

নদী ও জীবন  
NODI O JIBON



*Quarterly Report*  
*January - March 2009*

Submitted by

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## 1.0 Executive Report

The success of JOBS' program interventions in the field of agriculture, livestock and non traditional sectors in the char islands attempted to expand markets for the products and to create sustainable income for the project participants.

During the reporting quarter, JOBS continued supporting similar activities supported in the preceding quarters. The assistances were provided to cover new and existing project participants who were selected for the project assistance.

Under the cow fattening program, a total of 64 cows were procured and distributed among the 64 households. The sheep fattening program has covered 37 households who have received 56 lambs.

In addition to the above, JOBS has provided 1,666 farmers with quality seeds to cultivate groundnuts, pumpkins, onions, carrots and wheat. A total of 31,062 decimals of lands were cultivated by the above number of farmers. The value-added crop cultivation program has demonstrated its success in creating livelihood options and awareness among other participants to initiate such initiative. JOBS reviewed the sectors and supported the specific sectors that are profitable to project participants and have market potential. Sale of value added crop was started during the reporting quarter and would continue in the middle of next quarter. JOBS expects the project participants will have a reasonable profit from the agriculture produces and from the sale proceed of the livestock.

JOBS also assisted 100 project participants who were enrolled in two different clusters of embroidery and cap making. The private sector buyers were regular in placing supply orders as they have established their access to the international market.

The demand of the project assistance has been increasing day by day and JOBS has targeted to support more project participants of the existing partners in Pabna, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts.

**A. Imran Shauket**  
Country Director

## 2.0 Highlights of JOBS Activities

(Jan - Mar 2009)

The following sections explain the overall implementation process and achievements of JOBS involvement with the project.

### 2.1 Cow Fattening Program in Pabna

The large scale beef fattening program is continuing with 3 partners (BOSS, JSKS & UDP) organizations working in different chars of Pabna region. After successful results this past quarter, the partners want to increase the program by 20%.

#### 2.1.1 Procurement Delay:

The procurement was delay this quarter due to a rise in purchasing price. Cows were not available in the market driving the supply and demand to increase the price. Eventually the procurement of cows was completed by March 31, 2009.

JOBS team, in collaboration with partner organizations procured 78 cows this quarter. Proper processes will be used during the procurement of the cows along with vaccination prior to distribution. The cows will be reared from 3-6 months in order to obtain the optimum result.

The following table demonstrates the procurement till to date:

**Table-1: Cattle Distribution PNGO wise**

PNGO	No of cattle Target	No of Cattle Procured
BOSS	30	28
JSKS	28	25
UDP	20	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>64</b>

#### 2.1.2 Increase Money flow

Pabna Nodi O Jibon finds this project to be a highlight of what the Char people can do. The cows are recognized amongst purchasers and sought after. However financial crisis the partners cannot expand the project. In the last coordination meeting the PNGO's decided to look for linkages with PKSF or other financial instructions that give credit funds.

#### 2.1.3 Market Linkage

During this quarter, JOBS put all effort to strengthen market linkages through facilitating communication, helping to resolve problems, conducting follow-on trainings and providing other forms of support services as needed to the PNGOs and project participants. Several local markets identified around Pabna and Dhaka regions show to give a better profit

and more accessible. Project participants and the markets have been introduced to endure the participants can maximize their earnings. JOBS will continue to look for potential markets that are easily accessible for the participants.

#### 2.1.4 Technology Transfer

JOBS believe that improved rearing techniques are integral to increasing the earnings of the project participants. Accordingly the selected households were trained to prepare high quality feed and how to take care of the cattle in a proper way. JOBS also provided quality services (technical/non technical) to raise healthy cattle. These trainings were facilitated by the respective PNGO's livestock officers and Government Officers as well.

#### 2.1.5 Fattening Cycle



There are several opinions on the fattening cycle. JOBS felt it is necessary to research this and find a good cycle suitable for the char situation including geographical and ecological situation as well as market demand.

