

Chapter-36

Ministry of Land

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In Bangladesh, personal possession of land is considered to be a symbol of social prestige and security. A large number of Bangladeshis are dependent on land-based agricultural activities for their livelihood. In addition, land still plays a very important role in both income generation and social life in various ways. In view of the scarcity of land, proper importance should be given to the use of land. Considering dependency of poor and underprivileged families on land, the Ministry of Land is conducting a range of activities to protect agricultural land and ensure the planned use of land.
- 1.2 The main activities of the ministry are to update records of government owned khas lands, Sairat Mohal (water bodies, sand bodies, shrimp cultivated lands etc.), distribution and management of vested and abandoned lands, undertaking land surveys and establishing the ownership of land. Beside this, land acquisition and requisition, distribution of khas land among landless are also priorities.
- 1.3. The ministry has finalized the Agricultural Land Protection and Land Use Act, 2012. At the same time, a report including digital land zoning maps of 21 districts including 19 coastal districts covering a total of 152 upazilas has been prepared under the 'Coastal land Zoning' project. Another project, "National Land Zoning(2nd Phase)" has been taken covering remaining 40 districts of 326 upazilas including hill tracks areas. In the mean time, digital land zoning maps of 274 upazilas have already been finalized. Data collected from 326 upazilas for land zoning and 123 validation workshops has already been done. In the mean time, 8 divisional workshops have been completed. During this process, quality and characteristics of land have been taken into account for use in agriculture, livestock farming, forestry, shrimp culture, industry and preservation of biodiversity.
- 1.4 Activities of the Ministry of Land are guided by policies like 'National Land Use Policy,2001'; 'Khas Land Settlement Policy, 1997'; 'Non-agricultural khas Land Settlement Policy, 1995'; 'Khas Land Settlement Policy for Hotel-Motel,1998'; 'BaluMohal and Sand Management Rules, 2011'; 'ChringriMohal Management Policy,1998'; 'JalMohal Management Policy, 2009'; 'Salt Mohal Management Policy, 1992'; 'Vested Property (Amendment) Law,2011'; and 'The Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Properties Ordinance,1982'. The main objectives of 'National Land Use Policy -2011' are criteria based uses of land, providing guidelines for usage of land for the purpose of agriculture (Crop production, fish cultivation and

rearing of ducks and chickens), housing, afforestation, commercial and industrial establishments, rail and highway and for tea and rubber gardens.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ Preservation of land rights and ownership on behalf of the Government
- ❖ Assessment of land revenue and its collection and direction and supervision of land administration
- ❖ Management of Khas lands, vested and abandoned properties
- ❖ Land surveys and preparation of land maps and records, their preservation and publication
- ❖ Demarcation of domestic and international boundaries and repair and preservation of boundary pillars
- ❖ Management of Sairat Mahal (JalMahal, Sand Mahal, Stone Mahal, Shrimp Mahal etc.)
- ❖ Management of matters relating to the acquisition and requisition of land
- ❖ Implementation of land reform and land use policy

3.0 Strategic objectives of the Ministry and their Relevance with Women's Advancement and Rights

3.1 Modernised Land Management: With the modernisation of land records the possibility of exclusion of women's names from records has been reduced, which is helping to secure women's rights to land and thus enhancing their social security.

3.2 Rehabilitation and improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the landless ultra poor: The names of both husband and wife is appearing in the settlement deed of land and allotted house showing 50% right for each. This is helping to ensure women's social rights and social security. In this case there is a direct impact on women's advancement.

3.3 Transparent and efficient land revenue administration: Efficient land revenue administration is leading to increased realisation of land revenue which in turn enabling government to enhance/target its spending towards poverty reduction and women advancement related programmes/projects.

3.4 Ensure land ownership rights: women's right on land is being sustained according to their shares which is increasing their social security.

4.0 Relevance of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry for Women's Advancement and Rights

- 4.1 One of the main activities of the ministry is to improve the economic condition of the people, including women, and reduce poverty through skilled and modern management system. Both men and women are being equally benefitted by the implementation of these policies. For example- according to Chringri Mohal Management Policy, the women members are included and given chances in different management committees. In the non-agricultural khas land distribution policy, there is provision of allocating land for educational institutions and in these institutions the women are getting equal to education.
- 4.2 The Ministry of Land has undertaken some programs for the development of the women and securing their rights in land. By modernizing land records and ensuring their names in the digitized records, greater economic security of women is being ensured which in turn giving them social standing. The social security of the rootless and landless families, river erosion victims and rootless people in Dhaka city and landless slum dwellers are being provided with shelters, flats, sanitary latrines, tube wells etc. Besides these, the members of these families are being given training and loans for income generating activities to reduce their poverty. Names of both husband and wife are being incorporated in the allocated lands and houses and 50 percent ownership of both husband and wife are being ensured. As a result, social rights and security of the women are being enhanced and ensured.
- 4.3 Twelve thousand three hundred and three women have been rehabilitated last six years. Flats under PPP on government land are being constructed to provide the rootless slum dwellers and low income families at a very low cost. Besides these, the women have been equally treated in the distribution of government khas lands.
- 4.4 The revised land records and land survey have been done in selected areas with the help of 14 Settlement/Zonal Settlement offices. In these activities, maximum importance is given in the recording of land ownership of the women. In mouza survey program of Dhaka City, women's ownership of land had been considered with high importance. The 81 women officers of BCS cadre engaged in the activities of public administration have been trained to enrich their skill in land records and land survey during the last years.
- 4.5 Agricultural khas lands have been allocated among 20,000 landless families in the fiscal year 2016-17 through District, Upazila and Union Land Offices under Poverty Reduction Programs. With "Kaboliat Deed" for both husband and wife, agricultural khas lands have been distributed among these 20,000 families. The women, as a part of the families who received these lands, have benefited. Comprehensive training is given to the women officers/ staff at Land Administration Training Centre

