LOCAL LEVEL POVERTY MONITORING SYSTEM

A Progress Report Submitted to the CBMS Network Coordinating Team of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, De La Salle University, Manila

Project Period Covered in the Report from 01 November 2004 to 30 April 2005

Introduction:

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in collaboration with the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and under the auspices of MIMAP-Bangladesh developed methodology and indicators for poverty monitoring at the local level. On the basis of the accumulated experience of four villages, BARD is implementing the methodology and indicators in all the villages of one Union Parishad under the auspices of IDRC, Canada through CBMS-international network. The goal of the project is to develop a user friendly and cost effective poverty monitoring system ensuring participation of the local people. For attaining the goal, strengthening capacity of the local government is one of the thrusts of the research project. The main components of the project are Ward Information Book, Ward Plan Book on the basis of data collected and Training. The system will be complimentary to the national level poverty monitoring system. In the mean time, the second phase of the project has been completed. This report contains the progress report of activities during the period of 01 November 2004 to 30 April 2005.

1. Research Activities:

A. 1. Conduct PRA Survey: PRA survey has been conducted in three Wards of Ward number seven to nine of the Union. Partial information of the PRA survey has been incorporated in the Ward Information Book while rest of the information will be included in the final report.

A.2. Conduct Household Survey: Household survey has been done for households in four Wards of Ward number 6 to 9.

A.3. Data processing at Ward Level: The local level Investigators have completed the partial tabulation of some indicators of four Wards. Then the
Research Team of the project has tabulated the indicators. These indicators have been incorporated in the Ward Information Book.

**A.4. Preparation of Ward Information Book:** Four Ward Information Book have been prepared. The Ward Information Book has been prepared in native language for its wider and effective utilisation.

**A.5. Training for the functionaries of Union Parishad:** One training courses having duration of three days was organised to orient the people on the planning process by using the available information of Ward Information Book. The functionaries of the Union Parishad, representatives of Gram Sarker and some elite persons of the Ward numbers 6 to 9 were considered as participants. Detail of the training programme can be seen in the Working Paper 07.

**A.6. Preparation of Ward Plan Book:** The representatives of the Gram Sarker drafted Four Ward Plan Book. Then the Chairman of the Union Parishad prepared one plan by incorporating the plan of four Wards. The plan also prepared in native language and presented in the Planning Workshop. Summary of this plan is included in the Working Paper 9.

**A.8. Ward Meeting:** Four Ward meetings were organised during the reporting period. One meeting in each Ward was organised. Proceedings of the Ward meetings can be seen in the Working Paper- 08.

**A.5. Planning Workshop:** The Planning Workshop scheduled to be held in the reporting period was not possible due to the by-election of the Chairman of that Union. The Planning Workshop was organised on the 31st May 2005 the following day of oath taking of the newly elected Chairman. The proceeding of the meeting has been attached in the Working Paper-9.

**A.6. Preparation of database at Tertiary Level:** The database of the Union has been developed by using the SPSS.

**B Research and Policy Study:**

**B.1. Poverty profile of five Wards under Muhammadpur Union prepared for presenting in the PEP meeting.**
C. Workshop/Conference/Consultation Meeting: One Planning Workshop was organised to present the plan.

D. Other Mobilisation Activities:
Four Ward meetings were organised to disseminate the findings of survey and motivated the people in implementing the action plan prepared by the Gram Sarker and the villagers.

E. Publication:
Ward Information Book of four Wards were published and circulated to the concerned authority for getting their feedback and wider dissemination of data generated. Project activities have been published in the English and Bengali newsletter of BARD. Besides, the project activities have also been published in a report of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives in native language.

F. Upcoming activities of the Project:
A local and a national level workshop would be organised before October 2005. A report will be made to document the poverty profile of the Muhammadpur Union Parishad. A nutritional survey will be conducted to know the nutritional status of under 5 children. A training workshop will be organised shortly at the premises of the Union Parishad and a board will be displayed at the Union Parishad by incorporating some core indicators of each Ward.

G. Problems Encountered/Recommendations:
Problem of timely organisation of the Planning Workshop was observed due to sudden death of the Chairman of the Union Parishad. Before completion of the by-election of the Union Parishad the research team limit their visit for reducing the misunderstanding.

II. Project Administration:
Advisor:
Mr. Muhammad Nazrul Islam, Director General of BARD has been involved in the project as Advisor.

Coordinator:
Mr. Mohammed Mir Kashem, Director, Rural Economics and Management Division has been involved as Co-ordinator.
Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri former Project Leader, MIMAP-Bangladesh has been involved as Technical Advisor. Although he is working in Cambodia but the Research Team still maintains close relationship with him and get feedback and suggestions time to time from him. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha, Assistant Director, BARD is the Project Leader while Mr. Abdul Quader, Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun, Deputy Director, BARD are involved as researchers.

**Field Staff:** Seven Field staffs such as Field supervisor and field investigators and one Data Processor have been appointed for data collection and data processing through the project LLPMS. Name of them are as follows:

**Field Supervisor and Investigators:**
1. Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan Farazi
2. Mr. Liton Chandra Das
3. Mr. Md. Omar Faruk
4. Mrs. Sarasati Rani Dey
5. Mrs. Hazera Begum
6. Mrs. Joshna Akhter
7. Mr. Md. Golam Mostafa Bhuyian

**Data Processor:**
1. Mr. Al Amin