



Media Workshop on
Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP)
Advocacy Messages on Agriculture, Energy and Water
16th July 2016 Dhaka, Bangladesh

Event Report Prepared by



Unnayan Shamannay

25-27, Happy Rahman Plaza, Banglamotor, Shahbag, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

Phone: +88-02-8610332, 9664720; Fax: +88-02-8622320

Media 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. 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 media workshop has been conducted by Unnayan Shamannay (US) titled "**Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP): Advocacy Messages on Agriculture, Energy and Water**" at Dhaka at 10 A.M on 16th July 2016, in order to disseminate the advocacy messages to the policy level through electronic and print media.

Objective of the event is to disseminate the learning and findings with journalist to push the messages to policy 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 welcome note of Shaheen ul Alam, Project Co-ordinator, Unnayan Shamannay of SDIP project. Then, Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Team Leader, SDIP project, conveys the audience about the proceedings and objectives of the study. After his remarks, the presentation session was started. Three individual presentation on Agriculture, Renewable energy and Water were presented in this session.

Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Team Leader of SDIP project, would discuss on the three presentations in the second part of this session". Opinions of pre-selected journalists from different daily newspapers and electronic media would be expressed on the presentations of the three areas such as Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Water. Later on, they could express their views and suggest how they can spread the messages from the policy level to mass people. The seminar came to an end with summary and concluding remarks by Dr. Mahfuz Kabir.

2. Welcome Note

Shaheen ul Alam

Project Coordinator, Unnayan Shamannay

Mr. Alam started with warm greetings to everyone for their valued participation in this event. He gave his gratitude to DFAT for their financial supports and also CUTS International for their technical supports. He was thankful to the Local NGO partners of Unnayan Shamannay- GBUS and OVA for their field level support during perception survey and regional workshops. He emphasized on the working arena of SDIP projects.



3. Opening Remark:

Dr Mahfuz Kabir

Team Leader, SDIP Project

Dr. Kabir, presided over all the three sessions of the event. He welcomes everyone and makes introduced with one another. In his introductory remark, he conveyed 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 stretched on the utmost consciousness of the use of these resources.



SDIP project is sponsoring this workshop and a research organization namely Unnayan Shamannay (US) put effort for the workshop. US is an academic research organization which has contributed to a number of advocacy events on local governance over the last few years. US has worked to provide the analysis and the three policy briefs which are going to be presented today.

4. Keynote Presentations

i. Agriculture

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 disincentive for contemporary cultivation process in that region. For Brahmaputra basin, the main message was for disseminating in this sphere- the use of modern irrigation system. Another vital challenge for both the Brahmaputra basin and Indo-Ganges is the cultivation of the more water-consuming (for irrigation) crop in both region. So, shifting of the cropping pattern from more water-oriented to less water oriented in irrigation should be focused. Besides, emphasis on the cultivation of drought intensive variety of crops, is another important message for Indo-Ganges basin. For Brahmaputra basin, emphasis on the cultivation of flood-intensive variety of crops, is another important message.



Policy Recommendations from our study:

No single solutions can remedy the existing problems in agriculture sector, rather a set of interlinked solutions should be devised. Following changes and initiatives can be taken for the future improvement of agriculture sector:

- Promotion of organic fertilizers and pheromone trap can be considered to reduce pesticide usage.
- Application of policies through institutional arrangement should be farmer and user-friendly.
- Seed, fertilizers and pesticides should be provided to farmers in time with subsidized price since government institutions and agencies cannot make this happen in time.
- Government can seek to identify the shortcomings of National Agricultural Policy (2013) and analyses the extension policy, water management policy, fertilizer distribution policy and seeds policy to integrate every agricultural policy in a single document and also give emphasis on policy coherence for integrating economic, social, and environmental and governance dimensions at all stages of local and international policy making.
- Agriculture marketing system need to be more efficient and effective.
- Farmers' realization and understanding about the crop diversity is very important. Farmers should produce those products having large value-addition. They can produce other cereal crops and food grains like wheat, maize, barley which will be beneficial for price determination.

ii. Energy

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 and experts from respective sector of local government, 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. One of the vital challenge is there is no grid connection in char lands and solar power plant can be solution to this problem, she said.

Policy Recommendations from our study:

We should go for renewable sources of energy to transit to green growth whereas have lower impact on environment and improve the alternatives to prosper.

