

Forest Governance at the Local Level:
A study on Social Forestry Institutions in Dhaka Forest Division, Bangladesh

A Dissertation
by
Ruhul Mohaiman Chowdhury
ID 04262009



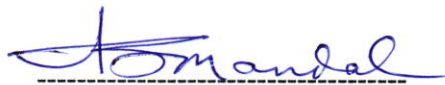
Submitted to the Development Studies Program, BRAC University
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Master of Development Studies

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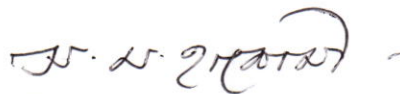
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Approved by:



Supervisor

Dr. M. A. Sattar Mandal
Professor of Agricultural Economics
Bangladesh Agricultural University



Director

Professor Syed M Hashemi
BRAC Development Institute (BDI)
BRAC University

Certification

This is to endorse that this dissertation work entitled "Forest Governance at the Local Level: A study on Social Forestry Institutions in Dhaka Forest Division, Bangladesh" is done by Mr. Ruhul Mohaiman Chowdhury, bearing student ID: 04262009 for the partial fulfillment of the Master of Development Studies (MDS) course under BRAC University, Dhaka. This study has been completed under my direct supervision and guidance.

I do certify that this is an original piece of study and appreciate its style and contents. This exhibits a partial scenario of Social Forestry Programme in Bangladesh and focuses on the local level social forestry institutions developed under the auspices of Forestry Sector Project, Bangladesh Forest Department.

Dr. M. A. Sattar Mandal
Dissertation Supervisor
Dhaka; November 2008

Declaration

I, Ruhul Mohaiman Chowdhury, hereby declare that the masters dissertation entitled, "Forest Governance at the Local Level: A study on Social Forestry Institutions in Dhaka Forest Division, Bangladesh" is developed and written by myself for the partial fulfillment of the Degree in Master of Development Studies (MDS). I have thoroughly complied with the directions of my supervisor, Professor M. A. Sattar Mondal, collected primary data from my study site and reviewed literatures.

This is a distinctive study and devoid of any other previous work already presented at any academic institute of higher education.



Ruhul Mohaiman Chowdhury
MDS Student ID: 04262009
Dhaka; November 2008.

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I do humbly recognize supports from my family.

Acronyms

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
AIGAs	:	Alternate Income Generating Activities
BWDB	:	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CCF	:	Chief Conservator of Forests
CHT	:	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CFUGs	:	Community Forest User Groups, Nepal
CFM	:	Community Forest Management, Vietnam
DCC	:	District Coordination Committee
DFO	:	Divisional Forest Officer
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FD	:	Forest Department, Bangladesh
FENTC	:	Forestry Extension and Nursery Training Centre
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
FGLG	:	Forest Governance Learning Group
FSP	:	Forestry Sector Project
GOB	:	Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
ICFOR	:	International Forestry Research
IDRC	:	International Development Research Center
IIED	:	International Institute for Environment and Development
JFM	:	Joint Forest Management, West Bengal
LCOs	:	Local Community Organizations
LGRD	:	Local Government Department
NFA	:	National Forest Assessment, Bangladesh, 2005-2007
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organization
NPD	:	National Project Director
MC	:	Management Committee (Social Forestry Management Committee)
MoEF	:	Ministry of Environment and Forests
PBSAs	:	Participatory Benefit Sharing Agreements
PROFOR	:	Program on Forests
RHD	:	Roads and Highways
RECOFTC	:	Regional Community Forestry Training Center,
SFMC	:	Social Forestry Management Committee
SFIs	:	Social Forestry Institutions
SFRs	:	Social Forestry Rules, 2004
TCC	:	Thana Coordination Committee
TFF	:	Tree Farming Fund
UCC	:	Upazilla Co-ordination Committee
UEFDC	:	Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
UNECE	:	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNO	:	Upazilla Nirbahi Officer
UNESCAP	:	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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Executive summary

Since early 80s Social Forestry has achieved special focus in Bangladesh forestry sector. It has brought a significant shift in forest management through bringing both the conservation of forest reserves and poverty reduction in development strategies. National policy papers viz. national forest policy 1994, forestry sector master plan 1993, The Forest (Amendment) Act 2000 and Social Forestry Rules 2004 unanimously put emphasis on people-oriented forestry programme. Many scholars and development practitioners also recognized the crucial role of local people in natural resources management (Marks, 1984; McCay and Acheson, 1987; Ostrom, 1990; Poffenberger, 1990; Hecht and Cockburn, 1990; UNFAO, 1990; Blockhus et al., 1992; Bromley et al., 1992; Ascher, 1995; Agarwal, 2000). Hence in pursuance of social forestry programme in Bangladesh, local level social forestry institutions like participants' groups, social forestry management committee (SFMC), tree farming fund committee, upazilla environment and forest development committee (UEFDC) were founded during early 90s. These institutions are playing vital role to implement Social Forestry (SF) programme in association with the existing local level FD institutions namely forest ranges and forest beats. On the other hand, Forest governance, as a recent development discourse, entails clarifying the relationships, rights, responsibilities and incentives among various actors on the direction and nature of forest uses in a sustainable way (Recoftc, 2005) and IIED (2005) views it as decisions and actions that remove the barriers and install the policy and institutional systems, which spread local forestry success.

The study focuses on the legal foundations and performance of the local level forestry institution, their compliance to the principles of good governance and overall implication of forest governance in sustainable forest management. This study is contextual to the social forestry programme in Sal forests of Bangladesh.

Study reveals that two local level social forestry institutions viz. social forestry management committee (SFMC) and upazilla environment and forest development committee (UEDFC) have the potentiality to ensure governance in forest management through collaboration of local forest dependent communities, local public agencies, NGOs, civil societies and forest department as legal custodian of forest reserves. At this point, these actors demonstrate a structured initiation in ensuring governance through

participation of a wide range of stakes, in a visible consensus manner, towards some set strategic visions, and effective mechanism of guaranteeing rule of law. The study also reveals that the committees display a positive drive through their efficiency, accountability and transparency in transactions with the stakeholders. However, there are some challenges yet to be resolved. These are selecting right and the most eligible local dependents as SF participants, building capacity of both the rights holders and duty bearers, conflict resolution and devolution of financial and administrative power to these institutions. It is largely evident that FD as land owning agency and local elites (administrative and political) still play dominant role in SF programme implementations, which often impede ensuring good forest governance. Furthermore, though the tree farming fund (TFF) is acknowledged for sustainability of SF programme, the institutions in practice, are neither capable to handle the funds nor transparent in its transactions.

The study concludes with ranking the institutions in a gauge of 1-5¹, with respect to five principles of good governance (adopted from Graham et. al. 2003) and found that UDEFDC achieved an aggregate rank of 2.5 i.e. right in between good (2) and moderate (3) and the SFMC ranks at 2.69, i.e. closer to moderate (3). This implies that UDEFDC's performance is better than the SFMC in ensuring good forest governance through the social forestry programme. Consequently, more emphasis should be given to make the SFMC more functional and effective since it paves the basis of SF programme as well as the most vital starting point towards ensuring forest governance. However, the progress so far achieved in the SF programme in the country is a reflection of external backstopping from donors, project supports and policy makers; and made the space for local actors to create demand for further refinement, update and improving social forestry to meet their needs as well as preserving biological diversity in the forest reserves.

Although the study exhibits a fragmented scenario of social forestry programme and localized in context, it may be a food for thought for the actors in social forestry programme and would be useful for directing further research by the academicians.

¹ Scale of 1 to 5; where : 1 = optimum, 2 = good, 3 = moderate, 4 = bad and 5 = no idea

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. Preface

People-oriented forestry can offer high potential routes towards good forest governance and lead eradicating rural poverty of forest dependent communities and simultaneously can ensure biodiversity conservation in degraded forest reserves. IIED (2002) views that forestry can contribute to food security; provide resource safety nets and sometimes enterprise opportunities where little else exists. Forests have also proven to be fertile ground for pioneering good local governance. In practice, declaration of forest reserve largely denies the usufruct rights of the local poor, which is treated as threats to their livelihood. This also leads to deforestation and loss of biodiversity. Sal forests in Dhaka Forest Division is one of the prime examples of reserved forests which on the one hand refutes local peoples' needs over forests and on the other hand witnesses deforestation and biodiversity loss due to hostile relationship with the local poor and elites. However, recent social forestry programme has opened up a route to people-oriented forestry in Bangladesh whereby new forest management regime has been evolved. The traditional forest administration is now aided by the local institutions like Management Committee, composed of social forestry participant groups and Upazilla environment and forest development committee (UEFDC), comprised of local level public administration and civil society members. Further, the Forest Policy 1994 and Social Forestry Rules 2004 paved the legal foundation for involving local people in forest management. With the advent of policy supports and emergence of local level institutions, it is expected to remove the barriers that prevent forests and trees from contributing to the livelihoods of rural poor through ensuring good forest governance in emerging opportunities for sustainable local forest management. Chowdhury (2008) viewed that multi-stakeholders' involvement frames the base for good institutional governance as well as efficient management regimes. The study analyses the compliance of local level social forestry institutions with the principles of good governance while the study site meanwhile experienced more than 10 years practicing social forestry.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Studies revealed that people living in and at the neighbourhoods of forest reserves are highly dependent on it for their livelihood (Fernandes et. al. 1988, Falconer and Arnold 1989, Cavendish 2000, Gunatilake 1996, Reddy and Chakravarty 1999, Bahuguna 2000, Takasaki *et al* 2001). With the increasing pressures from multi-fold factors like increasing population, indiscriminate landuse transformation, frequent natural disasters, growing inequality in socio-economy etc. brought the biological hotspots under huge threats. As such mere declaration of reserved forests and fences-and-fines approach of conservation cannot arrest the steady loss of valuable biodiversity from forests (Sharma et. al. 2005). In light with the National Forest Policy 1994, Forest Department (FD) implemented people-oriented social forestry programme under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) financed Forestry Sector Project (1997-2006). Local poor people are brought into legal framework to participate in afforestation as well as conservation programme under the benefit-share agreement. Social Forestry Rules 2004 is formulated to strengthen and sustain the social forestry programme, which gave strong ground to local level committees for active functioning.

Implementation of a people-oriented programme, which is a major shift of power from existing patron-client arrangement, requires adequate policy supports, strong commitments of FD for devolution of power to local institutions, well organized rights holder communities, an active civil society and above all necessary supports (knowledge and financial) to materialize this shift. The new collaborative management platform with multiple stakeholders supposedly brings good governance at local level, as a precondition for poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation. Though a number of studies are conducted on various dimensions of social forestry and recognized the configuration of local level social forestry institutions, the functional modality of these local institutions is not assessed empirically, with particular reference to Bangladesh forestry sector. The study focuses mainly on the field level functionality of the local social forestry institutions (SFIs) in the frame of good governance principles.

1.3. Rationale of the study

Forestry and biodiversity conservation is not merely biological focus rather it's socio-cultural and economic dimensions are getting more and more prominent in today's development agenda. In-depth study in silviculture of some species, adequate research on the issues of tenure and collective rights, livelihood of forest dependent communities, stakeholder analysis on stake and power etc. are also needed. Accordingly forestry sector of the country also took the challenges of institutionalize people-oriented forestry rather than mere involving local people to benefit-sharing afforestation programme whereby they used to remain as passive participants and benefit recipients. Since FD has appreciated formation of local SFIs, its functionality needs proper guidance with action research supports. Here, all the ways of SFIs functionalities including active participation of key stakeholders; efficient, responsive and accountable local committee; a process of mass consensus orientation and ensuring the rule of law are focused in the study.

The findings of this study provide a state of affairs and functionality of local social forestry institutions and have implications for improvement and future planning. Moreover, the study widens the scope for future researches in the field of participatory social forestry.

1.4. Objectives of the study

The broader objective of the study is to assess the compliances of good governance principles in local level social forestry institutions and their functionalities, towards poverty reduction as well as biodiversity conservation.

Some specific objectives are:

- i. to review the legal status and formation of local level social forestry institutions (SFIs);
- ii. to assess the extent at which good governance principles are reflected in the functionalities of local SFIs; and
- iii. to explore the implications of good governance in sustainable forest management.

1.5. Limitations of the study

Due to limitation of time and budget, the study is confined in the Sreepur range under Dhaka Forest Division. This is a site-specific study that concentrates merely in a portion of Sal forests area and participatory social forestry activities have completed the first rotation during its implementation. Hence this study does not represent the state of Social Forestry in Bangladesh, in general.

Furthermore, the study could not focus on the biophysical performance of social forestry programme and socio-economic return of the social forestry programme and/or participants. Due to diversity in forest types, livelihood dependency on forests and socio-economic condition of people, the finding of the study might require some local level adaptations during replication.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1. General Background

Weak governance gained popularity as an explanation for environmental degradation with the drastic decline of flora and faunal resources from forests (Myers 1979; Hecht & Cockburn 1990; Gibson 1999). Similarly interests have been growing in the effect of government quality on economic, political and environmental outcomes whereby Tendler (1997) mentioned that an efficient bureaucracy with better governance could produce more effective policy. Indeed, several policies emanating from donors, watchdog non-governmental organizations, and civil society groups seek to incorporate explicitly measures to encourage better governance of forest resources (Barrett *et al*, 2005). For example Transparency International's Forest Integrity Network, the International Tropical Timber Organization's policy forum on criminal activity in the forest sector, the U.S. Government's Congo Basin Initiative, the Center for International Forestry Research (ICFOR)'s newly created forest governance division and The World Bank also emphasizes the role of good governance within its forest sector strategy as well as more broadly in its poverty reduction programme (World Bank 1997, 2002). Furthermore, there are some research initiatives like the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG), International Development Research Center (IDRC) and Program on Forests (PROFOR) etc. also demonstrate growing concern about forest governance for people's well being as well as biodiversity conservation. FGLG is an informal alliance of independent agencies, aims to exchange learning and develop ideas on forest governance, is currently active with an attempt to connect the marginalized communities from forest governance to those controlling it, and to help both do things better (FGLG 2008). ICFOR sets the overall goal of the Forests and Governance Programme is to promote good forest governance based on social justice, equity, accountability and transparency (ICFOR 2008). IDRC (2008) views the fresh perspectives in integrating knowledge and governance in natural resource sectors. PROFOR supports initiatives that aim to align government, private sector, and civil society interests and responsibilities, and promote equitable and efficient forest management practices (PROFOR 2008). Recent studies from these sources manifest that there exists a complex conceptual link between governance and natural resources, which requires in-depth studies at local level.

In the context of study focus, Sal Forests of Bangladesh originally had a wider domain from Dinajpur to Mymensingh Tangail and Dhaka Forest Divisions. The flagship tree species in this forest is Sal (*Shorea robusta*). Bhawal Garh, Modhupur Garh and Atia Reserved were the well-known Sal Tracts of the country. With the promulgation of the 'Private Forest Ordinance 1949 and elimination of landlordship, Government acquired these Sal Tracts and adopted scientific management as Reserved Forests. Chowdhury M.R. 1957 pointed that since 1940s Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest was enriched with Sal and a group of associated species. Over time, the resource users and the poor living in and around the Sal forests, to meet their immediate needs and aspiration to increase their 'current income flows', excessively exploited Sal illicitly. During the war of independence, in 1971, these forests were mostly devastated. Subsequently there were restrictions on felling in the forests and no systematic management was done thereof. Later Sal forests faced tremendous pressure of over exploitation, encroachment and landuse conversion.

With the advent of donor-assisted development programme since early 1980s, these forests are brought under enrichment programme through community forestry approaches. Among these endeavours 'Community Forestry Development Project (1981/82-1986/87), Thana Afforestation and Nursery Development Project (1987/88-96/97), Coastal Green Belt Project' (1997-2002), Forestry Sector Project (1997/98-2005/06), Nishorgo Support Project (2004-2008), Forest Policy 1994, Forestry Sector Master Plan (1995-2015) and Social Forestry Rules 2004 are the milestones towards people-oriented forestry programme in the country. These programmes and masterpieces have developed several bodies, from grass-root to regional and national level, gained policy supports and eventually reached to institutional forms. At this stage, it is required to evaluate the performance and effectiveness in ensuring the goals of social forestry.

This study mainly deals with the structure, formation and functionality of local social forestry institution developed under the auspices of Forestry Sector Project. This institution has a local focus and mandated to ensure forest governance in sustainable forest management along with strategies for poverty reduction and conservation of biological diversity. The study confines in-depth analysis of local institutions in Sreepur Range, Dhaka Forest Division. Participating farmers in the Social Forestry Programme are the main driving force of the study whereby participants' selection regime,

participation modalities, socio-economic improvement and their collective actions towards sustainable forest management is extensively appraised. Eventually the local institutions are evaluated regarding their achievements in promoting good forest governance over a decade.

