

SDC's Sustainable Land Use Programme, Bangladesh

Livelihoods, Empowerment and Agroforestry Project



Socio-economic Observatory: An Innovative Way of Monitoring Poverty

Methodology, Outcomes and Recommendations



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Executive Summary

Introduction

This Paper summarises the methodology, outcomes and recommendations of the first round implementation of the Socio-economic Observatory, which is one of the key tools used to monitor poverty and its changes within the Livelihoods, Empowerment and Agroforestry (LEAF) Project and the Sustainable Land Use (SLU) Programme of SDC/IC as a whole. The outcomes and recommendations represent the base for interpretation used by a working group to assess, evaluate and plan project and programme phases.

While reviewing the monitoring system of SDC/IC's LEAF Project in 2004, the need for a poverty specific monitoring tool at household (HH) level was felt. This socio-economic observatory (SEO) records the status quo of and the changes within Extreme Poor, Poor and Marginal Farmer HH of the project region as well as the direct and indirect impacts of LEAF Project on these selected socio-economic groups.

Methodology

According to the main questions of concern, led by the MDGs one and two as well as the overall SDC/IC SLU strategy/policy, a set of poverty related indicators was developed early 2005 by a task force consisting of concerned persons from SDC and IC Bangladesh. From these selected indicators, relevant and specific questions were extracted and subsequently incorporated into the existing monitoring tools at various levels, such as the SEO.

This SEO consists centrally of a questionnaire focusing on state and changes within Extreme Poor, Poor and Marginal Farmers' households. In addition, an explanation sheet on how to use the questionnaire for the interviewers, i.e. the Field Facilitators of LEAF's Partner NGOs (PNGOs), is in place. For processing the gathered data, an Excel-format was developed and a description of the underlying methodology and procedure was elaborated. Finally, as a result of the interpretation of the processed information, a six-monthly report on poverty and its changes is produced.

Outcome

In general, the collected data refers to the past 12 months (i.e. 12/2004 to 11/2005). For the following implementation rounds, the data will cover the period between two implementation rounds, i.e. 6 months. The sample size accounts for 432 interviews (12 PNGOs in 3 Regions; a total of 216 Extreme Poor (EP) and 216 Poor (P) households interviewed).

Physical Assets

The average value of the physical assets of the Poor (P; 84'800 Tk or ~67%) is more than twice as high as it is for Extreme Poor (EP) families (41'500 Tk or ~33%).

77% of Extreme Poor and 83% of the Poor households interviewed have observed a change in some of their physical assets during the last 12 months. 23% of each, Poor and Extreme Poor households, observed a change in livestock, 20% EP and 13% P recorded changes regarding poultry. In case of housing and WatSan, 8-9% respectively 6-7% of both groups observed changes.

In general, most changes are positive, constituting an increase in assets. Nevertheless, especially regarding livestock, poultry and land for cultivation there are some set backs within EP and Poor households. A third and more of the EP and P households observed negative changes in poultry. According to the concerned, this is mainly due to diseases. What is more, the loss of livestock, which accounts for EPs up to 24%, is explained by a lack of proper care and management possibilities (high treatment costs and limited knowledge). In case of land

for cultivation 11% to 17% of the interviewees reported a decrease. The reasons therefore are manifold. However, many EP and P community members explain it with unforeseen big expenditures that forced them to sell physical assets e.g. for covering marriage expenditures, dowry and payback of loans.

The high figures on negative impacts regarding the physical assets of livestock and poultry indicate that next year's planning should focus on the building the Poor and Extreme Poor's capacity to overcome these constraints (e.g. through specific training).

LEAF stands behind a fourth of the changes observed with EP and roughly behind a fifth of the changes observed with Poor. However, it should partly be recognised as LEAF's achievement that percentages for self-initiatives are very high as LEAF does mostly not intervene directly, rather empowers communities to help themselves, meaning that they are in a position to take their own (successful) initiatives according to their needs (demand-driven).

Income and Profit

Measuring income and profit is an effective way of assessing the economical situation and its changes in the livelihoods of the poor. As shown in the next chapter, LEAF has a considerable share in the facilitation of successful livelihood strategies related to economical activities.

For both socio-economic groups, Day Labour and Homestead Fishery and Livestock are the most common income sources. On an average, an EP household is involved in two to three income generating activities, whereas a Poor households keeps it self busy with just over three activities. Except for Day Labour, the Poor are more intensely engaged in income sources, such as Homestead Livestock/Fishery, Homestead Crops and Small Trades/Business. The average yearly income of an EP household in the project region counts for roughly 23'200 Tk (64 Tk per day) and for Poor households 35'100 Tk (96 Tk per day). A poor family is able to invest 25% (9'400 Tk) more than an EP household (6'900 Tk).

EP households are able to reinvest 69% of their profit mainly in own savings, land, livestock and other physical assets. In case of Poor households, 87% of the profit is invested in own savings, livestock, small business and land. 50% of the EP and 71% of the Poor acknowledge a positive impact (as a model) on other village members.

In order to reduce the vulnerability of the most deprived within the communities, LEAF should focus on an increased diversification of income sources and further promote it tools related to economical development. Special interventions for the Extreme Poor should be continued and emphasized.

Livelihoods

LEAF passively stands behind most of the livelihood choices, which range from Homestead Livestock/Fishery and Day Labour to Small Business/Trades and show an increasing diversity. The identification and selection is entirely in the hands of the community members as LEAF only facilitates the process of how to make good and appropriate choices. For both P and EP groups, LEAF and the self-initiatives account for roughly 80% of the underlying motivation.

Out of all the chosen strategies, 96% of the Poor and 92% of the Extreme Poor confirmed that these have a positive impact on their situation, contributing to the reduction of poverty. The impacts were manifold: physical assets increased, income / profit increased, improved health and improved education opportunities were predominantly mentioned.

Only very few livelihood initiatives taken by the community members had no or a bad impact. In some cases, the strategies have not yet shown an impact as the initiatives were only taken up recently (e.g. fruit tree plantings). Others did not have sufficient information or knowledge to undertake the selected strategy successfully or faced unexpected, unpredictable incidences, such as floods and draughts.

Very low percentages (1%) for improved knowledge and skills (training) were collected during the interviews. This has to be verified during the next round implementation. In any case, intensified efforts by LEAF towards an improvement of knowledge and skills of the Poor and Extreme Poor, promoting indirectly a diversification in livelihoods strategies, should be envisaged in 2006.

Gender

More than 80% of the females of both the socio-economic groups are involved in economic activities. Up to half of all EP and P women are engaged in Poultry Rearing (50%), Home-stead Vegetable Production (36%) and Goat Rearing (26%).

87 % of the economically active females in EP households and 78 % of females in Poor households have decision taking power within the family. Most decisions are taken jointly, based on a mutual agreement, in Poor households. The same is true for EP households with the exception of borrowing money, production activities and business decisions, where more than 50% of the females take their own decisions. In general, a strong correlation of economical and decision taking power is observed among female members of Poor and EP households. Moreover, many females named the participatory gender analysis tool, facilitated by LEAF's partner NGOs, and their improved economical condition as the main driving force behind the changes towards a better balance of gender in their households and CBOs.