- Each and every newly developed commercial or non-commercial buildings must have solar panel at their rooftop. The each of the individual solar panel will be connected with the national grid connection through adjusted metering machine which gives reading of the net electricity consumption. The final electricity bill can be adjusted with the individual electricity contribution to the national grid.
- The Government can provide support scheme (such as fiscal/financial incentives) for solar panel buyers in a private sector especially for small and large companies which are engaged in electricity production.
- Adequate attention has not been given to undertake systematic research programs to develop indigenous technological capabilities for exploiting energy resources to meet the energy requirement despite the financial constraints of the country.
- Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council should be functional to conduct research on invention of new alternatives sources of renewable resources. Concentrating solar thermal power (CSP) should be used in a large scale its built-in storage capabilities allow it to be integrated more easily into the electric grid;
- Market monitoring mechanism should be developed to remove the uses of poor quality battery in solar system.
- Promoting the energy savings/efficient household amenities, inverter technologies etc. and building awareness among the mass people through all sources of electronic media about the uses of renewable sources of energy rather than fossil fuel.

iii. Water

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 deceasing 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.

Policy Recommendations from our study:

The water policy lays down the broad principles of development of water resources and their rational utilization under several challenges:

- Providing total water quality management
- Accessing proper control over trans boundary river water
- Managing the deltaic plain
- Settling the unsettled land for building water structures
- Availing knowledge sharing process among the SAARC countries on sustainable water use □ Increasing co-operation of the river sharing countries

5. Open Discussion

Gazi Shahnewaz

Reporter, Daily Jai Jai Din

Mr. Gazi emphasizes on sharing the findings of this research project with the regional governmental officials. From this perspective, the next steps of the respective government bodies, have been emphasized also by him. Besides, the regular interactions among the government officials and the common people is very much significant according to him.



Asjadul Kibriya

Planning Editor, Financial Express

He signifies on the joint effort on the technology (drift irrigation) management regarding water supply. The diplomatic relations of the state with different countries is also a big deal according to him



Hamiduzzaman

Staff Reporter, Dainik Jugantor

He says especially on two aspects which are-

- a. It has already known that the solar electricity has a large potentiality in our country. He emphasizes on the acceleration of its usage at the root level.
- b. He also says about the usage of other sources of renewable potentials which are to be disseminated among the common people.

Goutam Ghosh

Staff Reporter, Dainik Sangbad

He says about the importance of the newer varieties of rice seeds for the farmers. He emphasizes on the dissemination of the information

Ruhul Amin Rasel

Staff Reporter, Bangladesh Protidin

He says about the technological advantage regarding the water supply at the agricultural sector in the drought-prone areas of India and questions whether we can use those types of technology or not.

**Ahsan Habib Pavel**

Reporter, Daily Ittefaq

He gives special focus on preparing region based comparative information database for our country.

Mollah Amzad Hossain

Editor, Energy & Power, Online Newspaper

He says about several things which are listed below:

- a. He says that some land has been acquiesced for making a 30MW electricity production project which has been caught up by some implementation complexity.
- b. There are some rules and regulations as well as technical aspects regarding the joining of the small solar system with the national grid which are to be the concern of the policy makers.
- c. He says that various developmental work are being conducted at Godagari upazila in Rajshahi district. But these power comes during the six months in a year. But at the rainy season the solar power is not produced for the absence of sunlight.
- d. He emphasizes on the security of the private organizations in investing renewable energy sectors in the existing economic structure.

**6. Closing Remark**

Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Team Leader, SDIP project concludes the session. He says that there is a hope that the findings from this study will be effective for policy level if electronic media and print media conveys the messages and findings at mass level. Then he conveys gratitude to all the persons present there to cooperate with the successful completion of the workshop.

He keeps his speech as the closing remark of the workshop. At first, he gives a holistic view of the project in a nut shell. Different ministries conducting the three issues, all the respective policies, common interest of all the groups dealing these sectors are the main theme here. Various crops of stress tolerant varieties have been initiated across the country and some are waited based on specialized research, according to him. He lists the pricing system of the crops as a basic problem for the farmers. Here contract farming appears most profitable if it can be kept under proper supervision. In India, Amul group has created a good example of contract farming whereas Pran Group is performing this in Bangladesh along with Meena Bazar and Shawpno partly. He also says about the shift of the cropping pattern of the north part like Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj due to the shortage of proper water for irrigation I summer. He recommends the government officials to impart support to the farmers according the shifting pattern as like mango rather than rice as rice is more water consuming crop than mango. He notes subsidy as an important tool of accelerating the energy sector in Bangladesh. Biogas and other sources of renewable energy are to be classified for the interest of future consumption. As the solar home system is not cheap according to the purchasing power of the common people, it is a big deal for the government to make the solar power popular among the people. The private sector is to be forwarded in this respect. The price discrimination of the solar mini grid between center and periphery has noted in this speech very strongly. The price is 7tk/unit at center and almost 30tk/unit at the periphery is a clear indication of the mismanagement in energy sector. In the issue of water crisis he stresses on the consciousness of the common people at daily usage of the water and on diplomatic relations among the river water sharing countries.

