

Disability inclusive, flood resilient Cluster Village (Shahidul Islam, Project Officer, CDD, Gaibandha)

# Disability inclusive, flood resilient cluster village (Bangladesh)

"Protibandhita Bandhob Bonna Sohisnu Gucca Gram"

### DESCRIPTION

The inclusive, flood-resilient cluster village provides safe housing, food security and income generation for multiple families, including persons with disabilities, in a highly flood prone area of Gaibandha District in northern Bangladesh. The land was raised above flood level and is protected by deep rooted fruit trees to prevent soil erosion and provide income for the land users.

The inclusive, flood-resilient cluster village was introduced in a rural area with a high risk of recurring monsoon floods. The purpose of the technology is to provide safe housing, safe shelter for livestock, food security and income generation for ten families, including persons with disabilities.

The main components of the technology are:

1) The raising of a piece of land by seven feet (213cm), to three feet (91cm) above expected highest flood levels. Solid soil was banked up to encircle a 30'000 square feet (roughly 50x57m) piece of land and then the space within was filled up with sand collected from a nearby river bank. A one-foot layer of solid soil was added to cover the entire area.

2) The protection of the raised land from soil erosion during floods by planting a combination of deep-rooted fruit- and medicine trees around the border of the raised land. The trees include a number of different types of deep-rooted and light-rooted fruit trees and one type of medicine tree, Azadirachta Indica, locally known as "Neem". In addition, the slope of the border area was covered by grass turf to protect the soil from being washed out by rain. Two types of deep-rooted and flood resistant grasses were used. A drainage system was installed to facilitate water runoff.

3) The planting of a 150 square feet (14m2) commonly used homestead vegetable garden at the center of the cluster village. The cultivated vegetables include red spinach, jute leaf, basella leaf, spinach, radish, cabbage, okra, bottle-guts, cucumber and beans, allowing for a summer and a winter harvest. Together with the fruit trees, the vegetable garden provides food security during prolonged flooding. They also provide improved nutrition and income generating opportunities through selling of a part of the harvest in the market.

4) Making the village accessible for persons with disabilities through different accessibility measures, including the construction of a ramp, connecting the cluster village entrance with the road, and of accessible common Water-, Sanitation- and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, including a latrine, deep bore hole water source and water storage tank.

5) Installation of a solar panel to ensure uninterrupted, flood-resilient power supply. The level of power supply is sufficient to ensure coverage of electricity needs during flood season, when regular supply is around 15% below annual average.

The Cluster village was constructed as part of a disaster risk reduction project by CDD (Center for Disability in Development) from Bangladesh, with the support of CBM (Christoffel Blindenmission), an international development organization and funded by a donor from Germany. The main cost for inputs were provided to the land users by the project, including rent of construction machinery, paid labor, soil and construction material for the ramp and WASH facilities. The land users contributed labor and seedlings for the planning of the border trees and the homestead vegetable garden.

The main benefits of the technology from the perspective of land users are the protection it provides for houses and livestock, which would otherwise be in danger of loss during floods. The availability of food, water and electricity allows land users to remain in their homes during floods and avoid evacuation and the risk associated with it, including for example protection risks or the risk of theft. The flood protected vegetable gardens and fruit trees provide a year-round, sustainable source of food and income, providing food security and

#### LOCATION



Location: Horipur Union, Sundargonj Sub district,, Gaibandha District, Bangladesh

No. of Technology sites analysed: single site

Geo-reference of selected sites
89.56861, 25.53408

**Spread of the Technology:** applied at specific points/ concentrated on a small area

In a permanently protected area?:

Date of implementation: 2016

#### Type of introduction

through land users' innovation as part of a traditional system (> 50 years) during experiments/ research

through projects/ external interventions

improved nutrition. The Neem tree provides medical and hygiene uses of the branches and leaves.

The cluster village is used as a safe space for the land users and other members of the community and their livestock during floods. Land users who are persons with disabilities or elderly benefit from the accessible infrastructure. With multiple families sharing land, the cluster villages provides optimal utilization of land resources. An additional benefit mentioned by land users is that the joint use by multiple families led to a more progressive social culture.