Out of the selected sample, about three fourth of the females of Poor households have a progressive perception (i.e. they approve a gender balanced development and in general the empowerment of females) regarding gender roles as they can clearly see the (mainly economic and social) advantages of a gender sensitive development.

About 85% of the females in EP and 78% of the females in poor households directly benefit from their economic activities, mostly monetary and physically (such as food for work). This 'gap' of 15% respectively 22% of EP and P women who take part in economic activities but do not benefit equally should be addressed by LEAF. The Participatory Gender Analysis Tool and the position of the Female Mentor in the villages should be further promoted.

Recommendations

- *Processing level:* The primary processing of the information (i.e. the translation of qualitative information into quantitative data and the entering of data in the excel sheet) should be given to the regional level in future.
- *PRS and MDG:* In combination with the other poverty relevant tools of the poverty monitoring system, linkages with the overall poverty indicators from the MDG and PRS have to be established.
- *CBO member classification:* The relative measurement and classification of the CBO members by themselves through a well-being analysis proofed to be a major hindrance of linking the existing tool with other poverty monitoring systems (PRS, MDG). Therefore, absolute criteria for the identification of Extreme Poor, Poor and Marginal Farmers have to be established.
- *Poverty Monitoring Task Force:* A working group, consisting of stakeholders from all project and programme levels, with the task to assess, evaluate and plan project and programme phases according to the analysis of the outcomes should be set up
- *Future:* For the life after LEAF, it has to be clearly defined who will take over what responsibility at which level (interviews, processing, compilation, analysis and interpretation)

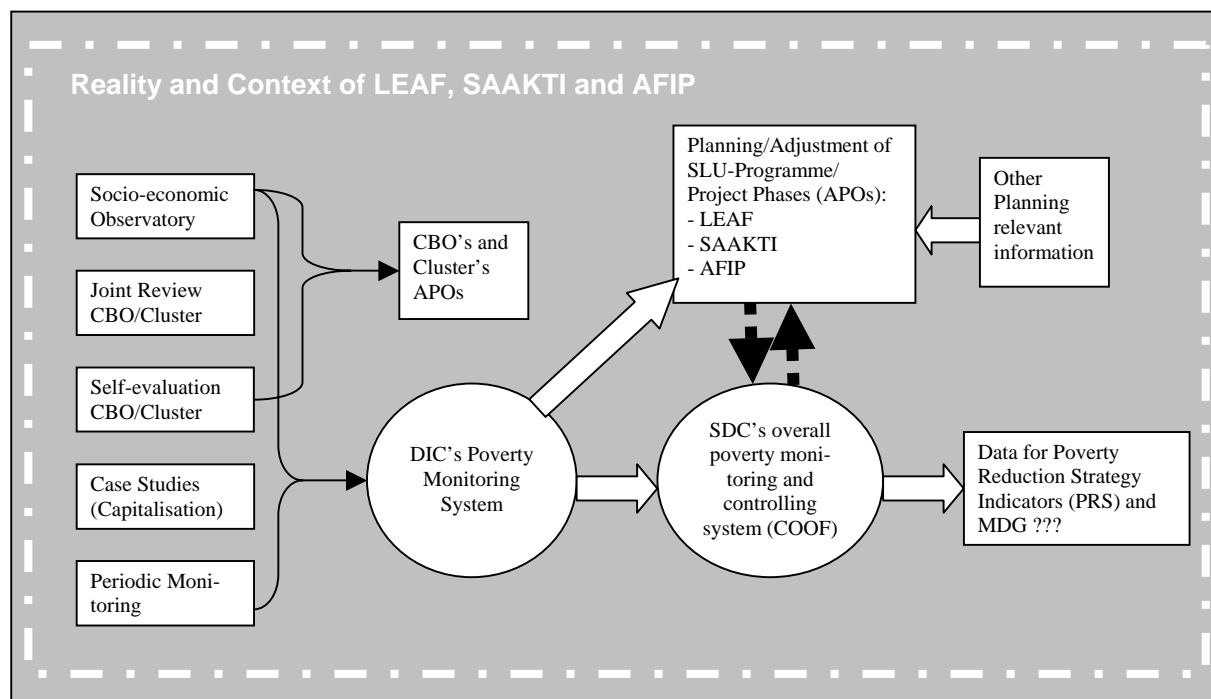
1. Introduction

Fighting poverty is a major challenge for many development projects and organisations obliged to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number one¹ and the national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). For SDC/IC's SLU Programme and therewith the LEAF project, it was decided in 2004 to come up with a holistic system for monitoring its achievements regarding the reduction of poverty in Bangladesh.

Considering the existing tools and instruments for project and poverty monitoring and controlling in SDC/IC's LEAF Project, such as the Joint Review at CBO- (Community based organisations) and CP-level (Cluster Platform; comprises several adjacent CBOs with similar social or economical settings in order to constitute a critical mass), the need for a poverty specific monitoring tool at household (HH) level was felt. This socio-economic observatory (SEO) records the status quo of and the changes within Extreme Poor, Poor and Marginal Farmer HH of the project region as well as the direct and indirect impacts of LEAF Project on these selected socio-economic groups.

According to the main questions of concern, led by the MDGs one and two as well as the overall SDC/IC SLU strategy/policy, a set of poverty related indicators was developed in early 2005 by a task force consisting of concerned persons from SDC and IC Bangladesh. From these selected indicators, relevant and specific questions were extracted and subsequently incorporated into the existing monitoring tools at various levels, such as the SEO. It is carefully placed into a framework of other tools and instruments for monitoring and evaluation that together comprise the SLU Monitoring System. The figure below highlights the linkages of the tools and project planning within the regular Project Cycle Management (PCM).

Figure 1: IC Bangladesh's SLU Monitoring System



¹ UN Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day; Indicators: 1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day, 2. Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty), 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption)

As illustrated in the figure above, a selection of IC Bangladesh monitoring tools with poverty relevance at different levels contribute to the poverty monitoring system of DIC as well as to the planning of CBO's and Cluster's Annual Plan of Operation (APO). Among them and predominantly poverty relevant is the Socio-economic Observatory. Next to other planning relevant information, it is this system of tools that provides field data and selected indicator figures to IC's planning team and to SDC's overall monitoring and controlling system (mainly for the SLU component). Through SDC the poverty monitoring tools can possibly contribute to the calculation of PRS and MDG indicators. In this regard, the tool takes up full upward and downward accountability.

The SLU project-phase adjustments (3 projects: AFIP, LEAF and SAAKTI) that are undertaken on the basis of the monitoring outcomes and agreements between SDC and IC Bangladesh are supposed to have a considerable positive impact on the reality and context of the SLU-projects (i.e. the project population). Completing the cycle, these changes again will be reflected in the next round of implementation of the monitoring tools and will then show, whether or not the adjustments have taken its planned effects.

This report presents the methodology of the SEO, the outcomes of its first round implementation and recommendations. For Explanations on how to use the Questionnaire see Annex 1 (page 14) and for the Questionnaire refer to Annex 2 (page 20).

