Report

On

Climate Change and Green Job
The role of Trade Unions

National Coordination Committee for Workers Education- NCCWE
Report on
Climate Change and Green Job: The role of Trade Unions

Training name: Climate Change and Green Job: The role of Trade Unions

Background

National Co-ordination Committee on Workers Education or NCCWE is the apex body of 13 federations or various labour organisations. NCCWE represent the workers in the various green jobs activities, particularly in the policy advisory committee as well as in national seminars and workshops held on green jobs.

The ILO together with UNEP and the ITUC launched a “Green Jobs Initiative” to help promote environmentally sustainable jobs and development in a climate-challenged world. As a part of this initiative, ILO has been seeking to promote policies and measures to achieve green jobs and green workplaces while at the same time increasing awareness and dialogue on this issue. NCCWE is a partner of these activities.

In Bangladesh green jobs is part of the ILO-NCCWE joint activities. NCCWE has organized four divisional workshops in four divisions to sensitize workers on the green jobs issues. During the pilot phase in 2010, about 125 participants from the various trade unions participated in the workshop.

This year NCCWE is being implemented four one day workshop under Green Job Asia Project with support from Australian government and the ILO country office Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, national trade unions have highlighted awareness building, campaigning and training on climate change as key priorities.

The situation in Bangladesh is vulnerable to these threats due to its unique physical and socioeconomic attributes, which include high population density, relatively low income levels for a large part of the population and the prominence of agriculture and fishing in providing livelihoods for the rural poor. Concerns over climate change and growing resource scarcities are prompting urgent calls for sustainable development and greener economies across the region.

Policy measures aimed at moving towards environmentally sustainable, low carbon development will bring profound and lasting adjustments to the socio-economic structures of the country, triggering shifts in labour markets and creating demand for new skills and re-skilling programs, social protection and financial schemes to bring about a fair transition for the most exposed workers and businesses.

In order to achieve this objective the project aims to promote the capacity of National Trade Union Federations to sensitise, creation of awareness among the leaderships on environment-related issues to raise their voice for green productive environment Green Jobs comprises a new area of work within the trade unions.

Objectives of the activity:

The objective of these trainings were to raise awareness of the workers, leaders regarding issues related to climate change and green job. It is a unique opportunity for mutual exchange of views and ideas on the issues mentioned above. This will help sensitizing workers representatives about their responsibilities at workplaces to protect environment and minimize vulnerability of the working people. In Short the objectives are:

- to support awareness-raising among workers and their representatives about climate change and its impact on employment and development;
• to enhance the capacity of workers’ associations towards understanding the links between environment protection policies, workplace conditions and relevance of fundamental labour standards for advocacy on green jobs; and

• to provide a reference for social dialogue on policy options and strategies that can be used in promoting green jobs initiatives, drawing lessons from the experiences of trade unions in Bangladesh and as well as other four target countries.

Expected result:

• 04 number of one day training organized by NCCWE
• Developed suggestions what roles the trade unions can play on climate change and Green job issue
• A set of recommendations for future trade union action.

Activity

One day training programe in Dhaka and other 3 divisional cities named Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi. There was a short inaugural and closing sessions in all the training programs. NCCWE leaders, representatives from the ILO were speaking in the sessions. The speakers emphasized the importance to play role to protect environment from pollution and green job initiatives. An oral evaluation conducted at the end of the programs. The participants have given a series of suggestions for future improvement of the programs. Senior leaderships, representative of the ILO and local level leaders were present in the sessions.

Methodology:

Participatory methodology was used. Participants were divided into groups for group activities. Group works were on

1. Climate Change and the effects on working people.
2. Role of trade unions in green job promotion.

All the groups presented their findings after discussion among themselves through a group leader. Other groups also contributed on the group findings.