2.2. Social Forestry: context and evolution in Bangladesh

The discourse of Social Forestry is originated through a process of felt necessity to combine modern natural sciences and social sciences for effective forest management. The term 'Social Forestry' was first coined by an Indian Forester Mr. Westoby in the 9th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, 1968. He defined it as 'Forestry is not merely an issue relevant to tree only, but an issue relevant to man'. Since 8th World Forestry Conference social forestry theories, methodologies and practices spread and developed rapidly in the world, particularly in the Southeast Asia. During this period it is understood that social forestry has the potential to be developed comprehensively with ecological, social and economic sound (Pikun and Weichang, 1998). FAO (1978) defines Social Forestry as ". . . any situation which intimately involves local people in a forestry activity". Ramaswamy (1988) pointed that objectives of Social Forestry is

"to raise the standard of living of the rural dweller, to involve him in decision-making process, which affects his very existence, and to transform him into a dynamic citizen, capable of contributing to a wide range of activities than he was used to and of which he will be the direct beneficiary. Its ultimate objective is not physical but human. The physical goals, which will be set towards achieving the objective of enhancing the lives of human beings".

However, it is evident that social forestry is often named as 'Participatory Forestry', 'Community Forestry', 'Joint Forest Management', 'Collaborative Management', 'Village Forestry' or 'Peoples' Forestry' etc. based on context and locations. For instances, in the Asia Pacific Region, Social Forestry evolved in diverse forms viz.

Box-1: Co-management PAs in Bangladesh

In 2004, Bangladesh Forestry sector launched 'Nishorgo Program for Protected Forest Area Management' a model of collaborative management platform whereby local key stakeholders have voice in management decision-making (Fox *et al.* 2007).

community forest management (CFM) and joint forest management (JFM) in India, community forestry in Nepal, integrated social forestry in the Philippines, collaborative management in protected areas of Bangladesh and prosperity approach in Indonesia. Since early 1980s this region, Bangladesh in particular, has been practicing social forestry programme and meanwhile has achieved commendable experiences thereby.

In Bangladesh, ADB financed 'Community Forestry Development Project (1981/82 to 1986/87) is the first social forestry project and implemented over 23 northern countries. Successively two more social forestry projects namely 'Thana Afforestation and Nursery Development Project' and Coastal Green Belt Project' (1997-2002)' are also taken. Finally, the 'Forestry Sector Project, FSP (1997/98-2005/06)' is taken with a nationwide coverage, aiming to several main objectives, namely i. to prevent the degradation of forest; ii. to increase the production of forest resources; and iii. to enhance conservation of forests in selected protected areas and establish sustainable management of forest resources through local poor landless community participation. Under the FSP about 64,000.0 hectares of degraded forests, encroached and marginal fellow lands are brought under new plantations whereby about 85,000.0 beneficiaries have been involved. In the fiscal year 2005-06, six thousand six hundred and nine (6609) participating beneficiaries received Tk. 9,954,000.0 as their share from social forestry plantations (FD 2006). Furthermore, a network with different land owning agencies, including Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Roads and Highways Department (RHD), Bangladesh Railway and Local Government Department (LGRD), local stakeholders including neighbouring communities, local administration, civil society; is developed with Forest Department as lead agency. Since then on the process is being continued with adequate policy supports and brought significant changes in forest management regime while *fencing and policing* approach is identified as the traditional way. Hence, social forestry can be marked as a way out to address peoples' aspiration for their livelihood as well as a means of conserving biodiversity in forest reserve through coordinated efforts. At this stage of maturity, about two decades of practice, it is justified to evaluate SF programme in the context of a change-making institution. This study will confine in appraising local level social forestry institutions in Bangladesh and degree of compliance towards good forest governance.

2.3. Concept of forest governance

Governance is not synonymous with government. It is partly about how institutions and other social organizations interact, how they relate to people, and how decisions are taken in a complex society. Thus governance is a process whereby societies or organizations make their important decisions, determine whom they involve in the process and how they render account.

United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) remarked good governance as an ideal, which is difficult to achieve in its totality; and very few countries and societies have come close to achieving it. To ensure sustainable development, actions must be taken to work towards achieving this ideal. UNESCAP (2007) identified eight (8) major characteristics of good governance regimes, namely participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and following the rule of law.

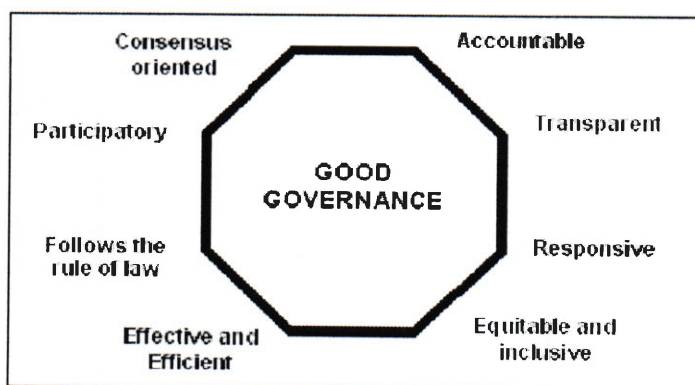


Figure 1: Principles of good governance (UNESCAP 2007)

Good forest governance is a relatively recent expression of good governance in forestry sector. Asian Alliance for Good Forest Governance facilitated by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center, RECOFTC (2008) for Asia and the Pacific notes that “good forest governance is achieved by clarifying the relationships, rights, responsibilities and incentives among (civil society, forest users and government actors) on the direction and nature of how forests are used”. The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG), steered by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), has a working definition of good forest governance – “the decisions and actions that remove the barriers and install the policy and institutional systems which spread local forestry success” (IIED 2005). With slight variations, the United Nations Development

Program (UNDP, 1997) expresses a set of nine (9) principles that have a claim to universal recognition. These are, participation, consensus orientation, strategic vision, responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, accountability, transparency, equity, and rule of law. These principles are defined as below:

Participation – all men and women should have a voice in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their intention. Such broad participation is built on freedom of association and speech, as well as capacities to participate constructively; **Consensus orientation** – good governance mediates differing interests to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interest of the group and, where possible, on policies and procedures; **Strategic vision** – leaders and the public have a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development, along with a sense of what is needed for such development. There is also an understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexities in which that perspective is grounded; **Responsiveness** – institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders; **Effectiveness and efficiency** – processes and institutions produce results that meet needs while making the best use of resources; **Accountability** – decision-makers in government, the private sector and civil society organizations are accountable to the public, as well as to institutional stakeholders. This accountability differs depending on the organizations and whether the decision is internal or external; **Transparency** – transparency is built on the free flow of timely and reliable economic, social, and political information, which is accessible to all relevant stakeholders. Processes, institutions and information are directly accessible to those concerned with them, and enough information is provided to understand and monitor them; **Equity** – all men and women have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being; and **Rule of Law** – legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially, particularly the laws on human rights (UNDP, 1997).

Graham *et al.* 2003 grouped the UNDP's characteristics of good governance under five (5) broad themes and recognized that these principles often overlap or are conflicting at some point, that they play out in practice according to the actual social context, that applying such principles is complex, and that they are all about not only the results of power but how well it is exercised. The 5 themes are Legitimacy and Voice, Direction, Performance, Accountability and Fairness.

Table 1: Five (5) principles of good governance

5 Characteristics Graham <i>et al.</i> 2003	Corresponding UNDP Principles, 1997	Corresponding UNESCAP Principles, 2007
Legitimacy and Voice	<input type="checkbox"/> Participation <input type="checkbox"/> Consensus orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Participatory <input type="checkbox"/> Consensus oriented
Direction	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic vision	
Performance	<input type="checkbox"/> Responsiveness <input type="checkbox"/> Effectiveness and efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive <input type="checkbox"/> Effective and efficient
Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/> Accountability <input type="checkbox"/> Transparency	<input type="checkbox"/> Accountable <input type="checkbox"/> Transparent
Fairness	<input type="checkbox"/> Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Rule of Law.	<input type="checkbox"/> Equitable and inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Rule of law

(Source: Graham *et al.* 2003).

However, the principles of good governance are often overlapping and each strengthens the other. Here, 5 principles developed by Graham *et al.* 2003 are identified and their presence is studied in social forestry programme implementation in general and in the local level social forestry institutions in particular.

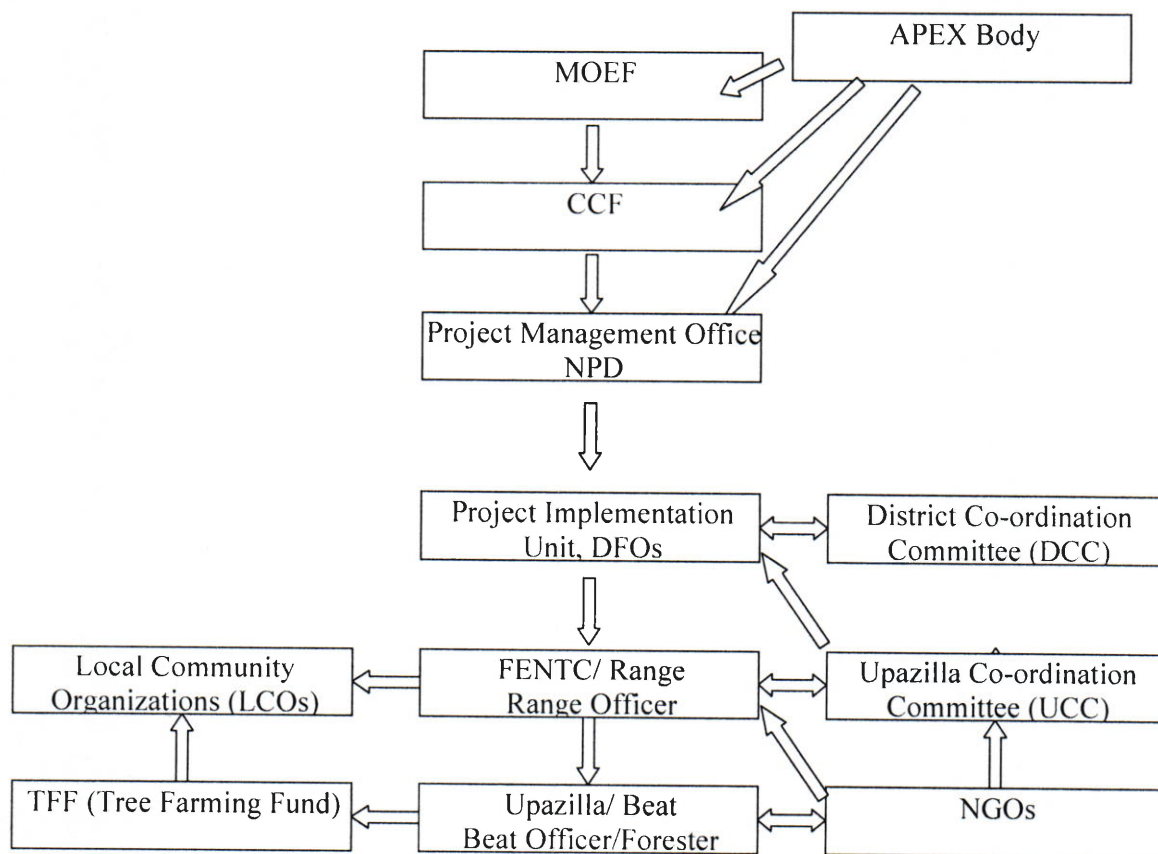
2.4. Social Forestry institutions in Bangladesh

The Forest (Amendment) Act 2000 and subsequent Social Forestry Rules 2004 paved the legal footings for social forestry institutions in the country at local, regional and national level. These institutions are developed under the auspices of ADB financed Forestry Sector Project (1997/98-2005/06). The social forestry institutions developed are an Apex body at the national level, followed by regional level District Coordination Committee (DCC), Thana Coordination Committee (TCC) at local level and Participants' Groups and Management Committees at grass-root level.

The apex body was designated to perform the chief supervisory role, and was functional during the Forestry Sector Project, led by the Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, whereby the National Project Director (NPD), Forestry Sector Project was the Member Secretary. Another 14 members of the committee were representatives from high-level Government agencies and NGOs including the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) with leading roles. The apex body was responsible for overseeing the progress of project implementation, identify and address constraints, resolve conflicts, ensure that no duplication or overlap among various project activities occurs and that the implementation follows the predetermined schedule.

The District Co-ordination Committees (DCCs) were headed by the Deputy Commissioners and concerned Divisional Forest Officers acted as Member Secretary. District level officials from GOB as well as NGOs were members of this committee and perform similar duties, at district level, like the Apex body. However, the apex body of the FSP project and that of the DCC are beyond the scope of this study. At Upazilla level, coordination of social forestry programme were facilitated by Upazilla Co-ordination Committee (UCC) whereby the concerned Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Forest Range Officer acted as the Chairman and Member Secretary respectively. UCC was formed with representatives from Upazilla level concerned public offices and NGOs.

Figure 2: Management Setup of Forestry Sector Project



Social Forestry participants form the local community organizations (LCOs) namely Participants' Groups and Social Forestry Management Committees (SFMCs), which are the main driving forces of the social forestry programme. The members of these LCOs form the Tree Farming Fund (TFF) committee to handle the financial activities dealings of the LCOs.

2.4.1. Social Forestry Participants

Social Forestry participants are people from neighboring or forest villagers of public forests. Forest Department selects participants in consultation with the local government institutions and local participating NGOs. Participants are selected having following criteria (FD 2004):

- i. People living nearest (within 1 km) to the plantation sites;
- ii. Landless;
- iii. Owner or occupants of less than 50 decimal of land;
- iv. Destitute women and
- v. Ethnic minorities.

The participants are under a contractual agreement with Forest Department named 'Participatory Benefit Sharing Agreement (PBSA) and are responsible for required planting, maintenance including climber cutting, cleaning, double stem cutting, pruning and thinning, and protection from any damage or pilferage; operate the tree farming fund; harvesting of intermediate and final products; contribute in the re-establishment costs. The participants get benefits as per PBSA and usufruct rights on the forestland, which is not transferable except to his legal heirs.

2.4.2. Participatory Group and Management Committee (MC)

A group of 10-25 persons among social forestry participants form participants' group. The participating group members select and form a Management Committee having following members:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i. 1 x Chairperson | iv. 1 x Assistant Secretary |
| ii. 1 x Vice Chairperson | v. 1 x Treasurer |
| iii. 1 x General Secretary | vi. 4 x Members and |

Two Advisors: One from FD and another from participating NGO.

The Management Committee has following functions (GOB 2004):

- i. Assist FD for implementing project activities;
- ii. Protection and maintenance of social forestry plantations;
- iii. Management of TFF;

- iv. Ensuring implementation of terms and conditions mentioned in the PBSA and solving any dispute arises during implementation of the project in consultation with representatives from FD and NGO;
- v. The Committee will conduct a meeting in each month and maintain 2 Registers, one for keeping records of meetings and resolutions taken (by the General Secretary) and one for maintaining accounts (by the Treasurer).

2.4.3. Tree Farming Fund (TFF) Committee

Social Forestry Programme in Bangladesh has developed a committee for management and operation of the tree-farming fund for each social forestry units. This committee is named as Tree Farming Fund (TFF). The formation of this committee is as follows:

- a) Chairperson, vice-chair of the Management Committee, ex-officio
- b) General Secretary, General Secretary from the Management Committee ex-officio and
- c) Member Secretary, Treasurer of the Management Committee, ex-officio
- d) Advisor, concerned FD personnel, for example Forest Beat Officer.

The responsibilities of a TFF committee are (GOB 2004):

- Each Social Forestry region/ unit maintains a fund named Tree Farming Fund;
- Deposit the fixed portion (10%) of final harvest from social forestry plantations;
- The TFF will be used for all activities relating to the 2nd rotation plantations and their maintenance;
- Utilization of the surplus funds of TFF, after raising 2nd rotation plantations, for forest based activities and social welfare activities, like nursery raising, for the beneficiary participants;
- Tree Farming Fund (TFF) would be deposited to a Short Term Deposit (STD) A/C in a local government affiliated bank and this account is maintained by joint signature of the General Secretary and Treasurer of the TFF committee. The fund is taken from the Bank in line with the proposal of the committee members and advisors;
- Maintain records and will preserve all books, particulars, documents for the participants and the advisors.

