



After 20 Months of Project Implementation

Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project Component-2: Alternative Livelihoods to Support Forest Communities

Arannayk Foundation
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INTRODUCTION

One of the most densely-populated agrarian countries in the world, Bangladesh has been facing the problem of increasingly high rate of deforestation. In the last three decades, Bangladesh's forest cover has declined due to illegal and unsustainable harvesting, expansion of slash and burn agriculture and conversion of forest lands into settlements, croplands and industrial or commercial areas. Presently, forest lands in Bangladesh cover around 2.56 million hectares, or 17.8 percent of the country's total land area, but the actual tree cover is less than 11%. On the other hand, the country is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as storm, flood and drought that are further aggravating due to climate change. The lower part of Bangladesh adjoining the Bay of Bengal is particularly prone to frequent tropical cyclones, storm surges and salinity intrusion. The last several decades have been witnessing increasing frequency of severe cyclones in this coastal zone, affecting the natural resources and livelihoods of 16 million people. Climate change models suggest that the intensity of super cyclonic events will further increase over the coming decades.

Considering the fact that a thick forest belt along the coastline can help reduce such climate change-induced threats, Bangladesh Forest Department has been implementing programs of coastal afforestation along the 710 kilometer coastline since 1960. But, protection of the costal plantations has remained to be a challenge as illicit extraction of the trees, often at sapling stage, causes the plantation to fail. While more than 0.17 million hectares of embankments, chars and islands have been planted since 1960, many of the costal plantations are now lost or highly degraded.

In the above context, Bangladesh Forest Department and Arannayk Foundation have jointly undertaken the Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project (CRPARP) with financial support from the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilient Fund (BCCRF) to increase coastal afforestation in a sustainable manner involving local communities in selected areas. The overall objective of the project is **to reduce forest degradation and increase forest coverage through participatory planning and monitoring and to contribute in building long term resilience of selected communities in coastal and hilly areas to climate change.**

The project (CRPARP) is implemented in nine coastal and hilly districts in the south of Bangladesh, namely Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna. The project area covers 10 forest administration divisions namely Chittagong North Forest Division, Chittagong South Forest Division, Cox's Bazar North Forest

Division, Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, Chittagong Coastal Forestry Division, Feni Social Forestry Division, Noakhali Coastal Afforestation Division, Bhola Coastal Afforestation Division, Patuakhali Coastal Afforestation Division and Barisal Social Forestry Division.

The project has four components namely:

- a) participatory afforestation and reforestation program
- b) alternative livelihoods to support forest communities;
- c) c) capacity development for forest resource planning and management, and
- d) d) project management.

The 1st, 3rd and 4th components are implemented by the Forest Department and the 2nd component is implemented by the Arannayk Foundation in association with two partner NGOs – YPSA (in Chittagong and Cox Bazar districts) and Uttaran (in the other seven districts). A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests guides and coordinates the management and implementation of all the project components. The World Bank, as the manager of the BCCRF, provides implementation (technical) support to the project. The Governing Council and Management Committee of the BCCRF provide strategic guidance and exercise broad fiduciary controls. A Steering Committee, chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh, oversees the implementation of the project.

The project effectively started from July 2013 and will end in December 2016. This report provides a brief overview of the activities accomplished and results achieved under the ALSFC component of CRPARP as of July 2015.

OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS OF THE ALSFC COMPONENT

The Alternative Livelihoods to Support Forest Communities (ALSFC) component promotes and supports alternative livelihood development of 6,000 poor forest dependent households in 200 villages near the planned afforestation areas and existing forests and plantations that are most vulnerable to illicit felling of tress and other human disturbances.

The objective of the ALSFC component is to improve mainly non forest-based livelihood opportunities of poor forest dependent households in selected forest communities, which will contribute to lessening of pressure on the forest and hence the sustainable use, conservation and protection of forest resources.

The ALSFC Component aims that the average household income of at least 70% of the target beneficiaries of the component would increase by at least 30%.