2. Methodology

2.1. Design

This SEO consists centrally of a questionnaire focusing on state and changes within Extreme Poor, Poor and Marginal Farmers² households. In addition, an explanation sheet on how to use the questionnaire for the interviewers, i.e. the Field Facilitators of LEAF's Partner NGOs (PNGOs), is in place. For processing the gathered data, an Excel-format was developed and a description of the underlying methodology and procedure was elaborated (this very paper itself). Finally, as a result of the interpretation of the processed information, a six-monthly report on poverty and its changes is produced. All documents are translated into Bengali.

Questionnaire: It is designed to grasp qualitative (open questions) and quantitative (tables) information from each household in four selected categories: the state and changes in physical assets, income and profit, livelihoods and gender. On average, under each chapter five questions are posed.

Explanations on how to use the Questionnaire: Here, the aim is to sensitise the interviewer in regard to the very objectives of the exercise and the preparatory steps (e.g. time requirement, means etc.). They lead him or her through the interview, giving advice on special cases (exceptions) and highlighting the crucial parts of the questions in order to avoid misunderstandings and therewith the bias in the generated data.

Processing formats: The gathered information from all households is compiled in three master sheets (Extreme Poor, Poor and Marginal Farmers). In this first step of processing, all qualitative data is translated into quantitative data in order to have a basis for further processing and analysis. However, next to the quantitative data, qualitative information is maintained with the help of case studies that are extracted from the sum of all interviews. The secondary processing compares figures of socio-economic groups and calculates percentages that bare a comparatively higher content of information.

Report: Finally, the report compiles the outcomes resulting from the two processing steps. The structure reflects the questionnaire and is divided into four chapters, each comprising information on all surveyed socio-economic groups. An additional final chapter of the report highlights the major, significant findings without its interpretation. The actual and previous reports are to be understood as a base subject to further analysis and interpretation by a working group and the Planning Team of the project.

Initially, the tool was developed at the PSMU in Rajshahi and subsequently adjusted and finalised through field tests in collaboration with the Regional Offices (RO), PNGOs and CBO members. Comments from the Delegation were also considered as inputs during the elaboration process.

2.2. Implementation

Interviewer: All field facilitators (FFs) of LEAF's partners were chosen as interviewers and accordingly received a practical orientation on the tool. During the first round implementation of the observatory in August to September 2005 various problems and misunderstandings surfaced. It was for this that before the second round, minor methodological adjustments were applied, mainly in regard of the implementation quality (training/workshop for interviewers), the selection of households and the format for the analysis of the resulting data.

Interviewees: The FFs of each Partner NGO interviews pre-selected households that lie within the boundaries of one Cluster Platform and that were also part of the 2004 base line study for IC. The pre-selection was conducted at the Regional Offices with the support of the

² Classification according to CBOs own ill- and well-being analysis

Team Leaders (TL) of the PNGOs according to their suitability: this relates to the availability (they should be available on a long-term basis) of the household members and their willingness to be part of the observatory, as well as to whether the households were taken as sample during the 2004 baseline survey (the selected have to be part of the sample of marginal farmers, poor & extreme poor households that was taken during the baseline survey).

Sample Size: On an average the 12 PNGOs will interview 36 HHs each, which will give us a sample size of 432 households for each round of interviews (144 for each region). It is the responsibility of the Project Officer at Regional level to ensure that his or her batch of questionnaires is composed of:

- 48 Extreme Poor Households (lowest socio-economic group)
- 48 Poor Households (second lowest)
- 48 Marginal Farmer Households (third lowest)

Frequency: All selected households will be followed-up in six-monthly intervals during the project life (possibly till 2007, minimum of one year) in terms of a regular household-monitoring. Accordingly, the reports on the SEO are produced.

Cost: For conducting one round of interviews, the expenditure amounts on an average to Tk. 120'000 Tk (1'850 USD per 12.12.05) or 3'700 USD per year and all in all involves around 140 staffs (130 at PNGO level and 10 at Regional and PSMU level):

- Interviewers: 2 interviews per day = 216 FF manpower days; 216 days times 300 Tk (average daily salary per FF) = 64'800 Tk
- Accompaniment and review at PNGO level: 12 PNGOs times 3 manpower days times 500 Tk = 18'000 Tk
- Accompaniment and review at RO level: 3 ROs times 3 manpower days times 1'000 Tk = 9'000 Tk
- Data entering by private service provider: average 10'000 Tk
- Data Processing and compilation of the report: 5 days times 1'200 Tk = 6'000 Tk
- Material cost: 450 Questionnaires (Copies) times 8 Tk = 3'600 Tk

Time requirement: Interviews (4 days), Review PNGO (2 days), Review RO (3 days), Data punching (6 days), Processing and Report (5 days) = 20 working days (roughly 1 working month).

2.3. Processing and Analysis

After the team leaders of the PNGOs and the project officers of LEAF's regional offices have spot checked and if necessary reviewed the filled questionnaires, they are submitted to the PSMU. Moreover, at Regional level, a list with all participants including their ID-number (same as in the baseline survey) is prepared and available. Although the processing is undertaken solely at PSMU level at the beginning, data entering and processing will be encouraged from 2006 onwards.

Three private service providers are hired for punching the information from the questionnaires into the readymade master sheets (excel sheets). Therewith, the qualitative information is translated into quantitative data, which is necessary for further processing. The master sheets are linked with a second set of tables in excel where the data it is cumulated and set into relation, e.g. percentages are calculated.

On the one hand, these 'summary tables' represent the fundament for the elaboration of the report as they consist of all the central figures and values that resulted from the exercise. On the other hand, they contribute to the overall poverty monitoring system. They also serve as a part of the data pool of a working group for further, in depth analysis of poverty. The 'summary tables' can be adjusted to specific demands from the Task Force if necessary (e.g. by adding columns/rows and formulas).

The analysis and interpretation of the outcomes is up to the Poverty Monitoring Task Force and for example the planning committee who will specifically browse the data and interpret it

according to their actual demand (see figure, page 4). The analysis obviously should be done within a report, among several reports (mainly to show changes) as well as between the SEO reports and other (poverty) monitoring tools. Furthermore, the SEO outcomes are complemented with case studies that also derive from the questionnaires (selected households). Finally, the synthesis of the analysis by a working group of all poverty relevant monitoring tools will be summarised in a Poverty Monitoring Report for SDC/IC's SLU programme in Bangladesh.

2.4. Linkages

As pointed out earlier, the SEO is not a singular, isolated tool. It rather is to be understood in the context of a SDC and IC overall monitoring and controlling system. Even though the tool makes sense on its own; it is much more powerful if it is used in combination with other, poverty relevant tools, such as the Joint Review, the Self-evaluation and case studies. These linkages and all the tools together comprise an effective and broad base for analysis of the current projects and programmes (e.g. SLU including SAAKTI and AFIP) towards the reduction of poverty. The central use therefore is the review and adjustment of current APOs (from CBO to SDC level) and the planning for future projects and programmes and should be considered as an integral part of the Project Cycle Management (PCM).

To what extent the generated data and figures can be used in or contribute to other poverty related controlling systems, such as the PRS and MDG indicators, will have to be tested. In case of the PRS of Bangladesh, the exact definition of the indicators is still due. For the MDGs, the SEO's underlying indicators could be used as proxy indicators and therefore indirectly contribute. However, the SEO is based on a pre selection of households within one particular region and one particular project (referring to the project population). On the contrary, the MDG and PRS indicators are measured at national level, which causes a methodological difficulty as the population is not the same. Furthermore, the categorisation of community members into socio-economic groups (extreme poor, poor, marginal farmers etc.) used by the SEO and MDG respectively PRS have to be brought in line before linking them up.

