

a result of which the system can contribute a larger extent in rural development of Bangladesh.

14.02 In brief the achievement of PRDP approach on social, economic and other related fields in rural development are as follows :

- i) The main theme of the approach is to motivate people to voluntarily undertake efforts for resolving the scattered infrastructural challenges such as construction of roads, culverts, river and palisade, excavation and re-excavation of derelict tanks, ponds canal etc.
- ii) The approach leads the gram/para people to derive maximum benefit from their own resources. The model is an initiative to encourage people for using their limited means effectively.
- iii) It establishes economic and social tie among the people of the area through different development activities.
- iv) The village committee constituted as a non-formal council of village leaders irrespective of sex and status. The practice of regular attendance in the village committee meetings and monthly Union Coordination Meetings strengthen the linkage and service delivery to the villagers. The news bulletin containing NBDs participation/visit, introduction of new variety, use of pesticides, fertilizer etc. in different fields acts future guide for the villagers.
- v) The close link system between the village committee and the union coordination meeting establishes vertical and horizontal coordination. The UP has been effectively modified to operate as a nucleus of development activities in addition to its present normal functions.

15.00 FIELD OBSERVATION

15.01 BAU in collaboration with JICA identified some key clues/problems in the arena of rural development in Bangladesh after 4 years of research. Based on the clues BARD experimented for another 4 years to find a model appropriate to cope with the clues. Link model" was the key out come of the experiments. Research-experiments-piloting were the steps of the project. BAU created the parts, BARD shaped it into body and BRDB is driving as the pilot. BRDB has been piloting the link model for last two years like a drop of water of an ocean. It is yet to be matured for replication. However expansion as model it in recommended to expand the project in the whole area of Tangail district.

15.02 Project interventions promoted social capital in the community throng self help and mutual help. Common interests are being recognized through discussions in the village committee meetings and realized by themselves by mutual help and project supports. Capacity of



the poor people in local level planning, designing, estimating costs and implementing the micro scheme are being built and enhanced substantially.

15.03 Attitude to evade taxes remarkably reduced at the project at the project villages. The people are required to clear their taxes before approval of any micro schemes which are undertaken with supports from PRDP. The schemes covers common interests of the villagers such as para roads, culvert, repair roads, repair school, hat, bazar and post office etc which are neither considered by any government or non-government organizations.

16.00 Lesson learned :

16.01 Village Committee :

16.01.1. An informal institution under the name of Village Committee is being organized by the villagers themselves. VC members are being selected from among the villagers at the general meeting where the representatives from 2/3 of all the households in the Para are present on the basis of popularity and social groups.

16.01.2 The VC acts as a media of linkage and facilitates service delivery of NBDs, Union Parishad and NGOs.

16.01.3 NBDs' field workers as well as the NGO staff use the VC meeting as a vehicle to transfer their information and delivery of inputs. They can now contact more recipients than before. The villagers can get the services from their door steps. Now the service providers go to the recipients not the recipients to the providers, as the bank goes to the poor people not the people go to the bank under the Grameen bank concept.

16.01.4 Through frequent contacts between service providers and VCs, some of the NBDs field workers act as general advisors for village development even beyond their respective fields of specialization.

16.01.5 It was found that a less active VC was reactivated when some members of a more active VC were present at the VC meeting. This indicates a healthy competition among different villages in forming VCs.

16.02 Village Schemes

16.02.1 Project interventions promoted social capital in the community through self help and mutual help. Common interests are being recognized through discussions in the village committee meetings and realized by themselves by mutual help and project supports. Capacity of the poor people in local level planning, designing, estimating costs and implementing the micro schemes are being built and enhanced substantially. Attitude to evade taxes remarkably reduced at the project villages. The people clear their taxes before implementation of any micro schemes.

