lack of information and knowledge results in many accidents; pesticides are a ready source of poison which are used many a time (mainly by women) for committing suicide. Pesticides which have been condemned because of their toxicity are often imported by countries like Bangladesh, and are used extensively.

THE SOLUTIONS PROPOSED WERE:

- a) IPM (Integrated Pest Management) programme must be reached to the village level. This programme emphasises the protection of useful and friendly insects and animals, as well as the use of baits and traps for the destruction of pests.
- b) Appropriate information about the use of pesticides must be reached to all farmers.
- c) Public awareness must be created about pesticides that are banned in other countries and the import of such pesticides must be banned.
- d) Small units must be set up at the field level for the destruction of pests. However, if the pest menace cannot be controlled at the local level, government must ensure speedy and effective measures.

SEEDS

The main problems identified were shortage of high quality seeds, price of seeds and the inability to reach seeds to farmers in time for planting.

THE SOLUTIONS PROPOSED WERE:

- a) To make seeds available to farmers at an adequate price;
- b) Training for the maintenance of high yielding seeds. Farmers must be trained to produce and preserve these seeds at the farm level.
- c) To ensure the production of high yielding seeds at both government and non-government levels.

3.3 FORESTRY AND FRUIT CULTIVATION

The main problem was seen to be the unplanned cutting of trees. Afforestation programmes are not carried out properly. Immature trees are cut down. Government auction policies do not yield the right price for trees. At the time of auction, more land than is shown is sold off. This is due to lack of supervision and corruption. This results in the destruction of our natural resources, which in turn affects environmental balance.

Valuable timber is used as fuel because of lack of firewood. Unplanned construction of brick fields, where timber is used for fuel, also results in the destruction of valuable trees as well as causing environmental pollution.

Destruction of fruit trees leads to nutritional deficiency as essential vitamins are lost due to lack of fruits.

THE SOLUTIONS PROPOSED WERE:

- a) Widespread and planned afforestation programmes have to be undertaken.

b) When government leases out land for a specific purpose (such as rubber or pineapple plantation), it must ensure that the leased land is used for the planned purpose. In case of failure to do this, the government must have the machinery to take back the land and get adequate compensation.

c) The cutting of immature trees has to be banned, and a strict adherence to this law must be ensured. Creation of a wide public awareness about this issue is necessary.

d) When a tree is so old that it becomes a part of the area, it also becomes the property of the community. As such, the government has no right to cut such trees as this decision can only be taken by the community.

e) Forest areas cannot be auctioned off by the government. If such areas are sold to other buyers, the government has to sell them at the commercial rate. Auctions are often manipulated by corrupt officials.

f) High-yielding firewood trees, such as ipil-ipil and traditional firewood trees, should be planted.

g) Local people have to be involved in the management of forest areas in order to control government corruption specially regarding sale of forest land and trees.

h) Brick kilns should be established only on unoccupied and barren lands.

i) The ban against the use of timber in brick kilns must be enforced. The use of coal and other fuel has to be ensured in brick fields.

j) A wide variety and large number of fruit trees must be planted. Improved saplings and seedlings must be planted. Fruit trees must be planted around the homestead, on the roadsides and beside canals in large numbers.

3.4. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK FARMING AND PISCICULTURE

The problems identified were lack of information about better methods of livestock farming at the village and farm level. Also, extension services are not adequate in this area, such as the lack of vaccination for chicks. Lack of grazing pasture is a big problem for cattle farming. The training of veterinary doctors is not good, and they are usually not available to cattle farmers. Cattle are stolen and killed for their skins. Timely insemination is also a problem, often resulting in sterility. Inadequate supply of fish fry and fingerlings and spread of disease amongst fish are problems faced by fish farmers. Lack of information is also felt in this area.

SOLUTIONS PROPOSED WERE:

a) Adequate training facilities must be made available, as well as the dissemination of information to the farm level.

b) Adequate supply of vaccines for improved variety chicks has to be ensured. Also, the ampules for the vaccines must be made smaller. At present, one ampule contains vaccines for a 100 birds. Often, small homestead farmers do not possess so many birds and they cannot store the vaccines because they do not have refrigeration facilities. So, the size of the ampules have to be made commensurate with the needs of the farmers.

c) Adequate training in pisciculture must also be given to farmers, along with knowledge about the latest scientific techniques regarding pisciculture.

d) More research has to be devoted to fish disease. Information about this must also be disseminated to the field level.

e) Grazing areas must be increased and good grass made available at the village level.

f) Veterinary doctors have to be adequately trained, and posted at the village level. The public must also be made aware of this service.

g) Cattle breeding must be planned and training regarding this matter must be carefully imparted to cattle-breeders.

To ensure the implementation of these recommendations, all concerned personnel from the government have to perform their roles and duties with commitment. Different institutions were identified, and their specific task or roles were also spelt out in this list of recommendations. These institutions are the government, political parties, NGO's or development organisations and women's groups.

3.5 ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

a) Preparation of a government policy on agriculture and environment.

b) Research on agriculture and environment-related issues.

c) More allocation in the above-mentioned areas.

d) Monitoring of services.

e) Strengthening of evaluation and monitoring services.

f) Media projection of women as farmers and the role of women farmers in agriculture.

g) Coordination between government services from the secretariat to the field level.

h) A committee to be set up for the evaluation of extension services. This committee must include peasants, including women peasants.

3.6 ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

a) Coordination with government agencies for the implementation of policies upto the field level.

b) Identification of government mismanagement and creation of pressure on government to rectify these.

c) Coordination amongst various agencies for the implementation of the needs and wants of farmers.

d) International agencies must be gender-sensitive, and make sure that women are included in their programmes, both at the field level and the level of implementation. The planning process must also include women.

3.7 POLITICAL PARTIES AND SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS

a) Inclusion of women's issues in manifestoes and a central role to be given to women farmers in programmes.

b) Highlighting the contribution of women farmers in political speeches and statements and recognising that women constitute half of the agricultural labour force.

c) Creation of pressure on government to overcome mismanagement and to recognise the role of women as farmers.

3.8 WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

a) To coordinate and facilitate dialogues between the government and women peasants.

b) To create wide social and political awareness regarding the role and position of women farmers.

c) To influence the public media to portray the role and position of women farmers positively.



4

INTERVIEWS WITH UNCED DELEGATES

4.1. INTRODUCTION

This was part of the follow-up programme of interviews with UNCED and Global Forum delegates and UNIFEM. As such, some of the Bangladesh delegates to the Rio conference were interviewed. A set of questions prepared by UNIFEM was used for these interviews. Naripokkho made a questionnaire based on this, and sent it to 9 UNCED delegates. Of them, 7 were interviewed.

The interviewees were selected by first procuring a list of UNCED participants from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. From the list, we chose participants from the ministry and directorate on the basis of their involvement in the preparation of the government Environmental policy. A.Z.N. Tahmida Begum was the only non-government (University) person in the UNCED delegation, as well as the only female representative from Bangladesh at UNCED. (However, many women were present in the non-government Global Forum). The following is the list of interviewees:

1. Abdullah Al-Noman, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Government of Bangladesh.

2. Fazlul Haque, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Government of Bangladesh.
3. Sultan Mahmud Khan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Government of Bangladesh.
4. Humayun Kabir, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Government of Bangladesh.
5. Risalat Ahmed, Director-General, Directorate of Environment, Government of Bangladesh.
6. Anwarul Islam, Deputy Director, Directorate of Environment, Government of Bangladesh.
7. A.Z.N. Tahmida Begum, Professor, Department of Botany, Dhaka University.