The basic design and underlying methodology is likely to serve as an example or starting point for the set up of other (poverty) monitoring tools and systems such as the development of a system for Sunamganj, but will have to be contextualised and accordingly adjusted.

3. Outcomes

This chapter reflects the design of the questionnaire and focuses on the two most deprived socio-economic groups in the communities: Extreme Poor and Poor Families. Only the next round of interviews will include Marginal Farmers as well. Each sub-chapter confronts and compares both the mentioned groups.

In general, the questions and therefore the collected data refer to the past 12 months (i.e. 12/2004 to 11/2005). For the following implementation rounds, the data will cover the period between two implementation rounds, i.e. 6 months. This report's sample size accounts for 432 interviews (12 PNGOs in 3 Regions; a total of 216 Extreme Poor (EP) and 216 Poor (P) households interviewed).

It is important to note that this chapter does neither include the comparison of implementation rounds nor a comparison with the base line survey as this is considered to be the task of a working group. This and other poverty relevant monitoring tools combined represent the base for interpretation to assess, evaluate and plan project and programme activities. Only then concluding comments and strategic derivations can be drawn.

3.1. Physical Assets

A major factor for a sustainable reduction of the vulnerability of the poor is an increase (quantitative and qualitative) in physical assets of the poor. One part of the underlying questionnaire grasps the status quo of the interviewee's household. The second part determines the changes in the physical assets during the last twelve months, including explanations on why the change occurred.

The average value of the physical assets of the Poor (84'800 Tk or ~67%) is more than twice as high as it is for Extreme Poor families (41'500 Tk or ~33%). A typical EP respectively P household consist of the following selected physical assets:

- EP: 18% own a radio and 6% a TV; almost 90% own one or more goats, 60% own a cow; on an average, each family has just under 4 chickens and owns 6,2 decimals of land. However, a fourth of them depend on rented kash land for cultivation and another fourth of them does not rent, share or own any type of land.
- P: 21% own a radio and 12% a TV; roughly only 60% own goats and/or cows; on average, each family has between 3 to 4 chickens and 11 decimals of owned land for cultivation.

However, these figures are to be handled with care as the classification of the two socio-economic groups in each Community Based Organisation (CBO) is based upon a relative measurement of poverty (ill-, well-being analysis). For instance, in some CBOs assessment of poverty a family that counts as Extreme Poor will classify as Poor in another, less wealthy CBO.

77% of Extreme Poor and 83% of the Poor households interviewed have observed a negative or positive change in some of their physical assets during the last 12 months. The next table shows the categories of physical assets that changed the most for extreme poor and poor households in the LEAF project region. 23% of each, Poor and Extreme Poor households, observed a change in livestock, 20% EP and 13% P recorded changes regarding poultry. In case of housing and WatSan, 8-9% respectively 6-7% of both groups observed changes. Regarding land for cultivation only 6% of EP and 10% of Poor households felt a difference compared to the previous year.

From the households that stated a change in a particular physical asset group, percentages of positive and negative changes are given. In addition, percentages of whom/what actually was the driving force behind the change or rather made the change possible (accounts only

for the positive changes) are listed. Finally, the question of impact on other community members as seen by EP respectively P is answered.

Table 1: Physical Assets and its changes in EP and Poor households

Physical Asset Category /Impact	Change, reason and type of impact on others	Extreme Poor	Poor
Livestock (Change observed out of all HH: EP 23%, P 23%)	positive/negative	79%/21%	76%/24%
	LEAF	26%	15%
	Self-initiative	57%	77%
	NGO	17%	8%
	GO	0%	0%
Poultry (Change observed out of all HH: EP 20%, P 13%)	positive/negative	67%/33%	61%/39%
	LEAF	22%	11%
	Self-initiative	71%	72%
	NGO	7%	17%
	GO	0%	0%
Housing (Change observed out of all HH: EP 8%, P 9%)	positive/negative	97%/3%	92%/8%
	LEAF	20%	3%
	Self-initiative	52%	67%
	NGO	28%	20%
	GO	0%	10%
Land for cultivation (Change observed out of all HH: EP 6%, EP 10%)	positive/negative	89%/11%	83%/17%
	LEAF	25%	19%
	Self-initiative	54%	73%
	NGO	21%	6%
	GO	0%	2%
WatSan (Change observed out of all HH: EP 7%, P 6%)	positive/negative	100%/0%	96%/4%
	LEAF	37%	20%
	Self-initiative	39%	60%
	NGO	12%	12%
	GO	12%	8%
Impact on other villagers	no impact	43%	35%
	positive: as a model for others	43%	54%
	positive: monetary/physical benefit	13%	9%
	negative impact	1%	1%

It is obvious that in general most changes are positive, meaning an increase in assets or a possible upgrade in quality. Nevertheless, especially regarding livestock, poultry and land for cultivation there are some set backs within EP and Poor households. A third and more of the EP and P households observed negative changes in poultry. According to the concerned, this is mainly due to diseases. What is more, set backs in livestock, which account for EPs up to 24% is explained by a lack of proper care and management possibilities (high treatment costs and limited knowledge). In case of land for cultivation 11% to 17% of the interviewees reported a loss. The reasons therefore are manifold. However, many EP and P community members state that unforeseen big expenditures force them to sell physical assets e.g. for covering marriages, dowry, payback of loans and others. Other mentioned reasons are rights-related, where land is grabbed by more influential and powerful people. See the livelihoods chapter for figures on strategies undertaken by community families to overcome these constraints. The few negative impacts on other villagers are mainly due to a negative competition, for instance a villagers selects the same strategy (and physical asset to pursue his activities) as his neighbour and as the demand is too low for two actors, one will eventually have to withdraw/rethink his approach.

The table shows that LEAF has a considerable direct influence on the changes in physical assets. However, it should be seen as LEAF's achievement that percentages for self-initiatives are very high as LEAF does mostly not intervene directly, rather empowers communities to help themselves, meaning that they are in a position to take their own (successful) initiatives according to their needs (demand-driven).

Box 1: Case study on change in Physical Assets

Shikha Rani Mahanta, Member, Raghunathpur Farmers Organisation, Natore:

Despite rearing goats since long time I had no idea about the techniques of management of livestock. In 2003 two of my goats died of a disease that I had never heard before and in addition I had to sell one goat at cheap price. I therefore lost my interest in rearing goats. In 2004 I participated in the training on goat rearing organised by our cluster platform. After the training I started the homestead goat farming again. It all went very fine and I now have 12 big and three small goats. I keep close contact with the local vaccinator Arshad Ali for the vaccination of goat at the rate of Tk 3 per goat and I maintain proper care for my goats. These assets are very essential for our family as they have improved our living quality remarkably and give us a feeling of security in bad times.

The strategies (see also chapter 4) of the interviewed community members regarding the acquisition of physical assets are in many of the cases taken as a model for others. The multiplication of successful initiatives (best practices) by others is essential for the development of the entire CBO or Cluster Platform. Lifted up to the Cluster Platform level, it is considered as a necessary step towards reaching a critical mass and therewith making a large scale contribution to poverty reduction.