2.4.4. Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC)

In order to ensure participation of local level administration, civil society and NGOs the Social Forestry Programme involved all the stakeholders at local level and formed a Upazilla Coordination Committee during the Forestry Sector Project, which is eventually named as Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC). This committee is formed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) vide memo no. MoEF(Sha-3)/committee/48/97/712 dated 14/07/2004 and it is mainly responsible for coordination of environmental and forestry development programme at local level, smooth implementation and ensuring people's participation in these activities. The committee is composed as follows:

Table 2: Composition of the UEFDC.

	Hon'ble Member of the Parliament	Advisor
1.	Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO)	Chairperson
2.	Assistant Commissioner (Land)	Member
3.	Upazilla Agriculture Officer	Member
4.	Upazilla Engineer, LGED	Member
5.	Sub-Divisional Engineer/Asstt. Engineer RHD	Member
6.	Sub-Divisional Engineer /Asstt. Engineer, BWDB	Member
7.	Sub-Divisional Engineer, Bangladesh Railway	Member
8.	Upazilla Education Officer	Member
9.	Project Officer, Secondary Education	Member
10.	Upazilla Rural Development Officer	Member
11.	Assistant Director/ Upazilla Youth Development Officer, Youth Development Directorate	Member
12.	Officer in Charge (Concerned Police Station)	Member
13.	Upazilla Ansar and BDB Officer	Member
14.	NGO Representative (Nominated by the UNO)	Member
15.	Chairman, All Union Parishad	Member
16.	Upazilla College/Secondary School/ Institution Head from Senior Madrassa (Nominated by the UNO)	Member
17.	Representative of Press Club (Journalist)	Member
18.	Representative of Bangladesh Scouts and Bangladesh Girls' Guide Association	Member
19.	2 (1 female) Local enthusiastic Civil Society member (Nominated by the UNO)	Member
20.	ACF/ Range Officer, Forest Department	Member Secretary

The scope of work of the Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC) is as follows (GOB 2004):

- ❑ Popularizing the tree plantation movement and Organize tree fairs
- ❑ Implementation government decision regarding polyethylene ban
- ❑ Implementation of the government decisions regarding wildlife conservation and prevention of killing migratory birds.
- ❑ Preventing timber burning in the brickfields and implementation of 'Brick Burning (Control) Act 1981' and 'Brick Burning (License) Rules 1989'.
- ❑ Programme planning and implementation for the conservation of biological diversity
- ❑ Assist local nurseries in promoting medicinal, indigenous timber and fruit trees and arrange publicity programme;
- ❑ Undertake effective measures to stop hill cutting;
- ❑ Take required measures to control black smoke of vehicles and sound pollution;
- ❑ Undertake effective measures to conserve endangered or extinct plant/animal species;
- ❑ Prevent and discourage the activities which can hamper the balance in terrestrial and water ecosystem;
- ❑ Inform all concerned regarding plantation and environmental development programme/project and provide necessary coordination and assistance for programme implementation;
- ❑ Provide guidance in selecting social forestry plantation sites and participants;
- ❑ Undertake other assignments given by the government
- ❑ Organize bi-monthly meeting and inform the concerned authority regarding programme.

Chapter 3: Research Design

3.1. Conceptual framework of the study

People-centered forestry is yet to be institutionalized in Bangladesh. The efforts are more visible to make forestry programme as a people-oriented ones in line with the mandate of Forest Policy 1994 and Forestry Sector Master Plan (1995-2015). A number of public, private, NGOs, corporate, development partners, education and research institutions etc are concerned in poverty alleviation as well as environmental management efforts. Each of these actors have their own mode of involvement and contributions; but have a common sentiment that a local level institutions with good governance in programme implementation can ensure environmental sustainability and alleviate poverty from the society.

As such the study precisely identifies local level social forestry institutions in the gauge of good governance principles. The key actors in these institutions and beneficiaries of the SF programme are interviewed. Special attention is given to review formation of SFIs at study area and their compliance with five principles of good governance viz. i) Legitimacy and voice, ii) Direction (strategic vision), iii) Performance, iv) Accountability and v) Fairness in equity and the rule of law.

The Study Framework is identified as follows:

Graham <i>et al.</i> 2003	UNDP 1997	Criteria
Legitimacy and Voice	<input type="checkbox"/> Participation <input type="checkbox"/> Consensus orientation	<p>Participation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provision of information; 2. listening to public opinion; 3. people's participation in decision-making; 4. development of people's capacity for participation. <p>Consensus orientation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provisions to mediate differing interests to reach a broad consensus 2. The role of UEFDC/SFMC in consensus building with supporting policies and procedures
Direction	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic vision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building leadership among the stakeholders 2. Vision (broad and long-tem perspective) on good governance and human development 3. Understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexities of the vision

Performance	<input type="checkbox"/> Responsiveness <input type="checkbox"/> Effectiveness and efficiency	<p>Responsiveness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The UEFDC/SFMC is responsive to its stakeholders 2. The process of response is developed 3. Limitations of the EFCC in responding to the stakeholders' needs <p>Effectiveness and efficiency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The UEFDC/SFMC identifies their responsibilities and scope of works towards the nature and people. 2. The institute plays significant role in decision-making 3. Administrative and financial regulation is complementary to the FD management 4. Success stories
Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/> Accountability <input type="checkbox"/> Transparency	<p>Accountability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the establishment of joint ownership by the working units; 2. clarity of purpose; 3. efficient administration; 4. systems for monitoring and evaluation; 5. measures to deal with those who do not perform; 6. contingency plans. <p>Transparency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. transparency of the working system structure; 2. transparency in the reward system; 3. transparency in the punishment system; 4. transparency in disclosure of the working system.
Fairness	<input type="checkbox"/> Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Rule of Law.	<p>Equity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholders are well-designated and inclusive 2. Stakes, i.e. dependency over forest resources, are adequately appreciated 3. Voice of the most marginalized are heard by the UEFDC/SFMC <p>Rule of Law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the principle of division of power; 2. protection of rights and liberty; 3. commitment to the law; 4. performance of duties in accordance with the content of the laws; 5. freedom of decision-makers to perform their duties; 6. adherence to the principle "not guilty and no punishment without law"; and 7. performance of duties within the regulations.

3.2. Study site profile

Within the frame of Forestry Sector Project (FSP) social forestry is adopted throughout the wide geo-locations in Bangladesh from northern plains, central sal tracts to the south and eastern hill tracts. The study is purposively conducted, for closer proximity, in the sal forests of Dhaka Forest Division, which is composed of four forest ranges namely Sreepur, Rajendrapur, Kachighata and Kaliakoir (FD 2002).

Figure 3: Administrative structure of Dhaka Forest Division.

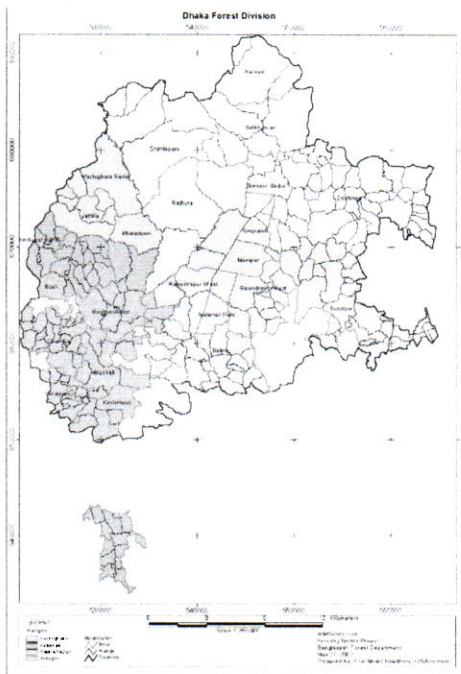
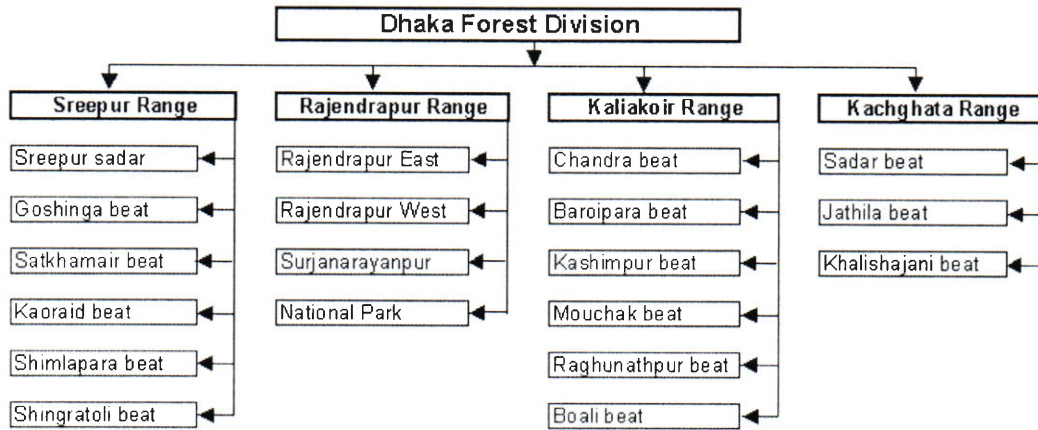


Figure 4: map of Dhaka Forest Division.

In almost all the ranges, social forestry programme, at local level, are similar in nature i.e. local poors are engaged in rejuvenating degraded sal forest lands, woodlot type of plantation, has completed the first rotation and the participants have already received their due share from final sale proceeds, similar local level institutions like Management Committee (MC), TFF committee and Upazilla Environment and Forest Committee (UEFDC) exists. At finite level, the study sites are selected from five forest beats from Sreepur range under Dhaka Forest Division.

3.3. Field Survey and data analysis

The study was initiated with a reconnaissance visit in the field sites namely Sreepur Sadar beat, Satkhamair beat, Goshinga beat, Singratiol beat and Rathura beat of Sreepur range under Dhaka Forest Division.

A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted whereby social forestry participants, few members from Management Committee and UEFDC, local FD personnel and civil society members attended. The FGD was conducted to have an overview of the SF programme in the study sites and to define the procedure of selecting respondents from general participants, members of MC, UEFDC and local civil society members.

Thirty respondents were selected taken from general social forestry participants who had received their shares in 2004-2005. These participants have completed their first rotation (1994/95 to 2004/05) plantations and they were evenly selected from 5 forest beats under Sreepur range. Among them 9 members are also representatives from MC. Furthermore, ten out of 20 members of the UEFDC were interviewed as the key respondents.

Sample respondent participants		
Forest Beats	2004-05	Total
Sripur Sadar	(49)6	7
Satkhamair	(63)6	9
Goshinga	(50)6	2
Singra toil	(28)6	4
Rathura	(78)6	8
Total respondents		30

* Total number of participants in parenthesis involved in second rotation Social Forestry (woodlot) plantations.

Less focus is given in the demographic and socio-economic aspects, rather the performances of two local level social forestry institutions are taken into consideration. Accordingly, a semi-structured questionnaire was developed and pre-tested for the survey (Annex I), which mainly focused on various issues relating to the five characteristics of good governance.

Since the study is qualitative in nature, respondents' feedbacks on respective principles are expressed in percentile form and generalized at large. Respondents' opinions are quantified as percentages terms of sample participants on respective issues.

Chapter 4: Survey Results

The reservation of forest areas denies peoples' usufruct rights since it largely restricts access of local communities to their neighbouring forests for their livelihood. Government prevents this access for the sake of protection of biological diversity in the forests and applies traditional protection strategies namely *fences and fines* approaches. Merely imposing restrictions over a land could not stop steady loss of biological diversity from forest patches. This is truly evident in all over the developing world and in Bangladesh as well. With this view in mind, Government has taken several initiatives like community forestry and social forestry programme whereby people's participation is ensured in forest management while they are provided with livelihood supports simultaneously.

Traditionally, since 150 years back, forest management in Bangladesh has been based on colonial legacy and government forestlands are broadly designated either as reserved forests or protected forests. As legal framework, these areas are branded as isolated from people's interferences and unlawful trespass is treated as offence. Forest Department is primarily responsible and legal custodian for management of the public forests. Since this approach denies livelihood requirements of surrounding communities and single-handed administration of FD exists in power, a number of loopholes are developed gradually which enhanced contrasting attitudes between both the parties, illegal removal of forest produces and landuse changes over the decades. Ever increasing population pressure and their escalating demands on forest resources further aggravated the rate of deforestation. These eventually resulted in 9.8% of national area under forest cover, whereas 17.04% forestlands designated in the country (NFA 2007). Both the vegetation coverage and quality of forest stock recently reached to a stake though it is widely believed that at least 25% of country's landmass need to be under forest cover for a sound environmental balance.

Since early 80's, Asian Development Bank (ADB) financed Community Forestry Project started in 23 northern district and introduced people-oriented forestry programme in the country. Since then FD has gained experiences, policy supports and assistances from all concerned stakeholders from local, national and international level and strengthened its capacity in newer dimensions of forest management like Social Forestry. This is an

empirical study analyses the progress of social forestry programme over traditional forest management strategies. The study focuses on functionality of newly developed local level social forestry institutions and their scope for compliance with the good governance principles. These institutions represent a major shift in forest management whereby FD administration has incorporated local communities to share benefits and take responsibilities for sustainable forest management.

4.1. Institutional legacy

Government has adopted 20 years' Forestry Sector Master Plan, 1993 (1995-2015), National Forest Policy 1994, The Forest (Amendment) Act 2000 and finally Social Forestry Rules 2004 and has adequately appreciated people oriented programme in forest management. Based on these policy documents and successful implementation of several donor assisted development projects over couple of decades, government has approved formal recognition of local level social forestry institutions. With little refinement in the scope, formation and responsibilities of local institutions developed under the FSP, Government has adopted these institutions vide the government order from the Ministry of Environment and Forests; memo no. MoEF (Sha-3)/committee/48/97/712 dated 14/07/2004. These legal instruments paved the way for the implementation of social forestry programme in a multi-stakeholder environment whereby local level public administration (including Forest administration), NGOs and civil society organizations and other key stakeholders are important actors.

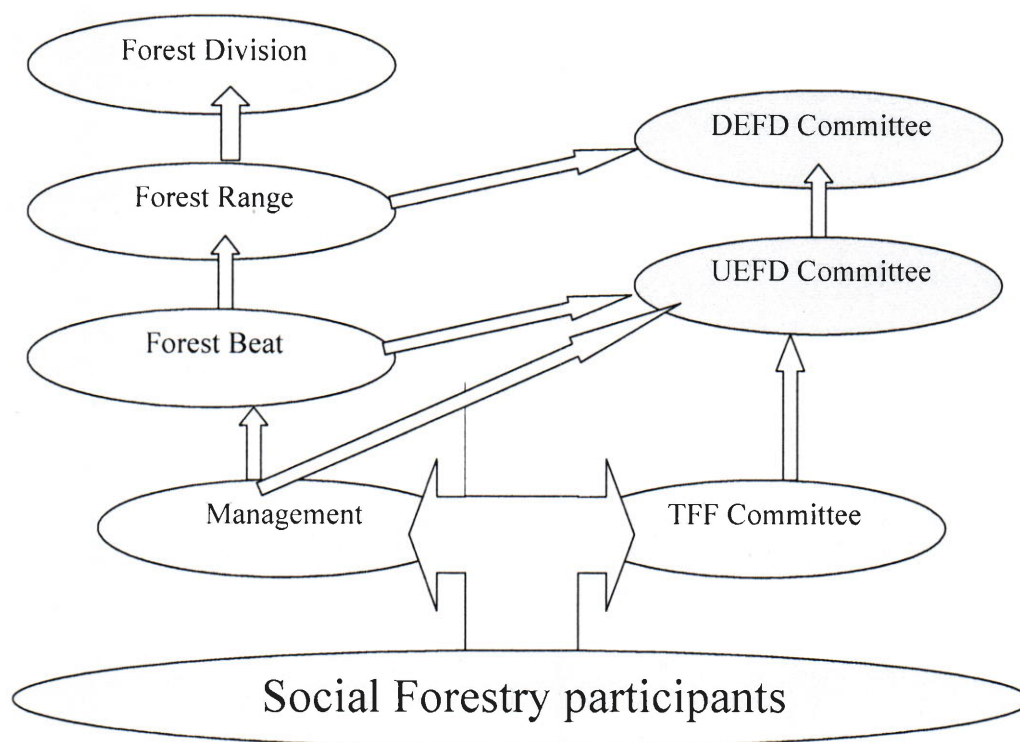
Traditionally, forestry sector is administered under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) whereby the Chief Conservator of Forests is the designated head of Forest Department and field level implementation is performed under the guidance of Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) of respective forest divisions. The jurisdiction of forest ranges and beats varies depending on available forest reserves in the respective units. Area coverage under a range is more or less closer to that of an Upazilla, which is the lowest civil administrative unit in the country.