Ramp connecting the main entrance of the cluster village to the road (Shahidul Islam)

# CLASSIFICATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY

#### Main purpose

## improve production

- reduce, prevent, restore land degradation
- conserve ecosystem
- protect a watershed/ downstream areas in combination with other Technologies
- preserve/ improve biodiversity
- reduce risk of disasters
- adapt to climate change/ extremes and its impacts
- mitigate climate change and its impacts
- create beneficial economic impact
- create beneficial social impact

## Purpose related to land degradation

# prevent land degradationreduce land degradation

reduce land degradation
 restore/ rehabilitate severely degraded land
 adapt to land degradation
 not applicable

#### SLM group

- improved ground/ vegetation cover
- cross-slope measure
- home gardens

## Land use



<u>- 'Purg</u> **Settlements, infrastructure** - Settlements, buildings

# Water supply

# rainfed

 mixed rainfed-irrigated full irrigation

## Degradation addressed



dad soil erosion by water - Wt: loss of topsoil/ surface erosion, ☞ Wr: riverbank erosion

#### SLM measures



**vegetative measures** - V1: Tree and shrub cover, V2: Grasses and perennial herbaceous plants



**structural measures** - S7: Water harvesting/ supply/ irrigation equipment, S8: Sanitation/ waste water structures, S9: Shelters for plants and animals, S10: Energy saving measures



**management measures** - M1: Change of land use type, M2: Change of management/ intensity level, M6: Waste management (recycling, re-use or reduce)

# TECHNICAL DRAWING

#### Technical specifications



The drawing shows the layout of the disability inclusive, flood resilient Cluster village. The components of the technology are:

Raised land/plinth: 1) Purchase of land of a total area of 18'000 square feet (ca. 40x40m). Land ownership transferred to joint ownership of 10 families. 2) Collect 15'000 cubic feet (425m3) of solid soil from different pieces of land in the community. The soil was donated by members of the community, who were either related to the land users of the cluster village or donated in support of the construction of a safe space which can be used by the community during floods. 3) Banking up of 3 feet (91cm) of solid soil along the borders of the land. 4) Filling of area with 140'000 cubic feet (3965m3) of sand, extracted from a nearby riverbank with a rented sand extraction machine, raising the land to 6 feet (183cm). 5) Covering the entire area with one additional foot of solid soil, rasing the land to 7 feet (213cm), which means 3 feet (91cm) above the maximum expected flood levels.

Soil protected through deep-rooted trees: 1) Planting of deep-rooted and light-rooted fruit trees, surrounding the entire border of the raised land. The trees include deep rooted fruit trees like mango, black berry, jack-fruit, guava, coconut and areca nut, light-rooted fruit trees like banana and Papaya, a deep-rooted medicine tree, locally called "Neem" and the light-rooted Dhol Kalmi tree (pink morning glory). The number of deep-rooted threes was 100, with a spacing of around 5 feet in between each. They were planted to cover the entire perimeter of the raised land. In between the deep-rooted trees, 60 light-rooted trees were planted. In front of the deep-rooted trees, 60 bamboo bushes were planted to provide additional protection from wind and rain. 2) Turfing of the entire slope surrounding the cluster village with two flood resistant grasses: Durva (Cynodon dactylon) and Catkin grass. 3) Installation of a central drainage system with 15 plastic pipes ensuring water runoff from the wastewater pond.

Road access through ramp: The connecting ramp of the cluster village is 90 feet length, 6 feet width. There are five landing point of this ramp with smooth slopping. The construction material includes class one brick, brick stone, cement, sand, polythene and red oxide color for color contrast, which is appropriate for low vision and visually impaired persons. There is a 5 inch border on both sides of the ramp for safe movement of a wheel chair user.

