Proceedings:
Introductory-planning Workshop
on
Technology identification and documenting for knowledge Bank for FoSHoL project

Facilitation:

Mr. Ahmad Salahuddin, Manager, Coordination and Capacity building, FoSHoL project, IRRI, facilitated the introductory planning workshop on technology identification and documentation for knowledge Bank from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on 15 December 2004 at IRRI meeting room, Banani, Dhaka.

Participants:

A total of 13 participants from IRRI, CARE Bangladesh, ActionAid Bangladesh, PROSHIKA, ITDG Bangladesh and AAS attended in the workshop.

Introductory Session:

The workshop was introduced and welcomed by Ahmad Salahuddin, Manager, Coordination and Capacity building, FoSHoL project, IRRI. He told that on behalf of IRRI we have signed a contract with AAS for four months (01 December, 2004 to 31 March, 2005) for technology identification and documenting in knowledge Bank. After Ahmad Salahuddin's introductory speech, participants introduced themselves in the workshop.

Then Dr. Noel P Magor said that the proposals of 4 disseminating NGOs are ready for final signing with EC. He mentioned that we would like to see ourselves as a team to recognize each other strength. He emphasized that through FoSHoL project recognized technologies will be identified and disseminated among the farmers in the target areas. Then he highlighted that AAS has been assigned for technology identification and documenting for knowledge Bank. He also mentioned that AAS was involved directly or indirectly with more than 10 PETRRA sponsored sub-projects. Moreover, Mr. Harun, ED of AAS, is an active member of BRKB, he is also member of focal area forum, thus it would be easier for him to discuss with the relevant stakeholders about the identification of the technologies.

Presentation by AAS:

After the introduction of the participants and introductory speech, Mr. Harun-Ar-Rashid ED, AAS, presented the process on technology identification and documentation for Knowledge Bank of FoSHoL project. He briefly explained the purpose and activities of each step of the "process" of technology identification for FoSHoL project. He also presented a schedule for arranging workshops in district level as well as central level. In his presentation, he proposed 14 district level workshops in the working areas of 4 disseminating NGOs all over Bangladesh and one central level workshop. He showed the district level workshop venues on Map. He also presented the proposed technologies

of 4 disseminating NGOs through reviewing their project proposals. He concluded that the proposed technologies of 4 disseminating NGOs (DNGOs) are found to be in general but not location specific.

Open discussions:

After the presentation of Mr. Harun-Ar-Rashid, ED, AAS, the participants especially 4 DNGOs shared their opinion and provided valuable suggestions. The comments and suggestions on the presentation, made by the participants during open discussion at the plenary session, are given below:

Comments and Suggestions:

A.CARE Bangladesh

(i) Technologies can be collected from research institutes, extension departments, relevant GOs, medias (e.g., **Mati-O-Manush**) and NGOs through validation with farmers at community level.
(ii) Farmer's voice, perception, need, contrast etc need to be brought under consideration during technology identification followed by selection for FoSHoL project.
(iii) Technology selection approach should be bottom-up at beginning of the project cycle.
(iv) Selected technology should be location specific within the proposed project areas.
(v) Inventory resource on selected technologies can be used by the DNGOs during implementation of the project.
(vi) Both farmers and representatives of DNGOs can be participated in the workshops at district level. But participation of partner organizations of CARE will be possible after their final selection.

B. ActionAid Bangladesh

(i) Technology will be identified through farmers need assessment at community in the project areas of ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB). Location specific technology will be finalized through further validation with farmers at each community in the FoSHoL project areas of AAB.
(ii) Discussions with relevant persons/organizations need to be done to identify the technologies suitable for the target farmers in the project areas.
(iii) Locally adapted technology must need to be documented and can be shared during technology selection and dissemination among the target farmers in the project areas.
(iv) Technology can be identified through searching at selected villages and upazilas in each project districts of AAB.
(v) AAB will host farmer's discussion meeting at selected villages with full cooperation of PNGOs of FoSHoL project in target areas. AAB and its PNGOs will provide all sort of cooperation for conducting FGD at village level, pre-workshop discussion meeting with relevant stakeholders at district and district level workshops during technology identification for the farmers in the project areas.

(vi) Planning on technology identification in AAB working area will be done during " Partnership identification workshop" scheduled on 23 December 2004 at FoSHoL project office, Dhaka.

