

ANNUAL REPORT
OCTOBER '87 - SEPTEMBER '88



Rural Enterprise Project (REP)
Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)
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Dhaka - 1212

BANGLADESH RURAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (BRAC)
RURAL ENTERPRISE PROJECT (REP)

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INTRODUCTION

REP started in October 1985 to identify and promote new or improved businesses owned and operated by BRAC's landless group members. It was funded by the Ford Foundation for an initial period of three years. The primary objective of REP is to increase the long-term employment and income generating prospects of the landless. This report covers the status of REP's activities for the third year i.e. October 87 to September 88.

1. NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

1.1 DYE HOUSE, AAF, MANIKGONJ

The dye house went into operations in March 88. Till date average monthly output of dyed yarn is around 68 lbs. Cloth dyeing started in July and average monthly cloth dyed is 56 yads. The project has so far provided full time employment to four persons.

With assistance from ITDG two brief training programs were conducted in October 87 and March 88 and a 3 months' extended training started in July 88. The objectives of the training program are to develop expertise of 3 women on dyeing, develop dye record cards and colour matching charts, and sample range of dyed yarns. The training was temporarily disrupted due to floods. REP with assistance from Aarong will evaluate this initial phase of training, ending November, to determine its impact on dyeing quality and costs.

1.2 WASTE SILK SPINNING, AAF, MANIKGONJ

This project started in Manikgonj in September 87 and till date

average output per month is a little less than 30 lbs and processing costs is slightly below Tk. 250. Budgeted output level is 40lb/mth at Tk. 300 per lb. AAF has made a variety of fabrics out of recycled silk yarn and its future appear promising. The project has created direct employment for 12 persons. The project however, suffers shortage of silk jute waste occasionally and cotton spinning is also being considered to use up unutilized capacity.

1.3 YARN TWISTING, MANIKGONJ

This project came into operation in April 88. The main objective is to complete a chain of process in silk processing i.e. from cocoons to garments. Twisting was the only function which was being done outside AAF and proved to be a bottleneck in production. The introduction of the twisting facility has removed this bottleneck besides creating direct employment for 13 women. The technology (i.e. machines & know how) is Bangladeshi and the twisting facility is producing on an average 110 lbs of silk and cotton yarn per month. This level of output is only 10% of available capacity and is expected to go up in future with higher capacity utilization. The quality of twisted yarn is satisfactory and is expected to improve with further training.

1.4 POWER TILLER, MANIKGONJ

This Project was started in Manikgonj in October 87 with one Yanmar Machine. As it proved successful an additional 4 Sifang tillers were introduced in January 88. Last season the power tiller (PT) cultivated 413 acres of land. Two PTs were supplied to Rangpur and one to Pabna. REP arranged a total of 5 (five) training courses for 20 trainees out of which 6 were female. Objective of this

training was to develop PT drivers in maintenance, and simple repairing and book-keeping. REP also introduced trailer with PT in Manikgonj in December 87 for transportation service and suggested 3 more trailers for the future. Presently post flood measures in Rural Development programme include introduction of a number of power tillers.

1.5 MUSHROOM CULTURE

Mushroom culture was introduced in April 1988 in Manikgonj. Initially, 30 growers were trained out of which 13 are at present involved in production. By September 1988, 76.40 kg of mushrooms were produced and marketed. Prospects for mushroom culture is favourable but existing market is limited. Spawn supply for the growers is irregular owing to unavailability and proves a barrier to smooth production. There is need for a spawn production facility, mushroom preservation facility and more marketing effort for future expansion.

1.6 SEMI-INTENSIVE TELAPIA NILOTICA MONO-CULTURE:

In June 1988 2 Areas, Boilor and Kotwali were chosen for this project with technical support from Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Hymensingh. REP arranged one training course in FRI and another in Kotwali for 24 trainees. After completion of training total 17 ponds were stocked with improved variety. Growth of fish found very good (10 cm in 1 st month). Project expansion is now targeted only for female farmers.