3.2. Income and Profit

Economical and therefore monetary well-being and security are major contributing factors to poverty reduction. Measuring income and profit is an effective way of assessing the economical situation and its changes in the livelihoods of the Poor. LEAF has a considerable share in the facilitation of successful livelihood strategies related to economical activities. Positive changes in this regard have a very direct impact on the people's lives in terms of their well-being. Having a secured and long-term income source that is little affected by seasonality and shocks will allow households to plan and realise reinvestments. That again will, if carefully considered, add up to the overall betterment and will eventually lift the lowest socio-economic groups of the community out of poverty.

Considering this, the change and level of income and profit reflects each and every family's capability to sustain or rather improve their livelihoods.

The following table gives an overview of the most common income sources of the Extreme Poor and Poor households in the CBOs, showing the percentages of households that are involved in the named income activities.

Table 2: Income sources in Extreme Poor and Poor households

Income source	Extreme Poor	Poor
Small Trades	31 %	36 %
Day Labour	71 %	49 %
Homestead Trees	20 %	36 %
Homestead Crops	38 %	47 %
Homestead Livestock/Fishery	51 %	56 %
Field Crops	25 %	49 %
Small Business	20 %	22 %
Average income sources per HH	2,81	3,28

For both socio-economic groups, Day Labour and Homestead Fishery and Livestock are the most common income sources. On an average, an EP household is involved in two to three income generating activities, whereas a Poor households keeps it self busy with just over three activities. Except for day labour, the Poor are more intensely involved in the listed income sources. The average yearly income of an EP household in the project region counts for roughly 23'200 Tk (64 Tk per day) and for Poor households 35'100 Tk (96 Tk per day). A poor family is able to invest a fourth (9'400 Tk.) more than an EP household (6'900 Tk.).

EP households are able to reinvest 69% of their profit. The reinvestments are done mainly in own savings (34%), land (17%), livestock (16%), other physical assets (9%) and in small business (8%). In case of Poor households, 87% of the profit is invested in own savings (32%), livestock (23%), small business (14%), land (13%) and other physical assets (13%).

50% of the EP and 71% of the Poor acknowledge a positive impact (as a model) on other village members

Box 2: Case study on change in Income and Profit

Mosammat Mahima, Member Shabgepara Farmers Organisation, Mahadipur, Bagha

I am landless and we live on other people's land. We have four daughters. My husband has been involved in papad selling for a long time but I did not know how to make papad. The cluster platform organised training for me on papad making. After imparting the training I am making papad on my own and my husband is selling those in the nearby bazaar. Per day I make papad of 3-4 kg flour with an expense of about Tk 100 and my husband sells those for about Tk. 300. The net income of our family is about Tk. 200 per day if we work. Now we can give three full meals to our children everyday, which we hardly could before. I feel proud of my contribution to our family expenses. My husband appraises my contribution and does not scold me like before. We got our elder daughter admitted in BRAC School. From our income we bought one goat, three chickens and purchased some household assets.

3.3. Livelihoods

Physical assets and income/profit figures are strongly interlinked with the chosen livelihood strategies. On the one hand, wisely selected strategies lead to an increased income/profit resulting in additional (e.g. physical) assets that again support or favour new strategies and so on. On the other hand, often an investment (meaning increased income) in physical assets is needed to pursue a certain livelihood strategy. This chain of causes, action and reaction is perpetual and identifying the most effective entry point for making a change is context dependant (do we start with the egg or the chicken?).

Either way, carefully chosen livelihood strategies are an essential contributing factor to a secured environment, reducing proneness to unexpected social, economical and ecological changes. The following table lists the predominantly chosen livelihood strategies and the motivation or reasons underlying the families' choices for taking up one or the other livelihood strategy. In each field of the matrix, percentages of P and EP are given.

Table 3: Major livelihood strategies and the 'origin' of the motivation for their initiation

Livelihoods	LEAF		Self-initiative		NGO		GO		Total (% chosen this particular livelihood strategy)	
	P	EP	P	EP	P	EP	P	EP	P	EP
Small Business and Trades	71%	82%	29%	13%	0%	5%	0%	0%	15%	15%
Wages/Day Labour	29%	47%	57%	33%	14%	7%	0%	13%	3%	5%
Homestead Trees/Perennials	85%	89%	6%	4%	6%	4%	3%	3%	15%	12%
Homestead crops	87%	82%	5%	13%	5%	5%	4%	1%	46%	46%
Homestead Livestock/Fishery	64%	56%	6%	14%	1%	2%	29%	28%	53%	60%
Field Crops	44%	43%	33%	43%	11%	0%	11%	14%	3%	1%
Processing Agricultural Prod.	50%	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	50%	1%	1%
Van/Rickshaw Pulling	71%	45%	15%	20%	14%	30%	0%	5%	6%	8%
CBO Savings	80%	75%	20%	0%	0%	25%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Average	64,5%	58%	19%	21%	11%	9%	5%	13%	16%	17%

It is clearly visible that LEAF passively stands behind most of the livelihood choices. The identification and selection is entirely in the hands of each and every community member as LEAF only introduces tools and methods of how to make the best choice. For both P and EP groups, LEAF and the self-initiatives account for roughly 80% of the underlying motivation.

Out of all the chosen strategies, 96% of the Poor and 92% of the Extreme Poor confirmed that these have a positive impact on their situation, contributing to the reduction of poverty. The impacts were manifold:

Table 4: Type and Percentage of impacts on the Poor and EP

Type of impact	Poor	Extreme Poor	Average
no impact/negative impact	4%	8%	6%
income / profit increased	31%	32%	31,5%
physical assets increased	33%	33%	33%
upgraded social status	4%	5%	4,5%
improved education opportunities	13%	7%	10%
capacity to pay back loans	3%	1%	2%
improved health	13%	13%	13%
improved knowledge and skills (training)	1%	1%	1%
Total (positive impact):	96%	92%	94%

Only very few livelihood initiatives taken by the community members had no or a bad impact. In some cases, the strategies have not yet shown an impact (fruit tree plantations) as the initiatives were only taken up recently. Others did not have sufficient information or knowledge to undertake the selected strategy or just had bad luck in terms of having to face unexpected, unforeseeable incidences (such as natural disasters etc.). It shows that a careful assessment of the situation has to be in place before starting a new endeavour.

Box 3: Case study on change in Livelihoods

Mira Rani Barman, Parbatta, Joypurhat Sadar, Joypurhat:

My economic and social condition was very miserable. A homestead of three decimals of land is the only asset that I have. My family consists of my husband and two children. We hardly could run our family from the wages of the day labouring of my husband in others' houses. As advised by the president of our CBO, I took up an additional strategy and started making and selling puffed rice. Now I can earn Tk. 60-70 per day by making and selling the puffed rice in the nearby bazaar, which brought a minimum economic solvency in my family. I demonstrated puffed rice making and selling activity at my stall in the livelihoods fair organised by Parbatta cluster. It drew the attention of hundreds of people. They could understand that in parallel to other household activities one can do it easily, and a poor woman like me can easily earn additional income to contribute to her family expenses. It was a very proud day for me and I can feel that the other villagers respect me more than before.