A group work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>April 07, 2012</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khulna</td>
<td>April 21, 2012</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chittagong</td>
<td>May 07, 2012</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>May 28, 2012</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>77</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Male and Female ratio 60 and 40 percent

Participants are the representatives of the Trade Unions and from different sectors like Garments, Tailoring and boutiques, Construction, Railways, Transport, Tea industry, Banks and full time trade unionists
Partners involved:
National Trade union federations

Overall, this program will contribute to strengthening trade union capacities for engaging in policy making and initiatives for green jobs at tripartite and bipartite discussions, collective bargaining and decision-making processes.

Dhaka
A position paper prepared by the trade unions was presented by Bro. Mujibor Rahman Bhuiyan at the beginning of all the programs. In his presentation he highlighted the causes, consequences and the role of the trade unions in protecting environmental hazards specially caused by the production process. The Major contributors in environmental pollution is the richest countries not the poor he added. He also emphasized the importance of the role of trade unions to minimize the vulnerability caused by the pollutions.

Mr T I M Nurunnabi Khan Sr. programe officer of the ILO conducted a session on “Climate Change and Green Job Initiatives – Way Forward”. He discussed about the situation and the future action needed.

There was a panel discussion where the discussant talked about Green Job issue. The discussant were as follows-

- Bro. Zafrul Hassan
- Bro. Roy Romesh Chandra
- Bro. Mesbahuddin Ahmed
- Bro. Abdul Kader Hawlader
- Bro. Abdul Mukit Khan

An open Q & A session took place after the presentations.

The last session was group work on Climate Change and the role of trade unions. The participants were divided into 4 groups and they worked on

- The Effects of climate change &
- The role of trade unions

Effect of Climate Change

- Flood
- Landslide
- Draught
- River erosion
- Earthquake
- Over / Under raining
- Salinity

Effects on Working people

- Loss of job
- Loss of shelter
- Loss of crops
- Diseases
- Loss of working ability
Loss of property

**TU to do**

- Create awareness among the workers through campaign activities
- Training on Climate Change at up to plant level
- Campaign for mass awareness
- Include Green job issue in trade Union Chartered of demand
- Climate friendly service rule
- Campaign through cultural activities
- Tripartite dialogue
- Advocacy committee
- Networking with National and international organizations
- Protect forest and more plantation
- Ensure treatment plant at factory level

**Khulna**

Khulna is a coastal area. It is known as a vulnerable area due to natural calamities. Cyclone, Tornado, Aila, Sidor Flood, Salinity are the common phenomenon. Workers are the most victims. Trade unions are concerned.

Mr Mathew Hensberg, consultant from the regional office of the ILO attended the programme and conducted a session. He discussed about green job initiatives in Bangladesh and other Asian countries under the project. Participants asked questions after his presentation. Mr Mathew exchanged views on the issue.

There was a panel discussion where the discussant talked about Green Job issue. The discussant were as follows-

- Advocate Firoz Ahmed
- Bro. Sk Alauddin Al Azad
- Bro. Siddiquur Rahman
- Bro. Mozibur Rahman

An open Q & A session took place after the presentations.

The last session was group work on Climate Change and the role of trade unions. The participants were divided into 4 groups and they worked on

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A press conference organized to draw attention of the media representatives. A good nos of press people attended the conference. A paper has been distributed among the press to publish in the news media and to create awareness of all concerned. The media covered the news in the next day newspapers.
**TU to do**

- Create awareness among the workers through campaign activities
- Trade Unions can raise voice against gas emission from the factories
- Campaign against unplanned shrimp cultivation in saline water
- Demand compensation from the rich countries for huge carbon and gas emission
- Social campaign for mass awareness
- Dialogue with the employers for green job
- Proper waste management at industry level
- Encourage green technology
- Mass media campaign
- Keep pressure to ensure waste treatment plant at plant level
- Aware working people by forming small committee at plant level
- Including Climate Change issue in all trade union education curricula
- Campaign (Gate meeting, Group meeting, Discussions and distributing Handbill, leaflet, Posters, Banners etc)
- Cooperate with employers in effluent management
- Popularize green job concept among the workers
- Protect deforestation
- Organise informal sector
- Dialogue with all stakeholders
- Organise training on climate change issue
- Keep pressure on the employers to create green job
- Formation of green job cell at federation level to undertake activities like training seminar, workshop, etc
- Update Labour Law
- Demand compensation from the employers for the victims
- Research and analysis on the effects and challenges of climate change

