

BIDS

**Annual Research Programme
2013-2014**



Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies

Introduction

As an autonomous public multi-disciplinary research organisation, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) carries out policy oriented research on development issues facing Bangladesh and other developing countries. Its mission is to facilitate learning in development solutions by conducting credible research, fostering policy dialogue, disseminating policy options, and developing coalitions to promote informed policy making in the country.

In its mission of building research capacity and conducting in-depth and policy relevant research, BIDS undertakes a wide spectrum of activities covering its mandate of enriching the country's policy environment, creating awareness on improving the policy responses, enhancing policy analysis and dissemination capacities, and influencing policies.

The BIDS Annual Research Programme (ARP) 2013-2014 provides the summary information on the research studies that the Institute plans to undertake during the financial year 2013-14. The proposed research agenda covers priority issues in different aspects of the Bangladesh economy which have been grouped under various thematic areas, such as *Macroeconomic Policy and Employment; Poverty, Marginality and Deprivations; Agriculture and Food Security; Education, Health and Social Development; Energy and Power Sector Issues; Industry and Services Sector Issues; Natural Resource Economics; and Climate Change Impacts.*

In addition to studies sponsored by the government ministries and agencies including other national and international organisations, the research agenda includes studies undertaken under the BIDS Research

Endowment Fund (REF) which reflects the institutional policy oriented research of the Institute identified through interactions with policy makers and civil society and other partners. This proposed annual research portfolio, however, is not complete in the sense that the agenda would include additional studies covering issues which BIDS may consider appropriate to address and priority studies requested by the government and other agencies during the year.

Over the years, BIDS has been working to further strengthen efforts of concretising its long term vision of becoming an indispensable part of the country's socioeconomic transformation process through playing a more pro-active role in shaping the future development agenda in the coming days not just for the government but for everyone concerned with the theory and practice of development in general and of Bangladesh in particular. The BIDS research agenda will continue to serve the cause of sustainable and inclusive development in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the developing world.

Proposed Research Agenda

Broad Theme: *Macroeconomic Policy and Employment*

Evaluation of Relative Importance of Different Products in the Transmission of the Impacts of Euro Zone Crisis into the Bangladesh Economy

Study Team:

Md. Abul Basher

Sponsor: South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI)

Budget: Tk. 0.8 million

Time Frame: April 2013-March 2014

Growth of exports, one of the two main drivers of recent growth, is expected to play an important role in achieving higher growth in future. The EU is the single largest export destination for Bangladesh. Therefore, the overall export prospect of Bangladesh is largely determined by the export prospect to EU. Following the global economic and financial crises of 2008, total export growth of Bangladesh somewhat decelerated. Moreover, non-RMG exports were affected more than the RMG exports. Even within the RMG sector, not all products were uniformly affected. However, as no research has been done on the differential effects of the external shocks, government adopted a generic policy to help the export sector of the country. It worked for some products but was not adequate for some others. Therefore, it is important to know the main export commodities through which the effects of euro zone crises are transmitted into Bangladesh.

Objectives

The main objective of this study is to evaluate how exports of different products can potentially be affected by the euro zone crisis. By unbundling the overall likely effects of euro zone crisis, the study will rank different products according to their export

vulnerability, and will provide specific policy measures required to check these vulnerabilities.

Methodology

The study will mostly be based on secondary data from different sources like UNCOMTRADE, EUROSTAT, Bangladesh Bank, Export Promotion Bureau, and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). In addition to these secondary sources, views and opinions will be collected from a number of leading exporters of the country who export to EU markets.

The exact effect of euro zone crisis on Bangladeshi export will depend on the extent to which EU economic growth declines and the income elasticity of the products that Bangladesh exports to EU markets. The study will review the recent composition and trend of Bangladeshi exports to EU markets at disaggregated HS code level for major EU member countries. By using a threshold level of export value, a number of products will be selected for further analysis. Then the income elasticity of a product, i , exported to country ' j ' will be estimated. Exact number of products and countries will be determined by reviewing the value of exports of different products and their share in total export of Bangladesh to EU markets. With the estimated values of country and product specific income elasticity of Bangladeshi exports, the overall effect of euro zone crisis on Bangladesh will be evaluated.

Policy Implications

The findings of the proposed research will enable the government of Bangladesh to identify the products whose exports are more likely to be affected by the euro zone crisis. The government can take informed decision about where and how to intervene so that overall exports of the country can grow at normal rates withstanding the negative effects of the euro zone crisis.

Size and Growth of the Middle Class in Bangladesh during 1990-2010: Implications for Broad-based Growth and Development

Study Team:

Binayak Sen
Iqbal Hossain
Moogdho Mim Mahzab

Budget: Tk. 1.0 million

Sponsor: BIDS Research Endowment Fund (REF)

Time Frame: October 2011-June 2012

The research has been specifically designed to work on the emergence and development of the “new” Middle Class over the last two decades (as opposed to the “old” Middle Class of the 1950s and 1960s who had strong links with agriculture). The argument is that the emergence of a sizable Middle Class has economic implications for higher savings, productivity growth through development of new technologies, improved functions of cities, and for more broad-based (equitable) growth. Most of the previous studies in the Bangladesh context were highly concentrated on poverty reduction issues with emphasis on the moderate poor and the extreme poor. The economic Middle Class has not received much attention as a subject matter in studies of growth and distribution until recently. While this class, by definition, is located above the poverty line, it is susceptible to downward mobility pressures. The study seeks not only to analyse the social significance of Middle Class but also its economic significance.

