



Proceedings of the refreshment course on Bangladesh Forest Inventory



Bangladesh Forest Department
22 – 24 October 2016



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 States 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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Disclaimer

This report is designed to reflect the activities and progress related to the project GCP/GD/058/USAID “Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Satellite Forest Monitoring System in support of REDD+ in Bangladesh”. This report is not authoritative information sources – it does not reflect the official position of the supporting international agencies including USAID or FAO and should not be used for official purposes. Should readers find any errors in the document or would like to provide comments for improving its quality they are encouraged to contact one of above contacts.

Executive Summary

Forest inventory has been designed under a project titled “Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System in support of REDD+ in Bangladesh (2015-2018)” of Bangladesh Forest Department.

For the proper implementation of the BFI, refreshment course for ToT was organised on 22-24 October 2016 involving FD officials, BFI QA/QC Coordinators, Academics and FAO. The refreshment course was facilitated the discussion on preparation and finalization of the training materials for the implementation of full training involving the field crews on 02-08 November 2016 for field inventory data collection.

Altogether 19 participants were attended in the refreshment course. Discussion among the participants supported to finalize the training materials and ensured better preparation for the BFI training.

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1. Introduction

In 2015, the Forest Department began a process under a project titled “Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Satellite Forest Monitoring System in support of REDD+ in Bangladesh” to establish a National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System for improved forest and natural resource management. The process 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 Manual developed for data collection on different bio-physical variables will be used to train the field crews for data collection (BFD 2016).

The Manual for the Bangladesh Forest Inventory (BFI) prepared with support from Forest Department, USFS/ SilvaCarbon, FAO and Universities. The manual explains field personnel in how to locate and measure field plots and document the field procedures, methods, and codes used in the inventory. It is complemented by other manuals for the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) (Jalal, Iqbal et al. 2016), the manual for the use of the GPS (Costello 2015), the manual for the soil component under preparation by SRDI (Sidik 2016).

Three days refreshment course was designed for the development of the training material using the BFI manual for organising the training on BFI.

2. Objectives

The objective of the refreshment course was to develop the training materials so that participants will fully aware of the related topics and be able to provide training on BFI. The specific objectives were to:

- Develop and finalize the training materials
- Building capacities of the participants to provide training

3. Summary

BFI training is scheduled to be organised on 2nd November 2016. Therefore it was decided to develop the training material engaging FD, Universities, FAO, USFS/Silvacarbon to better explain the methods to the field crews for data collection. Discussions on the BFI variables were done for further clarification among the participants. Several options were suggested to present the training materials and the slides were finalized for BFI training. The training materials developed for BFI training was as follows:

- Overview of the BFI manual
- BFI design & plot Data Collection from different zone
- Subplot Measurements
- Field data collection using Field Forms and Open Foris

- Review and operation of field equipment & maintenance
- Land Feature data collection
- Measurement of tree and sapling attributes
- Seedling Measurements
- Bamboo Measurements
- Soil, litter and down wood sampling
- Specimen collection botanical identification

Followings are the snap shots on the presentations were finalized during the refreshment course:





The participants involved in the refreshment course will act as the resource person during the BFI training to be held on 02-08 November 2016. This course helped the participants to better understand the content of the BFI manual and deliver the presentations.

4. Conclusion:

The refreshment course supported to better organise the training materials for the upcoming BFI training that is scheduled to be held on November. Discussion of the training materials for finalization helped the QA/QC Coordinators, Academics, FAO officials to better understand the content and the context of the forests in Bangladesh for supporting the BFI training as resource person. The training materials will be printed and archived in library for future use.

Appendix 1:**Participant list**

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation | Mobile No. |
|---------|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1. | Mr. Md. Salahuddin | DFO/Chittagong Hill Tracts South Division | 01712263767 |
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