



VISION

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MAIN STORY

Linkage Excels the Excellence

BMET and BFIOA tie up for strengthening capacities in furniture industry

With the mission of strengthening national manpower and increasing employment opportunities the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) has been a leading government body in providing institutional trainings to create an expanding landscape for better skills and employments. BMET now initiates a course named 'Advanced Carpentry Course' to enhance the skill of the workers employed in the furniture manufacturing industry of Bangladesh.

Innovision Consulting Private Limited and Katalyst facilitated the commencement of this technical course offering 45 hours of training duration, which is expected to be a significant threshold to excellence for the furniture workers as well as the respective entrepreneurs. The course is scheduled as the next step to the existing six-month Basic Carpentry Course of BMET. Accordingly, the current pool of semi-skilled furniture workers and apprentices of BMET will also get benefited from the advanced course.

BMET organized a briefing session on 15th December 2012 at Bangladesh Korea Technical Training Center (BKTTTC), where representatives from different technical training centers (TTC) of BMET, Bangladesh Furniture Industry Owners Association (BFIOA), Katalyst and Innovision were present. Discussants in the meeting expressed their aspiration to the hope that furniture industry owners would greatly be benefited through capacity development of the manufacturers by this advanced carpentry course.

The institutional linkage between BMET and BFIOA, facilitated by Innovision, ensures that BMET students will

have the precedence by BFIOA in getting into the industry on completion of the respective courses. Moreover, these two organizations agreed to initiate internship program for the apprentices of both the existing and newly developed courses. BFIOA further stretched its pledge to assist in revising the curriculum and course content of the existing Basic Carpentry Course of BMET in accordance with the need assessment to make the course more practical and aligned to the modern industrial practices. With the assistance from Innovision, BMET also developed the training module of the advanced course, which includes illustrative and elaborate information on the modern furniture manufacturing techniques.

Innovision has been managing the intervention under the M4P project titled 'Furniture Industry Development', commissioned by Katalyst, implemented by Swisscontact and GIZ IS.





Mainstreaming Adibashis into Conventional Value Chains

Innovation conducted an assessment to identify the mainstream value chain activities in the northern districts of Nilphamari, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon, where Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (HEKS) is working through the partner NGOs- GBK, ESDO and SERP in order to improve livelihoods and rights of Adibashi (ethnic) communities of the selected



areas. In this regard, HEKS aims to engage Adibashis into mainstream value chain activities.

The assessment covered the Adibashi - Santals, Oraons, Mushohors, Pahans, Hrishis and some other small ethnic minority people living in the selected project areas. Innovation identified the dynamics and developed strategies for mainstreaming Adibashi beneficiaries into conventional value chains. After selection of the value chains on the basis of mandate criteria and market criteria, the attractiveness for each of the value chains was measured and then a detailed analysis was conducted on the selected value chains, which included identification of market



opportunities of the value chain actors, ability and scope of Adibashis into the value chains, role of marketing intermediaries, analysis of end markets, business environment, support services, producers, input suppliers etc.

Consequently, a set of guidelines and recommendations were proposed including strategies for value chain selection, capacity development of participants, enabling access to finance, identification of proper market and linking the Adibashis with the market. A separate set of recommendations were also included to ensure sustainability of the beneficiaries in selected conventional value chains.

RDA hosts HELVETAS to promote Trichoderma



Innovation facilitated two exposure visits along with training programs at Rural Development Academy (RDA) in November 2012 for the local service providers (LSP) of different Service Provider Associations (SPA) of HELVETAS Swissintercooperation (HSI) under the Samridhi project.

During the exposure visits, a total of 43 LSPs along with project staffs got educated on Trichoderma, Tricho-composting technology and related issues. Trichoderma, a soil-borne beneficial fungus, enhances the de-composition of organic materials and increases soil fertility to give better crop yield. It also acts as bio-pesticides. Innovation, being a co-facilitator of Katalyst, has been working with Rural Development Academy (RDA) to promote the composting technology at the household level as an effort to promote balanced fertilizer application under 'National Fertilizer Market Development' project.

A sheer motivation was observed among the participants in the events, as they purchased activator suspension from RDA right on the spot. It also stimulated the SPAs of HIS, who were eager to enrich their service portfolio with better compost producing technology. Moreover, as a consequence of the events, SPAs in collaboration with HSI jointly established demonstration pits for producing compost in different SPA centers.

Hatcheries hailed High-yield

Facilitated hatchery owners applauded Innovision's intervention

A number of fish hatchery owners from all over the country gathered in a dissemination workshop on Hatchery Management and Brood Development held on 26th November 2012 at Spectra Convention Center, Dhaka, organized by Innovision. Speakers in the workshop discussed on hatchery management, brood research and development, hatchery and aqua-feed law in Bangladesh and relevant experiences gained throughout the project 'Stimulating Growth in Culture of Tilapia, Pangus and Koi and Promoting Their Forward Market Access', managed by Innovision and funded by Katalyst.

Alongside the informative speeches of guest speakers, the hatchery owners praised Innovision highly for its interventions for strengthening capacity of the private hatcheries through developing their knowledge on hatchery operations and brood management as well as improving their brood stock by importing broods from proven foreign sources. It ultimately helped them experience a greater yield and sustainable growth in production. They

also thanked Innovision for linking them with Central Luzon State University in the Philippines, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry in Vietnam, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) and Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum (BFRF) for technical assistance in increasing productivity and quality of produced fingerlings.

Keynote speaker of the workshop – Dr. Rafiqul Islam Sarder, Professor of Fisheries Biology and Genetics at Bangladesh Agricultural University –

presented on quality brood and seed production of Tilapia, Pangus and Koi. He also briefed on production of YY super male of Tilapia and cryopreservation of its sperm. The other guest speakers of the program were Dr. Binoy Chakrabarty (DoF), Dr. Ali Muhammad Omar Faruque (DoF), Dr. Mostofa Ali Reja Hossain (BFRF) and Dr. Saha Ali (BFRI).

Discussants also exchanged their views on Hatchery and Aqua-feed law in the workshop.



Fish Value Chains in the South analyzed

The WorldFish Center Bangladesh has been a major key player in developing the fisheries sector in the country for last one decade. It developed the regular culture practices in Southern Bangladesh and turned fish culture into a profitable livelihood option. In 20 southern districts of Bangladesh, The WorldFish Center is now implementing 'Feed the Future' (FtF) Aquaculture project, funded by USAID in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh.

To design its interventions, the project employed Innovision for conducting a study to gather insights into the value chains of

shrimp, prawn and tilapia in the project areas and the feasibility of promoting culture of brackish water sea-bass in the region.

Innovision completed a situation appraisal of shrimp, prawn and Tilapia including commercial brackish water species sea-bass's demand, feasibility and technical knowledge for promotion including size of the regional and national market, unmet demand - in terms of quality - in the local and the domestic market. The study also observed the production and distribution systems, price at different level of the distribution systems, technology and technical know-how, support services, rules and regulations etc.

Accordingly, Innovision rendered necessary suggestions based on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the production and distribution systems of the analyzed value chains.

