



**Unnayan Shamannay**



District - level Workshop on  
**Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP): Advocacy Messages  
on Agriculture, Energy and Water**

Organized Jointly by  
**Unnayan Shamannay and GBUS**  
Jubo Unnayan Bhaban, Chapai Nawabganj  
24 April 2016

Event Report  
May 2016

Prepared by



**Unnayan Shamannay**

25-27, Happy Rahman Plaza, Banglamotor, Shahbag, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh  
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District - level Workshop on  
**Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP): Advocacy Messages  
on Agriculture, Energy and Water**



## 1. Introduction

Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) is a portfolio investment approach by Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to address the issues of water, food and energy security in South Asia through better regional cooperation, policy reforms, technology transfer and capacity building targeting the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls. This investment strategy has a 12 year horizon which will be realized in three phases. CUTS International is one among the portfolio partners for carrying forward the activities related to SDIP. The targeted areas and the investment portfolio's objectives are broadly stated as follows:

- Confident and cooperative decision-making across jurisdictional borders for the effective and equitable management of shared water resources.
- Increased access to and cooperation on energy
- Increased agricultural productivity and farm incomes through the adoption of more efficient and sustainable agricultural practices and better developed value-added market chains.

***Objective of the Event:***

To attain these objectives, a district - level workshop has been conducted by Unnayan Shamannay (US) and GBUS jointly titled “**Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP): Advocacy Messages on Agriculture, Energy and Water** at Jubo Unnayan Bhaban in Chapai Nawabganj on 24 April 2016, at Chapanawabganj Sadar, Chapainawabganj District in order to disseminate the advocacy messages among the people of root level.

Objective of the event is to present the study reports by US and get feedback from participants, how the messages can be spread to farmer or user level and find out the key issues relevant to energy, agriculture and water sector.

### ***Organization of the Workshop:***

The event was divided into four parts. It was started by opening remarks of Dr. Mahfuz kabir, Team Leader of the Sustainable Investment Development Portfolio (SDIP) project. After his remarks, the working session was started. Three presentations in different slots on agriculture, energy and water were presented. Open discussion along with each presented part was enriched by the participation of the audience. Then the chief guest Mr. Abdul Mannan Akanda gave his speech over the whole session. After that Dr. Mahfuz Kabir thanked everyone for kind participation and concluded the workshop.

## **2. Opening Remark**

### **Dr Mahfuz Kabir**

*Team Leader, SDIP Projce*



Dr. Kabir presides over all the three sessions of the event. He welcomes everyone and makes introduced with one another. In his introductory remark, he conveys the audience about the proceedings and objectives of the study. In the view of promoting the sustainable use of our agriculture, water and renewable energy, he stretches on the utmost consciousness of the use of these resources.

## **A. Agriculture**

### **Keynote Presentations**

### **Robert Shuvro Guda**

*Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay*



He presents about the advocacy messages on sustainable use of agriculture at the root level. At first, he says about the challenges in acquiring the modern practices of sustainable agriculture, which are found from the whole study. One of the vital challenge is the cultivation of the more water-consuming (for irrigation) crop in that region. As Chapainawabganj is a drought-prone area, the main message was for disseminating in this sphere- the shifting of the cropping pattern from more water-oriented to less water-oriented in irrigation. Besides, emphasis on the cultivation of drought-intensive variety of crops, is another important message.

**Md. Harun ur Rashid**

*Executive Engineer*

*Barind Multipurpose Development Authority*



He responses to the seminar very nicely and has contributed some specific suggestions. He says that the farmers are to be trained about the uses of modern agricultural technology. The common people are to be conveyed about the availability of the new technological advancements and the market prices of those elements. Notably, the agricultural lands are decreasing drastically due to the increased industrialization. Proper implementation of law is very necessary for prevent this destruction. Government steps are necessary to set up more irrigation pumps. Crop diversification may be a reasonable solutions for the agricultural problems of this area.

**B. Energy**

**Keynote presentation**

**Ayesha Noor**

*Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay*



Mrs. Noor presents about the current situation and future potential of the renewable energy sector and finds out some initiatives for the local people, which have extracted from the study. Initiating the diverse use of renewable energy rather than rampant energy like electricity and others, depends basically the government level decision and execution. She says that the root level people are to be made conscious enough to create a demand-supply gap, from which the state authority will be compelled to initiate alternative energy market based on the different sources of renewable energy.