However, a clear majority of families have chosen effective and profitable livelihood strategies. And as shown in table 3, LEAF carries the major share in supporting and facilitating the CBO members in identifying their own strategies.

For further in depth figures on livelihood strategies of CBO members refer to the Joint Review report of LEAF and its Clusters/CBOs.

3.4. Gender

As it is widely acknowledged that the recognition and inclusion of the females' contribution to the livelihoods of a family plays a crucial role in making people less prone to shocks, gender-balance is considered as a major poverty related factor, helping to curb poverty. In this light, economical activities and decision taking powers of female household members and their overall perception of their roles are being looked at.

86% of the females of EP households and 79% of the females of Poor households are involved in economic activities. Following the predominantly mentioned activities:

Table 5: Economic activities of females in Extreme Poor and Poor households

Economic Activity	Extreme Poor females	Poor females
Poultry rearing	49 %	53 %
Day Labour	18 %	8 %
Small Trades	14 %	15 %
Goat rearing	27 %	25 %
Homestead vegetable production	36 %	36 %
Cow rearing	21 %	22 %
Small business	11 %	9 %

87 % of the economically active females in EP households and 78 % of females in Poor households have decision taking power within the family. However, most decisions are taken jointly (husband and wife) in Poor households. The same is true for EP households with the exception of borrowing money, production activities and business decisions, where more than 50% of the females take their own decisions. In general, a strong correlation of economical and decision taking power can be seen among female members of Poor and EP households.

Box 4: Case study on change in Gender

Mosammat Rehana Begum, Adhikaripara, Atwary:

We are six members in our family and my husband is struggling hard every day to make a living, producing and selling bamboo-mats. He doesn't like to see me outside the house so I obey and stay with my two small daughters in the house. There is much work to do every day. A few weeks back I was invited to a meeting organised by our CBO. I took a lot of time to convince my husband to let me go and finally we decided to go there together. It turned out to be a training on gender. This was a real eye-opener for me and for my husband as well, as we had never really thought about these issues before. First, my husband was very negative, but when the Trainer and female mentor of our village could show us how we can improve our (economical) situation by involving me more in production activities, he gradually started to like the idea. For me personally, the training has changed a lot in my daily life. I feel that I am taken more seriously by my husband, because now I actively contribute to our family's income. He even listens to me when he is taking decisions. This would never have happened if we did not have the chance to attend the training.

Out of the selected sample, 79% of the females of EP households and 69% of the females of Poor households have a progressive (i.e. they approve a gender balanced development and in general the empowerment of females) perception regarding gender roles as they can clearly see the (mainly economic and social) advantages of a gender sensitive development.

More than 85% of the females in EP and 78% of the females in poor households directly benefit from their economic activities, mostly monetary (80%) and in less than 70% of the cases physically (such as food for work).

4. Lessons and Recommendations

After the test round of interviews, several suggestions for improving the *methodology* were placed from various sides. The tool itself (i.e. the questionnaire) was appreciated by most at all levels, from Interviewees to the Project Support and Management Unit (PSMU). Before the implementation of the second round of interviews, following adjustments were taken into account:

- *Improve the Field Facilitators' (FF) capacity to implement the tool.* One day training sessions for all Field Facilitators were conducted. The quality the interviews improved significantly. However, some weaknesses are still visible, but are bound to be minimised as the FFs' experience grows.
- *Improve the evaluation methodology of the questionnaire.* The review of the methodology has increased the transparency and made it easier to handle the data. Nevertheless, it is designed flexibly and can be adjusted according to the demand (context dependent).
- *Increase of the sample size.* The sample size has changed from 250 to 432. It is now sufficient and is able to give a statistically significant outcome. In addition, the sample selection was brought in line with the previously conducted LEAF base line survey and is now clearly identifiable/traceable.

According to the *outcome* of the second round implementation, further lessons and recommendations on the methodology and regarding next year's project planning were derived:

- *Sample size:* Although the sample size underlying this report is accurate, the size can and should be adjusted according to the need depending on the actual context.
- *Processing level:* The central role of the FFs as the key element in the socio-economic observatory remains. Furthermore, the primary processing of the information should be given to the regional level in future.
- *PRS and MDG:* In combination with the other poverty relevant tools of the poverty monitoring system, linkages with the overall poverty indicators from the MDG and PRS have to be established.
- *CBO member classification:* The relative measurement and classification of the CBO members by themselves through a well-being analysis proved to be a major hindrance of linking the existing tool with other poverty monitoring systems (PRS, MDG). Therefore, absolute criteria for the identification and classification of Extreme Poor, Poor and Marginal Farmers have to be established.
- *Poverty Monitoring Task Force:* A working group, consisting of stakeholders from all project and programme levels, with the task to assess, evaluate and plan project and programme phases according to the analysis of the outcomes should be set up
- *Future:* For the life after LEAF, it has to be clearly defined who will take over what responsibility at which level (interviews, processing, compilation, analysis and interpretation)
- *Capacity Building:* The high figures on negative impacts regarding the physical assets of livestock and poultry indicate that next year's planning should focus on the building the Poor and Extreme Poor's capacity to overcome these constraints (e.g. through specific training)
- *Diversification:* As seen in chapters three and four, LEAF should focus on an increased diversification of income sources and livelihood strategies for the Poor and Extreme Poor. Special interventions for the Extreme Poor should be continued and emphasized.
- *Knowledge and skills:* In table 4, astonishingly low percentages (1%) for improved knowledge and skills (training) are listed. This has to be verified during the next round implementation. In any case, intensified efforts towards an improvement of knowledge and skills of the Poor and Extreme Poor have to be undertaken in 2006.

Explanations on how to use the Questionnaire of the Socio-economic Observatory

A. In general

These explanations on how to use the questionnaire of the socio-economic observatory are directed mainly at the FF who primarily deals with the interviews. Yet, it is as important that the document is understood and used at the level of the regional offices and the PSMU as well as by a working group, which comprises professionals from all levels.

Design of the Questionnaire:

For each main indicator (1. Physical Assets, 2. Income and Profit, 3. Livelihood Strategies, 4. Gender), several quantitative and qualitative questions are posed to selected CBO-household members. The quantitative information will be filled in the respective tables; the qualitative information will be captured by outlining the main points.

Time requirement:

The time for the interview with the household members should not exceed one hour. There are 19 questions so that you have roughly 3 minutes time for each question (filling the tables will take a bit more time, little less should be required for the other questions). As per experience, interviews with extreme poor households take less time than with poor households. Ask the questions precisely and do not allow the interviewees to digress too much, even if it seems interesting information: always try to keep the focus on the information that we need!

Selection of households:

You will interview pre-selected households within Cluster Platforms of your working area that were also part of the 2004 base line study for IC (list with participants and socio-economic classification is with the Regional Offices). The pre-selection is conducted at the Regional Offices with the support of the TL of the PNGOs according to their suitability (see Annex 1 for details on selection of households and its underlying method).

All selected households will be followed-up in six-monthly intervals during the project life (possibly till 2007, minimum of one year) in terms of a regular household-monitoring.