This study focuses on the local level social forestry institutions namely Social Forestry Management Committee (SFMC) and Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC). These two local institutions evolved during the Asian

Development Bank (ADB) financed Forestry Sector Project (1997-98 to 2005-06) in the frame of 'Participatory Group and Management Committee (MC)' and 'Thana Coordination Committee (TCC)' respectively as per the project document. However, after successful completion of the project these two local level institutions are given legal footings (GOB 2004) and renamed as Social Forestry Management Committee (SFMC) and Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC). Furthermore, the Social Forestry Rules 2004 adequately appreciated the scope, composition and responsibilities of both the committees.

In order to ensure sustainability of Social Forestry Programme, Government has formulated the Social Forestry Rules 2004 whereby Social Forestry Institutions are grounded with legal backstopping for implementation even after the project duration. These institutions, however, are aligned with that of existing FD administration at local level. The present SF institutions, their formation and functionalities are as below:

Figure 5: Forestry Institutions in Bangladesh



The study conducted focus group discussions, interviewing key informants and social forestry participants to analyze the compliance of Social Forestry Management

Committee (SFMC) and Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC) with the principles of good governance as below:

4.2. Legitimacy and Voice

4.2.a. Participation

Social Forestry programme has ensured a mechanism for local poors to participate in afforestation and management activities in a legitimate way whereas they had been treated before as either illegal occupants or illicit loggers. Furthermore, local administration, NGOs and civil society members are also involved in the process. As per guidance of the Project Document, Social Forestry Project (FSP) and the Social Forestry Rules 2004, local people from the categories of landless, destitute women and minor communities are taken as participants. Local level SF committees, FD, NGOs and local administration actively played their role in selecting the participants for the programme. The Participant Benefit Sharing Agreements, PBSAs (Annex II) are signed between the participant groups and Forest Department. All the respondents affirmed that they have signed 10-years' PBSA, which allow them to manage government forestland of 1.0 hectare each and they have the document in their possession.

Furthermore, the SF programme, recognizes the role of women in nursery raising and plantation maintenance. The study found at least 17% women-headed participants in the study area and ADB (2007) conveys similar views that the total coverage of landless, distressed, destitute women and widows members as beneficiaries counted for nearly 30% of the total participants. PBSA accommodates participant's spouses as equal partners. Given this fact, it can be argued that women participation in the SF programme is almost 50%.

The respondents among social forestry participants remarked that the SF Management Committee ensures monthly meetings where the participants attend regularly and discuss different issues regarding forestry programme as well as their socio-economic improvements. Concerned Beat officers from forest department acts as member secretary of the committee. In the meetings, discussions on forestry programme planning, progress in nursery raising, plantation development etc, conflicts on boundary demarcation among

the participants, different aspects of training provided by the FD and or NGOs are notable ones.

Table 3: Topics of discussion in SF group meetings

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Topics of Discussion		%
1	Forestry programme	22	73%
2	Budget for Forestry programme	3	10%
3	Budget for tending operations	2	7%
4	Expenditure regime in nursery and plantation raising	3	10%
4	Subject matters regarding training	15	50%
5	Conflicts among the participants and other stakeholders	11	37%

The focus group discussion and interviews revealed that the group meetings mainly discuss the issues like programme planning followed by trainings and issues relating to conflicts between the participants and non-participating villagers. Table 3 focus that issues regarding budgetary and expenditure of public funds are least discussed and remains beyond their concern. To mention a few, even in the second rotation of social forestry programme, i.e. 10 years +, the participants are not well aware of public allocation for the SF programme. They are now only concerned that a successful plantation will bring a notable fortune to them after the rotation period in the frame of their share (45%) as mentioned in the PBSA. It is expected that during subsequent rotations, they would be more conscious about the financial mechanism and their mode of participation would be more active.

Table 4: Participation in decision-making process

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Decision-making process		%
1	On consensus of participants attending in the meeting	9	30%
2	Based on the opinion of FD officials	15	50%
3	Based on the local politicians/ influential elites	12	40%
4	Based on local administration	2	7%

Table 4 exhibits that the SF participants have achieved a reasonable progress towards their participation in decision-making process. Still the group meetings play a vital role in the process of decision-making. Since the local FD personnels are technically sound and experienced in raising nurseries and plantations and designated management authority in SF programme, often they lead in decision-making followed by local administrative and political elites. Taken as a whole, the social forestry programme in Bangladesh still a forest department driven endeavour and its functionalities remained as FD-local patron dominated ones.

Table 5: Participation in selecting plantation type /species types

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Opinions are taken in		Yes%		No%
1	Selecting plantation types (Woodlot / Agroforestry)	30	100%	0	0%
2	Species selection	21	70%	9	30%
3	Methods of nursery and plantation raising	5	17%	25	83%

Personal interviews with the SF participants reveal that some of them, in the first rotation SF programme, raised agroforestry plantations in their allocated forest reserve and found them less productive than the woodlots. Though initially tree-allys of 60 feet apart were supposed to maximize crop productivity between them, eventually after 2nd year the agro-crop productivity went down due the extended sheds of the trees along the allys. Hence, on the eve of the second rotation, the participants spontaneously inclined towards woodlot plantations without notable influence from the FD side. Since, from forest management point of view, SF programme aimed at creating green coverage in the degraded Sal forest reserves, FD authority appreciated their decisions accordingly. In terms of species selection, the participants have a wide range of choices (table 5) and local FD personnel positively assist them in raising seedlings and plantations thereof. Still FD plays leading role in identification of nursery and plantation techniques whereby the participants rather involve themselves more or less passively.

Table 6: Participation in planning and budget preparation activities

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Level of participants and discussions	Nos.	%
1	Detailed discussions are held in general meetings	7	23%
2	Occasionally discussions are taken place	20	67%
3	No discussion take place with the participants	3	10%

At the planning level, series of general meetings take place regarding biophysical and technical issues of nursery and plantation area, orientation of the participants in the programme activities and schedules and in overall awareness building. Such meetings are still being held as more or less regular/routine works. However, most of the respondents opined that participants have little scope to be involved in budgetary mechanism whereas few of them, who are acting as SF management committee members, can occasionally be involved (table 6). Preparation and handling the nursery and plantation budgets still solely lies with the local FD personnel.

Table 7: Participation in rotation age fixation

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Decisions are taken by		%
1	FD	22	73%
2	Participants	0	0%
3	Jointly	8	27%

This issue is actually mentioned in the PBSA and accordingly the species are selected mostly short rotation ones, which eventually defines the rotation age to be 10 years. It is said that during the first rotation of the SF programme, in some places, FD took about 15 years to harvest the forest crops and distribute the share to the participants, which caused decrease in their confidence towards the commitment of FD and also caused substantial damage to the plantations. This reflected in poorer stock of the plantations and consequent less benefit to the participants. However, as soon as the final harvest took place and the share from sale proceeds are distributed among the participants, their confidence is regained and it encouraged them to participate more actively in the social forestry programme. Though the respondents' opinions, in table 7, reveal that to some extent (in 27% cases) FD and participants jointly take decisions regarding fixation of rotation age, as per the guidance of Social Forestry Rules 2004 and PBSA with the participants FD fixes this to be 10 years.

Table 8: Capacity building through participation in SF activities

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Field of expertise		%
1	Group formation	22	73%
2	Nursery raising and maintenance	30	100%
3	Plantation raising and maintenance	24	80%
4	Integrated farming system	3	10%
5	Conflict resolution	2	7%
6	TFF management	1	3%

It is obvious that to participate positively in a programme, capacity building of both the duty bearers and that of the right holders is a vital issue. Social forestry programme in Bangladesh has adequately appreciated this reality and organized a number of orientation/training programme for the participants as well as FD personnel and NGO staffs on technical, management and financial aspects mentioned in table 8. All the respondents of the study univocally affirmed that adequate training on nursery raising is provided to them and most of them also acknowledged the trainings on group formation and plantation raising. However, some vital aspects of social forestry programme viz.

integrated farming systems, conflict resolution and TFF management as yet to be brought in the frame of capacity building.

4.2.b. Consensus Orientation

Table 9: Conflicts prevailing in the SF programme

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Issues of conflicts		%
1	Personal conflicts among the participants	3	10%
2	Plot demarcation and land ownership	24	80%
3	Conflicts between participants and non-participants	22	73%
4	Conflicts between participants and FD management	0	0%
5	Conflicts between FD management and local people	30	100%
6	Financial management by the Management Committee	4	13%

Participants during FGD opined that there were some visible conflicts in the social forestry programme, as pointed in table 9, though the PBSA acts as a guiding tool in the SF programme to mediate differing interests among the stakeholders to reach a broad consensus. The study reveals that SF participants are broadly supportive whereas non-participating locals are often in conflicting situations with the FD management as well as participating groups. Furthermore, conflicts among the participants regarding their plot demarcation as well as between the participants and non-participants are also remarkable. Some respondents also mentioned about disagreements regarding the management of the TFF by the management committee. It seemed evident that the leading participants, in the frame of SF management committee members, and local FD associates, often manage the TFF, which remains largely invisible to the general participants.

Table 10: Process of consensus building.

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Procedures of consensus building		%
1	In Social Forestry participants' group meetings	30	100%
2	With the involvement of local elites	4	13%
3	With the involvement of FD officials and staffs	27	90%
4	Through the Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC)	2	7%
5	Through the District Environment and Forest Development Committee (DEFDC)	2	7%
6	No mechanism for conflict resolution	0	0%

The PBSA lies as the cornerstone of the SF programme, which identifies general conflicting issues and provides guidance as well as resolution measures. Based on the

PBSA, several SF bodies namely participants' groups, management committees, UEFDC and above all the DEFDC play vital roles in resolving the conflicts hierarchically. The study reveals that group meetings (table 10) among the participants and local FD officials are mostly in a position to contribute in this regard. On the other hand, the local elites, UEFDC and DEFDC also play insignificant role in consensus building. The group discussion with the participants exhibits that they are able to come in consensus in any conflicting issues while this appears amongst them. And in case of external or third party involvement in any conflict, FD local staffs resolve the issues with the help of concerned UEFDC and DEFDC.

4.3. Direction: Strategic vision

The Social Forestry Programme is adopted as a strategic tool to rejuvenate the degraded and encroached forest reserves while socio-economic improvement of local poors would be ensured through their active participation in afforestation activities. Hence two vital aspects of the SF programme are poverty alleviation through people-centered forestry and conservation of biological diversity in the reserved forests.

Table 11: Role of SF in poverty alleviation

		n = 30 participants	
Sl.	Fields of intervention for poverty alleviation		%
1	Share from final proceeds of plantation	30	100%
2	Agri-crops during the initial 2 years	12	40%
3	Training on Alternate Income Generating Activities (AIGAs)	7	23%
4	Micro-credit provided by the NGOs	2	7%
5	No such intervention in the SF programme	0	0%

In line with the national forest policy, social forestry is visualized to be a people-centered forestry programme. It has a vital mandate for reducing poverty of forest dependent population whereby they get legitimate access to forest resources for their livelihood. Some mechanisms viz. inclusion of local poors in the SF programme as participants, providing them 1.0 ha of reserved forest land with a legal document (PBSA) for 10 years, providing training on AIGAs, share of final harvests of forest produces etc. paved the SF programme to move forward for eradicating rural poverty. The study reveals that all the respondents, as cited in table 11, see share of final harvests as an intervention of poverty alleviation beyond subsistence level. A good amount of cash at a time helps them to

alleviate financial poverty as well as pushed them forward towards social dignity (Khan *et al.* 2004). Since the performance of both participants and FD management were not in optimum complementarities in the first rotation, participants could not reap the best outputs from the SF programme. However, during second rotation the participants affirmed their higher confidence and keen optimism to harvest the maximum benefits out of the programme. The participants expressed their satisfaction on the growth of their plantations and assured utmost care for the same.

All the respondents agreed that they received all interim products of social forestry plantations from the silvicultural operations like thinning etc. About 40% respondents told that they grew agricultural crops in the woodlot plantations for initial 2 years and receive the entire benefits as directed in the PBSA. About 23% respondents affirmed that they received training on alternate income generating activities (AIGAs) from the NGOs. The AIGAs made creditable contributions to their livelihoods and reduced their dependency from forest reserves. A few respondents added that in some cases, they received micro-credit supports from local NGOs though this was not incorporated, at large, in the social forestry programme.

Table12: Role of SF in biodiversity conservation

		n = 30 participants	
Sl.	Fields of intervention for biodiversity conservation		%
1	Re-planting in the degraded/ encroached forest lands	12	40%
2	Planting indigenous tree species (forest/fruit/medicinal spp.)	15	50%
3	More wildlife habitats are developed	3	10%
4	Mono-culture plantation of <i>Acacia</i> / <i>Eucalyptus</i> species prevent this	24	80%
5	No mechanism developed for biodiversity conservation	15	50%

Once the study area in Dhaka Forest Division was reputed to harbour rich biodiversity in a coppice-originated Sal forest. Due to indiscriminate human interference, it got a degraded appearance and resulted in significant loss of biological diversity. At this point, social forestry programme is adopted to rejuvenate the Sal patches with active participation of forest dependent local people. While in the first rotation, SF plantations were mainly dominated by monoculture of fast growing exotic tree species (namely *Acacia auriculiformis* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), the second rotation plantations included the indigenous forest species, fruit and medicinal species as dominant ones.

Table 12 shows that fifty percent of the respondents demonstrated their ignorance regarding the biodiversity conservation issues whereas the other half affirmed that in second rotation plantations they maintained good species diversity of timber, fruit and medicinal plants. Furthermore, 80% respondents opined that monoculture plantation of Acacia or Eucalyptus species were significantly reduced and replaced with diversified indigenous tree species. Since the nature of SF plantation is designed for 10 years rotation and clear felling is conducted at the rotation age, wildlife habitats face a comprehensive loss. In the FGD, the SF participants agreed that plantations of mixed rotation species would ensure selection felling at the 10th year, as recommended in the PBSA, whereby a substantial habitat for wildlife would be sustained.

Table 13a: Role of SFMC members

n = 09 participants

Sl.	Role of Management Committee Members		%
1	Assist FD personnel in Social Forestry programme	9	100%
2	Proper maintenance of social forestry plantations	9	100%
3	Inspire the SF participants to their responsibilities	9	100%
4	Aware and assist the SF participants to receive their benefits	9	100%
5	Management and maintain the TFF	3	33%
6	Conflict resolution	9	100%

The SFMC members including the front liner participants, in general, affirmed that they played significant roles in promoting social forestry programme in their locality. Table 13a shows the univocal claim that they assisted FD management in implementing Social Forestry programme, maintaining plantations, motivate and aware fellow participants regarding their responsibilities and benefits, and in conflict resolution. However, 33% SFMC respondents declined and accused the misappropriation of TFF. It is worth mentioning that none of the MC members were informed of their particular duties and responsibilities against their respective positions in the committee.

Table 13b: Role of UEFDC members

n = 10 participants

Sl.	Role of UEFDC Committee Members		%
1	Popularizing the tree plantation movement and Organize tree fairs	5	50%
2	Implementation government decision regarding polyethylene ban	1	10%
3	Implementation of the government decisions regarding wildlife conservation and prevention of killing migratory birds.	0	0%

4	Preventing timber burning in the brickfields and implementation of 'Brick Burning (Control) Act 1981' and 'Brick Burning (License) Rules 1989'.	1	10%
5	Programme planning and implementation for the conservation of biological diversity	0	0%
6	Assist local nurseries in promoting medicinal, indigenous timber and fruit trees and arrange publicity programme;	3	30%
7	Undertake effective measures to stop hill cutting;	0	0%
8	Take required measures to control black smoke of vehicles and sound pollution;	0	0%
9	Undertake effective measures to conserve endangered or extinct plant/animal species;	1	10%
10	Prevent and discourage the activities which can hamper the balance in terrestrial and water ecosystem;	1	10%
11	Inform all concerned regarding plantation and environmental development programme/project and provide necessary coordination and assistance for programme implementation;	5	50%
12	Provide guidance in selecting social forestry plantation sites and participants;	10	100%
13	Attend bi-monthly meeting and inform the concerned authority regarding programme.	10	100%

Table 13b shows that all 10 key respondents affirmed that they played vital role through providing guidance in selecting social forestry plantation sites and participants; and in attending the bi-monthly meeting of UEFDC and inform concerned authority and high ups regarding progress of the programme. Furthermore, fifty percent of the respondents opined that they took active role in the activities like popularizing the tree plantation movement and tree fairs in their locality, informed all concerned regarding plantation and environmental development programme/project and provided necessary coordination and assistance for programme implementation. Most of the respondents, however, remarked that most of the responsibilities, mentioned in Government order (GOB 2004), were not applicable for their locality and they were not informed about their individual responsibilities as member of UEFDC. In fact, the responsibilities mentioned for the UEFDC are too generalized aiming to a nation-wide coverage, rearing that it has little implication at local level SF programme.