The PNGOs, JOBS and Concern chose to follow a 6 months cycle for the cow fattening program. Cows will be sold during the vital time for higher profit. The participants will receive help from the partner organizations, JOBS and Concern representatives will help in selling and replacing the animals accordingly.

#### 2.1.6 1% Contingency fund

A flat rate of 1% contingency was charged by the PNGOs per year on the principal amount invested to each project participant. The fund will stay with the PNGOs and will be put towards risk management. In the last quarter the partners received Tk. 18,955.00 from contingency fund.

#### 2.1.7 10% Service Charge

A flat rate of 10% service was charged by the

PNGOs per year on the principal amount invested. The PNGOs are committed to refund the service charge at a rate of 4.5% to JOBS which will be added to the principal amount and reinvested in similar programs.

The remaining 5.5% of the service charges are kept by the PNGOs to generate capital funds that will allow them to continue lending after the end of the project.

In the last quarter the partners received Tk. 54,406.00 as service charge.

#### 2.1.8 Monitoring

JOBS hired a technical officer (Iqbal) to visit the char areas and monitor the project activities. Livestock officers from each PNGO also visit the chars to monitor the growth of the cows. Additionally JOBS keeps close communication over the phone with the Technical Officer and PNGOs to receive updates.

#### 2.2 Sheep Fattening Program in Lalmonirhat & Nilphamari

Scarcity of sheep caused initial problems in the program. However this past quarter markets were identified to purchase the sheep which allowed the PNGO's to reach their target sheep purchasing numbers.

The following table demonstrates the procurements of sheep.

Table-2: Sheep Distributed PNGO wise

Org	Purchased	Households	Lambs
UDP	87	17	18
OVA	32	9	13
ASOD	50	11	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>56</b>

#### 3.0 Value-Added Crop Intervention

JOBS worked with three PNGOs in the north (UDP, OVA and ASOD) and the direct delivery of Concern to implement value added crops cultivation. JOBS' input, technical, and marketing support in Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari District expanded into both the north and south region (JSKS, UDP & BOSS in Pabna) of the Nodi O Jibon project.

Testing the soil quality and nature during earlier rounds allowed JOBS an active role in facilitating knowledge and technology exchanges with participants. Project participants were actively taught each step on how to use the input supplies with their new skills.

Regular visits by the technical officers and JOBS team occur regularly. Intensive support services to

the project participants by JOBS allows the project to continue successfully.

### 3.1 Groundnuts

JOBS in collaboration with Concern and PNGOs initiated large scale groundnut production during this quarter. JOBS is expecting the participants to have a reasonable profit after harvesting of the products in the next quarter. The program covers 1016 households which have been shown in the table below:

**Table-3: Groundnuts**

Org	Households No	Plot	Land/Decimal
BOSS	40	40	1,200
JSKS	20	20	660
UDP-Pabna	14	14	660
UDP-Lalmonirhat	94	94	2,769
OVA	53	53	1,538
ASOD	735	735	16,900
Concern Dimla	60	60	720
<b>Total</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>24,447</b>

### 3.2 Pumpkins

JOBS distributed pumpkins among the project participants of PNGOs and Concern Direct Delivery. The amount of crops distributed can be seen in Table 4 below:

**Table-4: Pumpkins**

Org	Land/Decimal	Pits	Remarks
BOSS	672	30,000	20% Exist
JSKS	250	6,000	8%
UDP-Pabna	350	16,500	75%
UDP-Lalmonirhat	918	11910	Harv 18000 pcs
OVA	843	15526	
ASOD	1085	42250	
Concern Dimla	65	650	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,183</b>	<b>122,836</b>	

**Table-5: Onion Cultivation (Lalmonirhat)**

Org	Land/Decimal	Farmers	Remarks
UDP-Lalmonirhat	848	80	
OVA	27	34	
ASOD	2400	235	
Concern Dimla	N/A		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3275</b>	<b>349</b>	