4.2. METHODOLOGY

As suggested by UNIFEM, the questionnaire was first sent to the interviewees. Despite continual reminders and requests, only 1 completed questionnaire was returned. That is why the final interviews were done personally, as most government officials do not have the time or the motivation to fill in such questionnaires.

Each individual interview took 2 days, spanning an average of 4.5 hours. Two interviewers were simultaneously present at the interviews, with one person interviewing and the other recording the interview in a written form. The rest of the 6 unreturned questionnaires were also completed and returned during the course of the interviews.

4.3. FINDINGS

1. The major achievements of UNCED were identified as i) increased environmental awareness; ii) inclusion of increased environmental awareness into the development process; iii) increased bargaining capacity of developing nations; iv) identification of role of developing nations; v) emphasis on role of NGOs and vi) establishment of solidarity among developing nations.
2. The major problems were seen to be i) the failure to identify implementation mechanisms, as time limits and legal boundaries were not set down; ii) the lack of specific commitments regarding funds from developed nations; iii) the absence of discussion on atomic, nuclear or biological weapons and iv) the failure to produce specific recommendations for developed nations in the matter of waste disposal and control of consumption.
3. The most important conventions were identified as the following:
 - i) Convention on Climate - This affects Bangladesh directly as it is immensely and adversely affected by the process of global warming.
 - ii) Convention on Bio-Diversity - Bangladesh is rich in bio-diversity and this convention will help us to maintain our natural variety of fish, flowers, fruits and so on.
 - iii) Convention on Forestry - This will help to curb the depletion of forests and enhance the forest resources in Bangladesh.
4. When asked to list the 5 most important agreements, 2 more agreements were added to the above list:
 - i) Agenda 21 - If implemented, this will really help in containing environmental degradation.
 - ii) Rio Declaration - This has provided a good forum to work towards development which is environmentally safe and sustainable.
5. When asked to comment on the way that women are included in the listed agreements or in any other agreements reached, the delegates felt that most agreements did not address the question of women separately. They were of the opinion that some issues, specially regarding women's health, could have been addressed separately. Also, as far as implementation procedures were concerned, women's participation in the development process was not clearly discussed. The main limitations of the agreements reached at the UNCED conference were: i) women were practically left out of the mainstream of development; ii) the lack of literacy amongst women was not taken into consideration and iii) women were not included in the policy and planning stages, and therefore have not been directly integrated into the development process.
6. When asked to recommend ways to overcome these limitations, the main points made were the following: i) women must be brought in the mainstream of development; ii) women's literacy rate has to be enhanced and iii) women have to be included at every level - national, international and local - in planning and policy-making about environmental issues.
7. Government's role in the process of drawing women into the mainstream of development was emphasised, as well as the coordination between government and NGOs.
8. As regards funding for the implementation of Agenda 21, it was felt that besides external funding, local resource mobilisation was very important. Women could play a very important part in this process.
9. Regarding the inclusion of women in the new institutional steps that would come out of UNCED, it was felt that a revolutionary breakthrough could not be anticipated, but that the process of mainstreaming women in the development process would ensure the gradual participation of women.

10. As regards the Global Forum, UNCED delegates felt that UNCED policies had been greatly influenced by the Global Forum. The Global Forum had ensured the participation of a wide variety of people, specially from the grass-roots level. It was felt that the success of UNCED would depend largely on Global Forum cooperation.
 - ii) Women's Groups - important in ensuring the participation of women in every sphere, and of highlighting women's role in the development process.
 - iii) Researchers - to identify gaps between government and non-government initiatives, and to point to new areas of action. Research must be guided to include women more directly into development.
11. As regards the NGO Sustainable Agricultural Treaty, it was felt that the treaty had successfully dealt with the relationship of agriculture and environmental issues. Also, NGOs were seen to be more effective in the implementation of such treaties, drawing as they do more participation from the grass roots.
12. The role of different organisations and groups were seen in the following manner:
 - i) NGOs - important role in motivation and in relating agriculture with developmental initiatives and activities.
13. The role of government and non-governmental organisations was envisaged as divided between policy and implementation, with the government taking on the role of policy and planning, and the NGOs, with their better outreach facilities, in charge of implementation.
14. The difference between North and South, or between developed and developing countries, was seen to be a very prominent feature of UNCED. The division between these two groups made the conference a forum where real differences were aired and discussed.



5

FOLLOW-UP

Naripokkho is looking at the follow-up at two levels: i) the direct follow-up from the workshop and ii) a continuing and expanding contact with smaller women's organisations and with women at the grass roots. This contact will further the task of linking in these grass roots voices with international forum. This would enrich and make more meaningful the international agenda, and would make our own women - our constituency - come in direct contact with international discussions, agreements and agendas that have a bearing on their lives.

i) At the first level, a follow-up has been planned for December 1994. The list of recommendations will be drawn up as a memorandum, and presented to the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, the Ministry of Forests and Environment and the Ministry for Women's Affairs. This will be done jointly by Naripokkho members and representatives of participating peasant women.

ii) Some of the participating women met with the visiting UNIFEM representative in Dhaka during 6th-8th of October, 1993.

iii) At the second level, Naripokkho is maintaining regular contact with the 27 women participants. In March 1993 and 1994, Naripokkho sent International Women's Day leaflets to all the women who had come to the workshop. These leaflets described the historical significance of the day, as well as put forward a strong protest against the way

women are treated in the legal systems, both in the informal village courts as well as the formal courts.

iv) One of the objectives is to draw peasant women into the mainstream women's movement. Naripokkho intends to follow up this workshop with small area-based workshops over the following two years. Thirteen such workshops have already been held focusing on environment and fertility desire of women in different agro-ecological zones of the country. It is also hoped that the women who had come from different parts of the country will keep in touch with each other, so that the exchange of experience and information which took place in this workshop can continue.

v) Naripokkho has in its various meetings and sessions thought of ways of merging or bringing these women participants into the wider women's movement. Just as the UNIFEM workshops have been guided by a desire to incorporate grass-roots women's voices in the UNCED and Global Forum processes, so Naripokkho is planning to draw these women together into the process of preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (FWCW), enabling grass-roots women's voices to be heard there. Naripokkho facilitated the participation of Momtaz Begum, one of the participants from the workshop at the Asia Pacific NGO Symposium on WID held in Manila in November 1993 in preparation for FWCW.

Naripokkho has already conducted 4 grass roots level workshops in Dinajpur, Jessore, Noakhali and Bogra as a way of incorporating their participation into the preparation process for FWCW. Naripokkho plans to hold a convention in early 1995 involving 300 women's groups as a platform to endorse a Women's Agenda based on the grass roots level workshops and 8 issue based

consultations to take place in the second half of 1994. These 400 women delegates will include participants from the Peasant Women's workshop, as well as the 4 grass roots level workshops already held. Moreover, Naripokkho has prepared an inventory of small, local women's organisations, a constituency which is normally not noticed at the national or

international level. The main thrust in Naripokkho's work for Beijing will be the incorporation of grass roots women's voices. The convention will help cull a set of recommendations, as well as identify delegates for Beijing itself thereby building up a direct link between international conferences on women and grass roots women in our country.