ANNEX-A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. **Goutam Ghosh**, Sangbad, Staff Reporter
2. **Hamid_uz-Zaman**, Staff Reporter, Jugantor
3. **Irtiza Nasim Shourov**, Reporter, Channel 24
4. **Marus Shunno**, Camera Person, Channel 24
5. **Mehlym Bhuyan**, Staff Reporter, The Financial Express
6. **Ahsan Habib**, Reporter, Daily Ittefaq
7. **Gazi Shahnewaz**, Reporter, Daily Jai Jai Din
8. **Salahuddin Bablu**, Business Editor, SA TV
9. **Ruhul Amin Rasel**, Staff Reporter, Bangladesh Protidin
10. **Asjadul Kibria**, Planning Editor, Financial Express
11. **Dr. Mahfuz Kabir**, Senior Research Fellow, BISS
12. **Mollah Amzad Hossain**, Energy & Power, Online Newspaper
13. **Jamal Hossain**, Staff Reporter, Kaler Kantho
14. **Zahid Rahman**, Research and Advocacy Coordinator, Unnayan Shamannay
15. **Moriam Khanam**, Intern, Unnayan Shamannay
16. **Ayesha Noor**, Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
17. **Priangka Das**, Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
18. **Shaheen ul Alam**, Project Co-ordinator, Unnayan Shamannay
19. **Md. Mahabub Hassan**, Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
20. **Robert Shuvro Guda**, Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay
21. **Emdadul Huq Tuhin**, Janakantha 22. **Dilruba Khan**, Dainik Destiny
23. **Salma**, Daily Manobjomin
24. **Khan A Mamun**, Daily Samakal 25. **Sheikh Sabbir Ahmad**, Intern, Unnayan Shamannay
26. **Robert Shuvro Guda**, Senior Research Associate, Unnayan Shamannay

NEWS COVERAGE

Date: 17 July 2016

1. The Financial Express: Study suggests single agri policy for better coherence



Study suggests single agri policy for better coherence

FE Report

The government should consider integrating its policies regarding water management, seed and fertiliser distribution into a single agriculture policy to maintain better policy coherence, a leading research organisation of the country has recommended in its recent study.

At the same time, there should be a prior estimation about the agricultural demand and supply requirement so that farmers do not incur financial loss due to oversupply.

Unnayan Shamannay has conducted the study as part of Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) of the Australian government.

The study was conducted in five countries of South Asia such as Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan. It aimed to address sustainable use of water, food and

energy security in South Asia through better regional cooperation, policy reforms, technology transfer and capacity building.

On the issue of renewable energy, the study said all the solar panels should be connected with the national grid through adjusted metering machine so that they can provide reading of the net electricity consumption and the final electricity bill can be adjusted with the individual electricity contribution to the national grid.

"The government can provide support for solar panel buyers-especially small and large companies engaged in electricity production," Shaheen ul Alam, Project Coordinator of Unnayan Shamannay, said at a workshop organised in the city on Saturday to share the research findings.

Simultaneously, solar thermal power should be used on a large scale as its

built-in storage capabilities allow it to be integrated more easily into the electric grid, Unnayan Shamannay officials said.

Each and every newly-developed commercial or non-commercial buildings of the country should mandatorily install solar panels on their rooftops in a bid to increase the use of renewable energy, the study recommended.

The research also reiterated the call for providing subsidy to the farmers on seed, fertilisers and pesticides while also instituting more efficient agriculture marketing system, ensuring crop diversity and optimising agricultural production.