Towards the above objective, the ALSFC component targets to achieve the following intermediate results:

1. At least 200 village groups are brought under capacity building program and small grant funding, with at least 80% of their members being poor and at least 50% of them being women.
2. At least 60% of the village groups formed/supported by the project are institutionally functional (conduct regular meetings, provide reports in a timely manner, etc.)
3. The number of cases of non-sustainable and illegal use of forest resources is reduced by 30% in and around the project area.
4. At least 70% of the targeted households diversified or up-scaled their alternative income-generating activities

5. At least 50% members of the forest dependent groups (FDG) increases their savings and investments by at least 50% above their Year-1 levels.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Selection of Villages and Households

While the plantation activities of CRPARP (Component-1) are implemented in over 600 villages and involving around 46,000 beneficiaries, the ALSFC component of CRPARP is implemented in only 200 selected villages and involving only 6,000 households.

The 200 villages were selected from the nine districts (Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali and Barguna) based on five criteria:

- (a) proximity to proposed afforestation/reforestation sites,
- (b) proximity to natural forests,
- (c) level of current and potential impacts of climate change,
- (d) size of area to be afforested/reforested and
- (e) level of poverty.

First, the planned plantation areas as per list provided by the concerned Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) were identified with the help of the local BFD officials (Range Officers and Beat Officers). Then the villages surrounding each of the planned plantation areas were assessed with the help of knowledgeable local people and BFD officials (key informants) using a tool that assigned a numeric score (Annexure 1) to each village based on the five criteria mentioned above and the highest scoring village near the plantation area was provisionally selected. The list of the provisionally selected villages within a Forest Division was reviewed and finalized in a meeting involving the local BFD officials and CRPARP-ALSFC project staff under the leadership of the respective DFO.

The targeted households were then selected from the poor and extreme poor households in the selected villages through a rigorous process involving three steps. In the first step, all the households of a selected village were classified into four well-being groups (extreme poor, poor, middle income and rich) through PRA exercise (Wealth Ranking Analysis). Then the extreme poor and poor households were further investigated through a questionnaire-based household survey and were ranked with the help of a tool that assigned a numeric score (Annexure 2) to each household based on its level of poverty, vulnerability and forest dependence. The tool assigned higher scores to the extreme poor, female-headed, ethnic minorities and highly forest dependent households. The list of the 30 candidate (highest scoring) households were then reviewed and finalized in a village meeting involving the village leaders and Union Council representatives. In a few instances, some of the village leaders and/or Union Council representatives tried to get some non-eligible households (richer) included in the list of prospective project beneficiaries but they ultimately refrained from pushing hard as they could not but agreed with the selection process and criteria.

The 6000 selected households include 1634 female headed households and 321 households from indigenous communities.

Group Formation and Human and Institution Capacity Building of ALSFC Participants

Arannayk Foundation and its partner NGOs organized the ALSFC beneficiaries (in 32 Upazilas of 9 districts) into 200 primary groups called Forest Dependent Groups (FDG) and 55 Union Federations of the FDGs. Each FDG consists of 30 members on an average, formed with one adult male or female member per selected household as nominated by the respective household. In effect, around 86% members of the FDGs are female.

Arannayk Foundation and its partner NGOs trained 565 leaders of those FDGs and their Union Federations in the concepts, practices and tools of organizational development and management, financial management and leadership by organizing 1,695 man-days of training sessions. The FDGs and their Union Federations are now conducting regular (monthly) meetings and other development activities.

Mobilization and Capacity Development of Community Organizing Volunteers

Arannayk Foundation and its partner NGOs mobilized 200 local community organizing volunteers (COV) to help build capacities of the FDGs and trained them in facilitation techniques, leadership, organizational development of community based organizations and financial management by organizing 1,000 man-days' training sessions. The volunteers are now working with the FDGs to build their capacities in managing self-help activities.