**Table-6: Carrots (Lalmonirhat)**

Org	Land/Decimal	Farmers	Remarks
UDP-Lalmonirhat	6.5	7	
OVA	14	15	330 kg/ per dec
ASOD	N/A		
Concern Dimla	350	50	200kg/ per dec
<b>Total</b>	<b>370.5</b>	<b>72</b>	

**Table-7: Wheat**

Org	Land/Decimal	Farmers	Remarks
UDP-Lalmonirhat	2748	199	
OVA	222	30	
ASOD			
Concern Dimla			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,970</b>	<b>229</b>	

### 3.3 Winter Crops Intervention in Pabna Region

In addition to the activities in Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari, pumpkin seeds were distributed among the PNGOs in Pabna district. JOBS distributed 46 Kgs of pumpkin seeds among the project participants of JSKS, UDPS and BOSS.

### 3.4 Monitoring of Crops

JOBS in collaboration with Concern and the PNGOs closely monitor the field activities. Some crops were found affected by diseases or insects. In order to increase the awareness of the producers/project participants, JOBS and the partners had increased the number of field visits through agricultural expert and farmers' meeting which resulted significant reduce of outbreak of the diseases.

However, it was found that there is no irrigation facility in the field. The plants were found weak and sick due to lack of irrigation system.

### 3.5 New Technical Officer for Pabna Region

Iqbal Hasan was appointed as a technical officer for Pabna region by JOBS to assist the partner organizations. He will provide a technical support to all working areas. However, most of his attention is on the Pabna PNGOs (BOSS, JSKS & UDP-Pabna).

From now on Iqbal will stay in Kashinathpur as JOBS' permanent staff; whereas, Nurun Nabi has been working for the Lalmonirhat region last one year.

## 4.0 Non Traditional Activities

### 4.1 Embroidery Training

JOBS in collaboration with UDP has developed 2 different char production clusters in Lalmonirhat district and trained 50 participants. . JOBS also arranged skill development training for 50 cluster participants in hand embroidery, Karchupi and chumki setting.

JOBS searched for private sector partners to facilitate market linkages for the producer to sell their products. Ohona Garments, JOBS and UDPS have agreed to establish permanent business relationships. Under this agreement Ohona Garments will provide continuous orders throughout the year, creating a sustainable income opportunity for the project participants.



### 4.3 Cap Making Training

UDP-Pabna asked for a 10 days training in the field after seeing the success the UDP-Lalmonirhat had. JOBS felt it was necessary to provide TOT on Cap Making in Feni for leaders of the clusters. Therefore 3 participants from JSKS & BOSS received training

on cap making in Feni. Shahana who received training was able to facilitate training for 15 participants.

Private sector links are in process.

## 5.0 Lessons Learned

- Cow fattening program with proper environment and effective supports is a huge success in the char islands for the poor and vulnerable to generate livelihoods.
- Late planting and poor technology effects the growth of seeds. It is essential to distribute and begin planning the seeds to get good results with an increased harvest.
- JOBS researched information on new markets and marketing opportunities to maximize the profit for eh project participants.
- Participants have to commit for the success of the project so ownership can assist in getting the maximum return on investment.
- Till the households gain capacity and skills to handle two cows, one cow is better. If a family has more resources it is possible to provide two cows.

## 6.0 Planning for the Next Quarter

- Continuation of Large Scale Beef Fattening Program
- Summer Crop Cultivations
- Follow up for market linkage program for pumpkins and for other crops
- Follow up and begin trainings on cap making in Pabna and Lalmonirhat regions.
- Link cap making, embroidery/karchupi products to the private sector.

#### Compliments:

Bangladesh Organization for Social Service (BOSS)  
Own Village Advancement (OVA)  
Jumuna Samaj Kallyan Sangstha (JSKS)  
Uttara Development Program Sangstha (UDPS)  
Assistance for Social Organization and Development (ASOD)

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# JOBS

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

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