Proceedings of the training of community survey enumerators for the socio-economic component of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory

Bangladesh Forest Department
08-09 January 2018

The Forest Department of Bangladesh leads actions to improve forest management and conservation, adopting forward thinking, innovative approaches in its management of approximately 1.55 million hectares of land across the country.

In 2015, the Forest Department began a process to establish a National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System for improved forest and natural resource management. The process supports national objectives related to climate change mitigation and provides information in support of the UN-REDD programme aimed at Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The process also addresses domestic information needs and supports national policy processes related to forests and the multitude of interconnected human and environmental systems that forests support.

The activities implemented under the Bangladesh Forest Inventory process are collaboration between several national and international institutions and stakeholders. National partners from multiple government departments and agencies assist in providing a nationally coordinated approach to land management. International partners, including the United Stated Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are supporting the development of technical and financial resources that will assist in institutionalizing the process.

The results will allow the Forest Department to provide regular, updated information about the status of trees and forests for a multitude of purposes including for assessment of role of trees for firewood, medicines, timber, and climate change mitigation.

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Executive Summary

Tree and forest plays an important role for the livelihood improvement of the people. The people particularly rural people are directly or indirectly dependent on tree and forest resources such as food, income and energy. To understand the interaction between tree and forests and people as well as assessing the tree and forest resources, Bangladesh Forest Department in close collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been implementing Bangladesh Forest Inventory (BFI) project since 2015. The BFI is considered a multi-purpose process and will provide sound baseline information on forest and tree resources and related socioeconomic data and will assist the establishment of a long-term monitoring system of forests.

With a view to achieve the goal of BFI, a four-day (January 08-09, 2018) training of community survey enumerators for the socio-economic component of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory was organized at Banabhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka. The main objective was to provide intensive training to the community survey enumerators for quality data collection from the field as well as capacitate to do the works. A total of 14 participants (male-8 and female- 6) from Center for Natural Resources Studies CNRS attended the two days training (the list of participants is provided annex 2). The training was organized in 4 session's different sessions and the agenda is provided in annex 1. Community survey enumerators were trained about field data collection through community interview, interview techniques, map reading, land cover class, ecosystem services from tree and forest resources. The training materials will be available as a book titled "Training materials for the socio-economic component of the Bangladesh forest inventory-concepts, planning and procedures".

Community survey through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) is to collect information about the general use of and contribution of tree and forest resources in the community. It provides an efficient and fast way to capture information about some general patterns in the community than the household survey. A total 100 FGDs will be conducted across the five zones: 20 in each zone. The enumerators learned about quality data collection through using paper form the training and will contribute in future for socioeconomic field data collection.

Contents

Acronyms

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BFD	Bangladesh Forest Department
BFI	Bangladesh Forest Inventory
CNRS	Center for Natural Resource Studies
ES	Ecosystem Services
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GPS	Global Positioning System
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
REDD+	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

1. Introduction

Bangladesh Forest Inventory (BFI) aims at regularly assess the status of trees and forest nationally and will provide sound baseline information on forest and tree resources and related socioeconomic data as well as assist the establishment of a long-term monitoring system of forests. The BFI is implementing by the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD), with the technical support of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is implementing a project named "Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System in support of REDD+ in Bangladesh".

The biophysical data and information are currently being collected through a comprehensive nationwide inventory of forest and tree resources by dividing the whole country into five forest zones, namely, Hill, Sal, Coastal, the Sundarbans and Village. The socio-economic survey will be conducted in the same zones to a total of 6400 households. The survey will also include 100 focus group discussion (FGD).

For conducting the socio-economic survey, FAO has hired the Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) as the Service Provider (SP) through a competitive bidding process. The SP will do the HH survey with five teams, each containing four enumerators and a team leader. In case of community survey, there will be two team, each containing one FGD coordinator, one rapporteur and one moderator. FAO has organized a training event for the socio-economic community survey so that they can carry out their respective tasks efficiently. The training agenda is presented in Annex 1.

2. Objectives of the training

The objectives were to:

- Inform the socio-economic community survey enumerators to their respective roles and responsibilities;
- Train the community survey enumerators, and submit the collected data and information to FAO efficiently and in a transparent manner, and;

This proceedings reflect the training activities provided to the socioeconomic community survey enumerators during 8-9 January 2018 by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with Forest Department held at Bana bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka. The training sessions are described below.

3. Activities

3.1. Day 1: Opening session, introduction of community survey questionnaire
Date: January 08, 2018

The training session was opened by Kristofer Johnson, international consultant of BFI followed by a welcome speech by Mr. Nikhil Chakma, Socioeconomic consultant of BFI. Mr. Johnson described the importance of socioeconomic survey and the role of enumerator for socioeconomic data collection. He emphasized to collect the authentic data from the community survey and instructed to receive the training attentively so that quality data collection is ensured. Finally, he thanked the participants to attend the training session and opened the training session.

Dr. Laskar M. Rahman also spoke during the opening session and mentioned his experiences during the socioeconomic data collection. He requested to the enumerators to provide authentic and quality data so that effective plan and decision can be taken for the tree and forest dependent people.