The key objective of the study would be to quantitatively capture the emergence and growth of the new Middle class, especially in the last two decades of economic reform and growth acceleration. This will help to address the question as to how broad-based has been Bangladesh’s economic growth in the past and what additional measures can be

undertaken to make such growth process more inclusive in transiting to the Middle Income Status. Consequently, addressing the mobility concerns of the Middle class would be an important ingredient of this study. The other objective of the study would be to draw implications for developing more inclusive democracy--a factor that would be conducive of political stability and determine the political context for adopting more equitable policy in Bangladesh.

Methodology

The study seeks not only to analyse the social significance of Middle class but also its economic significance. Broadly, there will be three components in this study.

First, using a “suitable definition” of the Middle class (which itself is a subject matter of the proposed research given the wide variation in approaches to quantification of the size of the Middle class in the global literature), it will capture the size and trends of the Middle class in terms of its income share, social composition and economic profile, including skill acquisition and employment structure. These trends will be verified through alternative approaches in defining the share of the Middle Class.

Second, it will analyse the economic drivers that may have influenced the emergence of the “new” Middle class-with focus on higher education, expansion of formal sector jobs, remittance, export-oriented production, NGO-led social enterprises, and enhanced corporations.

Third, the research will shed light on strengthening the role of the Middle class in shaping “inclusive” democracy and citizenship, which have implications for the coverage and quality of public service delivery.

Policy Implications

To quantify the size and trends of the middle class during the time period of 1990 to 2010 would be one of the major concerns of this study. Defining the Middle class itself would be a historical and significant landmark for Bangladesh economy and for its policy perspectives. What are the structural changes that have been occurred into this class since the 1950s and 1960s would be another issue to be addressed. Then comes the “drivers” of Middle class, which would be identified under this study. Lastly, the political influence of the Middle class for an inclusive democracy would be tested under this study.

Broad Theme: *Poverty, Marginality and Deprivation*

Extreme Poverty and Marginality in Bangladesh: Review of Extreme Poverty Focused Innovative Programmes

Study Team:

S M Zulfiqar Ali
Mustafa K. Mujeri

Sponsor: Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

Budget: Tk. 0.6 million

Time Frame: March 2011-September 2012

In Bangladesh, nearly one-third (31.5 per cent) of the population of around 150 million live below the national poverty line. It is also the most densely populated country barring a few small city states like Singapore. With such a high incidence of poverty, the government has been playing a key role in implementing anti-poverty programmes along with non-government and other organisations. In poverty reduction, the case for government intervention rests on both efficiency and equity

grounds. There also exist significant overlaps between poverty and marginality in Bangladesh as well, and the marginalised communities have always been and still are the outcomes of severe socio-economic discrimination.

Bangladesh has achieved notable success in poverty reduction including extreme poverty alleviation since the 1990s. Despite the progress, there are issues and concerns that need to be addressed if faster poverty reduction, especially reduction of extreme poverty, is to be achieved in the coming years. For example, growing income inequality has emerged as a significant poverty related concern in Bangladesh.

Although Bangladesh is ethnically a relatively homogenous nation, the society also has some heterogeneous groups of people in terms of socioeconomic identities. The vulnerabilities these groups face, the realities they experience, the obstacles they go through, and the opportunities they seek are sometimes different in nature and scope. Their needs and priorities also differ in many respects. Therefore, similar treatment of these groups in policies and programmes is unlikely to provide them with the required support to improve their socioeconomic conditions. The government's policies also recognise these realities and the government's Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015) aims at including the excluded, disempowered, and vulnerable members of society, particularly women, into the mainstream of its development efforts through well targeted approaches to all such groups.

All these make the situation of the extreme poor and the marginalised groups/communities more complicated. Moreover, traditional and standard poverty reduction programmes often can hardly reach these most vulnerable groups of people in the

country. It is also recognised that most of the poverty reduction policies and programmes suffer from a number of limitations especially with respect to addressing the needs and demands of the extreme poor groups and create opportunities for their upward mobility. Poverty reduction policies still concentrate more on reducing the “incidence of poverty,” but, not so much on reducing its “depth” or “severity.” This leads to inadequate attention to and coverage of the concerns of the extreme poor in the mainstream poverty reduction efforts along with limited focus on understanding and addressing their graduation concerns.

Given the above context, it is critically important to have dedicated and innovative programmes to cater to the needs of the extreme and marginalised people living in different pockets in the country. Some innovations have already begun in respect to addressing the extreme poverty and marginality in the country. The main purpose of the present study is to review some of the extreme poverty focused special programmes that are currently in operation in the country as case studies to provide ideas about the nature and extent of these programmes and their effectiveness.

Broad Theme: Agriculture and Food Security

Quality of Agricultural Inputs

Study Team:

Kazi Ali Toufique
Kazi Iqbal

Sponsor: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and USAID

Budget: Tk. 2.9 million

Time Frame: July 2013-April 2014

The supply of quality seed is inadequate in Bangladesh accounting for only about 40 per

cent of its total demand. The situation is similar for other agricultural inputs. It is estimated that rice production can be increased by 10-15 per cent by increasing the supply of quality seed alone. Thus it is important to understand the institutional mechanism through which quality seed and other inputs can be supplied to the farmers. In this context, the critical problem is the supply of agricultural inputs of poor quality to the producers and unavailability of these inputs when they are needed the most. The study will analyse the quality and other related aspects of different seeds covering both supply and demand dimensions which are crucial to promoting growth in the agricultural sector.

Food Safety in Bangladesh: Practices, Impact, Policies and Implementation

Study Team:

M. Asaduzzaman

Sponsor: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and USAID

Budget: Tk. 2.8 million

Time Frame: July 2013-April 2014

Besides the nutritional aspect, one major concern related to food utilisation is the issue of food safety which is compromised too often in Bangladesh. While food becomes unsafe due to naturally occurring toxins, pathogens or unintended contamination in processing and storage of food, the intentional debasing of food quality and its safety is a major public health concern in the country. This study will try to understand all these aspects of food safety and its determinants as well as human health and economic impacts, legal and institutional issues related to ensuring food safety and its international dimensions. The study will carry out a science-based economic analysis of food safety in Bangladesh by taking full cognizance of the existing

institutional and legal environment surrounding the issue. Furthermore, cognizance will be taken of the disease and health impacts and their economic consequences.

Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Fertiliser Use in Bangladesh: The Quality of Fertiliser and Fertiliser Distribution System

Study Team:

Mustafa K Mujeri
Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury

Sponsor: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and USAID

Budget: Tk. 2.8 million

Time Frame: July 2013-April 2014

Fertiliser plays an important role in increasing crop production and remains a cornerstone in meeting the increasing demand for food in Bangladesh. For ensuring dynamic transformations in agriculture, one of the key issues is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of fertiliser use.

This study would assess the current status of two important aspects of the fertiliser sector in Bangladesh: (i) fertiliser distribution system and (ii) quality of fertilisers used by the farmers. For the purpose, criteria such as efficiency, equity and sustainability will be used to provide suggestions to improve the distribution system and the quality of available fertilisers in the market.

Seed Sector Development in Bangladesh

Study Team:

S M Zulfiqar Ali

Sponsor: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and USAID

Budget: Tk. 28,00,000/-

Time Frame: July 2013-April 2014

There exist several factors that hinder the supply of quality seed in the country. Seed technology is a modern science and the country lacks skill in seed management, especially with respect to research, extension, production, processing, marketing and preservation.

The study will provide inputs to establish enabling seed policy and regulations that would lead to enhanced private sector development and delivery of improved seeds of nutrient-dense crops, and more rapid smallholder adoption of improved seeds. The role of the private sector will be thoroughly studied to understand whether there are any structural problems that limit their ability to meet the demand for seeds. The current institutional set up and policy regimes will be examined to assess whether they play a controlling or facilitating role for the development of the seed sector.

Is Growth in Aquaculture Benefiting the Poor in Bangladesh?

Study Team:

Kazi Ali Toufique

Sponsor: BIDS Research Endowment Fund (REF)

Budget: Tk. 0.8 million

Time Frame: February 2013 – June 2014

Bangladesh, like most tropical countries, derives fish from a large number of complex natural systems. The fisheries sector is endowed with more than 260 species of fish and about 56 species of prawn.

The source of fish consumed by the households has dramatically changed, particularly in the last decade. Now we produce and consume more culture (farmed) fish as against capture (non-farmed). This is the most important structural transformation

that has taken place in the fisheries sector of Bangladesh. This transformation has changed the nature of livelihoods based on fisheries. We do not know how this transformation has changed the supply of nutrition to the households or the extent the poor has benefited from the growth in the production of farmed fishes.

The study analyses consumption of fishes by the households to address the following questions:

- Are the poor households benefiting from the structural transformation characterised by the dominance of farmed species by non-farmed species?
- Are the poor households consuming more fish now as compared to the past?
- Are prices of fish becoming lower?
- What species of fish are contributing most towards consumption of fish by the poor households?
- Are relatively cheaper fishes such as Pangas or Exotic Carps increasingly consumed more by the poor?

Methodology

This study will use Household Income Expenditure Survey data for 2000, 2005 and 2010 to address the research questions. The households will be categorised as extreme, moderate and non-poor. The fish species will also be categorised as farmed and non-farmed species. Some limited fieldwork will be done to collect information to validate the findings from secondary data analysis.

Policy Relevance and Implications

If population growth and per capita incomes in Bangladesh increase as anticipated and growth in fish production fails to keep pace, the poorer sections of the population will be

negatively affected by rising prices. The study would help the government to assess the extent of pro-poor growth in aquaculture by looking into the change in fish consumption by different poverty groups and take a more informed strategy for fisheries development.

This study will also help to understand the changes in the fisheries sector over a decade in terms of changes in species composition at the level of consumption. For example, some studies have found that consumption of small and indigenous species (SIS) by the poor has come down substantially over time. SIS is the main source of nutrient supply to the poor households, particularly to those living in the flood lands. If this is the case, the government can promote the production of SIS in fish farms and inundated rice fields.

The study will identify the species of fish most consumed by the poor. For the farmed species, the government can promote production of these species by improving its production technology or through providing financial incentives for the production of specific species or through improving the quality of hatchery fries of these selected species. On the other hand, if the poor households still continue consuming proportionately more non-farmed species, then the government can re-think about its policy towards the capture fisheries sector.

Impact Evaluation Study of the Project 'National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)' Phase - I

Study Team:

M Asaduzzaman

Sponsor: IMED, Ministry of Planning

Budget: Tk. 2.2 million

Time Frame: December 2013-May 2014

The evaluation, among others, will assess if the project has been successful in improving

research capacities and effectiveness of the National Agriculture Research System and examine if the Sponsored Public Goods Research had resulted in generating appropriate technologies. This will also recommend for more efficient and sustainable use of agriculture research and extension system, public funding, PPP enterprises, post-harvest technology, and best practices for replication.

Broad Theme: *Education, Health and Social Development*

Unpacking and Analyzing the Census and other Data Sets for Evidence Led Equity-Based Policy Analysis and Advocacy on Children and Women in Bangladesh

Study Team:

Zulfiqar Ali
Mustafa K Mujeri
Zahedul Islam Chowdhury
Iqbal Hossain

Sponsor: UNICEF

Budget: Tk. 8.7 million

Time frame: July 2012 – June 2013

Development with equity is one of the key principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international human rights instruments. The countries which have ratified the CRC are obliged to ensure that children realise their rights with equity. However, even after 22 years of CRC ratification, the issue of inequality remains a grave concern globally. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2010 Review Summit recognised the success in some of the targets of the MDGs, but expressed concern over inequality as the success was uneven among regions and between and within countries.

