

MAMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between
CBRMP, LGED, Sunamgonj
And
The BARI, Gazipur.

PRELUDE

LGED is implementing the Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) (hereinafter referred to as the Project) which seeks increase of the income of the landless, small and marginal householders in Sunamgonj and the surrounding haors in a sustainable way. The joint IFAD/GOB aided project aims at increasing the incomes of the poor through five components, namely: (a) labour intensive infrastructure development; (b) fisheries development; (c) crop and livestock production; (d) provision of micro-finance and (e) the development of grass root institutional development.

In its implementation, the project would work closely with various Ministries and Government agencies, Research Institutions, National & International NGO's in the project area.

Technologies are being generated by the research organizations, testing in the field through on farm research trials and ultimately recommended for extension throughout the country. The project district is mostly low-lying area and composed of many large haors (water bodies during rainy season: April – September). Both the formulation-mission and appraisal mission has rightly foresee the importance of adaptive research in the locality and included in the project proposal. Sunamgonj has bit different agro-ecological condition than other parts of the country. The district does not consist of any research station/sub-station to validate any of the crop production technology. On the other hand DAE is working with minimum manpower (50% of the sanctioned posts) in the district. The project targeted to achieve livelihood improvement of the poor people, which cannot be possible neglecting agriculture development of rural households when most of them are largely dependent upon subsistence agriculture. Poor inhabitants are heavily dependent either upon catching fish or crop production. Considering all these limitations the project has chosen the option to test and validate the available improved crop production technologies/crops in the location before planning of extension program for the target households.

Though Sunamgonj district is predominant with boro rice land (haor area) but there is almost 25% land suitable for aman rice cultivation. People cultivates aman rice in riverbanks and in upper beel or upper haor areas where growing of rabi crops could be an option for crop intensification. Irrigation in dry season is a common problem and due to deeper water table (400-500ft) STW is not easily feasible. DTW is not advisable, as aman areas are not extensive in a particular area. However before taking programs for extension of such crops in the area it demands to set adaptive trials on selected crops and their varieties to assess the adaptability and yield potentials. Some progressive farmers are cultivating vegetables in the area and the scope for extension could be tested.

Therefore, the farmers of the mentioned areas are in need of alternative cropping patterns to intensify crops and cropping in the region. Technologies that have been identified as having potential, but which are unproven under the special physical and socio-economic condition in the project area, would be tested and further developed in participative on farm research trials. Research would be concentrated on the 16 focus villages but increasing to 48 by 2nd phase of the project. This adaptive research would be carried by the project with the assistance from BARI.

BARI has the technical expertise and the project has number of skilled manpower that can assist in the implementation of research for introducing rabi crops in the existing Rice – Fallow – Fallow or Rice – vegetables – Fallow cropping patterns. Therefore, BARI can play a very important role in research on introduction of varieties of rabi crops (oilseeds, pulses, maize, wheat, vegetables etc.). This research activity in the project area will benefit the people of the haor areas as well as the country by increased crop production.

Now, as both the project and BARI are willing to cooperate with each other in technology transfer, MOU is signed between CBRMP & BARI. It is mentionable here that On Farm Research Division of BARI will be responsible for co-ordinating all the research activities under this MOU.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding has been made on the **November 24, 2005** between the Sunamgonj Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP), LGED and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Gazipur.

Whereas

- Both BARI and CBRMP are concerned about the stated problem of establishing rabi crops in the haor areas of Sunamgonj and are willing to collaborate for developing certain sustainable cropping patterns.
- The project's responsibilities are to increase the income of the rural poor in the Project area.
- The Project Research component and BARI have agreed to enter into an understanding to cooperate in imparting research, training and providing technological support to the beneficiaries in the project area.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the afore-stated promises the CBRMP and BARI mutually agree as follows:

TERM

The term of this understanding is from **November 24, 2005 to June 2014**.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROJECT

- i. The Project and its employees will devote themselves diligently vigilantly to support the provision of services by BARI to the beneficiaries.
- ii. The Project shall interface with BARI in the development and design of research, training programs and workshops.
- iii. The Project will make physical arrangement for any demonstration, training program to be conducted in the project area.
- iv. The total research and relevant costs will be borne by the Project.
- v. The Project will extend technological support and expertise to BARI as required.
- vi. The Project will reimburse BARI for all transport and other costs as permitted under the Project documents, for assisting in the implementation of the research.
- vii. Follow up the progress of work through project qualified team from the project.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BARI

- i. BARI will provide qualified scientists in supporting the project's adaptive research program for the period specified elsewhere

- ii. BARI scientists will act as resources persons in the research & training programs and workshops conducted for the beneficiaries and the target groups of the project.
- iii. BARI scientist will assist the project in planning and conducting the coordinated research program proposed
- iv. BARI will supervise the research trials regularly during the season, at least one visit of concern scientist in each month for the season
- v. BARI scientist will support the project by promoting the technology at various demonstrations sites
- vi. BARI scientists will impart training and advice to the project staff about any changes in technologies procedures and policies
- vii. BARI scientists will supervise data collection, processing and analysis and prepare the reports for the research trials at the end of each cropping season
- viii. Presentation of reports to the workshop at Sunamgonj (participated by all stakeholders)

IN WITNESS WHERE OF, the parties hereto have affixed their signatures on the date first written above.

Sunamgonj Community Based
Resource Management Project
(CBRMP)

By:

(Sk. Md. Mohsin)
Project Director

Bangladesh Agricultural Research
Institute (BARI), Gazipur.

BY:

(Dr. Matiur Rahman)
Director (Research)

Witness

Name : Hasibun Nahar Khanam
Designation : Manager, liaison office
CBRMP, PMU, Sunamganj
Date : November 24, 2005

Witness

Name : Dr. M. A. Quiyum
Designation : Chief Scientific Officer & Head
On Farm Research Division BARI
Date : November 24, 2005