4.4. Performance

4.4.1 Responsiveness

Table 14. Committee's response towards opinions from the SF participants

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Level of response		%
1	No response to the opinions of the participants	0	0%
2	Opinions are heard, but does not reflect in decision making process	12	40%
3	No scope to place opinions	3	10%

In practice the UEFDC is beyond the reach of the general participants but the SFMC has a good contact with them. The respondents, as of table 14, largely opined that they can speak out regarding their choices in decision-making process but do not reflect either in the minutes of the meetings or in decisions taken eventually. About 50% respondents did not make any specific comment on the responsiveness of the committees.

Table 15. Mechanism for inclusion of the opinions from the SF participants

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Mechanisms		%
1	General meeting of the participants	30	100%
2	Through the MC members of the participants' groups	2	7%
3	Opinions are recorded in the minutes	9	30%
4	General participants attend and speak in the UEFDC meetings	2	7%

While identifying the responsiveness of the committee, the respondents were asked about the existing mechanism in the SF programme as to whether they could place their opinions regarding the programme to the authorities concerned. They unanimously commented that local FD personnel were the gateway for them to place any opinions collectively through general meetings (table 15). About 30% cases are recorded in favour of minutes of the group meetings, which often go to the superior bodies of the SF programme. The SFMC members are yet to be dynamic enough to advocate for the opinions of their fellow participants and most of the cases they rely largely upon the concerned forestry personnel.

Table 16. Mechanism for actions by the participants while committee avoids the opinions of SF participants

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Mechanisms		%
1	Can place their complains to the higher body e.g. UEFDC	3	10%
2	Can place their complains to the FD officials	25	83%
3	No such mechanism exists	2	7%

In cases where the committees are not adequately responsive towards the needs of the participants, table 16 shows that generally in 83% cases, the respondents pointed that they can directly pursue to the local FD personnel. For example the same FD personnel appear in both the SFMCs and in the UEFDCs. Though the respondents largely affirmed that there was a scope to complain to higher ups in the SF programme, it seldom resulted in any credible outcome.

4.4.2 Effectiveness and Efficiency

Table 17. Awareness of SFI members of their respective duties?

n = 19 participants

Sl.	Awareness		%
1	The SFMC members are aware of their respective duties	2	22%
2	The SFMC members are not aware of their respective duties	7	78%
3	The UEFDC members are aware of their respective duties	4	40%
4	The UEFDC members are not aware of their respective duties	6	60%

n = 19 participants

Sl.	Mechanism		%
1	Through the discussion in the SF meetings	9	47%
2	Through the Trainings	6	32%
3	Through personal communications	2	11%

In order to be a successful institution, the foremost requirement is a comprehensive understanding of its members regarding their duties and responsibilities. And only then, with coordinated efforts of all its members, the committee can be effective and efficient in its transactions. The study reveals, as presented in table 17, that about 78% of SFMC members and 60% of the UEFDC members are not aware of their specific responsibilities, though they all were aware of the terms of reference (TOR) of their respective committees. Group discussion revealed that the TOR of the committees covered a wide range of activities, which needs to be further specific for individual

members. About 50% of the respondent members of both the committees opined that the meetings i.e. general meetings of the participant groups and that of UEFDC are the access routes to learn about their duties and strongly suggested that FD can figure out specific duties against respective positions in the committees. About 30% committee members come to learn about their responsibilities through the trainings and about 10% affirmed their personal communication with the FD personnel, which increased awareness about their duties as members of the committee.

Table 18. Importance of the MC/ UEFDC in SF Programme.

		n = 30 participants	
Sl.	Issues of significance		%
1	Selection of participants and their cancellation	18	60%
2	Formation of beneficiary groups	2	7%
3	Organizing trainings	6	20%
4	Monitoring nursery and plantation activities	14	47%
5	Conflict resolutions	25	83%
6	Reporting to the concerned authority	3	10%

Local level social forestry institutions like the SFMC and UEFDC are two vital institutions in SF programme. These are added dimensions from the traditional forest administration and play significant role in implementation of SF programme. Both the committees are seen as a vital player in conflict resolution followed by selection and cancellation of participant. Furthermore table 18 exhibits that some 47% respondents opined that these institutions played vital roles in other activities like monitoring nursery and plantation, organizing training, liaison with concerned authorities and formation of beneficiary groups.

Table 19. Financial regulations of the SFMC/ UEFDC

		n = 30 participants	
Sl.	Financial regulations of SF programme		%
1	FD has the sole authority in handling the plantation budget	23	77%
2	FD do not delegate financial power to the SFMC/UEFDC	4	13%
3	FD leads handling the Fund	20	67%
4	SF MC can handle the TFF successfully	25	83%

In table 19 about 83% respondents positively opined that SF management committee has the potentiality to manage tree-farming fund (TFF), if adequate power is delegated from FD authority and training is provided. This is very crucial to develop ownership among the participants, which is visibly demonstrated in case of the PBSA for land tenure

context. However, the existing situation is rather passive whereby FD personnel still handle the fund in favour of the participants. About 13% respondents also pointed that there was no mechanism for FD to delegate financial power to the SFMC/UEFDC.

4.5. Accountability

4.5.1 Accountability

Table 20. Accountability matrix

n = 30 participants

	SF Participants	MC members	UEFDC members	Local FD personnel	FD Authority	None
SF Participants				100%		
MC members	23%		7%	70%		
UEFDC members			3%		13%	83%
Local FD personnel	7%		27%		63%	3%

Who is accountable for his duties and responsibilities to whom? This is very much crucial to have a check and balance. Usually, it works towards the higher ups but in good governance premise the accountability exists in both ways. As such the study identifies the accountability among the major actors of local level institutions namely SF participants, members of SFMC, members of UEFDC and local FD personnel. The study reveals that (in table 20), based on the feedback from the respondents, social forestry participants are entirely held responsible by the local FD personnel; the members of SFMC are accountable to the SF participants, UEFDC and to FD authority by 23%, 7% and 70%, respectively. Though the responding participants largely (83%) opined that UEFDC members were not accountable to anyone, UEFDC meetings revealed that they were accountable to the chair of the committee i.e. to the Upazilla Norbahi Officer (UNO). The shift in power play is visible in case of local FD personnel's accountability. Respondents' experience reveals that at least in 1/4th cases they are accountable to the UEFDC whereas in traditional management regime, they were entirely accountable to their high-ups in FD administration. Accordingly, local FD personnel argue that, in social forestry programme, they are entirely accountable for their responsibilities to a number of parties, ranging from the general participants to local political and administrative elites, in addition to their FD superiors, since they play the pivotal role in SF programme.

Table 21. Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Forestry Programme.

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Monitoring and Evaluation		%
1	Progress of plantation activities are discussed in the General Meeting	7	23%
2	Physical presence in plantation maintenance and protection	30	100%
3	Visit by the FD high officials	2	7%
4	Self-motivation of the Participants	30	100%
5	Audit of the TFF at Upazilla level	0	0%

A monitoring mechanism, in every stage of a programme, is vital for smooth implementation and for required improvement thereof. Hence an attempt is taken to identify the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the SF programme. The respondents univocally (table 21) opined that their physical presence in their plantation maintenance and self-motivating group meetings are vital in this approach. Further they pointed out that group discussions regarding programme progress are somehow important whereby frequent visits of FD officials in the SF areas are also noteworthy. However, they avoided in responding to TFF audit matters since they know little about its management. Khan *et. al.* (2004), in a review, mentioned that except routine hierarchical supervision the existing institutional mechanism did not provide for systematic and regular monitoring of FD field level activities.

Table 22. Provision of steps taken for non-performance by MC/UEFDC members.

n = 30 participants

Sl.	Steps taken	MC		UEFDC	
		Persons	%	Persons	%
1	As per decision in the general meeting of the participants	2	7%	3	10%
2	In case of FD personnel, Departmental actions are taken	26	87%	26	87%
3	In case of participants, recommended to the concerned authority for cancellation of participation	30	100%	30	100%
4	No action can be taken	25	83%	25	83%

Towards a highly accountable institutional approach, duty bearers might be held responsible and some sort of punitive measures should exist, in case of misappropriations. Since all the stakeholders play a vital role in SF programme, leakage at any point can jeopardize the endeavour. The study identifies (in table 22) that in case of carelessness of the participants, it may result in cancellation of their agreement (PBSA) with the FD. Here, the initiatives are taken in general meetings of participating groups and through the

SFMC/UEFDC it goes for approval of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). In case, FD personnel misuse their power, almost 85% respondents opined that the local institutions cannot take any measures against them but can inform the FD higher authorities for departmental action. Likewise Khan et.al. (2004) viewed that still in social forestry sector of FD, accountability of FD personnel cannot be ensured due to absence of appropriate performance evaluation followed by corresponding punishment and rewards.

Table 23. Resolving complains by the participants.

n = 30 participants			
Sl.	Procedure		%
1	Group meetings	13	43%
2	Through the MC	6	20%
3	Through the UEFDC	1	3%

On the issues of resolving complains by the participants, 43% respondents pledged in favour of group meetings, 20% for Management Committee and only 3% for UEFDC (table 23). However, the participants largely declined to have any complain against the SF management since they treat themselves to be fortunate ones in the locality, whereas a large number of neighbouring poors are not even selected as participants.

4.5.2 Transparency

Table 24. The mechanism for information flow to the participants.

n = 30 participants			
Sl.	Perspectives of information flow	Yes	%
1	Regarding nursery raising and plantation activities	27	90%
2	Source of planting materials	10	33%
3	Budget allocation for plantation	2	7%
4	Expenditure status of plantation development	2	7%
5	Cash book	0	0%
6	TFF income-expenditure status	2	7%
7	Minutes of the Meetings	5	17%

Free flow of information is one of the vital requirements for an institution to ensure good governance. Discussions with the respondents included issues like how much they are aware of the techniques of nursery raising and plantation management, elements and sources of plantation materials, budget allocation and their expenditure status etc. As in table 24 the respondents largely remarked that local FD personnel were very much cooperative regarding the technical aspects of SF programme but they were usually unaware of the budgetary and expenditure issues. They demonstrated their profound

confidence on the SFMC and UEFDC regarding financial matters and were mainly concerned about successful protection and management of their plantations, which would eventually bring brighter prospects to them at rotation age.

4.6. Fairness

4.6.1 Equity

Traditional approach of forest management used to benefit a small segment of local elites whereby a large population in the same community worked for them and could earn merely their livelihood at subsistence level. The patron-client relations visibly existed there. Social forestry, in general terms, has brought newer dimensions of multi-stakeholders' forestland management regime and a step forward to appreciate rights of local people over forest resources in a fair way. The focus group discussion reveals, in general, that though a large number of eligible people in the community are still excluded from the SF programme, the SF participants are bestowed with 1.0 ha forest land for 10 years and a deed (PBSA) is signed between them and Government. This exhibits a well-designated and inclusive approach in social forestry whereby dependencies of forest dwellers are appreciated and they are made responsible to take part in forest management.

Table 25. Allocation of Forest Area to the participants

n = 30 participants			
Sl.	Area (ha)		%
1	Less than 1.0 ha	1	3%
2	1.0 ha	28	93%
3	More than 1.0 ha	0	0%

An equitable distribution of forest patches for SF programme is not possible in the study area since the number of forest dependent people is almost manifold. Besides, the criteria for selecting participants are prescribed by the PBSA and being more or less strictly maintained by the FD, NGOs and local administration, it is rather difficult to be a participant in the SF programme. As per the PBSA, each participant is provided with 1.0 ha forestland. For instance, field scenario is much complex since either 1.0 ha patch of degraded forest reserve at a stretch is often not available or sometimes more than one candidate households fill the criteria for being participant. In these cases, some local arrangements are made to include more than one participant for 1.0 ha forestland. The

study identified two such scenarios like 8.0 ha land is allocated against a group of 10 participants and a modified agreement is locally developed which is rather weaker than the PBSA in legal terms.

Table 26. Stakeholder analysis

		n = 30 participants	
Sl.	Stakeholder analysis		%
1	Stakeholders Analysis was done in selecting participants	2	7%
2	Stakeholders Analysis was not done in selecting participants	0	0%
3	Participants are selected as per guidance in the SF rules 2004	2	7%
4	Participants are not selected as per guidance in the SF rules 2004	0	0%
5	Do not know	28	93%

The respondents found to be unaware whether the SF programme undertook any stakeholder analysis as shown in table 26. However, local FD personnel assured that the guidance of Social Forestry Rules 2004 is maintained while selecting the participants.

Regarding TFF management existing SF modalities shows some inequitable process. One of them is allocation of a TFF for 2nd rotation afforestation for a specific forest patch. There is no provision for redistributing TFF among the plots. Presently concerned DFOs distribute the same for specific plots. Local FD personnel opined, for instance, that in case of a plantation with poor site quality and subsequent less contribution through final harvest would deposit less in its TFF. This is very much likely that it would not be sufficient for raising 2nd rotation plantation with it whereas a better quality/stock plantation in 1st rotation generates a TFF amounting higher than the requirement for bearing the costs of 2nd rotation plantation. Hence, a redistribution mechanism of TFF at forest division level could bring more equitable benefits among SF plantations.

4.6.2 Rule of Law

Table 27. Scope of work of the Committee

		n = 19 MC/UEFDC members	
Sl.	Scope of works of the Committee		%
1	Management Committee (MC) has legal footings	5	26%
2	Responsibilities of MC are defined	5	26%
3	Responsibilities of MC members are defined	0	0%
4	UEFDC has legal footings	5	26%
5	Responsibilities of UEFDC are defined	5	26%
6	Responsibilities of UEFDC members are defined	0	0%

Table 27 shows that about 25% respondents (members from MC/UEFDC), in the study, positively remarked that they were aware about the defined responsibilities of both the MC and UEFDC though the responsibilities of individual members were not known. Two-third of the committee-members expressed their ignorance about the social forestry rules 2004 and relevant documents and consequently unaware of scopes of the committee.

Table 28. External Influence over the SFMC / UEFDC

n = 19 SFMC/UEFDC members

Sl.	Mode of influences		%
1	FD influences over the MC / UEFDC	11	58%
2	Local Elites influences over the MC / UEFDC	2	11%
3	Local Administration influences over the MC / UEFDC	2	11%
4	Not known	4	21%

Influence of land owning agency, local elites, politicians and administration is visible in the SF programme. About 60% of the committee-members affirmed (table 28) that FD had some sort of influence and played vital role on every aspects of the programme since FD is the land owning agency. Furthermore, about 10% respondents opined that local elites and administration also exerted some influence over the SFMC/UEFDC. Furthermore, FGD reveals that though an effort was taken to include all local influential actors in the SF programme, in practice, it was not possible. The influences from outside the social forestry programme are still active over the functionalities of SFMC and that of the UEFDC.

Table 29. Conflicts in the Social Forestry Rules over others' rights

n = 19 MC/UEFDC members

Sl.	Issues of rights violation		%
1	Social Forestry Rules 2004 are not familiar	13	68%
2	Social forestry rules 2004 limits the rights of the participants	0	0%
3	SF Rules has given Veto power to some one	0	0%
4	Social Forestry Rules 2004 does not recognize PIL	0	0%
5	Not known	6	32%

The usufruct rights of local communities over neighbouring forest resources are largely denied through the declaration of forest reserves whereas social forestry programme has brought significant changes in ensuring these rights. About 70% of the respondents were not aware of the SF rules 2004 (table 29) and consequently unacquainted with their designated rights though the social forestry rules 2004 consents the legitimate use of

forest resources by the participants for their livelihood. It also appreciates the usufruct rights of local people, at least for SF participants, over the forest reserves that are allocated to them through the PBSA.

Good governance in progress

Finally, based on the issues mentioned earlier and perception of the respondents, an attempt is taken to measure the compliance level, of 8 principles of good governance, of the local level institutions against a 1-5 scale as below. A self-assessment technique is adopted where 9 SF Management Committee members were asked to gauge the state of governance against the scale.