Accessible household water and sanitation facilities: Latrine and wash-room are constructed for every house in the cluster village, following universal design standards. Latrines are connected to the wash room and the main house through ramps. There is a railing on both sides of the latrine and the entrance is wider for access of a wheel chair users. Water system for the latrine and wash room is provided from a water tank on three pillars behind the latrine, which is also connected to the main house for provision of drinking water. The tank is filled by hand pump ('magic pump') which functions with minimal hand pressure. The WASH facilities are accessible and usable by everyone including persons with disabilities, pregnant women or aged persons.

Home vegetable gardens: Every household has an individual homestead vegetable gardens where land users cultivate seasonal vegetables year-round. Gardens vary in size between averaging about 1.5 decimal (60m2) in size and are surrounded by bamboo fencing. The land owners are using organic fertilizer/compost for the vegetable production of their choice. By using cow's manure and wastage they are producing the compost in the behind of their houses in a ditch.

Solar system: A mini solar system is installed on the roof for each house by using a small panel with a 12-volt battery . Each system has the capacity of providing power for light for 8 hours. An introduction to system maintenance was given to the land users by the provider of the solar system.



Author: Shahidul Islam

## ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE: ACTIVITIES, INPUTS AND COSTS

### Calculation of inputs and costs

- Costs are calculated: per Technology unit (unit: Cluster village volume, length: 18'000 square feet piece of land)
- Currency used for cost calculation: Bangladeshi Taka .
- Exchange rate (to USD): 1 USD = 80.0 Bangladeshi Taka
- Average wage cost of hired labour per day: 300

Most important factors affecting the costs

Market fluctuation and scarcity of goods in the flood season.

## Establishment activities

- 1. Selecting the place for cluster village construction (Timing/ frequency: During rainy season in 2015)
- 2. Establish collaboration with 10 families who will become land users (Timing/ frequency: December 2015)
- 3. Land Raising & Ramp construction (Timing/ frequency: December 2015 to March 2016)
- 4. Reconstruction the existing houses of the land users on the raised land (Timing/ frequency: April 2016, before onset of rainy season 2016)5. Planting of deep- and light-rooted fruits trees, bamboo bushes and grass turfing along the boundery (Timing/ frequency: February 2016 to
- March 2016) 6. Install accessible water & sanitation system (Timing/ frequency: April-June 2016)
- 7. Establish home garden in front of each house (Timing/ frequency: June-July 2016)
- 8. Install mini solar system for each house (Timing/ frequency: Aug-sep 2016)
- 9. Prepare livestock shed for each house (Timing/ frequency: October 2016)

## Establishment inputs and costs (per Cluster village)

Specify input	Unit	Quantity	Costs per Unit (Bangladeshi Taka)	Total costs per input (Bangladeshi Taka)	% of costs borne by land users
Labour	-		-	-	
Land raising, tree planting and turfing on slope	person days	290.0	300.0	87000.0	10.0
Ramp construction	person days	115.0	350.0	40250.0	10.0
House reconstruction and WASH facilities	person days	200.0	400.0	80000.0	10.0
Solar system installation	person days	10.0	300.0	3000.0	10.0
Equipment			-		
WASH equipment (latrine, magic pump, water tank, pipes, switch, pillars and other)	pieces	10.0	46658.0	466580.0	
Solar system	pieces	10.0	6300.0	63000.0	
Plant material			-		
Deep rooted trees	pieces	100.0	40.0	4000.0	100.0
Seed for vegetable	KG	5.0	1000.0	5000.0	100.0
Sapling purchase	pieces	100.0	50.0	5000.0	100.0
Light rooted tree	pieces	60.0	30.0	1800.0	
Fertilizers and biocides					
Organic fertilizer (compost)	KG	600.0	10.0	6000.0	100.0
Construction material		•	•	•	
Rent for shallow machine for sand extraction	Daily rent	10.0	28800.0	288000.0	
Grass turfing	square feet	15000.0	10.0	150000.0	
Allowance for house reconstruction material	House	10.0	2000.0	20000.0	
Ramp construction	Piece	1.0	125750.0	125750.0	
Other					
Project management (monitoring and support)	persons-days	180.0	2400.0	432000.0	
Total costs for establishment of the Technology					
Total costs for establishment of the Technology in USD					

