

Report (Technical) on
Network Management
CapNet Bangladesh Activity 2017
November 2017



Submitted by
Secretariat, CapNet-Bangladesh



BANGLADESH CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

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1. Network management

BCAS as the secretariat of CapNet BD network maintains communication with the network members. BCAS is having consecutive informal and formal meetings with implementing network members. A small team consisting of three personnel of BCAS work on the network activities. One of them is engaged for regular communication and management. Two of the team members voluntarily support the secretariat of CapNet Bangladesh.

2. Members of CapNet –Bangladesh

CapNet Bangladesh composes two categories of members from the beginning. The Core Group members are the steering body to make decisions and plan the work plan. The general members are involved to share and disseminate experiences and lessons and plan new activities to strengthen the network and also put efforts towards sustainable water resources management in Bangladesh.

A. Core Group Members of CapNet – Bangladesh

CapNet-Bangladesh Core Group consists of well-established and reputed organizations on water sector. These organizations work on water related issues at both local and national level. There are 10 existing Core Group members including the Chairman and Manager of CapNet Bangladesh.

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B. General Members, CapNet Bangladesh

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3. Preparation of Work Plan, Implementation and Decision Making

CapNet Bangladesh develops its work plan and implementation mechanism engaging the core group member organizations. Some of the core group members including IWFM, BUET, CEGIS, IWM and BCAS are quite active in the development of work plan and also taking the lead in the implementation. The core group usually meet once in every year and initiate the implementation mechanism as soon as CapNet approves the work plan. However, in 2017, CapNet Bangladesh had one meeting of the members.

Cap Net Bangladesh Completed the following major activities in 2017

3.1. National Workshop on “Gender Consideration in Integrated Water Resource Management in Bangladesh”

As the secretariat of Cap Net-Bangladesh, BCAS in association Gender and Water Alliance - Bangladesh organized a two day long national workshop on ‘Gender Consideration in Integrated Water Resource Management’. The goal of this training of trainers’ course was to capacitate water professionals, capacity builders, local authorities and other stakeholders to ensure women involvement in the context of integrated water resources management. The aim of this workshop was to help policy makers and practitioners in developing strong evidence based, integrated, strategic approach to reducing gender discrimination and create equal space for men and women regarding IWRM which best suits their specific conditions and needs.

BCAS capacity building team reviewed the workshop topics, identified specific topics and invited the most relevant resource persons from different government organizations, international organizations (based in Bangladesh), academicians, researchers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and practitioners. A potential team of facilitators was formed based on professional and research experiences on Integrated Water Resource Management, climate change and adaptation, social and economic knowledge of Bangladesh etc.

A total of 36 Participants attended the workshop from government organizations, NGOs, INGOs and research organizations in this workshop. A separate report on the workshop was submitted to Cap Net HQ.

3.2. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP)

Of the total participants, 27 responded to the questionnaire; out of which, 20 are female. All the respondents are of Bangladeshi nationality, working in government and nongovernmental organizations in Bangladesh.

All participants who have responded to the questionnaire agreed that they have used the knowledge from the course to improve their working performance. When the respondents were asked to explain how they have done so, some respondents have mentioned that they have shared their learning outcomes from the workshop with their colleagues and have effectively incorporated this knowledge in their on-going research by reviewing existing research activities. This was useful in developing communication materials and reports, and arranging capacity building workshops. However, this was not only limited within office space but they also applied this knowledge in field level. Other respondents revealed that they do not have any on-going projects where this knowledge is applicable. So they have prepared proposals for future projects or at least found research interest in relevant topics. The most valuable learning outcome from this workshop is higher proficiency in addressing gender issues among respondents. This skill compliments activities in other researches as well since most projects in recent times are intended to be gender sensitive. The learning process in the workshop, particularly through interactions with various professionals were highly beneficial to the respondents.

Almost 80% of the respondents have shared or spread the knowledge from this workshop with their friends, colleagues, neighbours or family. One respondent has even shared her knowledge with her field staff and the training wing of her organization so that it can be further dissemination. Some of the respondents have also made an effort to make gender friendly sanitation facilities at their workplace. Other respondents have spread this knowledge through training sessions and lectures. While a limitation to using the knowledge was that the participants do not have relevant on-going activities, they have passed it on to their partner organizations, networks and alliances for utilizing this knowledge in their activities.

The final part of the questionnaire asked the participants whether they have identified any specific actions or positive changes in water resource management that were contributed by the knowledge that they gained and shared from the course. In response to this, only a third have responded that they have not observed any changes yet. Others explained the positive changes that they have observed in their personal and professional life by addressing gender issues in water resource management. Some of the noteworthy responses are quoted below:

- 1. My daughter, student of a very renowned college of Dhaka city started to raise her voice and counseling about the maintenance of menstrual cycle and its hygienic matters with the shortage of water and other logistics at college campus or any other places instantly.*

2. My neighbors including me are thinking about floating roof-top garden with maximum output of minimum water consume from the knowledge that I gained from the workshop and shared with neighbors.

– Nazmun Nahar Chowdhury

I have used my knowledge about Agricultural water use and water scarcity in irrigation field (Deficit irrigation, water stress, AWDFI, On-farm water management, saline and waste water management, water logging, drought and saline/coastal areas of Bangladesh under changing climate). I have also shared my knowledge about safe sanitation with my women scientists, staff and workers. In future, my gathered knowledge will be actively used in my organization.

- Dr. Abeda Khatun

3.3. Website Management

The network is being reviewed and updated regularly (www.capnet-bd.org).

3.4. Member's Meeting

Cap Net Secretariat organized a meeting with gender members on 26th April 2017. The meeting discussed a number of issues including the capacity building on IWRM with the local government organizations at District and sub-district level. It is mainly because they are practically involved with the implementation process. Majority of the members agreed that the capacity building is necessary in the coastal zone where livelihoods of the local communities are extremely challenged.