Availability of surveys, studies, research and censuses is an essential element of policy analysis. In Bangladesh, there are a number of surveys—for example, Population Census, BDHS, MICS, HIES—relevant to the socio-economic rights of children and women in Bangladesh. But the data of the surveys are not appropriately used for policy analysis, particularly for equity analysis. The Government of Bangladesh has recently completed the 2011 Population and Housing Census and validated the results. Census data is a vital source for development planning and policy. Therefore, this has created a greater scope for equity based policy analysis and advocacy for reducing inequality.

A disaggregated profile of the groups of people, under consideration with an Equity Atlas using census indicators for different levels, for divisions to upazilas in Bangladesh is envisaged. The Atlas shall profile the inequities and vulnerabilities such as education attendance and achievements, youth and adult literacy, youth marriage, water and sanitation and housing characteristics, among others. The Profile and the Atlas shall also include tables, graphs and maps for clarity and would appeal to a variety of audience. The rankings will be based upon a composite deprivation index.

Methodology

The study is being carried out using mainly secondary data, particularly those collected by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The data sets that are being considered for the study include, among others, the Population Census, HIES, SVRS and MICS. Relevant other survey data will also be used as required and available.

Policy Relevance and Implications

The study is expected to have important policy implications as it will produce equity atlas,

pockets of social deprivation and sector specific policy briefs on education, health, water and sanitation, and social protection. The study will also try to engage policy makers in the discussion in order to secure their commitment and action to address the policy recommendations.

The Stakeholder Consultation for the Annual Programme Review (APR) 2012 of Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Development Programme (HPNSDP, 2011-2016)

Study Team:

Zulfiqar Ali
Wajid Hasan Shah
Iqbal Hossain

Sponsor: World Bank

Budget: Tk. 2.5 million

Time frame: August 2012–May 2013

The overall objective of health, population and nutrition sector development programme (HPNSDP) is to achieve sustainable improvement in health, nutrition, and reproductive health including family planning, particularly of vulnerable groups covering women, children, the elderly and the poor. It is important not only to monitor the progress of HPNSDP implementation in general, but also to assess whether and to what extent the benefits are reaching the target beneficiaries, particularly women and the poor.

The Annual Programme Review (APR) of HPNSDP is a management instrument, designed for both the Government of Bangladesh and the Development Partners to monitor progress in the implementation of the programme and to verify that the management and policy responsibilities are met. In order to provide inputs to the APR process, stakeholders' views on HPNSDP in general

and public health service delivery in particular are very important in order to enhance the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of the public health care services. Given the above, the main objective of the stakeholder consultation process is to elicit views on service delivery and utilisation from various stakeholder groups including academicians and civil society organisations. For the current stakeholder review, focus is placed on health service utilisation.

Methodology

The stakeholders' views will be elicited through a participatory evaluation process including focus group discussions (FGDs) and regional and central workshops. A review of existing evidence would also be collated in this respect. Based on the reviews, FGDs and workshops, a Stakeholder Consultation Report will be prepared under the study.

Policy Relevance and Implications

It is expected that the study will contribute significantly to review the sector programme, especially from the point of view of health service utilisation in the country and suggest changes, if any, to make the programme more effective and pro-people.

Professional Assistance during Birth, Public-Private Mix and Household Characteristics: Implications for Policy

Study Team:

M. Sohail

Sponsor: BIDS Research Endowment Fund (REF)

Budget: Tk. 1.0 million

Time Frame: October 2011-February 2014

Bangladesh experienced significant decline in maternal mortality during the last two decades. Maternal mortality declined from 570

in 1990 to 322 in 2001 and again to 194 in 2010-- a 40 per cent decline since 2001. Bangladesh is, therefore, well on track to achieving the target of MDG5 by 2015. A widely acclaimed indicator used to monitor the progress in maternal health is to increase skilled assistance during delivery from 5 per cent in 1990 to 50 per cent in 2015. "Skilled attendants" refer "exclusively to people with midwifery skills (for example, doctors, midwives, nurses) who have been trained to proficiency in the skills necessary to manage normal deliveries and diagnose, manage or refer complications."

Achieving MGD5 of reduction maternal mortality ratio by 75 per cent by 2015 is heavily dependent upon access to skilled attendants for ANC, delivery care, facility delivery with EmOC services to manage life-saving maternal complications. Skilled birth attendant strategy was thus incorporated into the facility based approach of obstetric care in 2001 and 3,000 community based skilled attendants have already been trained and another 1,000 being trained annually. Fifty-nine District Hospitals, 132 Upazila Health Complexes and 70 Maternal and Child Welfare Centres have been upgraded as comprehensive EmOC facilities and another 200 facilities at the upazila and union level have been equipped with basic EmOC services.

Recently the government has also introduced maternal voucher scheme for poor mothers in 53 upazilas in 41 districts of Bangladesh. Under this scheme poor mothers are identified by local committees on the basis of certain set criteria and provided with vouchers to buy maternal health care services from different selected providers or facilities in the area.

Bangladesh is passing through a transition from deliveries conducted at home by traditional birth attendants to deliveries conducted by professional attendants. The

challenge is how to ensure a transition to more and more deliveries to be conducted in both basic and, if needed, in comprehensive essential obstetric care facilities by professionally trained personnel.

Large disparities in the maternal health care utilisation exist between the poorest and the richest population in Bangladesh. Two in three women in the highest wealth quintile receive antenatal care from qualified doctors as opposed to one in five women in the lowest wealth group. Almost all the deliveries occur at home among the lowest wealth quintile, whereas 16 per cent of deliveries occur at health facilities among the highest wealth quintile. Wealth is also associated with the seeking of delivery care by caesarean section and delivery related complications.