Establishment of Union Conservation Forums

In order to promote mass awareness and promote broader community participation in forest and biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, Arannayk Foundation and its partner NGOs have established Union level Forest Conservation Forums (UCF) under the leadership of the respective Union Parishad Chairmen in the working areas of the ALSFC component (55 Unions). Aside from the elected UP members and other social leaders and representatives of the respective Union Federation of FDGs are included in the 15-21 member UCFs. The UCFs conducts monthly meetings and discuss local conservation issues including measures to protect the plantations. The UCFs also help the FDG Federations in internal and external conflicts management and undertake local programs on environmental awareness raising of the general mass of the respective Union. In 2015, 15 UCFs observed World Environment Day in association with local schools and other institutions.

Establishment of Mutual Rotating Saving and Loan Fund for the FDGs

The ALSFC component established Mutual Rotating Savings and Loan Funds (MRSLF) at the 55 Union FDG Federations to provide loan support for AIGA activities to their members. The MRSLFs were established through a participatory savings program of the FDG members and complementary grant support from the project. Each FDG member deposits BDT 100 per month at their MRSLF account (starting from July 2014). Arannayk Foundation provided detailed (written) guidelines to the Union FDG Federations on the management of the MRSLF including the processes of disbursement and recovery of MRSLF loans. Arannayk Foundation and its partner NGOs also provided training to the FDG and Union FDG Federation leaders on the operational guidelines on MRSLF. After this, Arannayk Foundation delivered the project contribution (grant) to the MRSLF accounts of the Union FDG Federations. In two installments (January and June 2015), Arannayk Foundation has so far disbursed BDT 44.6 million to the MRSLF accounts of the Union FDG Federations. During this period, the FDG members have deposited BDT 5.2 million to their MRSLF accounts through their monthly savings scheme. Thus, each Union FDG Federation has a fund of nearly 1.0 million taka to provide loan support to their members.

Technical Training of FDG Members for AIGA Skills Development

The ALSFC component has a plan of providing AIGA skills training to each of its 6,000 beneficiaries by organizing at least 24,000 man-days of training sessions on various trades according to the choices (business plans) of the FDG members concerned. The identified trades include cultivation of high value vegetables, poultry and duck rearing for egg and meat purposes, cow rearing for milk and beef purposes, pond fishery, agro-processing and handicrafts making. So far, Arannayk Foundation and its partner organizations have provided 600 man-days training on cultivation of high value vegetables to 300 FDG members through a two-day training course, using local Upazila Agriculture Officers and Sub Assistant Agricultural Officers as the trainers. Besides the formal (predesigned) training courses, 1 -2 hour times of the monthly meetings of the FDGs are used for to provide need-based training on AIGA and other farming problems of the FDG members using local resource persons including the technical staff of the partner NGOs and Upazila and Union-based technical staff of government line agencies (GLA) such as Dept. of Agricultural Extension, Dept. of Livestock Services and Dept. of Fishery. As of July 2015, such GLA resource persons conducted 85 training sessions as part of the monthly meetings of the FDGs. In the monthly meetings of the FDGs staff of Arannayk's partner NGOs and local BFD officials (Range Officers and Beat Officers) often discuss climate change and forest conservation issues to raise FDG members' knowledge and awareness on such issues. Thus the monthly meetings of the FDGs work as a kind of Farmers' Field School (FFS). Besides the regular sessions, the FDG members were given brief orientation training on good cultivation or animal husbandry practices while distributing quick-start inputs (vegetable seeds, fruit tree saplings, poultry and duck) to them before initiating the MRSLF-based AIGA support activities.

Quick-start Livelihood Improvement Activities

While it took about a year to establish the Union Federations of FDGs and their MRSLFs (to provide AIGA loans to their members) starting from formation of the village level groups (FDG), as an immediate AIGA support (quick-start) activity, Arannayk Foundation distributed 3.5 ton seeds of 16 types of vegetables (in 3 seasons) and 36,000 saplings of 5 types of quick growing fruits to the FDG members in 2014 and early 2015. It enabled many of the FDG members to earn some cash income within a short period of time from selling of surplus production of vegetables aside from increased family consumption of the same which happened in almost all FDG households.