1.7 INTENSIVE SHRIMP CULTURE

This high input scientific culture pond went into operation in July 1988, with target of production 7 kg/dec in 1st year and 13

kg/dec from 2nd year. ITDG is assisting in this project by helping in pond design and pond management. Scientifically excavated pond was stocked with 600 pcs/dec juvenile from local prawn hatchery, using a special shrimp feed from a local manufacturer.

1.8 SHRIMP SEMI-INTENSIVE CULTURE

REP has taken 4 semi-intensive shrimp culture ponds in Jessore from June 88 with different density to find out optimum shrimp density for semi-intensive ponds. Out of 4 ponds, 2 were stocked with 100 pcs/dec and 2 with 60 pcs/dec. All four ponds will use improved shrimp feed. Target of production for 100 pcs/dec shrimp ponds is 4 kg shrimp and 10 kg fish, and for 60 pcs/dec shrimp ponds 2.4 kg shrimp and 10 kg fish.

1.9 HORTICULTURE:

Last year (Sept 87 - Aug 88) under winter vegetable cultivation 381 farmer cultivated 41.22 acres of land and earned a net profit of Tk.77/dec. This year (Sept 88 - Aug 89) 500 farmers in Hanikgonj will be selected for winter vegetable cultivation programme to generate income after the flood. In September all the farmers were supplied with seeds.

1.10 SERICULTURE DEMONSTRATION UNITS

FOUR DEMONSTRATION PLOTS OF 2 BIGHA EACH HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN NAVARON (Jessore) and Atghoria (Pabna) for experimental eight cycle per year cocoon production from bush mulberry cultivation. Plantation is complete and the units will go into production after April, 1989. If the project is successful there is a wide scope for dissemination to most BDP Centres.

2.0 STATUS OF EXISTING PROJECTS STARTED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 87

2.1 JAMALPUR RICE MILL

Jamalpur Rice mill continued operations and performed well from December 87 onwards. Accumulated profit till date is over Tk.4000. Profits from January 88 onwards is very promising and amounts to Tk.6,576. However, most of this year's profit were adjusted against the losses of last year. The rice mill employees 3 persons (2 women, 1 man) and has created indirect income for BRAC group members who have taken paddy husking loans. In short the rice mill has a positive economic impact in the community.

2.2 BRICKFIELD, MANIKGONJ

The brickfield produced over 19 lac bricks this season and sold over 17 lac so far. Profit till date is Tk.1.94 lac out of which Tk.57 thousand was paid as dividends to shareholders. The brickfield created employment for over 250 people for over a period of five months. The brickfield will start operations at the end of this year.

2.3 NURSERY

Carp nursery pond continued for the third year in Mymensingh with 7 ponds in Boildr to produce carp fry and fingerling and developed some para professionals (local resource person for the trade). REP selected 3 paraprofessionals in that area and arranged intensive training and follow-up. Early flood and rainfall affected the first crop.

2.4 FRESH WATER SHRIMP

REP continued the project for the second year to find out the optimum stocking density of shrimp in extensive polyculture. This year total

number of ponds are 54 with about 16.00 acres of water body. Last year productive ponds' average was 0.5 kg shrimp and 4.5 kg fish/dec.

2.5 BAJENDRAPUR HATCHERY

Construction of the hatchery was completed in July 10 1988 and it started test operation from March 1988. Production upto August 1988, is 19 kg spawn and 432,000 pcs fry/fingerling, rearing a stock of 1500 kg of brood fish and 775 kg of table fish. Training centre of the hatchery is near completion. Next year full operation is expected.

2.6 LIVESTOCK FEED EXPERIMENT

The project started in the beginning of the year but for technical and management reasons the experimental project was not successful. REP is now planning a more controlled experiment in collaboration with RED, BRAC's research cell, from October 1988.

3. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES REVIEWED

3.1 The following business opportunities were studied and feasibility reports were prepared for action in 1988 - 89.

1	Tile Factory	Kalarooa, Jessore
2	Power Tiller	Rangpur (Proper and Darshana), Pabna (Boraigram) Manikgonj (Goapara)
3	Dhurry making	Nazirhat, Rangpur
4	Brickfield	Rangpur
5	Rice mill	Goabaria, Jamalpur
6	Sericulture	Manikgonj, Jessore, Pabna & Natore.
7	Social Forestry	All centres of RDP
8	Rural Transportation (Tempo)	Nazirhat (Rangpur)

3.2 The following business were found unfeasible during this period (87-88) due to economic, technological and/or social factors involved.

1	Leather processing	Paglapir
2	HYV Sugarcane	Jamalpur
3	Soap Factory	Jamalpur
4	Ice cream Factory	Jamalpur
5	Rice mill	Nazirhat
6	Thresher	Manikgonj
7	Low-cost housing	RDP centres
8	Shrimp feed	Rajendrapur

The above business may be taken at a future date when the present constraints are overcome.

4.0 BUSINESS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Feasibility studies are currently being prepared on the following business.

1	Food processing (pineapple jam/jelly)	Jamalpur
2	Buried pipe irrigation	Manikgonj
3	Integrated duck and fish	Hymensingh
4	Pituitary gland bank	Rajendrapur
5	Chalk and slate	Manikgonj
6	Paper board from water hyacinth	Manikgonj
7	Weaving	Hohera.

5.0 MATERIALS DEVELOPED

5.1 REP developed business profiles to help BRAC's field staff to

start a proven business. The profiles include technology, market economic and management aspects. Profiles so far developed include.

- (i) Power tiller
- (ii) Brickfield
- (iii) Rice mill

5.2 In order to check the initial feasibility of a proven business in a new area, REP developed a number of checklists, based on point system on 10 critical aspect of a business. Checklists so far developed include the following:

- i) Rice mill
- ii) Power tiller
- iii) Brickfield
- iv) Telapia culture
- v) Fish culture
- vi) Shrimp carp polyculture
- vii) Mushroom culture
- viii) Small scale handloom factory
- ix) Deep tubewell
- x) Shallow tubewell
- xi) Nursery pond

5.3 Training manuals were developed for:

- i) Horticulture
- ii) Power Tiller - Driving and Maintenance
- iii) Nursery para-professionals
- iv) Semi-intensive Telapia Culture
- v) Reactive Dyeing and Colour Matching

6.0 TRAINING

6.1 The following training programs were conducted by REP during 1987 - 88.

	COURSE	SPONSORS	PARTICIPANTS
1	POWER TILLER DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE	BRAC	24 (6 WOMEN)
2	DYEING	ITDG	4-(3 WOMEN AND 1 MAN)
3	BLOCK PRINTING	BRAC	4-ALL WOMEN
4	TELAPIA SEMI-INTENSIVE CULTURE	FRI	25- (8 WOMEN)
5	FISH NURSERY - PARAPROFESSIONAL	BRAC	6 MEN
6	SHRIMP/CARP POLYCULTURE	BRAC	52 (2 WOMEN)
7	MUSHROOM CULTURE	MCC	30- ALL WOMEN
8	HORTICULTURE	BRAC	400

6.2 The following training programs are being planned for 1988 - 89.

	COURSE	EXPECTED NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1	BASIC CONCEPTS & MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS & CIRCUITS	6- ALL WOMEN
2	POWER TILLER DRIVING & MAINTENANCE	40 - (10 WOMEN AND 30 MAN)
3	MUSHROOM CULTURE - REFRESHER	30 - (ALL WOMEN)
4	OYSTER MUSHROOM CULTURE	30 - (ALL WOMEN)
5	BASIC CONCEPTS & MAINTENANCE OF MECHANICAL EQUIPMENTS	6- (ALL WOMEN)
6	HORTICULTURE	500

7.0 STAFF

- 1 Project Manager
- 2 Staff economists
- 2 Fishery Trainers
- 1 Horticulturist
- 1 Sr. Programme Organiser (P.O.) Sericulture
- 1 P.O. Forestry
- 1 P.O. Fishery
- 1 Asst. (Mushroom culture)
- 1 Mechanic