After basic and introduction session, Mr. Nikhil briefed about training course, objectives of Bangladesh forest inventory, socioeconomic survey objectives and discussed about community questionnaire. A copy of survey questionnaire was distributed among the participants to understand.

3.2. Fill up the community survey questionnaire

Mr. Nikhil discussed about the community survey questionnaire sections and how to fill up the survey questionnaire using the paper form. Community survey questionnaire is also linked with identified criteria and indicators. The sections are

1. Area identification including participant information

2. Biodiversity and conservation

3. Economics and livelihood

4. Measuring progress towards sustainable forest management

     -forest management by community people

     -Illegal activities related to tress and forests

     -enforcement of laws related to trees and forests

5. REDD+ safeguards

Then enumerators role played the community survey questionnaire using the paper form during the day 1. Each of the section was discussed and enumerators became aware and understand how to perform the community survey in the field.

3.3. Day 2: Protocol of community survey

Mr. Nikhil facilitated day-1 recap and discussed the day 2 sessions. Then he discussed protocol of community survey enumerators. Enumerators learned how to conduct survey and data collection through using FGD methodology. The main protocols are:

Introducing everyone

A typical FGD starts with the self-introduction of all people present in the discussion. Even though, this group should be composed of people from all corners of the society, forest dependent people should dominate the group.

An Introductory lecture

The speaker or facilitator must deliver a preliminary lecture to the focus group (FG) detailing the objectives of the FGD. Local dialect and zone-specific example and interpretation are likely to help much in this regard.

Question-specific instructions

There are `question-specific' instructions in the questionnaire. These instructions usually allow a consistency check that has to be made at the time of the interview, or tell how to record an answer.

Neutral probing methods

It is always very important to use neutral probes. By `neutral', we mean that you must not imply to the respondent that you expect a particular answer or that you are dissatisfied with an answer. The reason for probing is to motivate the respondent to answer fully or precisely without introducing bias. Bias is the distortion of responses caused by the interviewer favoring one answer to another.

Ensure active engagement by all participants

It is important that team members work together to ensure that all participants are equally involved in the discussion.

Record all the information

The entire discussion and all points raised should be recorded, because the process is based on open, close or guiding questions, to ensure nothing is missed or points taken out of context.

Number the session and its duration

The duration can vary depending on the dynamics of the participants, but ideally an FGD takes between 60 and 90 minutes. The first session may take a little longer when people are new to the process

3.3. Map reading and cover class

At the second half, Mr. Rajib introduced how to use GPS for locating the HH location, how to navigate, and inserting GPS coordinate into the GPS device as well as maintenance. Participants were able to use GPS for navigating the coordinates. Then Mr. Nikhil took training session on map reading, components of maps as well as identifying land cover in the map. After training the session, participants exercised to identify land cover, map scale and map coordinates.

4. Next steps
CNRS will submit the community survey work plan by 15 January 2018 and FAO will provide the survey instruments within 20 January 2018. The community survey will start after 20 January 2018 starting from Coastal and Sundarbans zone.

5. Conclusion
Community survey is an effective tools to collect the socioeconomic information from the particular zones. The training programme was important where enumerators learned about quality data collection through using paper form to fulfill the socioeconomic component of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory.

Annex 1: Agenda

Time	Subject	Resource persons	Goal/Comment
Day 1: 08 January			
9.30 – 9.45	Inauguration	Laskar, Nikhil	Guests and CNRS
9.45-10.00	Introduction of the participants	**Nikhil,** Rajib and Falgoonee	
10.00 – 10.30	Brief on training course, ground rules	**Nikhil and Rajib**	
10.30 – 11.00	Bangladesh Forest Inventory Project: What is it about, objectives, biophysical and socio-economic components, time frame	**Nikhil and Rajib**	
11.00 – 11.15	Tea break		
11.15 – 12.10	Socio-economic survey: what is it about, objectives, link with biophysical component, scope, design	**Rajib and Nikhil**	
12.10 – 1.00	Organization of survey implementation, duties and responsibilities of team leaders and field enumerators, what is expected from them	**Nikhil, Rajib**	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and prayer		
14.00 – 16.30	Community survey questionnaire and role play	**Nikhil,** Rajib and Falgoonee	
Day 2: 09 January 2018			
9.00 – 9.15	Recap of Day 1	Enumerators	
9.15 – 9.30	Use of GPS	**Rajib** and Falgonee	
9.30 – 10.00	Land cover classes	Hira, Nikhil, Rajib	Discussion on each question and role play
10.00-11.00	Map reading	Hira, Nikhil, Rajib	Discussion on each question and role play
11.00 – 11.15	Tea		
11.15 – 13.00	Map reading, land class role play	**Rajib, Nikhil**	Discussion on each question and role play
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and prayer		
14.00 – 14.30	Community survey protocol	**Rajib, Nikhil** and Falgoonee	
14.30 – 15.00	Movement plan and next step	Nikhil, Rajib	
15.00 – 15.30	Movement plans	**Falgoonee,** Nikhil	
15.30-16.00	Training ending formalities	**Nikhil**, Kris, Falgoonee	
16.0-16.30	Tea and end of the training program		