Alternative Income Generating Activities

The Union Federations of FDGs started disbursing AIGA loans (from MRSLF) to their members from April 2015. So far, the Union FDG Federations have disbursed BDT 27.11 million in AIGA loans to 2635 FDG members (44% of total ALSFC participants). The loan size ranges from BDT 5,000 to BDT 15,000 with an average of BDT 10,286. The AIGAs undertaken by the borrowers include cow rearing and beef fattening (25.73%), cultivation of rice by leasing land (22.31%), small business (17.87%), fishing (8.53%), vegetable cultivation (3.75%), purchase and pulling of rickshaw or rickshaw van (3.22%), goat rearing (1.78%), tailoring (0.95%), poultry rearing (0.83%) and some other trades (nursery, fish culture) by a few. Aside from these MRSLF loan based AIGA, most of the FDG members are continuing to grow various seasonal vegetables in their homesteads as a low-cost AIGA based on the experience gained through the quick-start AIGA program mentioned above.

Mobilization of Community Patrol Groups for Local Forest Conservation

To help Forest Department protect the new (CRPAP) plantations as well as the old plantations and natural forests around them in disturbed areas, Arannayk Foundation has formed Community Patrol Groups (CPG) in 21 locations. Each CPG is comprised of 21 members selected from the FDG members of the respective plantation areas. On a rotational basis, three members of a CPG deliver patrolling duty in association with the Forest Guards of the local Forest Beat Offices under the supervision of the Beat Officer. The CPGs have become functional since early 2015 and are working effectively. Monthly coordination meetings are organized for CPGs with local BFD officials and staff of Arannayk's partner NGOs for their smooth functioning. AF has planned to provide small grants to the tune of BDT 200,000 to each CPG (in the MRSLF account of the respective Union FDG Federation) for operating group AIGAs.

Promotion of Improved Cooking Stoves

In order to reduce fuel wood consumption of the FDG households, the ALSFC component has a plan to establish improved cooking stoves in all of the 6,000 target households. For this purpose, Arannayk Foundation has established a collaboration agreement with IDCOL under which partner NGOs of Arannayk Foundation procure IDCOL improved cooking stoves from the local agents of the latter to distribute to the FDG members. By July 2015, ICSs have been established in 5,530 FDG households (92%). While the project bears the costs of the ICSs, the concerned FDG members bear the costs of transportation and installation of the ICSs. The Community Organizing Volunteers and staff of Arannayk's partner NGOs also help other community members to procure and install ICSs in their kitchens by linking them with the suppliers of ICS as there is a growing demand for the latter among the general mass of the ALSFC working areas.

Social Safeguards: Screening and Management

Arannayk Foundation provided guidelines and orientation on Social Management Framework (SMF) including a checklist for consultation with indigenous community members in FDGs. The staff of partner NGOs conducted a social screening exercise in 47 CRPAP plantation areas and 321 indigenous people (IP) were found in 12 of those areas, distributed in 20 FDGs (4 FDGs consisting purely of indigenous people and 16 FDGs involving mixed population of Bangalees and IPs). Social screening exercises were carried out in all of those 20 FDGs and management plans, termed Small Tribal Group Plan (STG Plan), were developed through consultative process for certain issues affecting interests of traditional (customary) practices of the IPs. The issues and corresponding management plans include adjusting venue, time and language of monthly meetings of the FDGs involving the IPs and undertaking measures to mitigate losses experienced by the IPs in terms of reduced access to public land for traditional farming practices (grazing, shifting cultivation, raising fruit orchards). The mitigation measures include extending AIGA support and social forestry benefits (as share owner) to the IP members. By July 2015, 120 IP members (37.38%) received AIGA loans from their respective Union FDG Federations and 64 members (20%) have been included as participants (share owner) of social forestry program of BFD. The progress of implementation of the STG Plan is monitored by AF and its partner NGOs.

Environmental Safeguards: Screening and Management

Arannayk Foundation developed a User Guideline on Environmental Management Framework for the staff of its partner NGOs, COVs and FDG Leaders that includes environmental screening process for AIGAs, standard (environmentally sound) management practices for common

AIGAs and guidelines on preparation of management plans for AIGAs involving risks of environmental hazards including monitoring and reporting systems. By July 2015, environmental screening exercises have been executed for 499 AIGA projects of FDG members.