A major constraint to the use of maternal health care is the cost of delivery especially for a complicated delivery. The costs involved in birth even in the public sector are high including charges for diagnostic tests, medications, unofficial fees, travel and food. Besides, the cost of complicated deliveries is often catastrophic. The government has therefore introduced maternal voucher scheme to assist poor mothers in selected areas, but it has reportedly been misused by performing higher than normal proportion of caesarian sections.

The proportion of births delivered at a health facility increased from 4 per cent in 1989-93 to 15 per cent in 2002-06. The recent increase in institutional deliveries is mainly due to increase in deliveries at NGO and private facilities. Over two-thirds of the deliveries in private facilities during 2005-07 were caesarian, which indicates that obstetric surgery might have been used for exploitative purposes. However, poor women and women residing in rural areas often do not have access to life-saving surgery.

The study will examine the trend of utilisation of maternal health care services (antenatal care, delivery care and facility delivery) by source of use (public, private, NGO) and by socio-economic factors. The study will also assess structural aspects of facility quality, gaps in service quality and socio-cultural barriers.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. To examine the trend of utilisation of maternal health care services during birth (antenatal care, delivery care, facility delivery) by professional attendance by source of use (public, private, NGO) and by various socio-economic factors;
- ii. To analyse the utilisation of antenatal care, delivery care, facility delivery by skilled attendance by source of use and by socio-economic characteristics;
- iii. To assess structural aspects of facility quality, gaps in service quality, sources of finance and socio-cultural barriers in accessing care.

Methodology

The study will utilise data from the BDHS of various years to look at the trend of service utilisation by skilled birth attendants. The study will also collect information from a representative sample of 720 women from six divisions of the country. Multivariate analysis will be undertaken to understand the differentials in utilisation of skilled attendance for ANC, delivery care and facility delivery by age, family size, public-private mix, education, region, wealth strata and other relevant socio-economic variables. This information will be supplemented by the existing supply side facility and individual level qualitative information from relevant managers of health

centres, influential people in the locality and women in the reproductive age group.

Policy Implications

The study will explore the barriers faced by the households in seeking maternal health care from both demand and supply aspects of care and identify the critical aspects such as female empowerment, availability of transport, travel time, quality of care and referral in influencing professional assistance during care. It will also examine public-private mix in ensuring quality care and the relative effectiveness of both public and private sectors in meeting the expectations of the recently introduced maternal voucher scheme in improving maternal health care. The study will therefore identify critical barriers to maternal health care and assist in formulating policies for achieving MDG5 by 2015.

Joint MFS-II Evaluation of Selected Dutch Funded Projects in Bangladesh

Study Team:

Zulfiqar Ali
Zahedul Islam Chowdhury
Iqbal Hossain

Sponsor: University of Bath, UK

Budget: Tk. 8.5 million

Time frame: July 2012 – June 2015

MFS II is the 2011-2015 grant framework of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Dutch NGOs, which is directed at achieving a sustainable reduction in poverty. The MFS II-funded organisations support a wide range of development activities of a large number of Southern partner organisations in over 70 countries. The overall purpose of these joint MFS II evaluations is to account for results of MFS II-funded or co-funded development interventions implemented by Dutch NGOs and/or their Southern partners and to contribute to the improvement of future development interventions.

The country study for Bangladesh is led by a team from the University of Bath, INTRAC and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. The research team focuses on three key areas: achievement of MDGs, capacity development and strengthening civil society. The evaluation is structured around three key activities: a baseline assessment between July and December 2012; top-up visits around September of 2013; and a final follow-up assessment around September 2014.

Methodology

The research team uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, tailored to meet the demands of the three research components. The primary focus of the research is to evaluate impact and this includes linking impact to costs in order to assess efficiency or cost effectiveness. The research team is committed to a participatory process and therefore works with partner NGOs to develop relevant indicators and assessment techniques.

Policy Relevance and Implications

The study is expected to assess the impacts of Dutch funding on the lives and livelihoods of target beneficiaries in Bangladesh. It is also expected to contribute to have more efficient projects funded by the Dutch in the country in the near future.

Evaluation of Technical Training Centers/IGA Institutes in the Districts of Bangladesh under Different ADP Funded Projects of Various Ministries

Study Team:

Abdul Hye Mondal

Sponsor: IMED, Ministry of Planning

Budget: Tk. 2.5 million

Time Frame: December 2013-May 2014

The study, among others, will examine whether training courses are practicable,

adequate and economically gainful, and assess how far the objectives of training have been achieved. This will also provide recommendations for more improved policy directions towards quality and effective training courses as well as well coordinated management and sustainable operation of the training centres.

Evaluation of the Reaching out of School Children (ROSC) Projects (4th Revision) of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Study Team:

S M Zulfiqar Ali
Mustafa K. Mujeri

Sponsor: IMED, Ministry of Planning

Budget: Tk. 2.2 million

Time Frame: December 2013-May 2014

The evaluation will review the present functional status of major inputs/activities and assess the outputs and impacts of the project activities. This will also identify any major difficulties and flaws that impeded the proper implementation and management of project activities and provide recommendations for more effective management and sustainability of project activities.

Impact Evaluation Study of the Project 'Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA)'

Study Team:

Mustafa K Mujeri
S M Zulfiqar Ali

Sponsor: IMED, Ministry of Planning

Budget: Tk. 2.1 million

Time Frame: December 2013-May 2014

The assessment will examine whether the project activities have been implemented properly or not and whether and to what

extent the project has been able to make positive impact upon its beneficiaries. This will also suggest recommendations for safer, easier accessibility, affordable, sustainable management of water supply and sanitation facilities to the rural community and identify best practices which could be replicated.