On the issue of water resources, the study has pressed for enhanced knowledge sharing among the SAARC countries on sustainable use of water while also increasing cooperation among the South Asian nations on trans-border water issues.

protik1983@yahoo.com

দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক

প্রতিষ্ঠাতা আমজাদ হোসেন মাসিক দিয়ার

গ্রামাঞ্চলের জ্বালানি প্রসারে সৌর বিদ্যুতে ভর্তুকি দেয়ার দাবি

■ ইত্তেফাক রিপোর্ট

গ্রামাঞ্চলে জ্বালানি খাতের উন্নয়নে সৌর বিদ্যুতে ভর্তুকি দেয়ার দাবি জানিয়েছে বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠান উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়। গতকাল শনিবার এক সভায় প্রতিষ্ঠানটির গবেষক ড. মাহফুজ কবীর বলেছেন, শহরাঞ্চলে যেখানে ৬/৭ টাকায় প্রতি ইউনিট বিদ্যুৎ পাচ্ছেন ভোক্তারা সেখানে গ্রামাঞ্চলের দরিদ্র মানুষরা পাচ্ছেন অন্তত ৩০ টাকা খরচ করে। অর্থাৎ দরিদ্রদের তুলনায় ধনীরাই কম দামে বিদ্যুৎ পাচ্ছেন। এটা দরিদ্রদের প্রতি বৈষম্য। এ বৈষম্য কমাতে সৌর বিদ্যুতে ভর্তুকি দেয়া দরকার। তাছাড়া গ্রামের দরিদ্র মানুষরা যেন সৌর বিদ্যুৎ নিতে পারে সেজন্য তাদেরকে সহজ শর্তে ঋণের ব্যবস্থা করারও সুপারিশ করেন তিনি। উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণ আয়োজিত 'সাসটেইনেবল ডেভেলপমেন্ট ইনভেস্টমেন্ট পোর্টফোলিও: এডভোকেসি ম্যাসেজ অন এগ্রিকালচার, এনার্জি এন্ড ওয়াটার' শীর্ষক এক সভায় তিনি এসব কথা বলেন।

ড. মাহফুজ কবীর আরো বলেন, দরিদ্রদের উপর বেশি খরচের জ্বালানি চাপিয়ে দেয়া হচ্ছে। বিষয়টি সরকারের ভাবা উচিত। আর গ্রামাঞ্চলের মানুষের জন্য বর্তমানে বড় একটি উদ্বেগের বিষয় হলো ধানের দাম কম পাওয়া। অনেক দিন ধরেই কৃষকরা ন্যায্য মূল্য পাচ্ছেন না। তারপরও নানা কারণে তারা ধান উৎপাদন করেই যাচ্ছেন। সরকার

দেখছে যেহেতু ধানের উৎপাদন কমছে না তাই তারাও এ বিষয়ে খুব বেশি উদ্বিগ্ন হচ্ছে না। এ অবস্থায় কন্ট্রাস্ট ফার্মিংসহ নানা উপায় বের করে ন্যায্য মূল্যে নিশ্চিত করা প্রয়োজন।

উন্নয়ন অন্বেষণের প্রজেক্ট কো-অর্ডিনেটর শাহীন উল আলমের সঞ্চালনায় অন্যদের মধ্যে বক্তব্য রাখেন জ্বালানি বিষয়ক পাব্লিক এনার্জি

উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়ের সভায় বক্তারা

এ্যান্ড পাওয়ার-এর এডিটর মোল্লা আমজাদ হোসেন, ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল এক্সপ্রেস-এর প্ল্যানিং এডিটর আসজাদুল কিবরিয়াসহ আরো অনেকে। সভায় একটি উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়ের একটি গবেষণা উপস্থাপন করা হয়। বাংলাদেশে দুইটি বেসিন (গঙ্গা ও ব্রহ্মপুত্র) সংলগ্ন চারটি উপজেলা (কুড়িগ্রাম সদর, উলিপুর, শিবগঞ্জ ও গোদাগাড়ি) নিয়ে এ গবেষণা করা হয়েছে। যেখানে কৃষি, জ্বালানি ও পানির টেকসই ব্যবহারের বিষয়গুলো গুরুত্ব পেয়েছে। গবেষণায় বলা হয়েছে, এ অঞ্চলে পানি নির্ভর ফসল বেশি উৎপাদন করা হচ্ছে, ভূ-গর্ভস্থ পানির স্তর নিচে নেমে যাচ্ছে, এখানে সার প্রয়োগের খরচ বেশি, নতুন জাতের শস্য সম্পর্কে মানুষের তথ্যের অভাব রয়েছে, নতুন প্রযুক্তিগত জ্ঞানের সীমাবদ্ধতা রয়েছে

এবং কৃষক তার ফসলের ন্যায্যমূল্য পাচ্ছে না। আবার কিছু কিছু ক্ষেত্রে হঠাৎ বন্যার সমস্যা রয়েছে। এ অবস্থায় পরিকল্পিতভাবে বাধের ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।

জমিতে সেচের জন্য পরিকল্পিতভাবে পাইপলাইন করতে হবে। পানির অপচয় কমাতে হবে। কৃষি অধিদপ্তরের পাশাপাশি এনজিও ও পিকেএসএফ-এর সহযোগিতায় সঠিক কৃষক তালিকা করে কৃষকের ন্যায্যমূল্য নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। এছাড়া সরাসরি কৃষক পর্যায়ে কন্ট্রাস্ট ফার্মিংকে উদ্বুদ্ধ করা যেতে পারে। গবেষণায় আরো বলা হয়েছে, সরকার ভারতের সঙ্গে পানি চুক্তি করলেও এর কোনো সুফল পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। তাই কূটনৈতিক যোগাযোগ বাড়াতে হবে। বৃষ্টির পানির ব্যবহার বাড়াতে সচেতনতা তৈরি করতে হবে। নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি প্রসঙ্গে গবেষণায় বলা হয়েছে, সরকারি বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোতে প্রযুক্তিগত দক্ষতার অভাব রয়েছে। গ্রীষ্মকালে সেচকাজে বিদ্যুতের অপ্রাপ্যতা রয়েছে। নবায়নযোগ্য বিদ্যুৎ জ্বালানি খাতে বেসরকারি বিনিয়োগের অপ্রতুলতা রয়েছে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি ব্যবহারের সুযোগ সম্পর্কে জনগণকে অবহিত করতে হবে। আর সোলার প্রযুক্তি নির্ভর বড় বড় শিল্প কারখানাগুলোকে সহজ শর্তে ঋণের সুযোগ দেয়া দরকার।

3. The Daily Jugantor: Acclaim to increase renewable sources of energy



নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানির ব্যবহার বাড়ানোর সুপারিশ

যুগান্তর রিপোর্ট

টেকসই উন্নয়নের জন্য নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানির ব্যবহার বাড়ানোর সুপারিশ করেছে বেসরকারি গবেষণা সংস্থা উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়। সেই সঙ্গে পানির টেকসই ব্যবহারে সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধির তাগিদ দেয়া হয়েছে। বলা হয়েছে, সোলার নির্ভর বড় বড় শিল্প কারখানাগুলোকে সহজ শর্তে ঋণ দেয়া প্রয়োজন। এছাড়া পদ্মা বেসিনে কৃষক পানির অভাবে কৃষি কাজ থেকে অন্য কাজে নিয়োজিত হচ্ছেন।

সাসটেইনেবল ডেভেলপমেন্ট ইনভেস্টমেন্ট পোর্টফলিও : অ্যাডভোকেসি মেসেজ অন এগ্রিকালচার, এনার্জি অ্যান্ড ওয়াটার শীর্ষক এক গবেষণা প্রতিবেদনে এ সুপারিশ করেছে সংস্থাটি।

এ লক্ষ্যে শনিবার রাজধানীর বাংলামোটরে উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়ের সম্মেলন কক্ষে অনুষ্ঠিত কর্মশালায় প্রতিবেদনের বিষয়টি তুলে ধরা হয়। এসময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন গবেষক দলের প্রধান বাংলাদেশ ইন্সটিটিউট অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল অ্যান্ড স্ট্র্যাটেজিক স্টাডিজের সিনিয়র রিসার্চ ফেলো ড. মাহাফুজ কবির ও উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়ের প্রজেক্ট কো-অর্ডিনেটর শাহিন উল আলম। নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি, টেকসই কৃষি ও পানি সংক্রান্ত তিনটি অংশ উপস্থাপন করেন উন্নয়ন সমন্বয়ের রিসার্চ অ্যাসোসিয়েট রোবের গুত্র গুড়া, আয়শা নূর ও প্রিয়াংকা দাস।

4. **The Daily Samakal:** Study of Unnayan Shamannay: Suggest to loan in simple term for solar power based industry



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