

Chapter-35

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) is working to increase adaptation and mitigation capacity of the country to build resilience against climate change impact and climate change induced disasters and aiming to ensure a sustainable environment for the present and future generations of the country.
- 1.2 The ministry has been working for the implementation of present government's election manifesto, Vision 2021, Delta Plan 2100, 7th Five Year Plan, and directives of the Honorable Prime Minister. To ensure environmental sustainability MOEFCC has undertaken different programs and projects, especially in implementing goals 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of our country. Activities such as reduction of the climate change risk, conservation of forest, environmental protection are directly related with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. On the basis of the existing policies, rules and regulations Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been working extensively along with the concerned stake holders for achieving sustainable economic development.
- 1.3 Government has introduced article 18A in the Constitution of Bangladesh to ensure balance between environment, biodiversity and as well as importance of forest resources for development of socio-economic conditions.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ Conservation and improvement of the environment, control of environmental pollution(Air, Soil, Water etc);
- ❖ Plantation of trees, a forestation in newly accreted chars and implementation of social forestry;
- ❖ Conducting research and training relating to forestry, climate change and environmental issues;
- ❖ Conservation, expansion and development of forest resources, and preparation of list of trees;
- ❖ Conservation of wild life and bio-diversity, expansion of eco-tourism and protected areas;

- ❖ Maintenance of the botanical gardens and conservation gene pool; conducting surveys to identify and conserve the plant species;
- ❖ Extraction of forest resources, establishment of forest resource-based industries and marketing of the products of those industries;
- ❖ Adaptation and implementation of appropriate clauses contained in different regional and international conventions, agreements, and protocols relating to environment, forestry and wild life;

3.0 Strategic objectives of the Ministry with Relevance to Women's Development

3.1 Mitigating the adverse effects of climate change: Climate change adversely affect agriculture and water resources which make women particularly vulnerable. Adaptation and mitigation programs have been taken by the MOEFCC to address climate vulnerabilities and to reduce the risk of health hazards of women. Women as a group are becoming more resilient due to these programs. Women are also getting more employment opportunities as they have been included in technician's training program on reducing gas emissions from refrigeration in order to protect ozone layer depletion. Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2009 is built on six thematic area, among these the first area is food security, social protection and health security. It has been made mandatory to mention the projects outcome on the welfare of women and children projects.

3.2 Conservation and sustainable management of forest resources: Women get opportunities for self-employment/self esteemed/empowerment, income generation, as they get involved in participatory plantation and training, distribution of different fruits, wood and medicinal saplings for homestead gardening. As a result women are getting empowered along with being socially recognized.

3.3 Control of Pollution: Women represent 50 percent population of Bangladesh. Government interventions to control pollutions has a positive impact on women's health particularly on protection of reproductive health.

3.4 Conservation of eco-biology and biodiversity: In the participatory biodiversity preservation activities, 30% is reserved for women in Village Conservation Forum which is established through Co-Management System in protected areas. There is also a provision for women participation reserved by 50% in the People's Forum. These initiatives are augmenting their income and promoting their social status.

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

4.1 To face the challenges of climate change, government is updating Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, 2009, Government has created the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) with own financing for implementing BCCSAP, 2009 and Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, 2010. First thematic area of BCCSAP 2009 is food security, social protection and health security, where

women's related programs are included. A project named "Supply of safe drinking water and social protection for women and children living in vulnerable situation due to environmental hazards" at cost 300 lakhs taka has been implemented. Another project named "Social protection of women and children living in disaster prone areas due to climate change", is implemented at the cost of 500 lakhs taka by the Department of Women and Children Affairs under in the same thematic area. By implementing these project, health security of women and children of disaster prone area have been ensured through safe drinking water and social protection.

- 4.2 Importance has also been given on creating employment opportunity for rural poor women through expansion of social forestation across the country which is aiming to mitigate impacts of carbon emission.
- 4.3 Presently, there are 42 protected areas for conservation of bio-diversity and wildlife. In these participatory biodiversity protection activities 50 percent poor and destitute women's representation have been ensured. Moreover, 30 percent women's participation have also been ensured in the local planning and management committee of forest resources.
- 4.4 Woman participation in forest management committee has been ensured under the revised regulation on Social Afforestation Program 2010. Furthermore, initiatives have been taken to provide training on forest management and conservation of bio-diversity to the beneficiaries under the social afforestation program and people involved in co-management of reserved forests of which 40 percent are women. These activities are empowering women as well as getting recognition internationally.
- 4.5 It is expected that all these mitigating activities will have positive impacts on women and children's health, especially will keep important role on reproductive health of women.
- 4.6 Women are encouraged in afforestation and research based work. Women are given equal access to different agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, loans, education, training, information, ownership of community forest land and its profit.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority spending Area/Program	Impact on women's advancement (Direct and Indirect)
1	2	3
1.	Mitigation of the adverse effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Under the project named "Community Based Adaptation in Ecologically Critical Areas through biodiversity conservation and Social Protection" in Sylhet and Cox's Bazar, 2045 men and 1551 women members are included in the village conservation group. ❖ In the training program for technicians on emission of ozone depleting gases from refrigerators, women have been included. Different adaptation and mitigation activities will benefit women's health, create employment and increase their income.
2.	Conservation and sustainable management of forest resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Forest Research Institute is providing training on innovative technologies where almost 50% of the participants are women. ❖ About 30 percent of women are beneficiaries in the forest preservation programs under participatory social forestation projects. Of the total earnings obtained from sale proceeds of the forest resources, 45-55 percent is distributed to women beneficiaries. ❖ There is a provision that 2 out of 5 members in the forest management committee will be women to ensure women's participation. ❖ Under Social Afforestation Program, Tk. 314 54 lakhs have been distributed among the beneficiaries of whom 30 percent are women. This will enhance their economic empowerment and social status.
3.	Pollution control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A joint venture program, Development of Marketing of Environment Friendly Cooking has been taken in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Deutsche Gesellschaft International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Government of India. This program is financed by Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), GIZ and Indian Government. Under this program around 1 million environment friendly cookers (Bondhu Chula) have been installed in 64 districts to protect women and child from indoor air pollution. ❖ Women account for half of the total population of the country; different programs in this area will have positive impact on