Monitoring of Results and Impacts of ALSFC Interventions

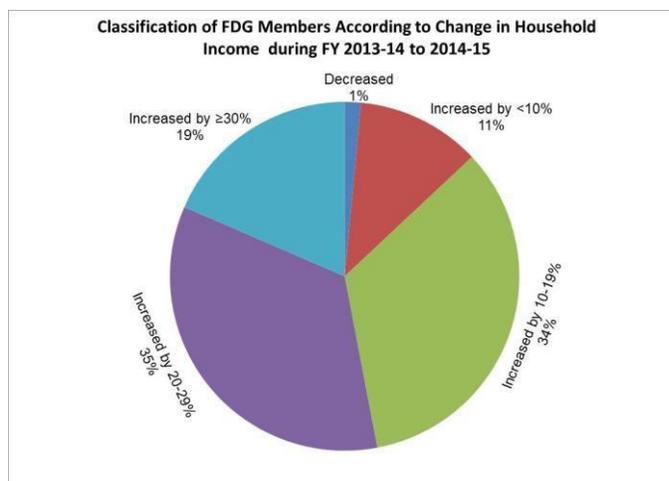
In order to measure the impact of the ALSFC activities on the livelihoods of FDG members and that on forest conservation, Arannayk Foundation conducted a baseline household survey immediately after the selection of the project (ALSFC) participants. The baseline survey included 100% households of the ALSFC participants and 30 control households (poor but non-participant) from one village under each of the 55 Unions covered by the ALSFC component. The baseline scenarios (data) of household income and forest dependence of the ALSFC beneficiaries were analyzed and recoded through the baseline survey. In 19 existing natural or plantation forests near the FDG villages, stock density, biodiversity and incidence of illegal felling of trees (stump count) were also recoded through direct measurements/counting (vegetation survey) in temporary sample plots. To measure the interim impacts of the project, Arannayk Foundation recently (June 2015) conducted two separate sample surveys for estimation of the impacts of the household income of the FDG members and their dependence on the local forests, respectively. For the income impact study, one household was selected from each of the 200 villages using a systematic random sampling procedure (HH No. 13 in Southern region and HH No. 15 in South-eastern region). The forest dependence survey was conducted in 19 villages near the existing forests/plantations that were included in the baseline vegetation survey. From each village 3 households, selected through a systematic random sampling procedure (HH Nos. 5, 15 and 25 from each village). The key findings from these surveys are discussed in the 'Results and Impacts' section of this report. In order to track changes in the forest health, Arannayk Foundation has planned to conduct a repeat vegetation survey within 2015 in the 19 existing forests/plantations where the first (baseline) vegetation survey was conducted.

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

A summary of the results achieved by the ALSFC component of CRPARP (as of July 2015) against the targets (PDO and intermediate result indicators) set forth in the project design documents (PAD, DPP) is presented in Annex-1 and the key impacts are described below.

Income Improvement of FDG Members

A recent survey (July 2015) in 200 systematically sampled households among the ALSFC participants (Participants No. 13 in each FDG of Southern region and Participant No. 15 in each FDG of Southeastern region) revealed that the average annual household income of the ALSFC participants have increased by 20.28%. In FY 2013-14 (baseline), the average annual household income was BDT 88,335 which increased to BDT 106,149 in FY 2014-15. Although the change in annual income of the non-participants (control households) was not studied in the recent survey, it is evident that the income



improvement of the ALSFC participants is largely attributed to the project interventions. Because, the most significant income increases occurred from horticultural (vegetables and fruits) and animal husbandry activities and the project support to the FDG members (technical skills development training, input support and MRSLF loans) also focused mostly on these production systems. The average annual household income from vegetables and fruits increased by 292% (from BDT 1,908 in 2013-14 to BDT 7,471 in 2014-15) and that from poultry and livestock production increased by 92% (from BDT 2,541 in 2013-14 to BDT 4,869 in 2014-15).