APPENDICES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Principal Investigator

Dr. [Name]

[Address]

[City]

[State]

[Country]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

[Institution]

[Address]

[City]

[State]

[Country]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

[Institution]

[Address]

[City]

[State]

[Country]

APPENDICES

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

Appendix I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

■ Peasant Women

Participants' names and addresses:

1. Ms. Tamizan Bewa
Samaj Progati Parishad
Vill.- Darfarpur
Post- Bajnahar
Union- 5 No Birol, PS-Birol
Dinajpur.
2. Ms. Gulshan Ara Begum
Samaj Progati Parishad
Vill.-Nazampur
Post.- Bajnahar
Union- 3 NO Dhomoir
P.S.- Birol, Dinajpur.
3. Ms. Parvin Begum
Samaj Progati Parishad
Vill.-Muktichak, Post-Kadamtala
P.S.- Khadimpara, Sylhet.
4. Ms. Archana Rani Dey
Voluntary Association For Rural Development (VARD)
Shahjalal, Sylhet.
5. Ms. Amena Begum
Thengamara Mahila Sabuj Shangha
Vill- Thengamara, Post-Ghokul
P.S.-Bogra, Bogra.
6. Ms. Nazma Sarkar
Thengamara Mahila Sabuj Shangha
Vill.- Thengamara, Post-Ghokul
P.S.-Bogra, Bogra.
7. Ms. Monwara Bewa
Uttoran Shangha
Samaj Progati Parishad
32 Upendra Chakravarty Street
Amlapara, Kushtia.
8. Ms. Pali Begum
Uttoran Shangha
Somaj Progati Parishad
32 No. Upendra Chakravarty Street
Amlapara, Kushtia.
9. Ms. Mosammat Hazera Khatoon
Gonokalyan Sangstha
Vill.-Kalupara
Post-Motia
Malipara-Taras, Sirajganj.

10. Ms. Mosammat Fatema Begum
Gonokalyan Songstha
Vill.-Majhira, Post-Lalna Majhira
Taras, Sirajganj.
11. Ms. Rokeya Begum
Saptagram Nari Swanirbhar Parishad
Husband: Nihajuddin Matabbar
Vill.- Phurosh, Post.- Tablugkhan
Faridpur.
12. Ms. Mamtaj Begum
Saptagram Nari Swanirbhar Parishad
Vill.-Baithakhali, Post.-Komorpur
Thana-Kotwali, Faridpur.
13. Ms. Zulekha Begum
Gono Unnayan Kendra
V-AID Road, Bangla Bazar
Gaibandha.
14. Ms. Rahela Begum
Palli Mangal Karmasuchi
Jirabo, Savar,
Dhaka.
15. Ms. Chamali Patak
Sapla Mohila Samiti,
Vill: Bakli, Aparkhan,
Narail.
16. Ms. Saraswathi Adikari
Shapla Mohila Samiti
Vill- Bakli, Post-Aparkhan, Narail.
17. Ms. Beli Chakma
Milonpur Mohila Samiti
Khagrachari, Chittagong Hill Tracts.
18. Ms. Indira Chakma
Milonpur Mahila Somiti
Khagrachari, Chittagong Hill Tracts.
19. Ms. Abeda Khatoon
Bonochaya Mohila Kalyan Samiti
Sonadanga Main Road
Post- K.D.A. New Market, Khulna.
20. Ms. Bibi Khotiza Begum
Vill.-Charait Kandhi
Post- Motigonj, P.S.- Shonagazi, Feni.
21. Ms. Khuku Rani Devi
Charait Kandhi Dustha Mohila Kalyan Sangstha
Post - Motiganj, PS.- Sonagazi, Feni.
22. Ms. Amarta Banu
Palli Mangal Kendra
Vill- Jirabo, Post.-Savar, Dhaka.

23. Ms. Shamsun Nahar
Gono Kalyan Trust, Shaturia
Manikganj.
24. Ms. Ropena Aktar, Prism
Vill-7 No. Char Alexandar
Post- Alexandar, P.S.- Ramgati,
Dist.- Laxmipur.
25. Ms. Monwara Aktar
Gonoshasthaya Kendra
Nayarhat, Via-Dhamrai,
Savar, Dhaka 1350
26. Ms. Shamsun Nahar
Gonoshasthaya Kendra
Nayarhat, Via-Dhamrai,
Savar, Dhaka 1350
27. Ms. Kanan Sarkar
Bangladesh Nari Kalyan Somiti
1 No.- Dhakeswari
Bandar Thana
Dist.-Narayanganj

■ **Names of the Government Officials present in the UNIFEM workshop:**

1. Mr.S.M.A. Mobin
Microbiologist
Directorate of Environment
House No.2 Road No.16 New
Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
2. Mr. Najir Ahmed Bhuiyan
Deputy Chief
Ministry of Land and Settlement
Room No.508
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
3. Ms. Daulatunnessa Chowdhury
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
Gazipur.
4. Ms. Aktar Jahan Chowdhury
Directorate of Fisheries
Matshya Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
5. Dr. A.B. Siddique
Deputy Director
Directorate of Animal Husbandry
Dhaka.

6. Ms. Mahmuda Haroon
Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
Gazipur, Dhaka.
7. Dr. Nizamuddin Al Hossainy
Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Women Affairs
37/A - Eskaton Garden Road,
Dhaka.

■ NGO Participant

Ms. Zebunnessa
Agronomist
Gonoshasthaya Kendra
Savar, Dhaka.

■ Naripokkho Workshop Team

Ms. Ruby Ghuznavi
Ms. Shireen Huq
Ms. Rina Sen Gupta
Ms. Nasreen Huq
Ms. Firdous Azim
Ms. Amita Dey
Ms. Shamsun Nessa

■ Facilitators

Ms. Rina Roy
Ms. Tanzina Islam
Ms. Nasira Mustaque
Ms. Obaida Haque
Ms. Shipra Deori

The workshop team also worked as facilitators.

■ Resource Persons

Dr. A.Z.N.Tahmida Begum
Dr. Ikhtyar Omar
Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim
Mr. Mostafa Kamal Majumdar
Ms. Shireen Huq

■ Rapporteurs

Ms. Shamsun Nessa
Ms. Firdous Azim
Mr. Tanvir Abir
Ms. Jahan-E-Gulshan
Ms. Sharifa Bashar
Ms. Nasreen Huq
Ms. Asma Sultana
Ms. Nurun Nahar

■ **Volunteers**

- Ms. Sabina Yasmin
- Mr. Nur Uddin
- Mr. Abdul Qader
- Mr. Nazim Uddin
- Mr. Saidur Rahman
- Ms. Johara Khatun
- Ms. Kamrun Nahar

■ **Report writers**

- Ms. Firdous Azim
- Ms. Mahbooba Mahmood
- Ms. Fazila Banu Lily
- Ms. Shireen Huq

■ **Word Processing Services**

- Ms. Shamsun Nahar

■ **Coordinating Team**

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Coordinator | Ms. Mahbooba Mahmood |
| Assistant Coordinator | Ms. Fazila Banu Lily |
| Project Assistant | Ms. Mahadiatur Rouf |

■ **Computer Compose and Cover Design** Mr. A. M. Zia Osman

Appendix II

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. NAME:
2. PRESENT ADDRESS:
3. PERMANENT ADDRESS:
4. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES?:
5. WHAT KIND OF FARMING DO YOU DO?
TICK AGAINST THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN
IF INVOLVED IN ANY ANOTHER KIND OF FARMING, PLEASE SPECIFY

a) Paddy farming	b) Winter vegetables
c) Homestead vegetable farming	d) Tobacco farming
e) Jute farming	f) Others (please specify)
6. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR WORK? TICK AGAINST THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN
IF INVOLVED IN ANY OTHER KIND OF AGRICULTURAL WORK, PLEASE SPECIFY

a) Preparation of land	b) Harvest activities
c) Sowing seeds	d) Post-harvest activities
e) Others (please specify)	
7. DO YOU WORK ON YOUR OWN LAND? YES/NO
8. IF YOU SELL LABOUR, PLEASE INDICATE RATE AND MANNER OF PAYMENT BY FILLING IN THE COLUMNS

	Daily Wages (in Takas) ...
	Yearly Harvest (n maunds) ...
	Payment in kind ...
	Any Other
9. WILL YOU BE ABLE TO ATTEND A THREE-DAY WORKSHOP IN DHAKA? YES/NO
10. WILL YOU HAVE CHILDREN WITH YOU? YES/NO
IF SO, SPECIFY THEIR AGE. How many children?
Ages

If chosen as a participant for the proposed workshop, we will send you a letter to invite you to attend the workshop. Therefore, please send in your replies by the 15th of January 1993.