**Chittagong**

Chittagong is the commercial capital of Bangladesh. It stands by the side of the Bay of Bengal. There is threat of natural disaster especially in the summer season.

The seminar started with the welcome speech of Mr. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan, Member Secretary of NCCWE.

A session was conducted by Advocate Nazneen Nahar Nirupoma on Climate Change and the women. She discussed the effects of climate change and the vulnerability of working women in particular.

There was a panel discussion where the discussant talked about Green Job issue. The discussant were as follows-

- Mr. Abdul Mukit Khan
- Mr. Safar Ali
- Mr. A M Nazimuddin
- Mr. Tapan Dutta
- Mr. Rizwznur Rahman Khan

An open Q&A session took place after the presentations.

The last session was Group work on Climate Change and the role of trade unions. The participants were divided into 4 groups and they worked on...
- The Effects of climate change &
- The role of trade unions

**Effects on Working people**

- Loss of job
- Loss of crops
- Diseases
- Loss of working ability
- Loss of property
- Poverty
- Malnutrition
- Homeless / Stranded
- Higher mortality

**TU to do:**

- Include Green job as a trade union issue
- Compensation for the victims
- Discussion with the management to implement green job programe
- Ensure OSH at workplace
- Ensure decent work
- Raising fund
- Undertake rehabilitation programmes
- Include in CBA
- Training and education
- Networking

**Rajshahi**

Mr T I M Nurunnabi Khan sr programe officer of the ILO inaugurated the seminar as chief guest while Mr Moizibur Rahman Bhuiyan. Sis. Farida Shahnaz, National coordinator GJA project and other local trade Union leaders were present. A session was conducted by Advocate Nazneen Nahar Nirupoma on Climate Change and the women. She discussed the effects of climate change and the vulnerability of working women in particular.

There was a panel discussion where the discussant talked about Green Job issue. The discussant were as follows-

- Mr Rafiqul Islam Dulal
- Mr Mohsin Kabir
- Mr Abul Kalam Azad
- Mr Taibur Rahman

An open Q & A session took place after the presentations.

The last session was Group work on Climate Change and the role of trade unions. The participants were divided into 4 groups and they worked on

- The Effects of climate change &
- The role of trade unions
Effects:

- Agricultural workers and Fishermen become jobless
- Loss of property due to natural calamities
- Women workers lose their job as first victim
- Scarcity of food
- Destroy Shelter
- Spread various diseases
- Destroy Social safety net

Overcome:

- River dredging is necessary
- More plantation is needed
- Create awareness and campaign to protect agricultural land
- Training for trade union activists
- Long term planning
- Include the agenda in Labor Law
- Research and information
- Keep pressure on employers to abide by the law of the country
- Initiative for Green industrial production specially in Ship breaking, construction, Brickfields, Chemical and skin and hide industry.
- Include Green job issue in trade union training
- Women should be more trained on the issue.
- More Plantation
- Reduction of Green house gas emission
- Ensure decent work at workplace
- Improve industrial effluent management system
- Protect biodiversity

Capacity Development Curriculum

Activities/presentations

- Input session presentations
• Q & A
• Panel discussion
• Group work

Important questions raised
• Need National policy
• Need Mass awareness
• T U can be an effective contributing partner in implementing Green Job in Bangladesh.

Annexes:
• List of participants
• Meeting/ workshop/ training material
• News paper cutting
• Statement of Accounts
• Programe Schedule

Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan
Member Secretary
NCCWE