

Terms of Reference (TOR)

for

Mid Term Evaluation of “Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (BWDB Part) (1st revised)” by Mid Term Project Evaluation Committee.

1. Introduction:

This document is a Terms of Reference (ToR) for carrying out midterm evaluation of “Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (BWDB Part) (1st revised)”. The ToR contains an evaluation of mid stage of works for ongoing protection work.

Project Background:

The substantial part of Bangladesh belongs to a low lying delta formed by three international rivers, the Ganges River, the Brahmaputra River and the Meghna River. In the upper Meghna River basin, so-called ‘haor’ areas stretch over the north-eastern districts and 8,600 km² of the land area become inundated during the monsoon period. Agriculture, especially paddy cultivation, and fishery are the main economic activities in the region. The rice production in the haor areas, mostly Boro rice cultivation, is about 5.3 million tons per year, which accounts for about 16% of the total production of the country. Flash flood caused by severe rainfall in the mountainous area in India in the pre-monsoon period causes severe damages to paddy fields just before harvesting.

Accordingly, JICA and BWDB agreed to conduct the Preparatory Survey on the Upper Meghna River Basin Watershed Management Improvement Project that comprises three components, i.e., Component 1 (flood control), Component 2 (rural infrastructure development) and livelihood enhancement mainly through Component 3-1 (agricultural promotion) and Component 3-2 (fisheries promotion) in the area. JICA entrusted the JICA Survey Team with the survey works and commenced the survey in May 2013.

During the course of the study, both JICA and the government realized that the implementation of measures for flood disaster mitigation and livelihood enhancement as one effort is crucial in improving living standards in the haor area because people in the area are suffering from the so-called vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability to disaster. Eventually, both sides decided to implement the project vesting the same priority to livelihood enhancement and flood control. JICA dispatched a mission to Bangladesh to discuss the implementing arrangement of the project with BWDB and LGED. The minutes of discussions signed by JICA, BWDB and LGED on 24 July 2013 defined the arrangement.

JICA survey team developed equations that express the relationship among three variables, i.e., the magnitude of the damages caused by a natural disaster, economic situation or the balance of income and expenditure of the people, and the capacity of a society to prevent disasters. The equations enunciated that (1) disaster preparedness is proportional to the balance of income and expenditure and (2) disaster mitigation works are effective to enhance the income of residents with a certain time lag.

In this consequence the survey concluded that (1) the survey area is suffering from a vicious cycle of poverty and disaster (2) interventions to mitigate disaster and to improve livelihood could be effective to get away from the spiral if they are implemented simultaneously in the repetitive disaster-prone areas like the haor area, and (3) interventions should be substantial to secure durability for a certain period against repetitive disasters. In this manner, the mechanism of disaster prevention and poverty mitigation expressed in the developed equations attested the necessity of the project