Naripokkho

Appendix III

BACKGROUND OF PARTICIPANTS

The following table explains the division according to region and type of agricultural activity:

Type of Activity the Women are Involved in	District	Period of involvement
Poultry rearing	Rajshahi, Jamalpur, Bogra	2-22 years
Poultry Treatment	Rajshahi	7 years
Land Preparation	Bogra, Narshingdi, Jamalpur, Dhaka, Jessore, Thakurgaon, Khagrachari, Feni, Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Narail, Chittagong, Gaibandha, Faridpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Manikganj, Brahmanbaria	3-20 years
Seed Sowing	Kurigram, Dhaka, Cox's Bazaar, Feni, Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Narail, Khulna, Thakurgaon, Manikganj, Chittagong, Bagerhat, Narshingdi, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Brahmanbaria, Bogra, Kushtia, Gaibandha.	2-30 years
Harvesting	Rajshahi, Narail, Khulna, Gaibandha, Narshingdi	8-30 years
Post-Harvesting	Jessore, Feni, Rajshahi, Khulna, Kushtia, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Manikganj, Dinajpur, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Sylhet, Bogra, Mymensingh, Sirajganj	2-11 years
Nursery Raising	Thakurgaon	10 years
Vegetable Gardening	Sylhet	2 years
Mulberry Cultivation	Bogra	14 years
Weeding	Kurigram	10 years
Handicraft and Sewing	Chittagong	10 years
Primary Education \ Adult Education	Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi	5-10 years

Of the 99 respondents to the questionnaire, 82 worked on their own land, whereas 16 reported that they worked on other people's land, and 1 did not answer that question. The above table also bears out the fact that women do not normally work as hired labour on other people's land, but are traditionally employed in working on their own or family-owned land.

Appendix IV

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: POSITION OF PEASANT WOMEN 10th - 14th February, 1993

Naripokkho\UNIFEM National Workshop

Venue: Caritas Auditorium, 2 Outer Circular Road, Dhaka.

Day 1

Wednesday, 10th February, 1993

4.00 - 6.00 p.m. Registration of participants.

6.00 - 8.00 p.m. Introductions.

Day 2

Thursday, 11th February, 1993

7.00 - 7.30 a.m. Physical Exercise

9.00 - 10.30 a.m. Introductory Session

Purpose and Background of the Workshop presented by Fazila Banu Lily, Convenor, Naripokkho

Women and Environment: UNIFEM's perspective presented by Chandni Joshi, Regional Programme Adviser, UNIFEM

Overview of environmental problems in Bangladesh presented by Ruby Ghuznavi, Coordinator, Environmental Working Group, Naripokkho

Introduction to the Workshop programme by Mahbooba Mahmood, Coordinator, Peasant Women's Workshop, Naripokkho.

10.30 - 11.00 a.m. TEA BREAK

11.30 - 1.30 p.m. Group Discussions

Identification of problems on the basis of participants' experiences: Group Discussion

1) Highland Agriculture

2) Lowland Agriculture

3) Fruit and Timber Cultivation

4) Forestry

(Livestock and fishery) to be discussed in all groups).

1.30 - 2.30 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

2.30 - 4.30 p.m. Improvisation Session facilitated by Jamil Ahmed, Department of Drama, University of Dhaka.

4.30	-	6.30 p.m.	FREE
6.30	-	8.30 p.m.	Review and preparations for the next day.

Day 3
Friday, 12th February, 1993

7.00	-	7.30 a.m.	Physical Exercise
8.30	-	9.00 a.m.	Registration of new arrivals.
9.00	-	9.30 a.m.	Introductions
9.30	-	10.30 a.m.	Summary presentation of previous day's discussions
			Introduction to the workshop by Mahbooba Mahmood
10.30	-	11.00 a.m.	TEA BREAK
11.30	-	1.30 p.m.	<u>Group Discussions</u>

Identification of problems, solutions and needs.

1. Highland Agriculture
2. Lowland Agriculture
3. Fruit and Timber Cultivation
4. Forestry.

1.30	-	2.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2.30	-	4.00 p.m.	<u>Consultations between Government officials and Peasant Women</u>

Presentation of the findings of the groups discussions by women participants.

Planners' and Government Viewpoints presented by Dr Shamsuzzaman Mazumdar, Division Chief, Planning Commission and M.A. Momin

4.00	-	7.00 p.m.	<u>Improvisation Session</u> facilitated by Jamil Ahmed
7.30	-	8.00 p.m.	Video Showing of the Meghna Dhonogoda Flood Control and Irrigation Project.

Day 4
Saturday, 13th February, 1993

7.00	-	7.30 a.m.	Physical Exercise.
			Discussion on <u>UNCED and Bangladesh</u>
9.00	-	9.45 a.m.	Role of Plants as an Alternative to Chemical Fertilizers presented by Dr Z. N. Tahmida Begum University of Dhaka.

9.45	-	10.30 a.m.	Forestry, Water and Climate presented by Dr Ikhtyar Omar, Department of Chemical Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.
12.00	-	1.30 p.m.	Open Discussion
1.30	-	2.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2.30	-	3.15 p.m.	Fertilizer and Toxicity presented by Mostafa Kamal Majumdar, Journalist.
3.15	-	4.00 p.m.	Global Forum: Women and the Politics of Population and Environment presented by Shireen Huq, Naripokkho .
4.00	-	6.30 p.m.	FREE
6.30	-	8.00 p.m.	Review and preparations for the next day.

Day 5
Sunday, 14th February, 1993

8.00	-	8.30 a.m.	Summary presentation of previous day's work.
8.30	-	11.00 a.m.	<u>Group Work</u> : Preparation of Recommendations.
11.00	-	1.00 p.m.	Finalisation of Recommendations.
1.00	-	2.00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
3.30	-	5.30 p.m.	<u>Concluding Session</u>
			Participants' Presentations
			Speech by UNIFEM Consultant, Ms. Eva Friedlander
			Speech by Participants' Representative
			Speech by Naripokkho Convenor, Ms. Fazila Banu Lily
			Presentation of Skits by Participants
6.30	-	10.00 p.m.	City Tour.

Appendix V

GUIDELINES FOR FACILITATORS

High/low land

How much land did you have before ? Now ?

What crops did you harvest before ? Now ?

How many types of rice were grown before ? Now ?

How many crops per year ? Now ?

What was needed for cultivation before? What is needed now ?

[seeds, seedling, fertilizer, water, machinery, pesticide, labour, plough]

In the past what was done to ensure fertility of the soil ? At present ?

In the past, what fertilizer was used ? How many types ? What is used now ? How many types?

How were pests controlled in the past ? How is it done now ?

[Does this destroy all the - good bugs/bad bugs?]