Annex 2: List of Participants

Sl#	Name of participants	Gender	Designation and organization	Mobile number	Email address	Signature
1	Modasser Hossain	M	Program Officer, CNRS	0171642304	lipu.es@gmail.com	
2	Zannatul Ferddous	F	CNRS	01716511918	zshikha@yahoo.com	
3	SM Saiful Alam	M	CNRS	01712821741	saiful.cnrs@gmail.com	
4	Nazmoon Naher	F	CNRS	01732141640	nazmoon25@gmail.com	
5	Ashrafeen Haque Shika	F	CNRS	01719667817		
6	Abu Hasan	M	CNRS	01711374814	Hasanrinto49@gmail.com	
7	Shamima Sultanan	F	CNRS	01714378997	ssbonny_2009@yahoo.com	
8	Riazul Haque	M	CNRS	01738347744	Riazulhaque478@yahoo.com	
9	Mamataz Akter	F	CNRS	01715244457		
10	M. Anisul Islam	M	Director, CNRS	01711813407	anis@cnrs.org.bd	
11	Nikhil Chakma	M	FAO	01556371965	Nikhil.chakma@fao.org	
12	Rajib Mahamud	M	FAO			
13	Srabanti Hira	F	FAO			
14	Rashed Jalal	M	FAO			

Training Evaluation Findings

L1_		1	Male	6	86%
L1_		2	Female	1	14%
			How often do you participate in training related to forest monitoring?		
Q1_	1		First time	6	86%
Q1_	2		1-3 every year	1	14%
Q1_	3		More than 3 per year	0	0%
Q1_	4		Regularly (approximately one per month)	0	0%
			I would describe myself as?		
Q2_	1		A professor/academic	2	29%
Q2_	2		A student	0	0%
Q2_	3		Forest Department staff	3	43%
Q2_	4		Government staff (outside Forest Department)	2	29%
Q2_	5		NGO staff	0	0%
Q2_	6		Private consultant	0	0%
Q2_	99		Other	0	0%
					0%
			My professional background relates most closely to:		
				TRUE	
Q3_1	1		Forester	5	71%
Q3_2	2		GIS/RS	0	0%
Q3_3	3		Statistics	0	0%
Q3_4	4		Social survey/assessment	0	0%
Q3_5	5		Economics	0	0%
Q3_6	6		Natural Resource Management	1	14%
Q3_7	7		Ecology	0	0%
Q3_99	99		other	1	14%
			My years of relevant experience is:		
Q4_		1	1-2 years	1	14%
Q4_		2	3-5 years	1	14%
Q4_		3	5-7 years	0	0%
Q4_		4	8-10 years	2	29%
Q4_		5	More than 10 years	3	43%
			The training was relevant to my daily work		

Q5_	1	Strongly agree	1	14%
Q5_	2	Agree	5	71%
Q5_	3	Neutral	0	0%
Q5_	4	Disagree	1	14%
Q5_	5	Strongly disagree	0	0%
		I had enough previous knowledge to understand the content of the event		
Q6_	1	Strongly agree	2	29%
Q6_	2	Agree	3	43%
Q6_	3	Neutral	1	14%
Q6_	4	Disagree	1	14%
Q6_	5	Strongly disagree	0	0%
		The training met my expectations in terms of the content and learning outcomes		
Q7_	1	Strongly agree	3	43%
Q7_	2	Agree	4	57%
Q7_	3	Neutral	0	0%
Q7_	4	Disagree	0	0%
Q7_	5	Strongly disagree	0	0%
		The learning resources provided were adequate and useful		
Q8_	1	Strongly agree	5	71%
Q8_	2	Agree	2	29%
Q8_	3	Neutral	0	0%
Q8_	4	Disagree	0	0%
Q8_	5	Strongly disagree	0	0%
		The resource person presented information in a way that i could understand and was easy to follow		
Q9_	1	Strongly agree	4	57%
Q9_	2	Agree	3	43%
Q9_	3	Neutral	0	0%
Q9_	4	Disagree	0	0%
Q9_	5	Strongly disagree	0	0%
		I feel confident to be able to carry out the tasks described in the training without supervision.		
Q10_	1	Strongly agree	0	0%
Q10_	2	Agree	5	71%

Q10_	3	Neutral	0	0%
Q10_	4	Disagree	2	29%
Q10_	5	Strongly disagree	0	0%
		I was pleased with the venue/meeting room/snacks etc		
Q11_	1	Strongly agree	1	14%
Q11_	2	Agree	6	86%
Q11_	3	Neutral	0	0%
Q11_	4	Disagree	0	0%
Q11_	5	Strongly disagree	0	0%
Q12		Are there other people/agencies/organisations that you think should have been included in the training?		
		Yes, the NGOs representatives and the environment journalists etc.		
Q13		Any other comments?		
		Homestead plantations are known to serve as the major source of firewood and timber to the rural households throughout Bangladesh including the forest zones. Therefore, the questionnaire of the socio-economic survey should have included some questions to capture information on current stock and species diversity of the trees and shrubs in the homesteads of the respondents and the contribution of the latter to their household fuel supply in all the zones.		