that is providing training for the enriching skilled and reality based administration. In these training programs, the participation and rights of the women have been ensured. During the fiscal year 2016-17, 96 women officer(s) and staffs have been provided training.

- 4.6 Through the Cluster Village (*Guccho-Gram*) project, landless families to provide proof of ownership of the equal rights of women as well as men to have an equal chance of becoming. Food For Work program, and other advantages to the ground planned to involve them on the SDG Goal-1 (Target 1.4), Goal-2 (Target .3), Goal-5 (Target 5e), Goal-9 (target 9.1), Goal-11 (target 11.3, 11.7), Goal-12 (target 122), Goal-15 (target 151152153154) to achieve the cooperation of the Ministry of land under mantranalaiya mapping. Gender-friendly comprehensive action plan of the Ministry in a genuine sense, is under consideration.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
1.	Computerization of Land Records	In the land ownership record, names of the women will be included and their rights will be established due to modernization of land records. Consequently, women will be financially benefited and their social security will be increased.
2.	Settlement of Khas Land including houses constructed on it and allocation of flats on Government land	"Kaboliat Registry" is done in the name of husband and wife or son and mother in the settlement of agricultural khas land to them. 10,000 acres of agricultural khas land have been distributed among 20,000 families in the 2016-17. In fact, 20,000 women have been given agricultural khas land. As a result, rights are established on distributed lands that help women to be powerful in family and society.
3.	Preparation of Land Records	Due to the up-grading of land ownership certificates, ownership and rights of women on lands will be secured.

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2017-18			Revised 2016-17			Budget 2016-17		
	Budget	Women Share Women percent		Revised	Women Share Women percent		Budget	Women Share Women percent	
Total Budget	400266	112019	27.99	317174	86586	27.3	340605	92781	27.24
Ministry Budget	1859	89	4.81	1396	72	5.18	1491	225	15.1
Development	859	42	4.85	449	24	5.39	413	175	42.33
Non-Development	1000	48	4.76	946	48	5.08	1078	50	4.66

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

- ❖ Up to September, 2015, 252 cluster villages were built and 10,703 families have been rehabilitated under Guchchhogram project. Under the 2nd phase of this project, 1600 land less families have been rehabilitated in 42 cluster villages by March 2017. The name of both husband and wife is included in the land ownership document which ensures the 50% ownership of the women. 11.78 crores taka for income generating activities and 5.39 crores taka for micro credit have been distributed through Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) to those rehabilitated families for this socio-economic development.
- ❖ Digital land zoning map has been prepared for 152 upazillas of 21 districts to ensure the planned and proper use of land under coastal land zoning project. At present, land zoning activities of 40 districts of 326 upazilas has already been taken in 2nd phase. Up to March, 2017, digital land zoning maps of 274 Upazilas have been finalized. All digital land maps of remaining upazilas including three Hill Tract districts will be completed by June, 2017. Data collected from 326 upazilas for land zoning and 123 validation workshops has already been done. In the mean time, 8 divisional workshops have been completed. It is observed that 30% of the estimated expenditure of the project is associated with women's development. The improvement of environment and equitable use of land will be ensured through this project which indirectly will play a role in women's development.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ To ensure and protect the ownership and rights of women on lands by timely completing the work of updating the land Record of Rights.
- ❖ Appropriate steps should be taken to ensure priority for women while receiving a variety of information and services regarding land affairs.
- ❖ 'Guchchhograms are constructed and houses are allocated to the landless people and "Kaboliat Registry" is done in the name of both husband and wife through the project titled 'Guchchhogram-2nd phase (Climate Victim Rehabilitation)' to rehabilitate the landless people. It is necessary to increase the number of such kind of projects.
- ❖ Considering the gender equality, joint ownership of husband and wife can be adopted in the Agriculture and Non-agricultural Khas Land Settlement Policy.
- ❖ Preparation and implementation of guidelines to distribute the khas land among helpless, poor, widow and physically challenged women.