Broad Theme: *Energy and Power Sector Issues*

Integration of Women Into Grameen Shakti's Clean Energy Programme In Bangladesh

Study Team:

Mohammad Yunus
Kazi Ali Toufique
Nazneen Ahmed
Moogdho Mim Mahzab

Sponsor: USAID through Development and Training Services, Inc., USA

Budget: Tk. 4.2 million

Time Frame: December 2012-December 2013

Under its Rural Empowerment through Renewable Energy Project, USAID provided funding to Grameen Shakti (GS) between 2005 and 2010 to improve empowerment of women and youth in particular, by imparting job skills and expanding economic opportunities for them in renewable energy technology (RET). With the financial assistance, GS established 46 Grameen Technology Centres (GTCs) to provide training and technical support in rural areas to rapidly expanding RET. The programme provided 15 days of training to a total of 2,750 women in technical skills required to assemble components and install and maintain SHSs. The overall goal of the project is to accelerate the access to renewable energy technologies among rural communities living in economic, ecological vulnerable areas and improve their livelihoods.

This study will review the objectives, social environment and achievements of the interventions to assess the progress made and obstacles encountered in training, and empowering women in the RETs. The Project is also designed to empower women through engagement in the production of green technology products and services leading to improved livelihoods. In doing so, a number of the trainees are absorbed by the GS as employees and the rest are expected to become entrepreneurs in the assembly of the components of the solar home systems (SHSs), in providing back-up services, accessories, and marketing of the SHS and in scaling up of the biogas programme.

Research Questions

- Has the intervention advanced the adoption of RET by households in Bangladesh and accelerated access to renewable energy technologies among rural communities living in economically and ecologically vulnerable areas?
- Does the GS model(s) of training, integration, and support result in women learning skills that generate employment and income?
- What can be learned from the GS model(s) of training for future intervention to better integrate women into the clean energy value chain?

Methodology

The study adopts quantitative methods and develops and analyses administrative and survey data to assess the above research questions. The surveys of the six categories of respondents spelt out below will be conducted at the 46 GTCs:

- Engineers-in-Charge and Sub-Assistant Engineers working at the GTCs;

- Women Technicians who received 15-day training at a GTC and are currently working at a GTC;
- Women Technicians who did not receive 15-day training but are currently working at a GTC;
- Technicians who did not receive 15-day training but are working for GS (other than for a GTC);
- Women Technicians who received 15-day training at a GTC but are not currently working; and
- Senior GS staff.

In addition to the quantitative methods including administrative and survey data, available documents would be used in providing grounded description of the training and the model employed. A set of focus group discussions will also be conducted to validate key research issues addressed in survey interviews.

Policy Implications

The GS is a part of the network of institutions established around the Grameen Bank that seeks to help the poorest – especially women – improve their lives and escape poverty through microfinance and technology. This is undertaken by providing them with access to appropriate financial services, life-changing information and unique income-generating opportunities. In this context, GS is well placed to train women for integration in RET although it could be expected to face challenges in the gender dimensions of training women in the RET and in adapting its existing systems to absorb and integrate a number of the trainees.

This study will help the policy makers by providing knowledge of the changed adaptability and resourcefulness of the women trainees at the individual, household and

community levels, their knowledge and capability in the RET sector, knowledge and capability in developing entrepreneurial skills, and adoption of RET and life-sustaining services in their households.

Broad Theme: *Industry and Services Sector Issues*

Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations: Current Status of the Export Oriented Readymade Garment (RMG) Industry in Bangladesh

Study Team:

Zaid Bakht

Monzur Hossain

Sponsor: Ministry of Labour and Employment

Budget: Tk. 1.8 million

Time Frame: May 2013-November 2013

In recent years, violent labour unrest and large scale death of workers caused by fire and other accidents have put the export-oriented RMG industry of Bangladesh under the spotlight. This has put the issue of industrial relations, labour standards and workplace safety in RMG industry under fresh scrutiny of the stakeholders. A major constraint in drawing up appropriate action plans in this respect is the absence of adequate and up-to-date information on the industry.

This study will make a comprehensive assessment of the current status of the RMG industry with respect to industrial relations and workplace safety covering aspects such as number of factories under production and their size of employment; provisions of the Factory and Labour Act, ILO conventions and compliance criteria used by the major buyers; level of compliance and the state of industrial relations; factors affecting labour standards and state of workplace safety and security; and measures needed to address the challenges.

Problems and Prospects of SMEs Financing in Bangladesh

Study Team:

Wajid Hasan Shah

Sponsor: Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) of Partnership Development Grant supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) [ADB TA 8003]

Budget: Tk. 1.2 million

Time Frame: May 2013-September 2013

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) financing in Bangladesh is witnessing several problems. While access to finance is among the major highlighted issues for SMEs, issues such as lack of product diversification and problems associated with marketing are also commonly cited. Access to SME financing is a major concern; however, the problems associated with implementation of SME projects in cases where financing is accessed do not seem to attract warranted attention, even though this is apparently responsible for the high level of default loans witnessed in cases of SMEs financing.

This study will explore the economic challenges encountered by SMEs loan recipients. The main research questions will revolve around problems in accessing SMEs financing and problems in implementation of SME projects. Individual interviews with SME loan defaulters will be conducted in all seven divisions of Bangladesh and the urban and rural areas may either be chosen from the same district of the division or separate districts, allowing better insight into various problems faced in both SMEs financing and conducting SME activities across the country. Areas which witness higher default rates on SME loan repayments will be targeted for the purpose. The study will be conducted in collaboration with BRAC Bank Ltd, the second –largest financier of SMEs in Bangladesh.