A more detailed analysis of the income changes depict that while the target of the project (PDO indicator) is to increase income by at least 30% in at least 75% households by December 2016, 87% FDG households were able to increase their annual income by at least 10%, 53% households by 20% and above and 19% households by 30% and above by the second year of the project (2014-15). Therefore, the ALSFC component is likely to succeed in achieving its target of increasing household income of the FDG members.

Reduced Forest Dependence of the FDG Members

To measure the change in the level of forest dependence of the FDG members, Arannayk Foundation conducted a systematic sample survey in June 2015 in 19 FDGs located near existing natural forests or plantations, taking ALSFC Participant Nos. 5, 15 and 25 of each FDG as the samples. The study revealed that forest resource collection by the FDG members has reduced by 20.56%. While the value of the various forest resources (fuel wood, pole, bamboo, cane, sun grass, broom grass, fodder and medicinal plants) collected from the local forests by each household (average) in 2013-14 was estimated at BDT 13,938 (Baseline Survey), it reduced to BDT 11,073 in 2014-15. FDG members' being occupied with alternative income generating activities (AIGA) and reduced fuel wood requirement due to adoption of improved cooking stove (ICS) might have contributed to this development.

Improving Trend in Forest Conservation

Arannayk Foundation has documented the baseline (2013-14) scenario of biodiversity, stock density and illegal cutting of trees in 19 existing natural forests and plantations near FDG villages. While a follow-up survey is yet to be conducted in those forests to track the changes, feedback from the FDG and CPG members, other community members and local BFD staff reveals that human disturbances on those forests have significantly reduced due to the community awareness raising and enhanced forest patrolling and protection activities (involving CPGs) conducted by the project (CRPARP).

Improved Resilience of Livelihood of the FDG Members

Diversification of AIGAs, savings, access to credit (MRSLF) and social capital building (association, linkages with service providers and local government institutions) are indicative of improved ability of the FDG members to cope with external shocks to their livelihood, especially those that are poised by climate change.

Emission Reduction

By June 2015, 5530 FDG households adopted improved cooking stoves and it reduced their biomass fuel consumption (and CO₂ emission) by around 50%. As a rural household in the coastal region of Bangladesh uses approximately 90 kg of biomass fuel per month on the

average¹, the 5530 improved cooking stoves are likely to reduce emission of around 5,474 tons of CO₂ in a year².

Empowerment of Women and Indigenous People

Membership and active participation in organizational activities of the FDG and the Union FDG Federation and the technical and management skills development trainings received from the project have led to empowerment of the female FDG members (representing 86% of total FDG members) at both family and community level. Most, if not all, of them now play key roles in planning and managing economic activities, including managing financial resources, in their families. At the organization level, female members hold 80% and 78% leadership positions in the FDGs and Union FDG Federations, respectively. Smooth running of these community based organizations are indicative of leadership and management capabilities of the women FDG members. The FDG members from indigenous communities are likewise empowered, economically and socially, as a result of the capacity building interventions of the ALSFC component of CRPARP.

Union Councils Undertaking Active Role in Local Forest Conservation

The Union Conservation Forums (UCF) formed at 55 Unions under the leadership of the respective Union Councils have started working as an improved form of Union Council Standing Committee on Tree planning and Environmental Conservation.

EXIT STRATEGY OF THE PROJECT COMPONENT

In general, the key strategy of Arannayk Foundation (AF) in promoting conservation of forests and forest biodiversity in a sustainable manner lies in empowering local communities to undertake participatory actions, including collaboration with concerned government agencies, particularly the Forest Department. A local community is considered empowered when it is organized and has got necessary capacities (knowledge, skills) and financial resources to plan and implement local development activities on its own. On the other hand, development of alternative livelihoods is a key to motivating and enabling the poor forest dependent people to engage in participatory forest conservation and other local development initiatives.

As such, the AF focuses on two key interventions in its projects: (a) formation and human and institutional capacity development (HID) of community based organizations (CBO), and (b) alternative livelihood development of forest dependent people. To ensure that the CBOs have financial resources to maintain their essential organizational activities (meetings, maintenance of office, etc.) and development initiatives after the project period, the AF facilitates the CBOs to establish certain source(s) of income such as collection of membership fees and service charge for loans from Revolving Loan Fund (Mutual Rotating Savings & Loan Fund, in case of CRPARP). The AF has already created MRSLF and developed primary capacity of CBOs.