What are the benefits of using all these ?

Bad effects ? Does it destroy anything else ? (side effects)

What were the problems in farming before ? What are the problems now ?

What did girls/women do before ? What do they do now ?

What was planted around the house before ? What do you do now ? [who does them?]

- What is needed for this type of farming [water, fertiliser, manure etc.]?
- Where do you get the water?
- What fertilizers are used
- How are pests controlled?
- What are the benefits and hindrances ? Problems?
- 25 years ago how many ponds did you have [access/ownership]? How many now ?

Fruit and Timber

In the past, in your grandparent's days,

What fruit/timber trees were grown ?

Where ? (homestead, forest etc)

Where now ?

Were there woods/forest in the village in the days of your grandfather ? How much wood/forests exist now ?

What new trees are being planted now ? What old trees are no longer there ?

What do you have to do for production [seeds seedling, fertilizer, water, disease, bugs]?

What did you have to do before ?

How has it been helpful ? harmful ?

What damages the environment ?

Changes in expenditure ?

What did women have to do before ? now ?

What rights do women have ? Consumption/sale (before and now)

Forest

Is there a forest in everyone's village ?

How much forest before ? Why did the forest reduce ?

What kind of timber in the forest before ?

What else was in the forest ?

What benefits did we get from the forest ?

- fuel
- medicine,
- honey,
- fruit/nut,
- privacy,
- toilet,
- [drying menstrual rags]

Fish and Poultry: Common to all groups

Was fish cultivated in the past ? If yes what kind of fish?

Now what kind of fish ? Could everyone fish in the pond then/now ?

What are the benefits ? Hindrances

What do girls do ? Problems ?

Do you raise poultry (chickens and ducks) ?

Benefits of local varieties and HYV ?

What do you do with the poultry droppings ?

What other animals do you rear ?

What do you do ?

Why ? Benefits ? Problems ?

- What do you do with cow dung ?
- Why rear goats ? Benefits ? Problems ?
- What do you do with the goat droppings ?
- What does the cow eat ? What did it eat before ?
- What do goats eat ?
- Where do you take the animals for grazing ?
- Ask about lambs and pigs.
- What problems with flood ?
- Benefits ?
- Other problems ?

Appendix VI

PRESS CUTTINGS

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: GONE ARE THE DAYS AND NOTION - WHEN WOMEN DIDN'T TAKE PART IN CULTIVATION

Chaudhury Firoz Alam
Staff Reporter, Dainik Janokantha
12th February, 1993.

A Bengali phrase suggests that - taking care of household chores is a woman's job, while outdoor field work is the man's. This age old theory doesn't hold good any longer. "Cultivation has increased but women's participation is negligible" laments Rokeya of Faridpur. After a series of activities like group discussions, physical exercise etc., the Workshop ended.

The CARITAS auditorium was pulsating with excitement of the women. Last Thursday about 26 female farmers from places like Dhaka, Manikganj, Faridpur, Bogra, Khulna, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Feni, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Kushtia, Khagrachari etc. came together in a workshop. Ms. Tamizan and Swarashwati aged 61 and 70 respectively were the only older women in the workshop.

Naripokkho and UNIFEM jointly sponsored this workshop. Similar workshops have already been held in India, Nepal and Pakistan. Ms. Fazila Banu Lily said that these workshops were follow ups to previous ones. UNIFEM Representative Chandni Joshi said - "This workshop aims to involve womenfolk in the planning/decision making level related to agriculture and environment". The programme included group discussions, various acting and free hand exercises in a closed room. Ms. Ruby Ghuznavi of Bangladesh said that due to the construction of Meghna-Dhonagoda dyke the arable land has turned into marshland. Also, prawn-hatcheries have increased salinity. She said that deforestation was not caused by the use of firewood.

Participants were divided into four groups to facilitate discussion. The farmers were all saddened by the fact that the natural environment has changed a lot since the days of our grandfathers. The seasons have changed very unfavourably for us. Ms. Rokeya thought that the quality of paddy produced in the past was better than the present varieties. Ms. Fatima grumbled about the fact that the harvest in the past was smaller than now, yet life was better. Now the increased harvest cannot keep up with the increase in population. Use of pesticides has resulted in a decrease in the output.

EXPERIENCE-SHARING AND RECOUNTING OF LIFE STORIES

Evening was the time for role playing and acting. The lively village women one by one narrated their own stories:

In reminiscing about their own private lives, the girls focussed on their loves, hates, struggles, etc. Hosne Ara and Mumtaz Begum narrated their life stories in a manner that had all the colour and depth of romanticism, but conveyed the hardships of life's tussles.

The beautiful Hosne Ara went on - "when I was in Class VI, I fell very sick and was admitted into a hospital where I met a supervisor, who fell in love with me at first sight and which finally culminated in marriage. But while studying, in class VIII my teacher stretched out his hand in love to me! And yet another young boy became a menace in my married life. I have a lot of guava trees around my house which gives me a good profit. I also rear some chickens and ducks". Besides this, she is a Field Worker for an NGO. She has, in the last five months, installed 195 sanitary latrines in the villages by motivating the people around her.

Story of Mumtaz

Articulate Mumtaz was married when she was studying in Class Seven. She says - she had to fight her in-laws and the society alike to make a change in their life. She loves agriculture, loves the soil. Mumtaz sows with her own hands, runs a power tiller and does all other agricultural work. She believes in being self-reliant and does not care at all for social taboos. Mumtaz says to the rest of her sisters - "Wake up all you womenfolk, don't confine yourselves in veils any more, wake up".

"AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: POSITION OF PEASANT WOMEN"

Daily Ittefaq
13.02.93

Organized jointly by Naripokkho & UNIFEM, a seminar with the above mentioned title started last Thursday. On the first day of the seminar, a total of 26 women farmers from Khagrachari, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Kushtia, Faridpur, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and other places attended.

During the opening session Ms. Mahbooba Mahmood said - "though women do fifty percent of the agricultural jobs they are not usually given credit for that." UNIFEM'S South Asian Regional Representative, Chandni Joshi said that similar workshops will also be held in India, Pakistan and Nepal. UNIFEM believes that by taking such steps, the women farmers could be involved in the development planning process.

Ms. Ruby Ghuznavi warned against ceaseless deforestation, construction of unplanned embankments and roads and against the use of toxic fertilizer/pesticides etc. Convenor of Naripokkho Ms. Fazila Banu Lily said "this workshop has been arranged as

a follow-up programme of a "Women and Environment" seminar held in 1991 under the auspices of ADAB and UNIFEM.

30 FEMALE FARMERS EXPRESS THEIR PLEASURE AT UNIFEM WORKSHOP:

"This is the first time I am ever getting a letter addressed to me"

Staff Reporter
Dainik Janokantha
14.02.93

Last Saturday was the third day of the workshop titled "Agriculture-Environment and the position of female farmers." The participating women said "we are farmers by virtue of our profession and we realized this by being in this workshop". UNIFEM and Naripokkho organized this workshop at the CARITAS auditorium where about 30 female farmers from every nook and corner of Bangladesh took part. Besides, officials from the Environment Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, BARI and other such organizations exchanged ideas with the participants.

UNIFEM's South Asian Regional Representative said that such programmes will also be held in India, Nepal and Pakistan. The Representative hoped these activities would help the women to have a more meaningful involvement towards the goal of women's development.

The workshop dwelt at length on the environmental problems of Bangladesh. It emphasized on the need for a coordination between the government and female farmers; recommended the use of organic fertilizer; and discussed topics relating to toxic waste; forest depletion; chemical fertilizers; Global Forum; women and environment etc. The workshop tried through discussion to find and identify common problems.