Material for the Field Facilitators:

What you will need for conducting the interviews: The document you are holding in your hands (explanations on how to use the questionnaire, which are helping you to reach a high level of accuracy), several copies of the questionnaire (for each interview one questionnaire, one spare for the 'unexpected'), a notepad (for taking notes while calculating income and profit etc), pen or pencil and a calculator. Take all notes in Bengali. Make sure your handwriting is easily readable and understandable. You might therefore use a pencil at first hand and then, after the interview, rewrite and/or rephrase all the given answers.

Before the start of the interview:

In order to minimise the bias during the interview, make sure that only the household members are present during the first three chapters (physical assets, income/profit and livelihood strategies). In general, you may conduct the interview either with husband and wife or solely with the wife. For the last set of questions (gender) only the female household member(s) should be present, except for the question 4 f), which is also to be posed to the husband.

Furthermore, inform the household members about the purpose, time requirement, confidentiality and sharing:

- Purpose: (1) We have the objective to regularly collect information about the situation of their household in regard of physical assets, income and profit, livelihood strategies and gender (do assets get better or worse? Why do assets change?). (2) We want to assess the contribution of the LEAF project to their situation.
- Time requirement: Each interview will roughly take one hour, depending on the socio-economic situation of the household.
- Confidentiality: We are asking very personal questions and are grateful for most accurate answers. It is therefore essential to mention in advance that all the collected data will be handled with utmost confidentiality and will not be shared in detail with other CBOs and CBOM.
- Sharing: The retrieved information will help LEAF and its staff to deliver even more accurate facilitation to all CBOs. In this regard, they are supporting us to help developing the entire LEAF region.

Some interview partners may not be able or willing to answer certain questions. If you encounter such a situation, then state the reason why they could not answer the question. After all, you as a FF play the central role in the socio-economic observatory and we rely on your capability in obtaining accurate, good quality information from the interviewees.

B. Explanations on the questions and tables

Generally, the questions should be very much self-explanatory. Nevertheless, following you will find some clarifications on the questions. Each question from the questionnaire is mentioned again and subsequently the questions are rephrased and explained so that you can understand the issues that are being looked at easily. These 'guidelines' are deliberately not too strict as you will have to show flexibility according to your interview partner; it has the goal to lead you, so that you will be able to retrieve most accurate data from the interview.

The general information, which is captured in the first few lines of the questionnaire, should be filled in before you go to the household. This data is available from the team leader of the partner NGO.

The questionnaire is to be understood as a 'snap-shot' of the household situation on the day you conduct the interview. This means that we are looking at the today's situation in the selected household. However, questions relating to 'change' always look back at the period between today and the previous interview (normally six months). Make sure you calculate figures in the income and profit section accordingly.

Physical Assets

a) What are the physical assets that you have at present (estimates of the assets: housing, land, livestock, transportation etc.)?

Ask the selected community member about his/her physical assets. Add to the common physical assets that are found in most households (already listed in the table) any additional

physical assets in the list (use empty cells in the first column). Fill the number of items and/or, if possible, the amount in Taka (estimates), into the cells next to the listed physical assets. If you face difficulties in finding out the monetary value of the physical assets, then simply leave it out! In the column of remarks clearly state the 'status' (shared, owned, rented etc.) of the asset (e.g. household rears cow for owner and gets its share after a while; then write shared with owner in the column for remarks).

b) What physical assets have changed the most this year? How have they changed and what is the impact (positive or negative, e.g. social status)? Refer to list under a).

This table has the intention to capture the effects (mainly social effects) of the changes (positive or negative). Only consider the most visible, noticeable assets from the table under 1 a) (choose maximum seven physical assets). In the first column write down the name of the physical asset; in the second briefly describe the type of change and the effects of the changes (in terms social and sometimes economical changes). If necessary add remarks in the third column.

c) What made you capable of acquiring the assets? What is the reason for losing the assets?

With this question we want to inquire about the underlying ideas of the household to acquire/lose the assets. In other words: How and why have you acquired/lost the assets? Who initiated the change? Has the LEAF facilitation (or any other external factors) triggered off the one or other idea/motivation for the acquisition?

d) Are there any implications resulting out of the change for the whole community?

You will find similar questions in all four chapters (1d), 2d), 3e), 4f)) of the questionnaire. As we inquire with most of the questions only the happenings within the household, this question relates to the rest of the Community. E.g. do the changes in physical assets of one household have an effect on the whole community? Do others follow the example of the household or do they benefit in some way (e.g. new assets are rented out to others; household member will share knowledge/experience with newly acquired assets with others, etc.)?

Income and Profit

a) What are the sources of income (of all household members!)?

Next to the already listed common income sources, the first question under section two collects all additional type of income sources that are not yet listed. The additional income sources should be added to the list. Include all income related activities of all members of the household (from children to grandparents, if applicable)! These could be Day Labour, Rickshaw Pulling and others.

What is the average income and profit of your household this year?

After knowing all income sources at the household level, figures for this year's average income for each listed income source are collected. Produce for self consumption is not an income! Labour cost will not be considered as the calculation is too complex. Use your notepad and calculator for the calculations and only fill in the 'final' amount.

Income: 'Salary', money received for work or selling products

Profit: Income minus Expenditure (for producing goods and services)

If household members can only give you figures for daily income or monthly incomes etc., then you will have to extrapolate these figures to one year. For this you need to know whether it is a seasonal or perennial activity and for how many days per week or month they are involved in these activities.

In order to give these figures a meaning, the PSMU will compare these figures with the average incomes for 2004 (already gathered through baseline survey).

c) Did you invest your profit? If yes, how and where? If decreasing income, how did you cover your expenditures?

Directly related to question 2 b), here we want to find out whether they reinvested their profit mentioned under 2 b). As investment we understand all expenditures that have the objective of a monetary return (including education, e.g. everything except commodities, consumption goods and gambling) or 'saving' of money (e.g. saving in bank account, buying of gold, buying/building a house etc.). Loans and any type of borrowings are not an investment! However, in the case of decreasing income loans and borrowings are means of covering the expenditures.

d) Is there any impact visible for the whole community (how does the community benefit from your personal increased income)?

Do the income sources of one household have an effect on the whole community? Do others follow the example of the household or do they benefit in some way (e.g. money is lent out to other members; household member will share knowledge/experience with others, etc.)? Only consider impacts/effects regarding income and profit. Do not consider physical assets again (already under 1d)).

Livelihood Strategies

a) What new livelihood strategies has your household adopted this year?

The first question is seeking to collect all strategies that aim at maintaining their lives and families and that were adopted by the household this year. The basic question is: What do your household members do to change the current (unfavourable) situation to bring it from a vulnerable situation to a better status? This information is filled into the first column. Examples for livelihood strategies are: Selling labour, buying a van, exploring new markets, etc.

b) What is the duration of the newly adopted strategies (in terms of seasonality, mgmt capacity, affordability (capital, time, material etc.))?

In the second column, note down for what duration the strategy was adopted (e.g. perennial, seasonal). Moreover, fill the lines for 'notes' with information of the successfulness of the adoption: which strategy turned out to be very successful, which one was a failure? Only select an example each.

c) What made you capable of adopting these strategies?