C. ITDG Bangladesh

(i) ITDG has their own process to select the appropriate technologies and they will use their well-established process to select the technologies for the target farmers of FoSHoL project in Faridpur and Jamalpur areas.
(ii) ITDG will offer the proven technologies from its own and partner NGOs among the target farmers of FoSHoL project.
(iii) Farmer's voice will be considered during technologies identification and selection for FoSHoL project.
(iv) ITDG will provide all sort of assistance during technology identification for FoSHoL project in Faridpur and Jamalpur areas through assigning a responsible person at its Dhaka office. Moreover, PNGOs of FoSHoL project will also provide assistance during discussion meetings with targeted stakeholders at community, upazila and district levels followed by district workshops in Faridpur and Jamalpur districts.

D. PROSHIKA

(i) The technologies are readily available with GOs (Agri-research institutes, DAE etc) will be offered among the project selected farmers in the target areas of FoSHoL project.
(ii) Technologies are used by the innovative farmers will be identified for dissemination among the selected farmers in the target areas of FoSHoL project.
(iii) Number of district workshops can be reduced up to 10 Nrs. (Preferably between 4-6 Nrs) from 14 Numbers.
(iv) Assistance can be provided to AAS during technology identification through PROSHIKA central office initiative.

E. IRRI

(i) Presently, PETRRA findings/experiences can be collected and DNGOs can start their activities with those technologies and materials. Similarly, AAS prepared inventory technologies can be used by the DNGOs as the starter menu of the FoSHoL project.
(ii) There are so many technologies are available in the country, but most of them are not location specific. In the project proposals of four DNGOs, it is distinct that the target farmers are key players of FoSHoL project and technologies are also available and all those technologies matching need to be location specific and farmers demand driven basis.
(iii) Selected technologies should be suitable for poor, marginal and small farmers in the target areas of FoSHoL project.

(iv) Inventory on technologies should be well documented for use during and beyond the project cycle.
(v) Innovative farmer's local knowledge should be collected and documented for its wide scale use by the farmers in target areas of FoSHoL project.
(vi) Inventory on expertise need to be documented for further use by the relevant stakeholders of FoSHoL project.
(vii) Central workshop would be very much learning session on technology identification process of FoSHoL project for most of the central staffs of four DNGOs of FoSHoL project.
(viii) DNGOs can be introduced with Focal Area Forum (eg. Northeast, Northwest, Southwest etc) at the beginning of the FoSHoL project cycle.
(ix) All disseminating NGOs are looking forward for the synergies that will bring the learning coming out from each other and also have their potential to work with and IRRI will coordinate the creativity of each partner.
(x) Technology identification would be more productive, if DNGOs and their PNGOs take leadership during stakeholders meeting and district workshops.
(xi) All relevant stakeholders and personnel need to be invited in the district workshops.
(xii) Duration of each district workshop would be one day long.

F. Overall:

1. The participants of the planning workshops unanimously accepted the presented "process" on technology identification and documenting for knowledge bank with necessary modification.
2. The participants of the workshop also endorsed "three steps process" of technology identification from representative districts of the targeted 30 districts of FoSHoL project all over the country.
3. The relevant agricultural technological materials readily available for the use of the targeted farmer's need to be collected from any possible source in any format (hard copy, soft copy etc) for documenting in knowledge bank.
4. The validation on selected technology and technological materials by the participants (Secondary stake holders) in the central workshop need to be avoided, since the approach is found as top-down approach.

List of Participants:

1. Mahbubul Islam Khan, Governance Coordinator, CARE
2. A. K.M. Hasan Sayed, Coordinator, Proshika Social Forestry
3. Masud Alam Khan, Manager, FoSHoL, AAB
4. Md. Harun-Ar-Rashid, ED, AAS
5. Mr. Partha Hefaz Shaikh, Coordinator, M & E Unit, AAB
6. Ms. Veena Khaleque, Country Director, ITDG
7. Md. Sazzad Hossain Miah, ITDG
8. A K M Ferdous, ZA, AAS
9. Deb Kumar Nath, Irrigation Engineer, AAS
10. Noel P Magor, IRRI Representative and Manager FoSHoL IRRI
11. Ahmad Salahuddin, Manager Coordination and Capacity Building, FoSHoL IRRI
12. Mr. Mamunul Haque, Assistant Manager, Communications, FoSHoL IRRI
13. Shaila Arifa Nabi, Researcher, FoSHoL, IRRI