Table 30a: Good Governance gauge in SF programme (SF Management Committee)

n = 09 participants

Sl.	Principles	Mean Level	Range *
1	Participation	3.00	1-5
2	Consensus orientation	2.11	1-4
3	Responsiveness	2.44	1-4
4	Effectiveness and Efficiency	1.89	1-4
5	Accountability	2.78	1-5
6	Transparency	3.33	2-4
7	Equity	2.44	1-5
8	Rule of Law	3.56	1-5

* Range: 1 = optimum, 2 = good, 3 = moderate, 4 = bad and 5 = no idea

The aggregate mean level, assigned by the respondents in table 30a, exhibits that the SF Management Committee lies at the second level (good) effective and efficient, consensus orientated, responsive and equitable; in terms of accountability, participation and transparency it stands at third level (moderate); it stands at fourth level (bad) in ensuring the rule of law; whereas the criterion effectiveness and efficiency is ranked with the highest acceptance (1.89) level. The aggregate rank is 2.69 meaning that SFMC ensures better than moderate level of good governance. However, a wide range of ranking reveals that the respondents possess differing understanding regarding the principles of good governance.

Table 30b: Good Governance gauge in SF programme (UEFDC)

n = 10 participants

Sl.	Principles	Mean	Range
1	Participation	2.10	1-4
2	Consensus orientation	2.60	1-5
3	Responsiveness	1.90	1-3
4	Effectiveness and Efficiency	1.80	1-4
5	Accountability	3.30	1-5
6	Transparency	2.70	1-5
7	Equity	2.30	1-4
8	Rule of Law	3.30	2-5

* Range: 1 = optimum, 2 = good, 3 = moderate, 4 = bad and 5 = no idea

Similar to the table 30a, the study also analyzed level of good forest governance compliance by the UEFDC from the views of 10 key informants among UEFDC members. Their self-assessment reveals that UDEFDC has ensured an aggregate rank of 2.5 i.e. in between the good and moderate governance. UEFDC also ranked the principle, effectiveness and efficiency with the highest level. It however, ranked four principles of good forest governance to be 'good' and the other four as 'moderate' level of compliance. These are effectiveness and efficiency, responsiveness, participation and equity as good and the moderate ones are consensus orientation, transparency, accountability and rule of law. In this case also a wide range of ranking exhibits that the respondents' opinions are not consistent.

Sustainable forest management:

RECOFTC, 2005 views that forest governance entails clarifying the relationships, rights, responsibilities and incentives among various actors on the direction and nature of forest uses in a sustainable way. Accordingly sustainability in forest management entails active participation and functional collaboration between governments, civil society and local participants. Study reveals that several initiatives like the 'PBSA with the FD' as a means of secured land tenure for participants over a rotation period, 'TFF' as a strength to meet the costs of subsequent planting after a final harvest, 'recognizing nominee' as a capital for ownership by the inheritors, 'prescription of 10% fruit tree species and 30% long rotation species' in afforestation paves the way to biodiversity conservation.

Similarly, selecting local poors as participants, developing the local level SF institutions, building capacity of participants and field level FD personnel to ensure efficiency and transparency, policy reform as well as government commitment, regulatory frameworks like social forestry rules etc., prevailing beneficiary-friendly environment/ perception of FD, mechanism for conflict resolution between and within the stakeholders, and high income potentiality of SF programme also made significant contribution to sustainable forest management.

Chapter 5: Discussion

Since early 1980's Social Forestry has gained momentum in Bangladesh within a broader framework of rural development through development projects. Social Forestry is viewed as a process to ensure active participation of the rural people in planning, implementation and benefit sharing in tree growing schemes (Task Force, 1987). Bangladesh forestry sector has traveled through this process for last two-and-half decades and successfully implemented a number of projects. These are 'Community Forestry Development Project (1981/82-1986/87), 'Thana Afforestation and Nursery Development Project' (1987/88-96/97), 'Forest Resources Management Project' (1992-2004), 'Coastal Green Belt Project' (1997-2002), Forestry Sector Project (1997/98-2005/06) and Nishorgo Support Project (2004-2008). Over time, these projects developed and demonstrated social forestry as a mainstay of forestry sector in the country.

Alike the project driven endeavours, Government has adopted some policy strategies and further strengthened Social Forestry programme with legal supports. These policy instruments are Forestry Sector Master Plan 1993, National Forest Policy 1994, National Rural Development Policy 2001 and Social Forestry Rules 2004 which conform to people-oriented forestry programme as a timely strategy for continued socio-economic growth of rural poor as well as a forest management.

Through the legal backstopping and experiences in implementation, local level social forestry committees are being institutionalized gradually whereby social forestry participating farmers, local administration and civil society members in addition to the legal land owning agency, FD are the main actors. It is noteworthy to quote from Khan *et al* (2004) that:

since the early 1990s, a process of institutional and policy reform has been in progress, albeit slowly. These reform initiatives, prompted by the large externally assisted SF projects, have contributed to some degree of attitudinal change within the FD and paved the way for a more conducive environment for public participation in the forest sector of Bangladesh.

The focus group discussion reveals that communities value their neighbouring forest reserves as a source of their subsistence livelihood. A similar opinion is also found from

Gibson (2001) while he affirmed that a highly dependent individual places greater value on long-term sustainability of the resources than someone who is not dependent on those resources. Mayers *et al* (2006) identified that through the involvement of multiple stakeholders and partnerships forest-dependent communities, in some countries, are beginning to have rights recognized, to enable them to be effective managers.

5.1 Institutional Legacy

Realizing the critical role of people, particularly the poor living in and around the forest areas, in forest resource generation and management, the Government introduced in the 1980s innovative approaches involving people in almost all forestry related activities in the name of “participatory/social forestry”. But until the amendment of the Forest Act in 2000, there was no legal support for these activities. The addition of section 28A to the Forest Act grounded social forestry as a forest management strategy. Government formulated the Social Forestry Rules (SFRs) 2004 and promulgated them for actual implementation on 5 December 2004. This is considered as a milestone in the development of social forestry in Bangladesh.

The notion of good forest governance at local level institutions is a recent discourse whereby the SF institutions in Bangladesh are still young. These are Management Committee (MC) of SF participants and Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC). Study reveals that the foundations of these local institutions are firmly grounded on adequate policy-plans and in good progress. The Forestry Sector Master Plan, 1993 (1995-2015), National Forest Policy 1994, The Forest (Amendment) Act 2000, the Social Forestry Rules 2004 and Government order (GOB 2004) backstop these institutions. Here, the SF rules 2004 outlines the scope, process of formation and terms of references for both the Management Committee and corresponding TFF committee. In addition, the composition and terms of references (TOR) of the UEFDC are based on the Government order (GOB 2004).

Historically FD administration, legal custodian of forest reserves, works in isolation. In some aspects of patrolling and policing, FD sought assistance from local law and order agencies. In most of the cases other government agencies at local level and civil society organizations are largely avoided. Hence, there was enough scope for FD administration

to be of autocratic nature and exhibit poor governance. Recent development in policy framework provided social forestry a legal footings whereby the local level social forestry institutions facilitate a platform for multiple stakeholders to negotiate, define, interact, share and guarantee among themselves, a fair sharing of management functions, entitlements and responsibilities for a given forest reserve.

5.2 Legitimacy and Voice

Social forestry programme in the country, till June 2006, included about 85,000 beneficiaries and during the same period 68,375 participants received their cash share worth BDT 1 billion (1,084,148,000.00) from sale proceeds of final harvests (FD 2006). Other benefits they received in the frame of alternate income generating activities are rights to use NTFPs in a legitimate way, improved social access etc. The SF institutions, particularly the participants' groups and Management committees paved a gateway for general beneficiaries to participate in forest management. The participatory benefit sharing agreement (PBSA) between the beneficiary groups and FD grounded legal footings to ensure active participation. Similarly the local administration, NGOs and civil society members are also actively participating in Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committee (UEFDC) in the social forestry programme. Thus the local level institutions play vital role to ensure participation of local people in forest management regime in addition to the legal custodian, Forest Department.

However, the FGD and discussions with the key informants revealed that though the local level SF institutions had strong commitments, during the selection of FSP participants, pressures from local political and administrative elites were severe. Khan *et al.* (2004) affirmed similar problem as the ruling political parties pressurized to include some participants of their choice. Study reveals that still FD and local influentials dominate in decision-making process a significant finding is that involvement of participants and the local stakeholders in financial matters is almost missing and FD personnel solely maintained this. Furthermore, it became evident that though there are number of trainings for capacity building of participants, some vital issues like conflict resolution, TFF management and integrated farming system still lie far behind from ensuring active participation of the target communities.

Respondents' views imply that though the members of UEFDC regularly attend in bi-monthly meetings, their functional involvement in the social forestry programme is missing. For instance, NGO representative failed to channelize development programme of local NGOs for the benefit of the participants; representative from Youth Development Department could not develop a mechanism to bring the SF participants in their skill development-training programme whereas the social forestry could be a process of rural development.

Regarding consensus building, the said institutions demonstrate significant progress through the monthly group meetings and bi-monthly UEFDC meetings. These platforms can resolve most of the conflicts among the participants and between FD and participants. However, some conflicts like FD/participants versus non-participating locals prevails largely. This is due to limited scope of being selected as participants though there exists large segment of eligible people to be included in the SF programme. The study found that since the SF programme has a mandate to alleviate rural poverty based on forestry activities, more eligible people should have entrance to the programme than selecting fewer people and maintaining them in rotations after rotations. A provision could have been devised so that one participant can be selected for maximum two subsequent rotations only. Non-participating informants opines that it might facilitate more poor locals to have benefit out of the SF programme. The committees (institutions) have poor stand in this context since this decision might be reflected with clear indication in the social forestry rules in general and in the working modalities of the local SF institutions in particular.

5.3 Strategic vision and Direction

The social forestry programme, in Bangladesh, set two broad based visions of poverty reduction and rejuvenating degraded forest reserves. At this point, the studied institutions play vital responsibilities in promoting the tree plantation and protection activities through proper guidance and monitoring though they had some failures in the first rotation. While progressing, the institutions are progressively gaining confidence in achieving the direction of the programme and simultaneously the participants are being more and more careful to their plantation strategies. In the second rotation, the participants are more tuned with FD management and with the SF programme as a whole.

They demonstrated their confidence to have optimum harvest in second rotation since FD personnel as well as the committees are giving more value to their voices and aspirations.

However, study pointed out that the policy documents generalized the responsibilities of the institutions (SFMCs and UEFDCs) whereas each social forestry site has its own historical, cultural and social perspectives. The gazette notification (GOB, 2004) identified the formation and responsibilities of the UEFDCs and the Social Forestry Rules elaborated the scope, activities and responsibilities of the participants, MCs, NGOs and other stakeholders. Specifically, the terms of reference of UEFDC is very broad-based, as it is developed for the entire country context and it needs to be more site specific. But as respondents of the study, none of the MC and UEFDC members clearly spelled out his responsibilities as a member of respective institutions. Rather they opined that they oversee the entire social forestry programme and assist FD in general. It is hence evident that adequate orientation of committee members is not provided, which is very vital for the success of the programme.

5.4 Performance: responsiveness and efficiency

Study reveals that though the SFMC has a good contact with general SF participants, the UEFDC largely resides beyond the reach of them. Hence, general meetings of the participants are the sole platform for the voice of participants to be heard. Still the acquisition of 'opinions are heard but seldom reflect in decision-making process' is largely visible in the study site.

There are few positive directions which came out of the SF programme. Firstly, FD personnel are now compelled to respond to the views of local pressure groups and local administration in addition to their senior administration. Secondly, the process of keeping minutes is a positive mode of the programme though the minutes are not adequately documented.

In case, the representatives from participants are included in the UEFDC, a pathway could exist for them to go to the high ups while the MC avoids their opinions. Besides, MC members are yet to demonstrate their dynamic stand to advocate the voice of participants and in most cases they rely largely to the concerned FD personnel.

In the context of effectiveness and efficiency of these institutions the most depressing part identified in the study is that 78% of MC and 60% of UEFDC members possess obscure understanding about their responsibilities and duties. Discussion with the members of both the institutions figured out that the SF programme lacks adequate orientation and capacity building for them whereby most of them merely enjoy their inclusion without required commitment to the institutions. Furthermore, it is found that few members are extraordinarily enthusiastic and keen to be involved in all the aspects of SF programme; they are mostly serving their own interests.

However, these institutions meanwhile demonstrated their positive outcomes in case of conflict resolution among the participants and monitoring nursery and plantations, organizing trainings and liaison between the beneficiary groups and concerned public authorities. If adequate initiatives are taken, the MCs can play significant role in TFF management and has the potentiality to flourish as local level entrepreneur. There is also huge possibility that these SF participant groups can seek their own funds from external sources, if they are empowered as a registered body, alike many other NGOs operating in the study area. For instance, recently developed collaborative management committees (CMCs) of protected areas under the Nishorgo program of Bangladesh have achieved company registration (from Joint Stock Company) and they are able to seek funds themselves for developing their landscapes.

5.5 Accountability and transparency

The accountability matrix of the study reveals that none of the MC and UEFDC members are accountable to the SF participants. In normative context, representatives of the committees were supposed to be accountable to the most vital stakeholders of the social forestry programme, to the participants. But the study found that they are accountable merely to the high ups and the people they are representing are largely denied. Though a general consensus (83% of respondents opinion) came out that local FD personnel are not accountable to anyone, overall situation exhibits that they are being more and more accountable to local administration and pressure groups in addition to their higher authority for their activities in the SF programme. This is positively a crack in the vicious cycle of traditional forest administration. However, in case of any misappropriation of

power by FD personnel, the MCs as well as UEFDC cannot play a positive role except informing the higher FD authorities for departmental action against them.

Similarly the MCs and UEFDCs are yet to bring any progress regarding participants' access to budgetary allocation and mode of expenditure which are still largely handled by the FD personnel and some progressive participants who are purposively included in the MCs. For example, general participants are not aware at all regarding the amount deposited in their tree farming fund and the status of expenditure thereof, even in the second rotation of SF programme. Hence the study revealed that transparency in institutions is yet a far-reaching goal and the local institution might require further backstopping whereby participants would demand for information regarding their allocated budget and corresponding expenditures.

5.6 Fairness: equity and rule of law

In a broader context, the social forestry programme made a remarkable progress in fair distribution of benefits and entitlements among the participants. Participants are selected from identified economic and social categories like local landless and destitute women; PBSAs are made to ensure equitable share of land (1.0 ha. each) for 10 years and 45% share of sale proceeds from final harvest. This study and discussions with the key respondents reveals that both the local SF institutions, UEFDC and the Management Committee (SFMC), play positive role to ensure equitable benefit sharing and rule of law in the SF programme whereby Forest Department personnel at local level acts as driving forces. The interviewees affirmed SF to be an inclusive development effort and it is a major shift in traditional forest management.

However, the grave concern is in the selection procedure of participants. Though there was adequate guidance in the project document and the SF rules 2004, there was deviation resulting in inclusion of some well-off participants as an excuse of a strategy to protect the plantation by warding off external threats. Similarly Khan *et al* (2004) made two critical observations on equity i. e. plantation establishment was the over-reaching priority for FD rather than the equity concerns; and participation of women is strikingly limited and their participation in functional decision-making is often nominal and symbolic. In contrast, although at the end of first rotation the participants received a

varied amount of share from their final harvest, it does not indicate inequitable distribution rather it largely depend on their efforts to manage and protect trees in their plots. Gradually, the confidence of the responding participants and strong sense of ownership has developed and it proves that the said institutions and FD played significant role in building rapport.

Finally, from the self-judgment of respondents the UEFDC achieved aggregate ranking of 2.5 i.e. right in between good (2) and moderate (3) - a better stand than that of the SF management committee (SFMC) with rank 2.69, i.e. closer to moderate category. However, both the institutions made considerable progress in effectiveness and efficiency as designated to be the highest rank. Though the level of understanding of respondents were varied it is evident from the respondents' views that SF has brought a significant shift from FD's conservation oriented forest management strategy and local level institutions are gradually making their spaces to operate and flourish towards ensuring good forest governance.