Broad Theme: *Natural Resource Economics*

Bangladesh: Integrated Water Resources Assessment

Study Team:

K M Nabiul Islam

M Asaduzzaman

Mustafa K Mujeri

Sponsor: AusAID-CSIRO

Budget: AUD 120,000

Time Frame: October 2011-September 2013

Water resources are under great stress in Bangladesh, with floods in the monsoon season, shortage of surface water in the dry season, arsenic contamination of shallow groundwater, salinisation of both surface and groundwater in the coastal zone, and difficulties with meeting demand in many urban centres. The increasing population and economic development in Bangladesh will raise the demand and the competition for water resources, exacerbating an already difficult situation. To add to the difficulties, changes in water quality and quantity are also expected as a consequence of climate change. Currently, there is no country-wide integrated assessment of water resources in Bangladesh or the interactions between water resources, their management and social and economic well-being.

The aspects related to surface water uses and availability are well studied and modeled but information about ground water resources is still scarce and fragmented. Little is known about the interactions between surface and groundwater systems, the capacity of aquifers to sustain greater levels of use and the impact of climate change on the overall water availability in Bangladesh.

From a socio-economic perspective, there is a reasonable body of mostly localised work on

aspects of how the surface water and groundwater are managed today, how this management is impacting livelihoods, and how these resources could be managed in the future to promote an efficient, sustainable and equitable use of scarce water resources. Little has been done to understand social and economic impacts of water resource management at system scale accounting for cross-sectoral and competing demands (e.g. agriculture and urban water use).

This research aims to develop an integrated water resource assessment to provide a national overview of the resource, the impacts of development and climate change on both surface water and ground water resources. It will assess the way impacts will affect the poor and the vulnerable, the amount of water that could be sustainably supplied to different economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, industry and navigation, as well as to the population for drinking and sanitation purposes in order to promote economic growth and improve livelihoods of people.

Methodology

In the above backdrop, the research is multi-disciplinary in nature, bringing together hydrological, hydro-geological, and socioeconomic, climate change, social trend and other data in an integrated framework.

Therefore, the study will undertake an integrated approach through a) surface water assessment, b) groundwater assessment, and c) socio-economic assessment. The socio-economic assessment involves examining socio-economic aspects. The integration will involve modeling macro-level and micro-level water demand and use in Bangladesh, that is, it brings together supply and use information assembled in the surface water and groundwater assessments, and models the changing patterns of use and demand with increasing population and economic growth.

The study will assemble a range of socio-economic data, including population, population growth, population structure (gender, age), income classes, access to water and sanitation, water use by sectors (including urban and industrial), and anticipated growth of sectors. The data will be obtained as far as possible at a spatial resolution of the district or, preferably, upazila level. Water demand by economic sectors including agricultural, industrial, urban and rural will be assessed through the customisation, validation and application of an existing computable general equilibrium (CGE) model.

Policy Implications

The information generated will help Bangladesh to develop policies for equitable and efficient allocation and use of water in future. One of the major contributions of this research is related to identification of potential hotspots where there is high risk of contamination by saline intrusion or polluted surface waters, and where there is high risk of lack of access to safe drinking water and irrigation water in rural areas. The research is also expected to contribute to capacity building of Bangladesh organisations on climate change impact, groundwater and integrated water resources assessments.

Economics of Water Resource Management for Balanced Development of Water Resources in Bangladesh

Study Team:

Mohammad Yunus
Quazi Shahabuddin
K M Nabiul Islam

Sponsor: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and USAID

Budget: Tk. 2.7 million

Time Frame: August 2013-August 2014

While Bangladesh is abundant in water, the country faces severe seasonal scarcity of

water. Total renewable surface water resource is also quite limited because most water flows enter from the upstream riparian India. Groundwater irrigation is generally more flexible and can be used in conjunction with surface water to improve water use efficiency. But heavy dependence on groundwater is costly in terms of resource use. Further, given growing water scarcity, groundwater pumping has become less equitable. Groundwater irrigation management, therefore, requires urgent attention. At the same time, constraints that hinder the cost-effective use of surface water resources need to be addressed urgently to ensure balanced use of available water resources in the country. In this context, the study will examine the economics of water management in general and ground and surface water irrigation in particular for improved agricultural productivity in Bangladesh. Moreover, the regional dimension of water resources development and management will be explored to ensure its balanced use across different regions of the country. In addition, how farmers respond to water scarcity will be examined keeping in view its implications for sustained growth of crop production in Bangladesh.

Evaluation of Small Scale Water Resources Projects - II

Study Team:

K M Nabiul Islam

Sponsor: IMED, Ministry of Planning

Budget: Tk. 2.1 million

Time Frame: December 2013-May 2014

This study will conduct an evaluation of the small scale water resources projects constructed by LGED in early to mid-2000s under its Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-2) in all the districts of Bangladesh, except three hill districts (Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari).

The study will assess, among others, the impact as well as performance of project activities and undertake economic and financial analysis of selected sub-projects.

Broad Theme: *Climate Change Impacts*

Estimating Cost of Food Security in the Context of Climate Change in Bangladesh

Study Team:

Mustafa K Mujeri

Quazi Shahabuddin

Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury

Siban Shahana

Md. Shamsuddoha

Sponsor: IUCN

Budget: Tk. 2.43 million

Time Frame: December 2012–July 2013

The key objectives of the study are to:

- (i) assess/estimate financial implication of adaptation to climate change (CC) in relation to food security;
- (ii) identify priority actions to enhance food security in the country to feed into policy and strategy documents of the government;
- (iii) provide a baseline or benchmark for the negotiation team for international climate change negotiations with a position paper on financing needs for CC adaptation; and
- (iv) support the decision makers on financial allocation for development activities.