However, it usually takes 5 - 6 years to build capacity of CBOs to an average standard. The effective tenure of the project is only three years. It is necessary to support the CBOs for at least another two years. The AF thus proposes to continue the project for at least two years in order to graduate the CBOs. Even after the graduation, the CBOs will not left out by Arannayk Foundation. They will be brought under a broader umbrella (network) of the AF to provide continuous monitoring, further capacity building and knowledge sharing support. The AF is

¹ Foyzal, M.A., Hossain, M.L., Rubayat, A., Sultana, S., Uddin, M.K., Sayem, M.M. and Akhter, J. 2012. Household Energy Consumption Pattern in Rural Areas of Bangladesh. Indian Journal of Energy, 1(5): 72-85.

² Approximately 50% of biomass is Carbon and CO₂ = 3.6663 times weight of Carbon

doing it for its other phased-out projects where the CBOs have been maintaining a revolving loan fund (RLF) to support AIGAs of their members and also working either jointly with FD or by themselves to conserve and restore local forests.

CONCLUSION

According to Arannayk Foundation's own assessment, the overall progress and achievements of the ALSFC component of CRPARP is very satisfactory in consideration of the mid-term targets of the component. On the other hand, the exit strategy of the project is likely to be effective in ensuring sustainability of the development process initiated by the project component. However, the inadequate population coverage, inadequate community fund (ALSFC) to support AIGAs of FDG members in a significant scale and budgetary limitation affecting mobilization of adequate number of CPGs and supporting construction of office building (multi-purpose community house) of the FDG Federations keep the alternative livelihood development and forest conservation impacts at sub-optimal level. Allocation of some additional fund to the AF for the ALSFC component (from probable savings of the other components of the project) may help scale up the alternative livelihood and institutional capacity development of the forest dependent groups more effective.

Annex-1: Achievements of the ALSFC Component of CRPARP as per Results Framework of the Project as of July 2015

Indicator Name	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Cumulative Target Values					End Target	Achievement as of July 2015
			YR1	YR2	YR3	YR4			
PDO Indicator									
Indicator: Average household income of at least 70% of the beneficiaries of Project alternative income -generating component has increased by at least 30%	Percentage of Household	BDT 88,335 per HH/Yr	0	20%	30%	50%	70%	At least 30% income increase occurred in 29.17% households (At least 10% income increase has occurred in 80% households; 20% and higher income increase in 54% households)	
Intermediate Results									
Indicator 1: At least 200 village groups have been targeted by the Project through capacity building program and small grant funding, with at least 80% of their members being poor and at least 50% of them being women	Number of groups and percentage of members poor and women	0	100 FDG 80% of the members poor and 50% women	200 FDG	200 FDG	200 FDG	200 FDG	200 FDGs (and 55 Union Federations of the FDGs) formed; 100% of the FDG members are poor and 86% are women	
Indicator 2: At least 60% of the village groups formed/supported by the project are institutionally functional (conduct regular meetings, provide reports in a timely manner, etc.)	Percentage	0	10%	20%	30%	50%	60%	100 % of the FDGs and their Union Federations are institutionally functional	
Indicator 3: The number of cases of non-sustainable and illegal use of forest resources has been reduced by 30% in and around the Project area through project interventions.	Percentage	0	10%	5%	15%	25%	30%	Illegal forest resource collection from the existing forests and plantations near FDG villages has reduced by 20.56%	
Indicator 4: At least 70% of the targeted HH diversified or up-scaled their alternative income-generating activities	Percentage	0	10%	20%	30%	50%	70%	Almost 100% of the FDG members have diversified or scaled up their alternative income generating activities at least to some extent	
Indicator 5: At least 50% of FDG members increase their savings and investments by at least 50% above their Year 1 levels.	Percentage of FDG members	0	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	100% of the FDG members have doubled their savings above their Year-1 level	