Ms. Fazila Banu Lily and Ms. Mahbooba Mahmood of Naripokkho said that this workshop was primarily aimed at coordination amongst the female farmers and at helping women to participate in the planning of agriculture and environment at the village level. This process, they felt, had just been initiated with the workshop. Female farmer Mumtaz of Faridpur who drives a power tiller said she was overwhelmed to have received a personal invitation to attend this workshop.

The concluding session will contain some recommendations.

WOMEN DON'T GET THEIR DUE RECOGNITION AS 'FARMERS'

Staff Reporter
14th February
Bangla Bazar Patrika

In a seminar titled 'Agriculture and Environment and Women Farmers' Status' the speakers said - "fifty percent of agricultural work is performed by women, but of course without any formal recognition". The workshop started this Thursday at Dhaka.

'Naripokkho' & UNICEF jointly arranged this workshop. In the inaugural session - South Asian Regional UNIFEM Representative Ms. Chandni Joshi and Naripokkho member Ms. Mahbooba Mahmood spoke. A total of 26 delegates from Sylhet, Khagrachari, Dinajpur, Kushtia, Faridpur, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Shaturia participated in the Workshop.

END OF 4 DAY WORKSHOP:

WOMEN FACING COUNTLESS HURDLES IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Staff Reporter
Daily Rupali
15.02.93

On the concluding day of the Seminar titled "Agriculture & Environment: Position of Peasant Women", the speakers said that though women are deeply involved in development activities their contribution is scarcely recognised. Womenfolk at the grassroot level have enough skills to be included at various levels of the development process. The workshop was held under the auspices of Naripokkho and UNIFEM.

The concluding session of the workshop was held in the Planning Academy and was presided over by Ms. Fazila Banu Lily. UNIFEM's Representative Dr. Eva Friedlander, Mahila Parishad's Maleka Begum and Zulekha, a woman farmer from Gaibandha, also spoke on the occasion. Some recommendations favouring the cause of women farmers were presented by Ms. Archana, a woman farmer from Sylhet. Dr. Friedlander said no effort is worthwhile without sincerity. The effort to establish a connection between the village and urban educated women has yet been a slower development process. Ms. Maleka said that all development is dictated by the World Bank, and that is why the agricultural sector itself is in jeopardy, as is the plight of women farmers. The position of women farmers should be understood in this context.

Zulekha deplored the fact that in spite of doing all the agricultural jobs, the women do not enjoy the fruits of their labour. Women are ignorant of modern farming methods, use of fertilizers, etc. The Agri-extension workers should employ women Block Supervisors to train female farmers. The list of recommendations call for sound and realistic agricultural planning. To evaluate and monitor the agricultural programmes, a committee should be formed with both men and women members. Government statistics should include women as farmers and ensure that status for them. A mass awareness to make people realise that women are also farmers should be undertaken.

The request was made to all government, non-government and political parties etc. to come forward and support this drive.

- NARIPOKKHO'S WORKSHOP -
DISCUSSION ON
"GLOBAL FORUM AND BANGLADESH"

Dainik Khabar
15.02.93

The theme of discussion was "Global Forum and Bangladesh" on the 3rd day of the seminar on "Agriculture and Environment" and the position of peasant women. The speakers were Dr. A.Z.N Tahmida Begum, Dr. Ikhtyar Omar, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Mustafa Kamal Mazumdar and Ms. Shireen Huq. The speakers emphasized on the role of plants as an alternative to inorganic fertilizer; water and weather; varieties of living beings or bio-diversity, toxic waste, debates on "women and environment" etc.

They talked about the adverse effects of inorganic fertilizers on the land, benefits of organic fertilizers, the varieties of living creatures, ecology and involvement of women in environmental issues. Also they spoke of the due recognition of the status of women farmers. Farmer Momtaz from Faridpur, while explaining her personal experience, said "this is the first time ever that I have received a letter addressed to me and not to my husband. All my life I knew my address was either my husband's home or my father's but now I know - I bear an identity too". A Research fellow from the Rich Research Institute opined - "the workshop has been a unique one, the informal atmosphere here has fostered an opportunity to understand the wide range of problems encountered by our farmers".

Female farmer Khodeza said - "I have little education and believe it's not too honourable in our society to be called a 'female farmer'. In the village where I live, there are a lot of beggars but the chairman still says - 'we don't have any poor people in our community'. Likewise, here in this workshop - regardless of status - we all had a chance to express and air our opinions freely and participate with a feeling of oneness".

- END OF NARIPOKKHO'S WORKSHOP: -

Staff Reporter:
Dainik Millat
15.02.1993

A series of effective recommendations were presented yesterday at the concluding session underscoring the needs and difficulties relating to seeds, pesticides, poultry, fertilizer, etc. Naripokkho and UNIFEM jointly organized the seminar which began last Thursday and ended yesterday at the Planning Academy. The wrap-up session was addressed by Ms. Fazila Banu Lily from Naripokkho, Dr. Eva Fridlander of UNIFEM, Mr. Tajkera Khair from Agri-Extension and Mahila Parishad leader Maleka Begum. Ms. Zulekha, a representative of the participants, also spoke on the occasion. Ms. Archana Dey read out the recommendations while Ms. Shamsun Nessa of Naripokkho read from the writings of Begum Rokeya.

Appendix VII

SAMPLE REPLY TO WORKSHOP INVITATION

(TRANSLATION OF A LETTER FROM AN ORGANISATION WHOSE PARTICIPANTS COULD NOT FINALLY ATTEND THE WORKSHOP)

Nari Jagoron Sangstha
Patiya, Chittagong

Dear Madame,

I received your letter of 26.12.92. I thank you very much on behalf of the women of Patiya. There are many women farmers in Patiya, but they are poor, uneducated and hesitant about farming. They do not have the confidence to go all the way to Dhaka for training. If you could organise such a training in Patiya, it would mean a lot for these women, and be very useful for them. About 200 women would be able to participate in such a workshop. We could organise transport and accommodation facilities here. This is a special request I am making to you.

We have two organisations here, one is the Nari Jagoron Sangstha, registered with the Directorate of Women's Affairs and the other is Aparajita Seba Sangha, whose members are unemployed men and women, which is registered with the Directorate of Social Welfare. All the members are cultivators and farmers. They are unable to travel to Dhaka for the workshop. Most of them are housewives, and have really to struggle for survival.

Despite this, we are recommending the names of 4 participants, 2 from Nari Jagoron Sangstha and 2 from Aparajita Seba Sangha. Do let us know if you approve of this.