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1	2	3
		women's general and reproductive health.
4.	Conservation of ecology and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provision for participation of 50 percent ultra-poor and destitute women have been ensured in 42 Integrated Protected Areas (PA). Also, 30 percent women's representation has been ensured in local project planning committee. Again, under the biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism program employment opportunity of 10 lakh man-months has been created out of which 30 percent of the beneficiaries are women. ❖ All these activities create opportunities for women's employment and income generation and access to government resources and services. This will indirectly increase their social status. ❖ Female officials and representatives from different organization have been participated at biodiversity related workshops and training program. In this regard, female representative's presence is almost 30%.

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2019-20			Revised 2018-19			Budget 2018-19			Actual 2017-18		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share		Actual	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	523190	161247	30.82	442541	136036	30.74	464573	136938	29.48	321861	88441	27.48
Ministry Budget	1496	616	41.16	1341	658	49.07	1271	427	33.59	718	172	23.9
Development	676	252	37.24	520	142	27.29	481	268	55.74	210	66	31.38
Operating	820	364	44.4	821	516	62.86	790	159	20.09	508	106	20.81

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

7.1 Success of the Ministry

- ❖ Women's participation has been ensured in the training programs for technicians on emission of ozone depleting gases from refrigerators. This will create job opportunities and reduce the risk (disasters) and health hazards.
- ❖ Provision for participation of 50 percent ultra-poor and destitute women have been ensured in 42 Integrated Protected Areas (PA). Also, 30 percent women's representation has been ensured in local project planning committee. Again, under the biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism program employment

opportunity of 10 lakh man-months has been created out of which 30 percent of the beneficiaries are women.

- ❖ Project named 'Sustainable Development of Social Plantation in greater Rangpur District' has been implemented by Bangladesh Forest Department. Under this project, 8,110 persons have been included as beneficiaries of which 30 percent beneficiaries are women.

7.2 A success story of a woman

Being a millionaire by looking after the forest department's plantation program is not a story now, is true. Kadbanu took shelter in the Nazirbahar village of Kaliakair upazila under Gazipur district after losing her homestead by devastating flood in 1988. The poor landless Kadbanu was appointed as a beneficiary in 1 plot of 1 hectare of Social Forestry area in Jathilla. The 2nd rotation was replanted after selling the plants. That garden has been sold after completion of second rotational period. The plants of Kadbanu's plot sold at Tk 17,16,000. Kadbanu received 45% share that is Tk 7,72,200 from sold money. Now Kadbanu has been able to be a successful and self-reliant woman in the society due to the support of the social forestry activities implemented by the Forest Department. It is a unique example of women empowerment in the society through forestry activities.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ Initiative of impact assessment study of the effect on employment and migration of the urban and rural women due to climate change. Moreover, there is a need to carry out a research on local adaptation strategy to adjust with the changed environment;
- ❖ Need to formulate specific strategies and policies to reduce gender based inequality in adaptation and mitigation program;
- ❖ Gender issues need to be aligned with all the related policies, strategies and activities of this Ministry;
- ❖ Honoring women who have made outstanding contribution to the preservation of environment on every World Environment Day;
- ❖ There is need to ensure the participation of women in the local management body of environment and pollution control. Besides, to provide more opportunities for women participation of all kind of social forestry ;
- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Women Children Affairs collectively need to set up a steering committee to ensure the equal participation of women in the policy and activities related to conservation and management of environment;

- ❖ Deployment of women should be limited in the industries which has serious health hazards and creates environmental pollution and to promote alternative employment opportunities for the women;
- ❖ There needs to take initiative widening employment opportunities for the women in the local offices of Environment and Forest Department;
- ❖ Inclusion of at least 40 percent representation of women in local committees of Forest Department and Department of Environment would be ensured.