**Md. Amir Ali**

*Engineer*

*Barind Multipurpose Development Authority*



He says that the government and non-government efforts are to be combined to resolute the problems in energy sector. The system loss in supplying current has been reduced notably. The initial investment from governmental level for renewable energy is getting much higher which will play a positive role in the renewable energy sector.

**Md. Aminul Islam**

*Field Manager, Brotee*



He says in his response that as it is a drought-prone area, much amount of water is needed for irrigation than other districts. Damage of the transformers at that crucial time is a major hindrance. Government can accelerate the various advantages of solar power as an alternative source to main-grid electricity.

## **Water**

### **Keynote presentation**

#### **Priangka Das**

*Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay*

She presents about the challenges of using the water resource sustainably, intrinsic reasons of these challenges and the probable solutions found from the project. The main challenge is the increasing dependency on the groundwater in the purpose of irrigation and others whereas the level of ground water is tremendously decreasing in the Indo-Ganges basin. The local people is to be made encouraged to use surface water for various purposes rather than groundwater. Rainwater reservation can be a very good initiative as an alternative source of groundwater. Besides, the common people are to be competent enough in using the available water in proper ways to prevent the unnecessary uses of this valuable resource.



#### **Md. Enamul Haque**

##### **BROTEE**

He clarifies that the groundwater is to be safely used in every works. Increased demand of the gradually increased population is the main reason of water crisis, according to him. But more water-consuming cropping pattern is also responsible for this. Surface water cannot be used properly due to the absence of proper infrastructural advantages. More water bodies are to be excavated for the developed use of the surface water.



#### **Md. Shahanur Rahim**

*Representative, BRAC*

The people are inconsiderate in using water in this region though the deficiency of water is much higher in this district in comparison with others, according to him. There is no proper alternative to the use of surface water to prevent the decrease in the groundwater level. The shortage of the infrastructural set up for water reserve which is a major problem in this context. Additionally, he says that the usage of water is to be categorized according to respective sectors for ensuring the efficient use. Policy for using water in the agricultural sector is to be initiated. Many programs for making the people conscious in using water properly in the open air are to be operated.

### 3. Speech by Chair

**Dr. Abdul Mannan Akanda**

*Vice Chancellor*

*Exim Bank Agricultural University,  
Chapainawabganj*



In his valuable speech, he says that the researchers have to relate deeply with the pulse of common people about their sufferings about these three sectors. Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in producing so that she is exporting abroad. But the alarming situation is that the arable land is increasing by 1% rate, according to him. So proper steps of saving the agricultural lands are to be taken through implementing strict laws. How can be the agricultural technologies combined in the context of our country.

The farmers are given the combined knowledge of indigenous practices and the scientific explanations behind it. The use of exclusive data can make a pleasant appearance to the policy level.

In initiating the renewable energy such as solar power, the usage of advanced energy saving technologies is to be accelerated. The illegal connections of electricity are to be cut and the respective people are to be punished with strict laws. The inconsiderate use of gas is to be controlled. The necessity of the energy in national life is to be internalized properly in the policy level and the steps for making the people conscious about the alternative energy source are to be taken.

The pollution of water is to be prevented and the efficient use of the water resource is to be spread among the common people. The religious, anthropological, ethical learnings are to be combined and disseminated. The use of water is to be brought at the linking point of intergenerational and intragenerational knowledge as a part of sustainable way of development.

### 4. Closing Remark

Dr. Mahfuz Kabir concludes the session. He says that there is a hope that the findings from this study will be effective common people as well as policy level. Then he conveys gratitude all the persons present there including the three sectors to cooperate with the successful completion of the workshop.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