Chapter 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1. Conclusion

It needs proper appreciation that as an institution FD has broad-based mandate in conservation and management of public forest resources in the country since last 150 years. Accordingly FD has developed local level institutions like forest divisions, ranges and beats, with adequate and experienced manpower, for site-specific management of the resources in a more intensive way. Still, there is a gap, which impedes sustainable management of forest reserves in both the context of forest health and extent- a trend of gradual shrinking is largely visible. At this juncture, involvement of local people in forestry activities, including monitoring and enforcement, is evident to sustain valuable forestlands as viewed by Stevens (1997) and Wells & Brandon (1992). Anderson (2002) and Ribot (2004) concomitantly treated forest resources as a core preoccupation for many, at local and national level, and a central issue for the prospects of rural poverty. Thus to bring both forest conservation and peoples' livelihood in a win-win situation, development discourses positively appreciated to develop forest governance through widening the structure and scope of FD whereby a multiple stakeholder complement each other in achieving and sharing relationship, rights, responsibilities and incentives in sustainable way.

Alike the joint forest management (JFM) in West Bengal, community forest user groups (CFUGs) in Nepal and community forest management (CFM) in Vietnam, social forestry in Bangladesh has brought significant progress in people-oriented forestry whereby local stakeholders are included in the process and respective forest departments and national policies pave the fundamental routes. In all the cases, local level forestry institutions are treated as the entry point for forest governance.

The study reveals that local level social forestry institutions in Bangladesh are grounded adequate legal supports from Forestry Sector Master Plan 1993, National Forest Policy 1994, The Forest (Amendment) Act 2000, Social Forestry Rules 2004 and subsequent Government orders. These institutions are Social Forestry Management Committee representing the participant groups and Upazilla Environment and Forest Development

Committee (UEFDC) comprising with local level public offices, NGOs and civil society. These institutions are in complementary to the existing FD setups.

Social forestry programme has made commendable progress in promoting voice of local forest dependent communities to be heard and involving them in forestry activities with benefit share agreement (PBSA). However, issues like selection of well-off peoples as participants, capacity building of members from both the institutions, devolution of financial as well as administrative power etc. needs further interventions. Women's participation in the SF programme is still visibly lagging behind with an excuse that women are not able to protect their forests from illegal theft. But it should be mentioned that PBSA adequately appreciate spouse of all participants as inheritors. However, huge masses of eligible poor are kept out of the process as limited numbers of participants are benefiting rotations after rotations.

While the long-term vision of SF programme is to ensure local people in afforestation activities for poverty alleviation and simultaneously protection of forest reserves, the members of local level SF institutions are mostly unaware of their specific responsibilities and still FD personnel at local offices play the pivotal role. Still, the participants expressed their confidence in significant economic benefit from upcoming final harvest and in the second rotation they have planted diverse varieties of sal associates in their woodlots. Plantations of various indigenous species instead of monoculture of exotic species would enrich back biodiversity base and entails selection felling at the rotation age.

In view of the responsiveness it is found that though, in general, the committees do not show added response to the community, local FD personnel as well as their high ups are being more questioned by the stakeholders. Local FD personnel viewed it to be added pressure onto them since a limited number of staffs have to work both in SF programme and for traditional protection duties. Development of human capacity, particularly FD personnel as well as members of both the institutions are pre-requisite for their improved efficiency, which would eventually enable them to be more responsive to the stakeholder communities.

In general terms, the members of the SFMC and UEFDC are yet to demonstrate their accountability to the people they represent and similarly most of the financial matters and administrative affairs are not transparent. In fact, the legislative and policy supports also do not ensure free flow of information through these offices and institutions.

Although social forestry rules and policy support adequately appreciate social and financial equity for the participants, in practice these institutions could not demonstrate any indication thereof. However, SFMC is more pro-active than the UEFDC.

In fine, the study reveals that through adoption of social forestry programme, forestry sector of Bangladesh brought significant changes in sustainable forest management and alleviating rural poverty. Inclusion of local people in forestry activities and developing multi-stakeholder local institutions are two vital dimensions in line with the promises of policy and project endeavours. However, it is obvious to remark that the study reveals both the institutions achieved halfway in ensuring good forest governance and progressing steadily in a positive dimension.

6.2. Recommendations

The forestry sector, in the context of social forestry of Bangladesh, lies in the verge to appreciate good forest governance as an essential tool to promote the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and to integrate social and economic development and environmental protection (UNECE 2002). The tenth principle of Rio declaration emphasizes on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice which are the underlying driving forces of forest governance. Based on in-depth literature review and respondents view from the study site, following recommendations can be made:

Local level social forestry institutions need to be treated as the entry point for ensuring forest governance. In this connection, the custodian agency, i.e. Bangladesh Forest Department has a vital role to backstop these institutions with further devolution of administrative as well as financial power.

Based on the policy and legal supports (e.g. National Forest Policy 1994, Social Forestry Rules 2004 etc) to people-oriented forestry programme, detailed TOR for the members of the Social Forestry Management Committees (SFMCs) as well as members of the Upazilla Environment and Forest Development Committees (UEFDCs) need to be formulated.

Towards poverty alleviation through social forestry programme, provision of participation for same persons repeatedly and in several rotations needs to be modified. There should have scopes of new participants to be included in the programme during subsequent rotations and it will bring more visible impacts over a wider space.

Inclusion of indigenous species in the social forestry plantations should be encouraged. During second rotation, the participants demonstrated positive inclination to it and FD can assist them with planting materials and trainings on nursery and plantation management.

During post-project period, involvement of NGOs in the SF programme is almost absent. While NGOs are locally active with their different programme like health and sanitation,

education, micro-credit etc., further attempts should be taken to include the SF participants in the NGO programme.

Government's training supports towards alternate income generating activities through the Youth Development Department can be utilized to improve professional skills of the SF participants. Simultaneously FD personnel should be provided with social development management skills to meet the demand of changed orientation of people-centered forestry.

Skills improvement trainings for the duty bearers, like members of the committee, local FD and NGO personnel, need to be provided. Exchange visits and interaction among participants from various regions can be arranged to share ideas and learn from others.

Traditional forest management and social forestry programme bear different views, activities and require differing perceptions of key players. While a particular groups of FD personnel are responsible for implementation of both the programme, they face either burdened or fail to orient themselves to the programme. It is, thus, recommended to separate both the managements.

Management of tree farming fund is very crucial for sustainability of social forestry programme. Local FD officials and concerned SFMC members need adequate training in financial management as well as providing responsibilities to handle this fund. In this connection, an in-depth policy research is required on the portion and modalities of TFF allocation among the forest ranges. Currently TFF (10% of total sale proceed), for some poor stock plantations, found to be inadequate for re-planting while some other forest patches with good stock generate TFF more than requirement. Hence the issues of re-allocation of TFF among the forest patches could be important. Accordingly Khan et. al. (2004) suggested for amalgamation of TFF at District level for backstopping the poorer plantations during re-establishment.

The study identified that local FD personnel, in the frame of SFMCs as well as UEFDCs, are being accountable to FD high ups, local administration and to the civil societies. However, other actors of these institutions are neither given specific responsibilities nor

being accountable for their performances. Special attentions with action researches need to provide in terms of other characteristics of good governance as well.

In order to make the members of said institutions more accountable and responsive, a provision for rewards and punitive measures should exist here. Alike the SF participants, the members of these institutions especially who are taken from local communities, should have some sorts of incentives so that their involvement in the SF programme brings positive outcomes to them. Concurrently as the participants can be withdrawn from the programme, provisions should be existed so that these members would be discharged from their position for any misappropriation of their power.

The said institutions, especially FD, should lead in developing and strengthening partnership among the local administration, FD and NGOs to remove psycho-social barriers and mindset among their personnel.

At the onset of SF programme, SFMC is formed with identified local elites, enthusiasts and other interest groups as members while they were supposed to be representatives of local stakeholders. Thus a provision of election in the SFMC need to be included to make the social forestry institutions more democratic which would ensure good governance of the programme.

Since, FD does not have regular officers at Upazilla level, Forest Rangers and sometimes even Foresters represent FD in the Upazilla level meetings. According to Government hierarchy, XI to XIV grade personnel can not represent FD adequately whereby the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) chairs the UEFDC meetings. It is recommended to deploy Assistant Conservator of Forests of grade VIII, with adequate orientation and training in social forestry, at Upazilla level for effective implementation of the SF programme.

Finally, the study identified that selection of Social Forestry participants are not free from the influences of local political and administrative elites whereby they are already in an agreement (PBSA) for next 10 years. The criteria enshrined in the Social Forestry Rules 2004 for participant selection needs to be strictly maintained from upcoming rotations.

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Annex I: Questionnaire

Forest Governance at the Local Level: A study on
Social Forestry Institutions in Dhaka Forest Division,
Bangladesh

Questionnaire
for
the Social Forestry Participants/ members of MC/TFF

(This data will only be used for research purposes)

(প্রাপ্ত তথ্য শুধুমাত্র গবেষণা কার্যে ব্যবহৃত হবে)

1. Background of the Respondent

- Name /নাম:
- Age/বয়স:
- Profession /পেশা:
- Education / শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা:
- Stake with the Social Forestry Programme:

Participant Group (MC)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chairperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vice Chairperson
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assistant General Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Members (4 persons)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Representative Group:	<input type="checkbox"/>	:
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Social Forestry Participant		

বাগানের সালঃ বন বিট : থানা :

A. if participant, which category কি বিবেচনায় আপনি উপকারভোগী হয়েছেন?

1.	Landless	১	ভূমিহীন
2.	Owner or occupants of less than 50 decimal of land	২	৫০শতাংশের কম ভূমির মালিক
3.	Destitute women	৩	দুঃস্থ মহিলা
4.	Ethnic minorities	৪	অন্যসর গোষ্ঠী
5.	Local people	৫	স্থানীয় অধিবাসী
		-	অন্যান্য

2. Status of you as Social Forestry Participant? উপকারভোগীর তথ্যাবলী

আপনি কবে উপকারভোগী হয়েছেন?

PBSA

আছে

নাই

PBSA কত বৎসর এর জন্য হয়েছে?

আপনার সংগ্রহে PBSA এর কপি আছে কিনা ?

3. How much benefit did you received from the first rotation of the SF programme?
How did you utilize it? আপনি প্রথম রোটেশনে সামাজিক বনায়নে কি লাভ পেয়েছেন?

১ম রোটেশনের লভ্যাংশঃ

এটা আপনি কিভাবে কাজে লাগিয়েছেন?

কর্মসংস্থান - নার্সারী উত্তোলনঃ

বন বাগান সৃজন :

খিনিং / বন বাগান পাতলাকরণ/ প্রুনিং :

মধ্যবর্তী ফসল :

8. What can be the minimum area for a participant at your locality in Social Forestry programme? সামাজিক বনায়নে অংশীদার হতে আপনার এলাকায় উপকারভোগীর জন্য নূন্যতম কতটুকু জায়গা প্রয়োজন?

ক: ১.৫ হেক্টর, খ: ১ হেক্টর, গ: ২ একর, ঘ: ১ একর, ঙ: ডেসিমেল।

5. How and for how many years the members of Management Committee members elected? ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির সদস্যগণ কিভাবে এবং কতদিনের জন্য নির্বাচিত হন?

ক) নির্বাচিত

খ) মনোনয়ন প্রাপ্ত

○ উপকারভোগী দলের সভায় সিলেকশন,

○ বন বিভাগের সহায়তায়,

○ EFDC কমিটির সভায়,

○ অন্যান্য

○ উপকারভোগী দলের প্রতিনিধিগণের মাধ্যমে,

○ স্থানীয় এন জি ও এর সহায়তায়,

○ সরকারী গেজেট ও পদাধিকার অনুযায়ী

কত বৎসরের জন্য ?

আপনার কমিটিতে কোন সদস্য রদবদল হয়েছে কি না? হলে কেন/কিভাবে হল?

৬. সামাজিক বনায়নে কেন সম্পৃক্ত হয়েছেন? এতে আপনার কি লাভ হয়েছে?

○ আর্থিক লাভের জন্য / কর্মসংস্থান এর সুযোগ সৃষ্টি,

○ সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতা থেকে

○ অন্যান্য

○ সামাজিক প্রবেশগম্যতা বাড়ানোর জন্য

○ লিগ্যাল স্টেটাস পাওয়ার জন্য

1. Legitimacy and Voice

1.1. Participation

১. উপকারভোগী দলের সভায় কি কি বিষয়ে আলোচনা হয়?

- বনায়ন কর্মসূচী,
 - উইডিং এর বাজেট ও ব্যয় বিবরণী,
 - উপকারভোগীগণের মধ্যকার দন্দ,
 - বনায়নের বাজেট,
 - থিনিং এর বাজেট ও ব্যয় বিবরণী
 - বন বিভাগের / এনজিও কর্মচারী সম্পর্কিত অভিযোগ নিয়ে আলোচনা
- সামাজিক বনায়নের উপকারভোগী ও এলাকার অন্য জনগণের মধ্যকার দন্দ,
- বন বাগান সৃজনের বাজেট ও ব্যয় বিবরণী,
 - অন্যান্য
 - প্রশিক্ষণ এর বিষয়াবলী
- কত দিন পর পর সভা হয়? আপনি নিয়মিত সভায় যোগদান করেন কিনা?

২. সভায় সিদ্ধান্ত কিভাবে গৃহীত হয়?

- সভায় উপস্থিত সদস্যগণের ঐক্যমত্যের ভিত্তিতে, ইচ্ছায়,
- স্থানীয় রাজনৈতিক / প্রভাবশালী ব্যক্তিবর্গের
- বন বিভাগ এর কর্মচারীগণের মতামতের ভিত্তিতে,
- স্থানীয় প্রশাসনের মতামতের ভিত্তিতে,
- অন্যান্য

৩. কোন ধরণের বাগান হবে (টাইপ/প্রজাতি) তার মতামত নেয়া হয় কিনা?

- বন বাগানের ধরণ নির্বাচনে মতামত নেয়া হয় কি না? হ্যাঁ না
- প্রজাতি নির্বাচনে মতামত নেয়া হয় কি না? হ্যাঁ না
- বাগান সৃজনের পদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে মতামত নেয়া হয় কি না? হ্যাঁ না
- অন্যান্য

৪. বন বাগান সৃজনের পরিকল্পনা ও এন্টিমেট (ব্যয় বিবরণী) তৈরীতে উপকারভোগীদের সম্পৃক্ত করা হয় কি না? এতদবিষয়ে সাধারণ সভায় আলোচনা হয় কি না?

- বিস্তারিত আলোচনা হয়
- নাম মাত্র আলোচনা হয়
- আলোচনা হয় না

৫. বন বাগানের রোটেশন (আবর্তকাল) এবং বিক্রয় পদ্ধতি নির্ধারণ কে করেন?

	বন বিভাগ	উপকারভোগী	সম্মিলিতভাবে
আবর্তকাল নির্ধারণ			
বিক্রয় পদ্ধতি			

৬. সামাজিক বনায়নে অংশগ্রহণ করে আপনার কি দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে?

- সামাজিক বনায়ন
- চারা উত্তোলন ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ
- টি এফ এফ ব্যবস্থাপনা,
- অন্যান্য
- দল গঠন,
- বাগান উত্তোলন ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ
- সমন্বিত কৃষি ব্যবস্থাপনা
- উন্নয়ন ও সংগঠন বিষয়ক,
- বিকল্প আয় সম্পর্কিত
- দন্দ নিরসন,

1.2. Consensus orientation

৭. সামাজিক বনায়নে উপকারভোগী সহ অন্যান্য স্টেক হোল্ডারগণের মধ্যে কি ধরনের দন্দ (conflicts) লক্ষ্য করেছেন?

- উপকারভোগীগণের মধ্যকার ব্যক্তিগত আক্রোশ, দন্দ,
- উপকারভোগী ও বন বিভাগের মধ্যকার দন্দ,
- বৃক্ষ প্রজাতি নির্বাচনে,
- সামাজিক বনায়নে উপকারভোগী হতে না পারা
- মালিকানা সম্পর্কিত
- উপকারভোগী ও অ-উপকারভোগীদের মধ্যে
- বন বিভাগ ও স্থানীয় জনগণের মধ্যকার দন্দ,
- কমিটির আর্থিক ব্যবস্থাপনায়,
- প্লটের সীমানা নির্ধারণ সম্পর্কিত
- অন্যান্য

৮. কোন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়ে (যেমন, দন্দ নিরসণে) ঐক্যমত্যে পৌঁছানোর ক্ষেত্রে কমিটি কি ভূমিকা রাখছে?

- দলীয় সভায়,
- থানা পরিবেশ ও বৃক্ষ ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির সভায়, সভায়,
- বন বিভাগের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের সমঝোতায়
- স্থানীয় গণ্যমান্য ব্যাক্তির সহায়তায়,
- জেলা পরিবেশ ও বৃক্ষ ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির
- অন্যান্য

2. Direction

৯. কমিটির পদধারীগণ কি ভূমিকা পালন করেন?