It is expected that the study will remain focused on the estimation of adaptation cost related to food security sector. This will entail (a) identification and (b) estimation of cost of programmes necessary to make food

available (i.e., research on improved varieties, extension, cropping pattern, irrigation, etc) of mandated institutions; increase food accessibility (i.e., promotion of alternative income generation); and food utilisation.

The study will undertake the following activities:

- Review of existing agricultural technologies and available technical solutions to tackle climate change impacts and provide a projection of financial requirements for agricultural research and development in Bangladesh.
- Estimate projected financial requirements to adapt the water management system to respond to farmers' needs, promoting sustainable agriculture in the context of climate change.
- Identify adaptive strategies in the fisheries and livestock sector and estimate cost for adaptation.
- Review and analyse the Government of Bangladesh's capacities to monitor and promptly and effectively deal with environmental risks and prices volatility which may hamper availability and access to food and make recommendations.
- Identify measures to improve and protect livelihoods of socioeconomically vulnerable populations with a specific geographic focus on ecologically fragile areas and estimation of projected costs. Analyse present public food distribution system and make recommendations to build climate adaptive PFDS and increase capacity of PFDS to respond to shocks; improve the service delivery and governance of PFDS; cost effective storage and price stabilisation

measures, etc. to help protect livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

- One innovative feature of the study is that it will be conducted through involving stakeholders from the government, research organisations (particularly NARS institutions), universities and others.
- An inter-ministerial team will be formed under the leadership of MoEF to assist and provide policy guidance for the study. The Ministry of Environment and Forests will provide administrative support for conducting the research. IUCN Bangladesh shall support the research team in organising workshops, facilitating communications and, where necessary, providing technical support as requested by the research team.

Planning for Pro-poor Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Climate Sensitive Public Investment in Selected Sectors

Study Team:

S M Zulfikar Ali
Minhaj Mahmud
Nabiul Islam
Kazi Ali Toufique
Zaid Bakht
Pratima Paul Majumder
Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury

Sponsor: UNDP

Budget: Tk. 5.1 million

Time Frame: May 2011-November 2012.

The study focuses on climate mainstreaming of public investment projects, to bring flexibility in the project design, considering the uncertainty associated with impacts, adaptation and or mitigations costs of climate change, so that projects are climate sensitive as well as climate proofed in some cases. However, the choice between the two will

depend on understanding the nature of risks associated with climate change and its consequences on (a) project goals and objectives, and (b) poverty and livelihood of the poor, women and vulnerable groups.

The overall objective of the study is to review the Annual Development Programme (ADP) planning approval process (as reflected in the Development Project proposal, DPP) to recommend how pro-poor climate and environmental issues can be included in its approval process and ADP in the future by focusing on four selected sectors (viz., agriculture, water resources, rural development and institutions, and transport).

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Critically review the ADP for a few years and categorise them according to the type of vulnerability and adaptation needs as well as mitigation potentials;
- Select projects for more in-depth review from different sub-categories of projects from the chosen sectors keeping in mind the issues of pro-poor nature and gender sensitivity of the project activities;
- Review the DPP approval processes. The issues and conditions upon which the selection and approval of a project depends should also be reviewed;
- Recommend how selected projects can be modified to include the concerns related to pro-poor climate and environment issues;
- Indicate the nature and extent of the additional costs that may be required to integrate the pro-poor climate and environment issues in the selected projects;
- Suggest revisions to the DPP format and prepare guideline and/or checklist for the

ministry and planning commission officials incorporating a set of indicators that collectively ensure poverty reduction, sustainable environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation (wherever applicable), and disaster risk reduction;

- Test the revised draft DPP format and guideline/checklist through mentoring of the officials (from economic and other cadres) of the ministries and Planning Commission; and
- Finalise the revised final DPP format and guideline.

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Foreword

This Annual Research Programme (ARP) 2013-2014 of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) provides the highlights of the research agenda that the Institute intends to carry out during the period July 2013 to June 2014. It covers a total of 24 research studies, of which 3 studies are funded by the BIDS Research Endowment Fund (REF) while the remaining 21 studies are sponsored by government departments/agencies and national and international institutions. This, however, is not an exhaustive list of all research that BIDS will undertake since many other studies will be initiated during the year in response to emerging challenges and/or at the request of the government and other sponsoring agencies.

The ARP focuses on a number of major themes, such as *Macroeconomic Policy and Employment; Poverty, Marginality and Deprivation; Agriculture and Food Security; Education, Health and Social Development; Energy and Power Sector Issues; Industry and Services Sector Issues; Natural Resource Economics; and Climate Change Impacts*. This shows the multi-dimensional nature of the proposed research agenda and the wide spectrum of research activities that BIDS plans in order to meet its mandate.

BIDS publishes the ARP as a part of its commitment to establishing transparency and accountability to its stakeholders including researchers and policymakers who are working towards promoting evidence based policies in Bangladesh. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all my colleagues in BIDS who have cooperated and contributed to the preparation and publication of this research agenda. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Planning and Chairman of BIDS Board of Trustees and its distinguished members for their advice and guidance.

February 2014

Mustafa K. Mujeri
Director General

The *BIDS Annual Research Programme (ARP) 2013-2014* provides the summary information on the research studies that the Institute plans to undertake during the financial year 2013-14. The proposed research agenda covers priority issues in different aspects of the Bangladesh economy which have been grouped under various thematic areas, such as *Macroeconomic Policy and Employment; Poverty, Marginality and Deprivations; Agriculture and Food Security; Education, Health and Social Development; Energy and Power Sector Issues; Industry and Services Sector Issues; Natural Resource Economics; and Climate Change Impacts.*

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