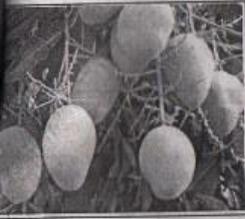
1. **Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan Akanda**, Vice-Chancellor, Exim Bank Agricultural University, Bangladesh
2. **Dr. Mahfuz Kabir**, Team Leader, SDIP Project, Unnayan Shamannay
3. **Md. Shahanur Rahim**, Representative, BRAC
4. **Tarikul Islam**, Representative, Grameen Shakti
5. **Md. Sarwar Hossain**, C.D.B Youth Training Center, Chapainawabganj
6. **Md. Aminul Islam**, Field Manager, Brotee
7. **Md. Anamul Kabir**, Project Manager, GBUS
8. **Md. Mahabub Hasan**, Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
9. **Ashraful Islam**, Representative, Channel-I
10. **Md. Shah Alam**, Represtative, Chapai Darshan
11. **Hazrat Ali**, GBUS
12. **Md. Mahabub Alam**, GBUS
13. **Md. Enamul Haque**, Muhammad Khani Irrigation Project, Chapai Nawabganj
14. **Md. Wazed Ali**, Proshika, Chapainawabganj
15. **Selina Begum**, President, Conscious Citizen Committee, Chapainawabganj
16. **Md. Harun Ur Rashid**, Executive Engineer, Barind Multipurpose Development Authority, Chapainawabganj
17. **Dr. Md. Ariful Islam**, Assistant Professor, Exim Bank Agricultural University, Chapainawabganj
18. **Selim Reza**, Administrative Officer, BMDA
19. **Md. Amir Ali**, Engineer, BMDA
20. **Mithu Mia**, Support Staff Unnayan Shamannay
21. **Md. Hasmot Ali**, Department of Youth Development, Chapainawabganj
22. **Mousumi Khatun**, Manab kollan Parishod
23. **Md. Shohidul Islam**, Dept. of Youth Development, Chapainawabganj
24. **Md. Saiful Islam**, Dept. of Youth Development, Chapainawabganj
25. **Md. Tarikul Islam**, Dept. of Youth Development, Chapainawabganj
26. **Robert Shuvro Guda**, Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
27. **Ayesha Noor**, Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
28. **Priangka Das**, Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
29. **Md. Anwar Hossain**, District Representative

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### ***Acknowledgement:***

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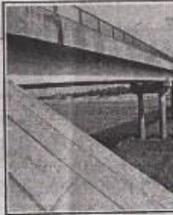


দৈনিক

# চাঁপাই দর্পণ

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খ্যাসে দু' নিয়ে অধি বর কথা কয়  
চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ জিবাস এবং উন্নয়ন সমন্বয় এর  
উদ্যোগে কৃষি, শক্তি ও পানি বিষয়ক কর্মশালা



চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ প্রতিনিধি । সচেতন শাসনিক কমিটির  
চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ জেলা যুব চেয়ারম্যান জনাব সেলিনা  
উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তরের হলরুমে হোসাইন সহ বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের  
ক্যাটন ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এর সরকারী কর্মকর্তা এবং এনজিও  
ব্যানারে জিবাস এবং উন্নয়ন এর প্রতিনিধিগণ। কর্মশালার  
সমন্বয় এর সহযোগীতায় কৃষি, শক্তি ও পানি বিষয়ক কর্মশালার  
আয়োজন করা হয়। রবিবার শুরুতেই উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়ের রিসার্চ  
সকালে কর্মশালায় প্রধান ইউনিট অত্র অঞ্চল কৃষি, শক্তি ও  
অতিথি হিসাবে উপস্থিত ছিলেন এঞ্জি ব্যাক কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, পানি বিষয়ক রিসার্চ প্রতিবেদন  
বাংলাদেশ চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ এর নিরাপদ পানি বিষয়ক আমাদের  
ডিসি ড. প্রফেসর আব্দুল মাদান করণীয় সম্পর্কে উপস্থিতপন  
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মোঃ জাকির হোসাইন, চাঁপাই- উপস্থাপিত রিসার্চের বিভিন্ন দুর্বল  
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কর্মকর্তা ডা. এম আজিজুর ত. প্রফেসর আব্দুল মাদান আকন্দ সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করেন।  
রহমান, বরেন্দ্র বহুমুখী উন্নয়ন উপস্থাপিত রিসার্চের বিভিন্ন দুর্বল  
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গামসজিদে আছে সোনার  
তা রক্ষা করতে হবে

দৈনিক চাঁপাই দর্পণ  
পেতে যোগাযোগ করুন  
আমিনুলফুল ঘর, শহীদ সাটু  
হল মার্কেট, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ

চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ জিবাস এবং উন্নয়ন সমন্বয় এর  
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চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ প্রতিনিধি । সচেতন শাসনিক কমিটির  
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