Maintenance activities

1. Turfing: Repair leakages, replace grass etc. (Timing/ frequency: before onset of rains)

2. Tree maintenance: Cutting branches, manure of roots etc. (Timing/ frequency: Rainy season)

3. Vegetable gardening (Timing/ frequency: Summer & Winter season)

4. Housing repairs (Timing/ frequency: After harvesting season/ once in a year)

5. Water and Sanitation system servicing and repairs (Timing/ frequency: After harvesting season/once in a year)

6. Solar system maintenance (Timing/ frequency: Winter season/once in ayear)

7. Village group meeting for decision making and conflict resolution (Timing/ frequency: Once in a month)

8. Organic composting/fertilizer production (Timing/ frequency: Continuous)

#### Maintenance inputs and costs (per Cluster village)

Specify input	Unit	Quantity	Costs per Unit (Bangladeshi Taka)	Total costs per input (Bangladeshi Taka)	% of costs borne by land users
Labour					
House repairs	person days	10.0	300.0	3000.0	100.0
Ramp repairs	person days	10.0	300.0	3000.0	100.0
Plingth raising and plantation	person days	30.0	300.0	9000.0	100.0
Solar system servicing by technical experts	piece	10.0	500.0	5000.0	100.0
Plant material					
Seed for vegetable gardening	KG	5.0	1000.0	5000.0	
Construction material		-			
Soil for slope maintenance	square feet	5000.0	10.0	50000.0	
Sand for slope maintenance	KG	5000.0	2.0	10000.0	

<b>Total costs for maintenance of the</b> <i>Total costs for maintenance of the</i> T	<b>Technology</b>	<b>85'000.0</b> 1'062.5		
NATURAL ENVIRONMEN	NT			
Average annual rainfall < 250 mm 251-500 mm 501-750 mm 751-1,000 mm 1,001-1,500 mm 1,501-2,000 mm 2,001-3,000 mm 3,001-4,000 mm > 4,000 mm	Agro-climatic zone humid sub-humid semi-arid arid	<b>Specifications on climate</b> Heavy rainfalls are one of the c	auses for flooding	
Slope flat (0-2%) gentle (3-5%) moderate (6-10%) rolling (11-15%) hilly (16-30%) steep (31-60%) very steep (>60%)	Landforms ✓ plateau/plains ridges mountain slopes hill slopes footslopes valley floors	Altitude ✓ 0-100 m a.s.l. 101-500 m a.s.l. 501-1,000 m a.s.l. 1,001-1,500 m a.s.l. 1,501-2,000 m a.s.l. 2,001-2,500 m a.s.l. 2,501-3,000 m a.s.l. 3,001-4,000 m a.s.l. > 4,000 m a.s.l.	<ul> <li>Technology is applied in</li> <li>convex situations</li> <li>concave situations</li> <li>not relevant</li> </ul>	
Soil depth very shallow (0-20 cm) shallow (21-50 cm) ✓ moderately deep (51-80 cm) deep (81-120 cm) very deep (> 120 cm)	Soil texture (topsoil) coarse/ light (sandy) medium (loamy, silty) fine/ heavy (clay)	Soil texture (> 20 cm below surface) coarse/ light (sandy) medium (loamy, silty) fine/ heavy (clay)	Topsoil organic matter content ✓ high (>3%) medium (1-3%) low (<1%)	
Groundwater table on surface < 5 m 5-50 m > 50 m	Availability of surface water excess good ✓ medium poor/ none	<ul> <li>Water quality (untreated)</li> <li>good drinking water</li> <li>poor drinking water</li> <li>(treatment required)</li> <li>for agricultural use only</li> <li>(irrigation)</li> <li>unusable</li> <li>Water quality refers to:</li> </ul>	Is salinity a problem? Yes No No Occurrence of flooding Yes No	
Species diversity high medium Iow	Habitat diversity high medium v low			
CHARACTERISTICS OF L	AND USERS APPLYING THE	TECHNOLOGY		
Market orientation subsistence (self-supply) mixed (subsistence/ commercial) commercial/ market	Off-farm income less than 10% of all income 10-50% of all income ✓ > 50% of all income	Relative level of wealth very poor ≥ poor average rich very rich	<ul> <li>Level of mechanization</li> <li>manual work</li> <li>animal traction</li> <li>mechanized/ motorized</li> </ul>	
Sedentary or nomadic Sedentary Semi-nomadic Nomadic	Individuals or groups individual/ household groups/ community cooperative employee (company, government)	Gender women men	Age children ✓ youth ✓ middle-aged elderly	
Area used per household <ul> <li>&lt; 0.5 ha</li> <li>0.5-1 ha</li> <li>1-2 ha</li> <li>2-5 ha</li> <li>5-15 ha</li> <li>15-50 ha</li> <li>50-100 ha</li> <li>100-500 ha</li> <li>500-1,000 ha</li> <li>1,000-10,000 ha</li> <li>&gt; 10,000 ha</li> </ul>	Scale small-scale medium-scale large-scale	Land ownership state company communal/ village ✓ group individual, not titled individual, titled	Land use rights open access (unorganized) communal (organized) leased ✓ individual Water use rights open access (unorganized) communal (organized) leased ✓ individual	