Try to find out what reasons, underlying motivations and circumstances made it possible for the household to actually adopt these strategies: Who gave the household the idea/motivation for adopting the chosen strategies? What is the role of LEAF project and other agencies (NGO, GO)? Refer to the listed adoptions under 3a)/b) and explain.

d) Have the newly adopted strategies already shown an impact on your family? If yes, in what way (how and where)?

Adopted strategies are not necessarily successful and might be abandoned after a while. Which adopted strategies turned out to be un-/successful and what are the underlying reasons for its success/failure? In what way are they un-/successful? If possible, give one positive and one negative example.

e) Are other community members following your example? If yes, in what way?

In case of the successful adoptions of (livelihood) strategies: do other households follow your example and do you share your experiences with other members? If possible, give not more than three examples.

Gender

a) Are you involved in economic activities?

First of all we need to know whether the female member of the Household is involved in any type of economic activity (any activity that creates monetary or physical income). If the question is answered positively, then proceed with questions 4 b) to 4 f); If the answer is no, then continue with 4d).

b) If yes, what type of activities and what is the benefit (monetary, social, physical) of it?

Here list all the income generating activities and add in the second column the benefit that the female members receive (can be monetary, physical or social).

c) Can you keep the earned money with you? Can you independently make decisions for your spending? If yes, in what decisions?

Ask the interviewee about the decision taking power regarding her income. Does she hand over all the earned money immediately? Can she keep some or all of it? Who is finally taking the decision how to spend the money? In what way can she take decisions regarding her income? Give examples and explanations.

d) Could you briefly describe decisions that are taken in your household (1)? Who are the responsible persons (2)? If more than one person is involved, what is their role (3)?

First inquire about all decisions that are taken at household level. A selection of common decisions is listed. Only add additional types of decisions to the list. Secondly, ask who is involved in the decision taking for each type of decision (husband and wife; husband; wife). In the third column, state the roles (e.g. advisory role, decision power) of the involved only if several persons have a say. Basically answer the question: Who is taking the final decision or who is playing the major role (dominating) in decision taking?

e) Why can or can't you take part in decision making at home? What are the main constraints?

This question might not be easy to answer by the interviewees. What are the underlying reasons for taking part respectively not taking part in the decision making (constraints and opportunities).

f) What are the benefits of the involvement of females in the decision making process for your household and for the whole community?

With this question we try to assess the perception of the wife and husband regarding the role of females (i.e. of themselves) in general (for the whole community) and in particular (for the household) in the daily decisions that are taken at the household level. This will hopefully allow us to get a sense of whether it is a 'liberal', 'modern' and 'progressive' or rather a 'traditional', 'conservative' household. You may note down examples and out of these determine the perception of the female/male according to the above mentioned categories ('progressive'/'liberal' or 'conservative').

C. After the Exercise

Conclude the exercise with thanking the interview partner for giving us time and personal, accurate information. Let them know again that it is very important information that they gave us, that we handle the information confidentially and that we plan to follow their household regularly over a longer period.

After having conducted all questionnaires with the pre-selected households, make sure your Bengali handwriting is easily readable. Hand over the questionnaires to your team leader as soon as possible (the same day or the day after). He/she, after reviewing, delivers them immediately to the LEAF regional office, where the data is further reviewed and processed.

Questionnaire for the socio-economic observatory

1. General Information:

Date: _____ Name of CBO: _____ -

a) Name of CBOM : _____ -

b) Socio-economic status: _____ -

(c) Position of household members in CBO: _____ -

Number of family members: _____ -

Number of CBO members by socio-economic strata: _____ -

2. Physical assets (basic infrastructure and producer goods) of CBOM

a) What are the physical assets that you have at present (estimations of the assets: housing, land, livestock, transportation etc.)?

Type of physical asset	Detailed type and number of items at present	Monetary value for each physical asset as per to-day (in Tk.)	Remarks (owned, shared, rented etc.)
House/Shelter			
Water/Sanitation			
Transport			
Radio / TV / Newspaper etc.			
Household utilities (e.g. furniture)			
Agricultural Equipment			
Livestock			
Poultry & Ducks			
Land for Cultivation			
Trees			

Remarks:

b) What physical assets have changed the most this year (a)? How have they changed and what is the impact (positive or negative, e.g. social status) (b)? Refer to list under a).

(a) Physical Asset	(b) Type of change and impact after acquiring/loosing the assets	Remarks
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Remarks:

c) What made you capable of acquiring the assets? What are the reasons for loosing the assets?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

d) Are there any implications resulting out of the change for the whole community?

3. Income and profit of the Household

- a) What are the sources of income (of all household members)?
- b) What is the average income and profit of your household this year?

Income: 'Salary', money received for work, services or products sold
 Profit: Income minus Expenditure (for producing goods and services)

Type of income source	Income/profit (this year)	Comments
Small Trades	I:	
	P:	
Wages / Day Labour	I:	
	P:	
Homestead Trees and Perennials	I:	
	P:	
Homestead Crops	I:	
	P:	
Homestead Live-stock and Fishery	I:	
	P:	
Field Crops	I:	
	P:	
Processing of Agricultural Products	I:	
	P:	
Other:	I:	
	P:	
Other:	I:	
	P:	
Total	I:	
	P:	

Remarks:

c) Did you invest your profit? If yes, how and where? If decreasing income, how did you cover your expenditures?

d) Is there any impact visible for the whole community (how does the community benefit from your personal increased income)?

4. Adopted (livelihood) strategies

- a) What new livelihood strategies has your household adopted this year?
- b) What is the duration of the newly adopted strategies (in terms of seasonality, mgmt capacity, affordability (capital, time, material etc.))?

a) Type of adopted strategies	b) Duration (months per year)
Total Number of Strategies:	

Remarks:

c) What made you capable of adopting these strategies? What is the role of LEAF and other agencies in this regard?

d) Have the newly adopted strategies already shown an impact on your family? If yes, in what way (how and where)?

e) Are other community members following your example? If yes, in what way?

5. Gender (to be answered by female household member only, except for question 4 f) where we both, wife and husband, will give separate answers)

- a) Are you involved in economic activities? Yes No
 b) If yes, what type of activities and what is the benefit (monetary, social, physical) of it?

Type of economic activity	Benefit

Remarks:

- c) Can you keep the earned money with you? Can you independently make decisions for your spending? If yes, in what decisions?

- d) Could you briefly describe decisions that are taken in your household (1)? Who are the responsible persons (2)? If more than one person is involved, what is their role (3)?

(1) Type of Decision	(2) Responsible (persons)	(3) Role
Purchasing assets		
Schooling of Children		
Purchasing Commodities		
Family Ceremonies		
Borrowing Money		
Medical Treatment		
Production Activities		
Business Decisions		
Other:		
Other:		
Other:		

Remarks:

e) Why can or can't you take part in decision making at home? What are the main constraints?

f) What are the benefits of the involvement of females in the decision making process for your household and for the whole community?

Female:

Male: _____

Name and Signature of the interviewer: _____ -

Designation: _____ -

PNGO: _____ -

Reviewed by at PNGO level: Name & Designation: _____ -

For ROs use only

HH- Identification Number

Reviewed by at RO level: Name & Designation: _____ -

Thank You!

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