

ADPC team shares Georgia Tech CFAN-FFWC flood forecast information in an evening meeting in Uria union of Gaibandha:

As the flood forecasts from the FFWC and Georgia Tech's CFAN continues to provide further updates on river water level, ADPC team continues to visit remote areas and vulnerable communities to observe forecast information flow, likely impacts, and people's local level response options in pre-flood situation. In a community level interaction in the evening time in Uria union (one of the most vulnerable and exposed unions and a pilot areas of CFAB project) of Gaibandha district, ADPC team shared flood forecasting information that were received from FFWC and CFAB respectively for 48 hours and of ten days lead-time. Pilot sites received a four-day forecast from CEGIS and through a SMS protocol. Local representative pointed out that there has been a great need of forecast with relatively longer lead time such as 10-day forecast on a regular manner. The immediate 48 hours and flag hoisting method helps them to know about their immediate threats but a 10-day or longer forecast would give people a greater option of reducing risks to their agriculture, fisheries, livestock and other major livelihoods activities. 10 days forecast has significant potential to save livelihoods and maintain economic good. The economic and social impact of the flood can be significantly reduced at local level based on the indication and idea of the flood timing and height.

ADPC team discusses forecasting with vulnerable communities and among “handloom workers” in Sirajgonj district:

Handloom workers contribute largely towards the local economy of Sirajgonj district and at the same time they were found largely exposed to the flood risks. ADPC team discussed forecasts and enquired about their likely impacts and response options. It was found that handloom workers would be largely benefited if a longer indication of flood timing and the height is provided to them on a regular basis. It would enhance their preparedness measure and can be adjusted with their market and production in a systematic manner.



Picture 2-4: team members consulting flood forecasting information and likely impacts with local communities and handloom workers in Sirajgonj district.



Picture 1: ADPC professionals teamed up with local NGOs and UP and consulted forecasting issues in an evening meeting at Uria union of Gaibandha district..

Likely impacts and response options emerged from discussions:

In various discussions with the local communities and officials in the flood risk areas in Sirajgonj, Gaibandha and Bogra a substantive amount of information were collected on the likely impacts of the current flood on the agriculture, fisheries, livestock, households and on various economic and social forms.



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Likely impacts:

Agriculture:

- T-Aman damage (standing crop)
- Likely shortage of sidling in coming weeks
- Seedbed damage
- Loss of fertilizer that has already been used in T-Aman cultivation
- Hindrance in jute processing
- Summer vegetable damage
- Homestead garden damage

Livestock and fisheries

- Animal death
- Shortage of fodder
- Animal disease
- Loss of capture fisheries
- Difficulties in transporting domestic animals and fish

Economic, social and other forms of damage

- Crop loss
- Shortage of employment during flood and also afterwards
- Price hike of consumable goods
- Homestead shifting
- Disease outbreak
- Infra-structural damage

Some responses in practice:

- Protection of seedbeds
- Preservation of seedlings
- Protection of culture fisheries using nets
- Relocate/Resettlement of houses
- Storage of animal fodder in safe places
- Prepare safe places for household goods
- Embankment side temporary shelter
- Relief material storage in the union level
- Moving cattle from risk areas

Photo credit: ADPC Team. Sept, 2008.