## Access to services and infrastructure

health	poor	~			good
education	poor		~		good
technical assistance	poor	~			good
employment (e.g. off-farm)	poor	~			good
markets	poor	~			good
energy	poor	~			good
roads and transport	poor	~			good
drinking water and sanitation	poor			~	good
financial services	poor	1			good

# IMPACTS

Socio-economic impacts Crop production

	decreased 🗾 🖌 🖌 🖌	increased	of the cluster village. Because of decreased loss of home and property during floods, labor is freed for crop production which increased overall crop production in the wider area.
crop quality			
	decreased 🗾 🖌 🖌	increased	Fruit and vegetable quality is improved because of availability of Irrigation.
animal production	do avo oco d	in evo on o d	
	uecreased •	Increased	Livestock mortality rate is reduced because of safe space in Cluster village.
risk of production failure			
	increased 🗾 🖌 🖌	decreased	Homestead vegetable garden and fruit tree plantation above flood level has a significantly reduced risk of production failure.
product diversity			
	decreased 🖌 🖌 🖌	increased	The flood-protected homestead vegetable garden allows for higher product diversity.
production area (new land under cultivation/ use)	docropsod	incropsod	Increased evolution of flood weeks at a loved for vegetable
		Increased	gardening.
energy generation (e.g. hydro, bio)			
	decreased 🗾 🗸	increased	Energy supply was not available before installation of solar
drinking water availability			punct.
	decreased 🖌 🖌 🗸	Increased	Installation of deep tube well water source.
drinking water quality		in eve and d	
	uecreased •	Increased	flood protected water source in cluster village.
water availability for livestock	decreased	increased	
irrigation water availability		meredsed	Installation of deep tube well water source.
	decreased	increased	Irrigation available to land users after installation of deep
			tube well.
demand for irrigation water			
	increased 🗾 🖌 🗸	decreased	Demand for irrigation water increased because of vegetable garden.
farm income			<u> </u>
	decreased 🖌 🗸	increased	Increase of farm income through selling of fruit and
diversity of income sources			vegetables.
5	decreased	increased	Additional income source through selling of fruit and
			vegetables.
economic disparities			Decreased income disparities between the land users of
			the cluster village due to fruit and vegetable production
	increased 🗾 🖌 🗸	decreased	available to all land users, Decrease income disparities
			members of the communty because of the reduction of loss
			from flood damage.

