

Report on ToT on Gender for Farmer Trainers (FTs)

Patuakhali, Khulna & Satkhira

1. Introduction of the ToT.

50% of the population in the Blue Gold project area are women. BGP believes that women empowerment and gender equity is essential for development. To address this, BGP published two flip charts to facilitate the monthly WMG meetings, courtyard sessions, gender and leadership development training and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to increase the awareness of the community on women empowerment in BGP Working area. Gender mainstreaming in the Blue Gold Program is done through different activities, including in FFS. Under BGP FFS are implemented by DAE and BGP TA. 50% of the DAE FFS participants and 86% of the TA FFS are women. They receive a season long training on homestead vegetable gardening, poultry rearing and/or cow fattening to increase their productivity and income to improve their life and livelihood.



In Bangladesh, domestic work is identified as a women's task. At the same time women are doing agriculture activities without being recognised as a farmer; they do not have financial solvency and they are not economically empowered. In FFS sessions gender will now be included, both in DAE & TA FFS, to sensitize men and women about women's rights, the importance of women's empowerment and attitude change, also of men. These sessions, which address different gender topics, will contribute to the empowerment of women and more gender equality, which is in line with the policy of the Government of Bangladesh.

BGP provided two one-day long ToT sessions for DAE and TA FTs, in total 130 FTs from DAE 63 from BGP TA part .Topics were: basic concept of gender, gender equity and gender equality, individual income and benefit of joint income, domestic work and how we can reduce the domestic work, food and nutrition, role of women in agriculture, wage discrimination between men and women and women as leaders.



2. Overall objective of the ToT on gender

To improve capacity of the FTs of BGP-TA and DAE to facilitate gender sessions in FFS to increase community awareness on women empowerment and gender equality.

Specific objectives

At the end of the ToT course, participants will be able to:

1. Address gender and leadership issues integrated in the FFS session with FFS members using the gender flipchart for better understanding of the participants
2. Have an improved capacity, knowledge, and understanding skills on specific sessions for women empowerment and gender equality in FFS.

3. Process and programme of the ToT



The ToT idea was developed based on the needs of FFS & CDFs participants and BGP & DAE Concern.

Before flip chart develops and published, Focus Group discussions were conducted with the water management groups, FFS group members, community people and Zonal team during field visits to know which topics were important and required for Gender equity and women empowerment in the project area.

The program for the sessions in Khulna and Patuakhali was the same and can be summarized as follows:

1. Welcome speech and overview of BGP - by BGP Zonal Coordinator
2. Introduction of participants - by Training Coordinator
3. Background and objective of the ToT sessions - by Gender Coordinator
4. Expectation from participants - by Training Coordinator
5. Basic Discussion on gender, gender equity and equality and importance of gender sensitization and women empowerment - by Gender Coordinator
6. Session demonstration (on domestic work) through flipchart - by Gender Coordinator
7. Continued sessions on the use of the flipchart by the FTs & CDFs with the Gender Coordinator providing required feedback to improve the sessions, such as introduction with the community through flipchart, key message, message delivery way, session related to a practical example.



8. Open discussion and feedback from the participants.
9. Giving thanks and closing the ToT session by Zonal Coordinators

5. Participants' reaction:

In total 130 FTs from DAE and TA 65 & 68 CDFs part received this ToT training either in Khulna or in Patuakhali. For the ToT participants the concepts of gender equity, gender equality, domestic work, role of women

In agriculture and domestic violence were very new. The participant was very happy with the introduced flipcharts and new topics. They realized that women are doing income-generating activities but they do not have the control over resources like selling the production and spending the earned money; those are challenges for women empowerment. They agreed economic empowerment of women is key to increase their status in the family and community. Participants believe that if we reduce the domestic work from women, they easily can become more involved in income generating activities and they will exercise their rights like participating in decision-making processes, controlling resources and joint income, in order to get empowered. ■■■

Guests: During the ToT at Patuakhali a senior team of DAE was attending. In particular, Dr. Shahab Uddin, Additional Director Planning, Project Implementation and ICT Wing, DAE, Khamarbar, Mr. Humayoun Kabir, Project Director, DAE; and the Agriculture officer of Amtoli Upazila. Mr. Shahab Uddinn and PD DAE were very happy to see the sessions (conducted by the gender coordinator) and the participants' reaction. At the same time Dr. Shahab Uddinn and Humayoun Kabir, Project Director, DAE, discussed some issues like how to reduce domestic work and how can they implement the leanings from this ToT in FFS sessions. Additional Director Planning appreciated the flipchart as training tools for FTs. He is very interested to develop this type of tools for ICT Project.



Next steps: FTs will continue the gender session with FFS sessions for gender equity and women empowerment at the same time they will follow up the FFS participants during home visit to get idea about their changes.