১০. দারিদ্র বিমোচনে সামাজিক বনায়ন কি ভূমিকা পালন করে?

১১. বন সংরক্ষণে সামাজিক বনায়ন কি ভূমিকা পালন করে?

১২. সুশাসন ও মানব উন্নয়ন বলতে কি বোঝেন?

কমিটির কার্যপরিধিতে সুশাসনের ৫টি বিষয় মান নির্ধারণ করুন। স্কেল ১ অতি উত্তম হতে স্কেল ৫ - নূন্যতম অবস্থা নির্ণায়কঃ

Participation	অংশীদারিত্ব	
Consensus orientation	সর্বজন সম্মত	
Responsiveness	সক্রিয়তা	
Effectiveness and Efficiency	দক্ষতা/ কার্যকারীতা	
Accountability	জবাবদাহিতা	
Transparency	স্বচ্ছতা	
Equity	সাম্য	
Rule of Law	আইনের শাসন	

- ১- অতি উত্তম,
- ২- উত্তম,
- ৩- চলমান,
- ৪- খারাপ ও
- ৫- ধারণা নাই।

3. Performance

3.1. Responsiveness

১৩. কমিটি আপনাদের সাধারণ সদস্যদের মতামতের কতটা প্রাধান্য দেয়?

- প্রাধান্য দেয় না
- মতামত শুনে, কিন্তু সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণে প্রতিফলিত হয় না
- মতামত দেওয়ার সুযোগ নাই
- অন্যান্য

১৪. সাধারণ উপকারভোগীর মতামতের গুরুত্ব দেয়া বা অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার জন্য কি ব্যবস্থা আছে?

- সভায় উপকারভোগীদের মতামত গুরুত্বসহকাণ্ডে বিবেচিত হয়
- সাধারণ উপকারভোগীদের মতামত দলের সভাপতির মাধ্যমে উপস্থাপিত হয়
- সভার কার্যপত্রে রেকর্ড করা হয়
- অন্যান্য

১৫. কমিটি যখন আপনাদের সমস্যা সমাধান না করে/ সমাধান করতে না পারে তখন কি কি পদক্ষেপ নিতে পারেন?

3.2. Effectiveness and Efficiency কার্যকারীতা ও দক্ষতা

১৬. কমিটির সদস্যগণ তাদের কার্যপরিধি ও দায়িত্ব সম্পর্কে জানেন কিনা? কিভাবে জানে?

- জানে
- জানে না
- সভায় আলোচনার মাধ্যমে
- প্রশিক্ষণ গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে
- ব্যক্তিগত যোগাযোগের মাধ্যমে
- অন্যান্য

১৭. বনায়ণ কর্মসূচী বাস্তবায়নে এ কমিটি কিভাবে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ??

- কমিটি উপকারভোগী নির্বাচনে / বাদ দেওয়ায় বন বিভাগ ও এন জি ও-কে সহায়তা করে,
- উপকারভোগী দল গঠনে সহায়তা করে,
- উপকারভোগীদের প্রশিক্ষণের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করে,
- নার্সারী ও বনায়ন কাজের মনিটরিং করে,
- উপকারভোগীদের মধ্যকার বিবাদ মিমাংসায় গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে
- কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে সুপারিশ / অভিযোগ করে
- অন্যান্য

১৮. কমিটির প্রশাসনিক ও আর্থিক নিয়মনীতিগুলো বন বিভাগের ব্যবস্থাপনায় কোন সমস্যা সৃষ্টি করে কিনা?

- করে
- করে না

করলে ? কোন প্রেক্ষিতে সমস্যা সৃষ্টি করে?

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ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটি বন বিভাগকে কি কি সহায়তা প্রদান করে?

উপজেলা পরিবেশ ও বন উন্নয়ন কমিটি বন বিভাগকে কি কি সহায়তা প্রদান করে?

4. Accountability

4.1. Accountability জবাবদিহীতা

১৯. দায়িত্বপালনে কে কাকে জবাবদিহী করতে হয়?

- জবাবদিহীতা নাই
- উপকারভোগী :
- ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির সদস্যগণ :
- UEFDC সদস্যগণ :
- বন বিভাগের স্থানীয় কর্মকর্তা :

২০. সামাজিক বনায়ন কর্মসূচীতে কমিটির কার্যক্রম কিভাবে পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন করা হয়?

পরিবীক্ষণ ও মূল্যায়ন

- উপকারভোগীদের সভায় কাজের অগ্রগতি আলোচনা করে
- বন বাগান পরিচর্যা ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ কাজে ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে উপস্থিত থেকে
- উচ্চ পর্যায়ের বন বিভাগের কর্মকর্তাগণের বন এলাকা ভ্রমণে সহায়তা করে
- উপকারভোগীদের নিজেরা রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করে
- উপজেলা পর্যায়ে টিএফএফ এর অডিট করার মাধ্যমে
- অন্যান্য

২১. কমিটির কোন সদস্য দায়িত্ব পালনে অবহেলা করলে কি পদক্ষেপ বা ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের বিধান রয়েছে?

- উপকারভোগীদের সভায় আলোচনাক্রমে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হয়,
- বন বিভাগের কর্মকর্তা / কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রে বিভাগীয় তদন্ত করা হয়
- দোষী সাব্যস্ত হলে কমিটি হতে বাদ দেওয়ার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষের কাছে সুপারিশ করা হয়
- অন্যান্য

২২. একজন সাধারণ উপকারভোগীর কোন অভিযোগ কিভাবে সুরাহা হয়?

- দলীয় সভায়,
- ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির মাধ্যমে,
- UEFDC এর মাধ্যমে
- হয় না

4.2. Transparency

২৩. বাগান করার ক্ষেত্রে বিভিন্ন ধাপ যেমন চারার রোপন ও বনায়নের পদ্ধতি, বাগান সৃজনের উপাদান ও উৎস, সংশ্লিষ্ট বাজেট বরাদ্দ ও ব্যয় প্রভৃতি বিষয়ে জানেন কিনা?

○ চারা উত্তোলন, রোপন ও বনায়নের পদ্ধতি	হ্যাঁ	না
○ বাগান সৃজনের উপাদান ও উৎস	হ্যাঁ	না
○ সভার কার্যবিবরণী	হ্যাঁ	না
○ বাগানের বাজেট বরাদ্দ	হ্যাঁ	না
○ বাগানের ব্যয়	হ্যাঁ	না
○ ক্যাশ বই	হ্যাঁ	না
○ টি. এফ. এফ. আয় - ব্যয় বিবরণী	হ্যাঁ	না

○ অন্যান্য :

আপনি 'বাগান সৃজনের বিভিন্ন ধাপ ও তৎসংশ্লিষ্ট বাজেট এবং আয়-ব্যয়' বিষয় সমূহ কিভাবে জানতে পারেন?

5. Fairness

5.1. Equity

২৪. উপকারভোগী সবাই সমপরিমাণ বাগান এলাকার অংশীদার কিনা ?

২৫. প্রাশ্চিত্র জনগোষ্ঠী যেমন, হতদরিদ্র, প্রান্তিক (ডেপ্টিটিউট) নারী উপকারভোগীর মতামত কতটুকু গুরুত্বসহকারে বিবেচিত হয়?

○ হয়

○ হয় না

২৬. বনজ সম্পদের উপর নির্ভরশীলতার মাত্রা অনুযায়ী উপকারভোগী নির্বাচিত করা হয়েছে কিনা? তদনুযায়ী বনজ সম্পদ (বন এলাকা) বণ্টন করা হয় কি না?

○ নির্ভরশীলতার মাত্রা অনুযায়ী উপকারভোগী নির্বাচিত করা হয়েছে

○ নির্ভরশীলতার মাত্রা অনুযায়ী উপকারভোগী নির্বাচিত করা হয়নি

○ লিখিত গাইড লাইন অনুযায়ী

○ অন্যান্য

5.2. Rule of Law (আইনের শাসন)

২৭. কমিটির কার্যপরিধি এবং বিভিন্ন পদের ক্ষমতা নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে কি না?

○ কমিটির আইনগত ভিত্তি

○ আছে (গেজেটে উল্লেখিত TOR অনুযায়ী)

○ নাই

○ ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির কার্যপরিধি নির্ধারিত

ঃ আছে

নাই

○ UEFDC কমিটির কার্যপরিধি নির্ধারিত

ঃ আছে

নাই

○ ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির বিভিন্ন পদের কার্যপরিধি নির্ধারিত

ঃ আছে

নাই

○ UEFDC কমিটির বিভিন্ন পদের কার্যপরিধি নির্ধারিত

ঃ আছে

নাই

২৮. সামাজিক বনায়ন ব্যবস্থাপনায় কোন অনিয়ম পরিলক্ষিত হলে কি ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হয়?

২৯. কমিটির নীতিমালায় বা TOR-এ কারো স্বাধীনতা / ক্ষমতা খর্ব করা হয়েছে কি না? যেমন, অধিকাংশের মতামত থাকলেও সভাপতি বা অন্য কারো ভেটো দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা আছে কিনা?

○ অনেকক্ষেত্রে উপকারভোগীদের স্বাধীনতা / ক্ষমতা খর্ব করা হয়েছে

○ উপকারভোগীদের স্বাধীনতা / ক্ষমতা খর্ব করা হয়নি

○ ভেটো দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা রাখা হয়নি

○ ভেটো দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা রাখা হয়েছে; কারণ

○ অন্যান্য

৩০. কমিটির সদস্যগণ বা উপকারভোগী সদস্যগণ সামাজিক বনায়ন নীতিমালা ২০০৪ এর কি সুফল পেয়েছেন?

৩১. কমিটির সবাই নিজ নিজ TOR-অনুযায়ী দায়িত্ব পালন করেন কিনা? অন্যের দ্বারা প্রভাবিত হন কিনা?

○ কমিটির সবাই নিজ নিজ TOR-অনুযায়ী দায়িত্ব পালন করেন

○ বন বিভাগ কমিটিকে প্রভাবিত করে

○ কমিটির সবাই নিজ নিজ TOR-অনুযায়ী দায়িত্ব পালন করেন

○ স্থানীয় প্রশাসন কমিটিকে প্রভাবিত করে

না

○ অন্যান্য

Annex II: Sample PBSA between FD and participant group.

ভূমির তফসিল

জেলা	থানা	মৌজা	দাগ নং	চৌহদ্দি	ভূমির পরিমাণ (হেক্টর)
গাজীপুর	গাজীপুর	৩৬৬২ দক্ষিণাঞ্চলিক ৩ ৩১১২ (মৌজা)	১৩৬, ১৬৪ ১১৪ ৩৭১, ১৪১		১০.০ হে:

সাক্ষী সমূহ:-

১. মোঃ খয়রুল আলম ভূঞা
সহকারী বন সংরক্ষক
ঢাকা বন বিভাগ
২. [Signature]
৩. [Signature]

প্রথম পক্ষঃ

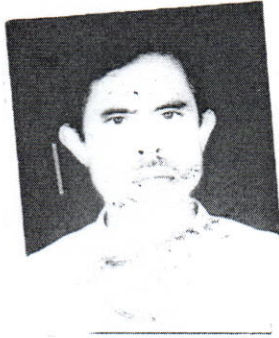
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের পক্ষে

মোঃ আব্দুল কাদের একাধার
ফার্স্ট রেঞ্জ অফিসার
গাজীপুর রেঞ্জ।

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
(মোঃ আব্দুল লতিফ মিয়া)
ঢাকা বন বিভাগ
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা বন বিভাগ।

বিত্ত কর্মকর্তা
সোসাইটি বন বিভাগ
গাজীপুর, গাজীপুর।

দ্বিতীয় পক্ষঃ



১. জনাব মোঃ আব্দুল হক পিতা হুজুর হামিদুল হক
বেগম আব্দুল হক সান্নায়েদা হামিদুল হক
স্বাক্ষরঃ মোঃ আব্দুল হক
শ্রী-কোম্পাঃ আব্দুল হক



২. জনাব মোঃ আব্দুল হক পিতা হুজুর হামিদুল হক
বেগম আব্দুল হক সান্নায়েদা হামিদুল হক
স্বাক্ষরঃ আব্দুল হক
শ্রী-কোম্পাঃ আব্দুল হক



৩. জনাব মোঃ মোস্তাফিজুল হক পিতা মোঃ মিজুজ হক
 পিতা- মোঃ মিজুজ হক মাতা- মোঃ মোস্তাফিজুল
 বেগম

স্বাক্ষরঃ মোঃ মোস্তাফিজুল হক
 পিতা- মিস্তাফিজুল হক



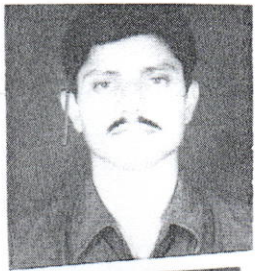
৪. জনাব মোঃ তওক্কীল পিতা মুহাম্মদ হামিদুল হক
 বেগম সিনতা হক মাতা মোঃ তওক্কীল

স্বাক্ষরঃ তওক্কীল
 পিতা- মিস্তাফিজুল হক



৫. জনাব মোঃ জামাল হক পিতা মোঃ হামিদুল হক
 বেগম মোস্তাফিজুল হক মাতা মোঃ জামাল হক

স্বাক্ষরঃ মোঃ জামাল হক
 পিতা- মোস্তাফিজুল হক



৬. জনাব মোঃ জামাল হক পিতা মোঃ হামিদুল হক
 বেগম মোস্তাফিজুল হক মাতা মোঃ জামাল হক

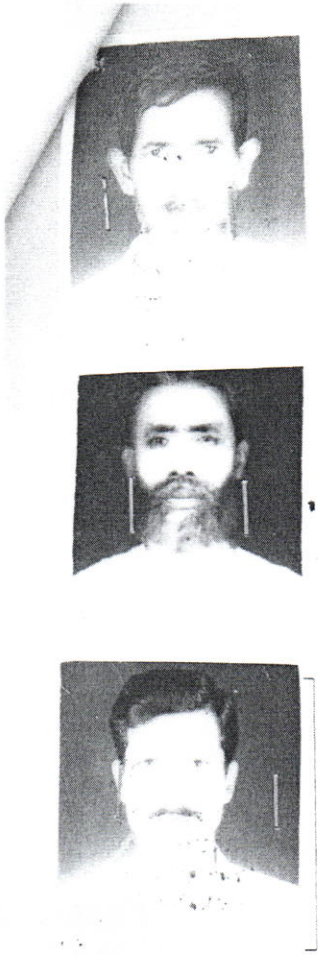
স্বাক্ষরঃ মোঃ জামাল হক
 পিতা- মোস্তাফিজুল হক



৭. জনাব মোঃ জামাল হক পিতা মুহাম্মদ হামিদুল হক
 বেগম মোস্তাফিজুল হক মাতা মোঃ জামাল হক

স্বাক্ষরঃ মোঃ জামাল হক
 পিতা- মোস্তাফিজুল হক

স্বাক্ষরঃ
 বিটি কমিউনিটি
 মসজিদ
 ঢাকা



৮. জনাব. শ্রী: জগদীশ পিতা শ্রী: জগদীশ বসু
 বেগম শ্রী: জগদীশ স্বামী শ্রী: জগদীশ
 স্বাক্ষর: শ্রী: জগদীশ
শ্রী- রঞ্জিতা

৯. জনাব শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা পিতা শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা বসু
 বেগম শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা স্বামী শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
 স্বাক্ষর: শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা

শ্রী- রঞ্জিতা

১০. জনাব শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা পিতা শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা বসু
 বেগম শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা স্বামী শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
 স্বাক্ষর: শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
শ্রী- ময়না

শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
 মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম
 প্রমুখ কবি সমাজের বনাম
 শ্রীপুর-২২-উ/এ
 শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর।

চুক্তি পত্রে ২য় পক্ষের পুরুষ ও তদীয় স্ত্রী স্বাক্ষর প্রদান করিবে।

শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
 মোঃ বজলুর রহমান
 সদস্য
 ২নং ওয়ার্ড, পৌরসভা ইউ: পি:
 শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর

শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
 বিপ্লব কল্যাণী
 দাসিবাগী স্বামী বিপ্লব
 শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর।

শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
 পিতা শ্রী: রঞ্জিতা
 মোঃ ৭, ৮, ৯ স. ব. ইউ মহিলা আস.
 শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর