



Innovative Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Practices in Bangladesh

Presented by-

M. Mizanur Rahman, PhD

**Director General,
Bangladesh Academy for Rural
Development**





Bangladesh Profile



- ❖ Developing country with world's 7th largest population (163 million)
- ❖ In area 90th largest in the world (147,570 sq. km.)
- ❖ Administrative Units are: Division > District > City Corporation > Municipalities > Upazila > Union
- ❖ 28th Largest Economy in terms of GDP growth
- ❖ World's 4th largest Rice producing country
- ❖ 4th largest inland freshwater fish producer
- ❖ 2nd Largest RMG exporter in the world (WTO)
- ❖ Exports life-saving drugs to 127 countries (\$47.5 million industry)
- ❖ Foreign Exchange Reserves cross \$33 billion in FY 2016-17
- ❖ Bangladesh is one of the top 8 foreign remittance recipient countries in the world (\$13.8 in 2017)
- ❖ One of 'Next-11' emerging economy in the world (Goldman Sachs)



Bangladesh



H.E. Md. Abdul Hamid (Present President)



H.E. Sheikh Hasina (Present Prime Minister)



Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

- ❖ Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) was established on 27 May 1959. Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan – a globally well known Social Scientist was appointed as the First Chief Executive of BARD.
- ❖ Dr. Khan and a group of talented Faculty Members the Frameworks of Physical, Institutional and Administrative Infrastructures for sustainable rural development with people's participation during 1960-67. In fact there are four components under this framework which constitute the **Comilla Model for Rural Development**.



Functions of the Academy



- ◆ Conduct research in rural development and allied fields;
- ◆ Conduct training of Government officials and others concerned with rural development;
- ◆ Test and experiment concepts and theories of development;
- ◆ Evaluate the programmes and activities relating to rural development;
- ◆ Provide advisory and consultative service to the government and other agencies;
- ◆ Guide and supervise national and foreign students in their dissertation works;
- ◆ Conduct national and international seminars, conferences and workshops; and
- ◆ Help policy planners in the field of Rural Development.



Comilla Approach to Rural Development



Major Problems in Bangladesh in 1960's (the then East Pakistan)



- ❖ Low productivity and unstable agriculture
- ❖ Lack of physical and other infrastructures
- ❖ Low income and high unemployment of the people
- ❖ Lack of capital and investment
- ❖ Lack of appropriate organization- exploitation

Two-tier
Cooperatives
(1963)

Physical Infrastructure

Rural Works &
Thana
Irrigation
Programme
(1962 & 1967)

Institutional
Infrastructure

Administrative
Infrastructure

Thana
Training and
Development
Centre (1964)

Comilla Model For Rural Development (CMRD)



Anti-Poverty Action Research for Development



BARD experimented almost sixty pilot projects in last 60 (sixty) years. Globally well known “Comilla Approach to Rural Development” is the outcome of this organization.

Considering the time limit of the meeting, I would like to present two current good practices on poverty reduction and rural development of Bangladesh:

A. One House One Farm (OHOF) Project

B. Comprehensive Village Development Program (CVDP)



A. One House One Farm (OHOF) Project



One House One Farm (OHOF) Project is a dream project of the Honorable Prime Minister of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina.

The Project can be recognized as Post-MDGs strategic initiative that intersects with multiple SDGs



One House One Farm (OHOF) Project



- The main activities of the project include organizing the poor under 60 member (40 women and 20 men) cooperative association, encourage micro-saving for capital formation and empower them by giving them the decision making power for investment.
- The other important aspect of the project is: government provides exactly fifty percent capital support for each of the members could actually accumulate more than BDT Six hundred thousand (USD 7230) of a village cooperative society.

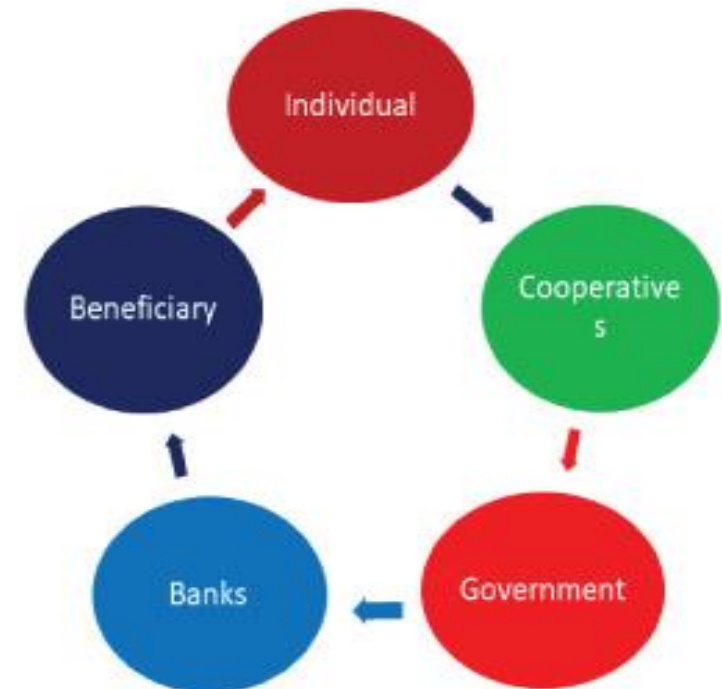


One House One Farm (OHOF) Project

The innovativeness of the project includes:

- (1) Social capital formation;
- (2) Financial capital formation; and
- (3) Empowering rural people.

The project is highly successful to form a huge capital through participator process and online fund mobilization for the small farm families





Success of One House One Farm (OHOF) Project





B. Comprehensive Village Development Program (CVDP)

- BARD started work through “Total Village Development Programme (TVDP) with a view to examining the idea of “**One Village One Cooperative**” since 1975.
- TVDP was adopted by the government in the third five year plan under the name ‘**Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)**’
- After evaluation, the project was identified as a successful model of rural development and **3rd Phase** of the Project has started recently (March 2018) to extend it country wide.



Objectives of CVDP



The main objectives of the project are to :

- (i) promote overall development of all segments of population in a village on the basis of self-effort and self-help by bringing them under a single cooperative organization; and**
- (ii) evolve a replicable rural development model.**



Main Features



One village one cooperative :

Formation of one comprehensive village development cooperative society in a village and spontaneous participation of all persons irrespective of profession and class of the village.

Self-effort and self-help :

The project does not itself provide fund to disburse as credit to the members of the society. Societies generate their fund from their own contribution and invest jointly their collected fund in various profitable sectors.



Factors for Success



The most important factors that contributed the success of the project are:

- (i) co-operative spirit among the members;**
- (ii) group cohesion and solidarity;**
- (iii) local resource mobilisation;**
- (iv) leadership development;**
- (v) regular weekly meeting and accumulation of own capital;**
- (vi) provision of training and soft credit;**
- (vii) good linkage between co-operative societies and Upazila level departments; and**
- (viii) active participation of the beneficiaries and peoples representatives in decision-making and implementation process.**



Outcomes



Some study showed that per capita income of CVD villagers has increased tremendously (up to 90% in some cases).

It is proved that CVDP is strongly successful to reduce the poverty situation in respective villages. This increased their bargaining power and gave them capacity to fight against civil forces more effectively than before.

CVDP members had a significantly higher confidence in overcoming any obstacles on the way to community development.



New Initiatives and Potential Collaboration with CIRDAP and Other CLIs



1. Providing advisory and consultative services to the government and other agencies is one of the important (No.5) mandates of **BARD**. Therefore, BARD is ready to offer the expertise of experienced faculty members of relevant fields as per demand of CIRDAP and CLIs.
2. Conduct research in rural development and allied fields is the **No.1 function of BARD**. Therefore, BARD is ready to be involved in different studies by its multidisciplinary faculty members to identify the thematic topics (focus areas of CIRDAP) for Ministerial Retreat.



New Initiatives and Potential Collaboration with CIRDAP and Other CLIs



3. Conduct training of Government and no-Government officials, Local Government Representatives and Foundation and Subject oriented issues is the No.2 function of BARD. Conduct national and international seminars, conferences and workshops is the No. 7 function of BARD. For that reason, BARD can also contribute in the field of capacity building of IRD functionaries/officials of CIRDAP and CLIs.



New Initiatives and Potential Collaboration with CIRDAP and Other CLIs



4. **BARD seeks to be a Think Tank for Rural Development in Bangladesh.** Therefore, BARD can work as a store house of knowledge in the field of RD for other CLIs.
5. BARD is ready to implement rural development related **policy research** with CIRDAP and CLIs.
6. BARD is ready to render its capacity and expertise for
- arranging the **regional policy dialogue** that is closely related to the No. 7 mandatory function of BARD.



New Initiatives and Potential Collaboration with CIRDAP and Other CLIs



7. BARD can work in the following focused area proposed in the strategic plan of CIRDAP:

- ❖ **Sustainable management and efficient use of Natural Resources;**
- ❖ **Sustainable Livelihood;**
- ❖ **Climate Change and Its Impact; and**
- ❖ **Governance**



Thank you !

St. Martin's Island, Bangladesh