Fruit and vegetable production increased after introduction

	increased 🖌 🗸	decreased	Somewhat increased workload for maintenance of technology but decreased because of avoidance of damaged from floods.
<b>Socio-cultural impacts</b> food security/ self-sufficiency			
haskh situation	reduced 🖌 🖌 🖌	improved	Increased food security through flood prodected homestead garden and tree plantation.
nealth situation	worsened	improved	Higher attendance of health workers because the cluster village offer suitable group meeting rooms and accomodation. Cluster village was constructed in vicinity of community clinic. Better hygiene through WASH facilities.
cultural opportunities (eg spiritual, aesthetic, others)	reduced	improved	The cluster village is a suitable meeting point for the entire community, for social gatherings or festivals.
	reduced	improved	Cluster village offers common space for children and other land users for Joint recreational activities.
situation of socially and economically disadvantaged groups (gender, age, status, ehtnicity etc.)	worsened	improved	Much improved situation for persons with disabilities who are part of the land users. All persons with disabilities in the wider community use the cluster village as a safe space during floods. Improved situation for all land users who are from marginalized parts of society (daily laborers and share croppers).
Ecological impacts			
	increased	decreased	Soil erosion during floods decreased because of deep- and light-rooted border tree plantation.
flood impacts	increased	decreased	Raised land as safe space above flood level.
drought impacts	increased 🖌 🖌	decreased	Drought impact in summer season decreased because of Irrigation.
<b>Off-site impacts</b> available shelter and safe space	decreased	increased	Cluster village provides additional safe space/shelter for the wider community.
COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS			
Benefits compared with establishme Short-term returns Long-term returns	nt costs very negative very negative	very positive very positive	
Benefits compared with maintenance Short-term returns Long-term returns	e costs very negative very negative	very positive very positive	
CLIMATE CHANGE			
Climate-related extremes (disasters) drought general (river) flood	not well at all	very well very well	
ADOPTION AND ADAPTATIC	DN		
Percentage of land users in the area Technology single cases/ experimental 1-10% ✓ 11-50% > 50%	who have adopted the	Of all th done so	ose who have adopted the Technology, how many have without receiving material incentives? % 0% 0% 00%

## Has the Technology been modified recently to adapt to changing conditions?

🗸 Yes No

### To which changing conditions?

# climatic change/ extremes

changing markets 1 labour availability (e.g. due to migration)

## CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

#### Strengths: land user's view

Ownership of the land user's are there. Its a community driven initiative & disability inclusive in all respect. They are happy to give shelter to the other villagers during flood season. There is an opportunity to create an example of a model village in this area.

### Strengths: compiler's or other key resource person's view

Its an innovative program. Peoples participation and their contribution is the main asset. Universal accessibility of the cluster village communicating benefit to other villagers during rainy as well as flood season. This pilot program can be replicated to other riverine areas in Bangladesh.

Peoples of cluster villages are selling vegetables and fruits in the local market and some of them are carrying the fruits in the distance market. They are becoming more interested to plant more fruit trees in the cluster village. If it is continue in future it would be a fruits and vegetable market in the cluster village. At the same time they started selling cows milk in the local market and its demand is increasing day to day.

#### Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's viewhow to overcome

• The intensity of floods is difficult to predict. With average flood levels rising, land users still have to live with the risk of flood levels going beyond the level of their rised land. More research on changing weather/climatic patterns and scientific measurement of expected flood levels.

#### Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: compiler's or other key resource person's viewhow to overcome

Government and Non government organizations extension services are not available in this area. Livelihood of the cluster village peoples depending on seasonal agriculture. Income raising multiple activity need to be introduces. A small scale disability inclusive comprehensive project could be implemented here.

# REFERENCES

Compiler Subir Saha Editors Subir Saha Manuel Rothe

Reviewer Alexandra Gavilano Joana Eichenberger

Last update: Nov. 8, 2021

Date of documentation: March 23, 2017

**Resource persons** 

Subir Saha - SLM specialist

Full description in the WOCAT database https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies\_2005/

## Linked SLM data

Approaches: Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/approaches/view/approaches\_2001/

## Documentation was faciliated by

Institution

Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) - Switzerland

Project

· Book project: where people and their land are safer - A Compendium of Good Practices in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (where people and their land are safer)

This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareaAlike 4.0
International