Yours sincerely,
(Parveen Akhter)
Chairperson, Nari Jagoron Sangstha

১৯৯০ সালের ১৫ আগস্ট ১৯৯০, ২২ই অক্টোবর
২২ই অক্টোবর ১৯৯০ নারীসম্মেলন-৩
ইতিহাস এম যোগ্য উদ্দেশ্যে
এই ৩ পরিবেশ: কৃষক নারীর অধিকার সুরক্ষা
একটি কমিটির মাধ্যমে করা। এই কমিটির
কাজসমূহের প্রকল্প অঞ্চলের সমসাময়িক
সংক্রান্ত কৃষক নারীর অধিকার বিস্তারিত

Appendix VIII

COPY OF POSTERS ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN BANGLA

করেন। এই কমিটির মাধ্যমে
সুপারিশ করা হল:

কৃষক নারীর অধিকার

সমস্যা:

১) কৃষক নারীর ৫০ শতাংশ অধিকার গারান্টি করা
কৃষক নারীর অধিকার সুরক্ষা
২) কৃষক নারীর অধিকার সুরক্ষা
কৃষক নারীর অধিকার সুরক্ষা

গত ২৯ মে মাদ্রাসা ফাল্গুন ১৩৯৯, ১৩ই মেস্বয়ারী
-১৪ই মেস্বয়ারী ১৩৯৯ 'নারীসম্মান ও
ইউনিয়ন এর যৌথ উদ্যোগে

কৃষি ও পরিবেশ: কৃষক নারীর অবস্থান' শীর্ষক
একটি কর্মশালার আয়োজন করে। উক্ত কর্মশালার
বাংলাদেশের প্রগতিশীল অঞ্চলের সমবায়কারী
২৭ জন কৃষক নারী ও মরকারী বিভিন্ন কৃষি
বিভাগের কর্মকর্তা ৭ জন কর্মকর্তা অংশগ্রহণ
করেন। উক্ত কর্মশালা থেকে প্রাপ্ত
সুপারিশ হচ্ছে :

কৃষক নারীর অবস্থান

সমস্যা:

(১) কৃষি কাজের ৫০ ভাগ কাজ করার পরও নারীকে
কৃষক হিসাবে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়া হয় না।

যেমন: ক) মরকারী নীতি নির্ধারণের ক্ষেত্রে
কৃষক হিসাবে পুরুষকেই চিহ্নিত করা হয়।



এবং সুযোগ সুবিধা বরাদ্দের ক্ষেত্রে কোমর ভাগই
চলে যায় পুরুষ কৃষকের কাছে।

খ) প্রচার মাধ্যমে এবং গনচেয়নায় কৃষক মহিলা
পুরুষ। সে করলে নারীর কৃষি কাজের শ্রম
মঙ্গুন্ভাবে অঙ্গীকৃত থেকে যায়।

প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ:

ক) সরকারী কৃষি মঙ্গুন্ড সঙ্গুন্ডাগুলো নারীকে
কৃষক হিসাবে মুল্যায়ন করবে। কৃষক নারীর জন্য
সরকারী বরাদ্দ মুনিসিষ্ট করতে হবে।

খ) প্রচার মাধ্যমে বিভিন্ন সরকারী কর্মসূচিতে
নিয়োজিত কৃষি কাজে নারীদেরকে মুল্যায়ন
করতে হবে।

গ) সরকারী পরিসংখ্যানে কৃষক চিহ্নিত করার
সময় সময়ে কৃষক নারীর ম্যাসা এবং
মুল্যায়ন করতে হবে।

ঘ) এই ব্যাপারে অধিক গনচেয়নতার
জন্য সরকারী ও বেসরকারী পর্যায়ে
ব্যাপক কর্মসূচী গ্রহন করতে হবে ॥

কৃষি

সার:

সমস্যা:

রাসায়নিক সার ব্যবহারের ফলে নানা প্রকার
প্রতিক্রিয়া দেখা দিয়েছে।

কারণ:

ক) অপরিমিত সার ব্যবহার

খ) জমির চাহিদা অনুযায়ী সার ব্যবহার না করা

গ) সার ব্যবহারের মঠিক পদ্ধতি না জানা।

প্রতিক্রিয়া:

ক) জমিতে ও পরিবেশে বিষাক্ততা ছড়াচ্ছে

খ) জমির উর্বরতা কমে যাচ্ছে

প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ:

১। কৃষি ক্ষেত্রে সার এবং বাস্তুবিজ্ঞান একাধিক
নীতিমালা প্রণয়ন করতে হবে। এই নীতিমালা
প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে কৃষকদের সক্রিয় অংশ গ্রহণ
নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

২। সার ব্যবহার সম্পর্কে তথ্য মাঠ পর্যায়ে পৌঁছে
দিতে হবে।

৩। তথ্য পৌঁছে দেবার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ

যেমন :

ক) প্রশিক্ষিত নারী ও পুরুষ উভয় এর অংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

খ) জৈব মাঝ ও সবুজ মাঝের ব্যবহার বাড়াতে হবে।

গ) কৃষি সম্প্রদায়ের কার্যক্রম কর্মসূচীকে নারী ও পুরুষ উভয় কৃষকের নিকটে পৌঁছে দিতে হবে।

ঘ) গ্রাম স্তরের কৃষি সম্প্রদায়ের কার্যক্রম নির্ধারণ ও মূল্যায়নের জন্য একটি কমিটি গঠন করতে হবে। সেখানে নারী ও পুরুষ উভয় কৃষক এর প্রতিনিধিত্ব থাকতে হবে।

ঙ) কৃষি সম্পর্কিত সমস্যা তথা সমস্যা সমাধান গ্রাম স্তরে কৃষকদের কাছে পৌঁছে দেবার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

চ) প্রচার মাধ্যম এর ভূমিকাকে সক্রিয় করার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

কীট নাশক

সমস্যা :

কীট নাশকের ব্যবহারের ফলে পরিবেশের ক্ষয়ক্ষতি এবং মানুষ ও অন্যান্য প্রাণীর মাঝে নানাবিধ ক্ষতিকর প্রতিক্রিয়া দেখা দেওয়া হয়েছে।

প্রতিক্রিয়া :

ক) প্রকৃতির ভারসাম্য নষ্ট হচ্ছে।

যেমন: ডু-গার্ড ও ডু-গার্ডৰ পানি দুষ্কৃত হ'য়ে থাকে,
মাটি ও বায়ুমণ্ডল দুষ্কৃত হ'ব।

খ) খসলাৰ জন্য উৎকাৰী কীটপতঙ্গ ও অন্যান্য
প্ৰাণী ধ্বংস হ'য়ে থাকে।

গ) তথ্যেৰ অজব ও অস্বাভাৱক কৰ্মৰ
নানা প্ৰকাৰ দুষ্কৃতি ঘটায়।

ঘ) উন্নত পদাৰ্থৰ ক্ষতিৰ ও নিষিদ্ধ হোৱা
কীট নাৰাক ব্যৱহাৰেৰে ব্যৱহৃত হ'ব।

প্ৰয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ

০। সমন্বিত প্ৰাক-মাকড় দমন কৰ্মসূচী (আই.পি.এম.)
প্ৰতি প্ৰতি নিয়মিত হ'ব।

যেমন: উৎকাৰী কীটপতঙ্গ দূৰ্গন্ধ কৰা হ'ব।
বিষ টোপেৰ ব্যৱহাৰ, আলাৰ খাঁদ ইত্যাদি
পদ্ধতি ব্যৱহাৰেৰে মাৰ্শ্বমে কীটপতঙ্গ দমন
কৰা হ'ব।

২। কীট নাৰাক ব্যৱহাৰেৰে মাৰ্শ্ব প্ৰয়োগ বিধি
কৃষকেৰে কাৰু পোৰ দিয়া হ'ব।

৩। আনুষ্ঠানিকভাৱে নিষিদ্ধ ও ক্ষতিকৰক
কীট নাৰাক ব্যৱহাৰেৰে বিকল্প ব্যৱহাৰেৰে
পৰিষ্কাৰ হ'ব। ইং ইত্যাদিৰে দক্ষতা
আই.পি.এম.ৰ প্ৰয়োগ নিশ্চিত কৰা হ'ব।

বীজ

সমস্যাঃ

১। উন্নত বীজের অপ্রাপ্ততা, বীজের দাম এবং
সঠিক সময়ে কৃষকের সাথে না প্রাপ্ত হওয়া
প্রয়োজনীয় ধানক্ষেপ:

- ১। কৃষকদের কাছে ন্যূন দামে বীজ সরবরাহ করা,
বর্ন জাতের বীজ সংরক্ষণ প্রক্রিয়া উন্নত করা।
- ২। সরকারী এবং বেসরকারী পথে উন্নত বীজ
উৎপাদনের ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া।
- ৩। কৃষকদের নিজস্ব পদ্ধতিতে উন্নত মানের বীজের
উৎপাদন এবং সংরক্ষণের প্রক্রিয়ায় ব্যবস্থা করা।

বাঁধ

সমস্যাঃ

- ১। অপ্রকল্পিত ও অদক্ষভাবে বাঁধ নির্মাণে ফলে
ভূমির ক্ষয় বিক্ষয়ে পানি ও পানি আসে না।
- ২। প্রয়োজনীয় পানি অভাবে ফলে জমি মুষ্ণু ও অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত
ফসল হয়।
- ৩। সঠিক বাঁধ নির্মাণ করা এবং
বাঁধ নির্মাণে দেশীয় বিশেষজ্ঞ নিয়োগ করা।
- ২। প্রকল্পিতভাবে কর্তার পানি সংরক্ষণের
ব্যবস্থা করা হবে।

যক্ষাউগ্ৰাঙ্কুর চাষ

সংক্ষিপ্তঃ

ফল গাছ নিৰ্বন্ধনৰ ফলে দেশীয় ফলৰ উৎপাদন হ্রাস এবং দুৰ্জীৱিত্যৰ কাৰণে অস্বাস্থ্যকৰণ ডিউমিটৰ অজাৰে নান্য প্ৰকাৰে হেৰুও দিয়া দিয়েছে।

প্ৰয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপঃ

১। কাশ্মীৰৰ নানাজাতৰ ফলৰ গাছ লাগাই হব।

২। উন্নত প্ৰজাতি কলম উ চাৰা লাগাই হব এবং যথাযথ যত্ন নিৰ্ভ হব।

৩। বসন্তৰ আৰম্ভণি আৰম্ভণি উ বসন্তৰ দুৰ্জীৱিত্য, খালৰ আৰম্ভণি প্ৰতি উন্নত জাতৰ ফলৰ গাছ লাগাই হব।



কাঠ কাষ

স্বত্বস্বাধীনতা:

- ১) অপ্রবিকালিত ভাবে বন্য কাঠ কেটে ফেলা হক্ক কিন্তু সেই অনুপাত বনায়নের কাজ হক্ক না।
- ২। অপ্রবিকালিত গাছ কাটো হক্ক।
- ৩। সরকারী নিলাম ব্যবস্থার কাৰণে কাঠের দামিক মূল্য পাওয়া হক্ক না।
- ৪। উদ্বারকা এবং মজুতৰ অধায়ে এক একৰ জমিৰ বন নিষিদ্ধৰ দলে দমা একৰ জমিৰ বন নিষিদ্ধ।
- ৫। প্রাকৃতিক ভবনাম্য নষ্ট হক্ক এবং প্রাকৃতিক দূষণ বিলুপ্ত হক্ক।
- ৬। পর্যাপ্ত জ্বালানী কাঠের অধায়ে মূল্যবান কাঠ জ্বালানী কঠম ব্যবহার হক্ক।
- ৭। যতদূৰ ইটোটা মজুতৰ ফলে মাটি, বায়ু মণ্ডল দূষিত হক্ক এবং মূল্যবান গাছ নিষিদ্ধ হক্ক।

প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ

- ১। ব্যাপক ও প্রবিকালিত বনায়ন কর্মসূচী গ্রহণ কৰা হবে।
- ২। যে উদ্দেশ্যে সরকারী জমি জোৰা দেওয়া হয় (বোম্বা, আগকা) তা দামিক উদ্দেশ্যে ব্যবহার না হলে সরকারের জমি কেবল ও ক্ষতিপূরণের পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ কৰা হবে।

৩। অপ্রবিশিষ্ট গাছ কাটো নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা কৰা হ'ল
 ৪। কোন এলাকায় কাটো গাছৰ বৃদ্ধি সেই
 এলাকাৰ জনগণৰ মৰ্যাদা তই সেই গাছ কাটোৰ
 ব্যাপাৰে সৰকাৰ একক সিদ্ধান্ত নিহা ধাৰে নহ'।
 ৫। বনাঞ্চল সৰকাৰী নিলামে পদ্ধতি নিষিদ্ধ
 কৰা হ'ল। বাজাৰদৰ যাচাই কৰে কাঠ
 বিক্ৰিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হ'ল।

৬। জ্বালানীৰ উন্নয়নী গাছ লাগা হ'ল।
 যেমন: হৈগিল হৈগিল এবং জংল জাঙ্গী গাছ।

৭। সৰকাৰী বন বিক্ৰয়ৰ ব্যাপাৰে দুৰ্নীতি
 বোৰেৰ জন্য স্থানীয় জনগণৰ অসুখ হ'ল।

৮। কুৰু অসুখী পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰি হৈছে ডাটা
 স্ৰাৱন কৰা হ'ল এবং হৈছে ডাটা জ্বালানী
 হিচাপে কয়লা ৩ গাছ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা হ'ল।

৯। হৈছে ডাটা জ্বালানী হিচাপে কাঠ জ্বালানীৰ
 বিক্ৰম দৃষ্টিমূলক মানিৰ ব্যৱস্থা
 কৰা হ'ল।



হাঁসমুরগী ও পশুপালন

সমস্যা:

- ১। উন্নত মানের হাঁসমুরগী, পশুপালন ও মৎস চাষের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য গ্রাম পর্যায়ে পৌঁছাতে না এবং সম্প্রদারণ করায়ুচী যথেষ্ট নয়।
- ২। উন্নত মানের হাঁসমুরগীর বাচ্চা এবং ভ্যাকসিনের অভাব।
- ৩। মাছের রেনু-গোনার দুর্ঘপ্রাপ্যতা এবং মাছের ক্ষুণ্ণ রোগ।

প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ:

- ১। প্রয়োজনীয় প্রকল্পের ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া এবং আর্থনিক তহবিল ও প্রযুক্তি কৃষক পর্যায়ে পৌঁছে দেওয়া।
- ২। উন্নত মানের হাঁসমুরগীর বাচ্চা ও ভ্যাকসিনের প্রাপ্যতা বাড়ানো হবে এবং গ্রামগুলোর আকার সুবিধাজনক হতে হবে।
- ৩। মাছ চাষের যাবতীয় বিষয় সম্পর্কে কৃষক পর্যায়ে প্রকল্পের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। সেই সাথে যাবতীয় নুন্ন প্রযুক্তি কৃষক পর্যায়ে পৌঁছে দিতে হবে।
- ৪। রোগ নিরাময়ে আয়োজন করা করতে হবে।

এই সকল সুশাসকীয়মান্য বাস্তুব্যবহন করিতে হলে
সকলকে যেকোনো মাঠ পথে প্রত্যেকের ভূমিকা
ওকল্পসূচী।

এ ব্যাপারে সকলকে ও সকলকে মনোনিবেশিত দক্ষ,
বেসবকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান, সামাজিক মনোনিবেশিত,
বৈজ্ঞানিক দল সমূহ, জনপ্রতিনিধি, সকলকে
ও বেসবকারী প্রচারে মনোনিবেশিত এবং প্রতিটি
কৃষক জনগনকে দায়িত্ব পালন করিতে হইবে।

