

Chapter-36

Ministry of Land

1.0 Introduction

1.1 In Bangladesh, personal possession of land is considered as a symbol of social prestige and security. A large number of the total population is dependent on land-based agricultural activities for their livelihood. In addition, land still plays a very important role in both financial and social life in various ways. In view of the scarcity of land, proper importance should be given on the use of land. Considering the 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. The main activities of the ministry are to update records of government owned khas lands, Sairat Mahal (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. Besides, land acquisition and requisition, distribution of khas land among the landless are also prioritized activities of this ministry.

1.2 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'; 'Chringri-Mahal Management Policy, 1998'; 'Jal-Mahal Management Policy, 2009'; 'Salt Mahal 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 and providing guidance on the establishment of 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* (*Jal-Mahal*, *Sand Mahal*, *Stone Mahal*, *Shrimp Mahal* etc.)
- ❖ Management of activities 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 Woman's Advancement and Rights

3.1 Modernized Land Management: With the modernization of land records the possibility of exclusion of woman's names from records has been reduced, which is helping to secure woman'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 both of husband and wife is appearing in the settlement deed of land and allotted house showing 50% right for each. This is helping to ensure woman's social rights and social security. In this case there is a direct impact on woman's advancement.

3.3 Transparent and efficient land revenue administration: Efficient land revenue administration is leading to increase 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: woman'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 Woman'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 *Chingri Mahal* 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 opportunity to get 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 Flats under PPP on government land are being constructed to provide the rootless slum dwellers and low income family's women at a very low cost.
- 4.4 Agricultural Khas lands have been allocated among 26,168 landless women during the last three fiscal years through District, Upazila and Union Land Offices under Poverty Reduction Programs. With "Kabuliat Deed" for both husband and wife, agricultural Khas lands have been distributed among landless 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.
- 4.5 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 and rights. Food for Work (*Kabikha*) program and other advantages have linked with the SDG's 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 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4) and proper mapping has been done by the Ministry as an associate. Gender-friendly comprehensive action plan of the Ministry in a true sense, is under consideration.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Woman'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

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
		financially benefited and their social security will be increased.
2.	Settlement of affected people due to climate change	On the eve of the rehabilitation of the victims due to climate change, registration/ <i>Kabuliat</i> was done in the name of both husband and wife or the name of son and mother and the victims were also given top priority during the distribution of agricultural <i>khas</i> land. In the last three financial years, the rights and partnerships of women in 20 thousand landless families have been established.
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 Woman'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	1944	202	10.38	1766	268	15.15	2121	157	7.42	1630	105	6.46
Development	849	31	3.7	651	33	5	1018	109	10.68	630	59	9.29
Operating	1094	170	15.56	1116	235	21.07	1103	49	4.41	1000	47	4.69

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Woman's Advancement

- ❖ During the last three financial years, 348 cluster villages were built and 12,168 families have been rehabilitated under *Guchchhagram* project and 10 thousand acres agricultural Khas land has been distributed among 20 thousands landless family. It distributed 11.77 crores taka for income generating activities and 5.40 crores taka as micro credit to these rehabilitated families for their socio-economic 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.
- ❖ '*Guchchhagrams* are constructed and houses are allocated to the landless people and "*Kabuliat 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.