



পলী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)

23rd Anniversary of PKSF and Development Fair 2013



May 12 - 16, 2013 Bangabandhu International Conference Centre Dhaka



সংস্থার মুখ্য সচিব



মাস্ট্রিপতি
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
ঢাকা।

29 Baishak 1420
12 May 2013

Message

I am happy to learn that the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is going to celebrate its 23rd anniversary of establishment. On this occasion, I convey my heartfelt congratulations to all concerned with PKSF.

Poverty alleviation is one of the most important issues of agricultural Bangladesh. It is a praiseworthy initiative that PKSF has taken several programs for reducing poverty considering the various aspects of development. I hope, attaining the target of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would be enhanced by PKSF through investment and employment generation. I think, the 'Development Fair' organized by the PKSF would play an active role in demonstrating diversified activities of PKSF to other associate organizations and exchanging views with them.

I wish the 'Development Fair-2013' a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Abdul Hamid



মন্ত্রী



মন্ত্রী
মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
রাষ্ট্রীয়

Message

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) was founded in 1990 under public patronage with the objective of poverty alleviation through employment generation. This Organization has been relentlessly working to generate employment for the rural poor for more than two decades now. In the past, its activities focused on support through micro-credit operations. I am very pleased to know that at present PKSF has restructured its programmes to empower the beneficiaries with special emphasis on various services relating to health, education, training and creation of family assets.

PKSF, under its ENRICH programme, entrusts one Partner Organization to ensure the comprehensive development of the poor population of a particular Union. Such a holistic development approach would certainly expedite the pace of our development. I feel further happy to know that PKSF service charges are less than those fixed by the Micro-Credit Regulatory Authority.

The difference in the intensity and extent of poverty in various regions and communities has been reflected in the financial and non-financial services of PKSF. Special attention is now being given in environmentally vulnerable areas, poor population of seasonally poverty-prone areas, rural, urban, char, coastal, drought and flood-prone, haor areas etc.

I believe that the PKSF Development Fair 2013, to be held from 12 to 16 May, 2013 would be a testimony to the wider activities this Organization is involved with. The beneficiaries of this Organization have acquired creativity and self-confidence in a successive manner through long-standing experience. Obviously, a large number of the poor are now graduating into small entrepreneurs. Besides, the exhibition of the items produced by the beneficiaries will lead to creation of linkage of various persons/organizations with the small entrepreneurs.

I wish PKSF Development Fair all success.

Md. Abdul Karim

Poverty Alleviation-Employment Generation-Human Dignity & the Role of PKSF

Shafi Ahmed

It was in the morning of February 13. The occasion was the gala celebration of 23rd anniversary and Development Fair 2013 of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). Jinat Sultana Smriti of Kushtia receives a certificate of merit from the smiling and gracious Prime Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Sheikh Hasina. Smriti's face also radiates with an exceptional gleam. And PKSF played a role behind this recognition of Smriti who has earned this in spite of the strictures of the conservative family life. PKSF is committed to income generation through employment and thereby to establish the human dignity of the poor. From Kushtia, let's move to Rangamati. There we can meet Thuinung Marma. This successful woman has overcome many odds of life and now runs a profitable grocery. And again, she owes her success to PKSF.

Bangladesh has inherited a society characterized by discrimination of classes in terms of solvency. This is also a fall out of the colonial rule. A culture of micro-credit grew out of finding a solution to help the poor and marginalized communities. PKSF is also involved with micro-credit operations, but this organization also represents a significant pro-people strategy that looks at poverty alleviation in a different way. Assistance from PKSF is directed towards creating employment opportunities. The poor feel inspired to stand up on their own and understand that there is value of their talent and hard work. This is the pathway to the recognition of their human dignity.

With this end in view, PKSF has diversified its micro-credit operations. This has led to a comprehensive approach to its programmes. It the recent times, the thrust is on increasing mobility, a pronounced departure from the conventional method. In 2006, PKSF embarked on an innovative programme. In northern Bangladesh a particular state of the society is traditionally known as *monga*. People live in utter crisis of work, income and food during the months of September and October. Hundreds of families lack from minimum purchasing power. In order to give an answer to this terrible state of the poor, PKSF came out with 'Programmed Initiatives for Monga Eradication (PRIME)'. Surveys were conducted to review the socio-economic conditions of the *monga*-affected communities and accordingly appropriate employment opportunities were created, supplemented by technical assistance and training. Centuries-old *monga* is sheltered in the pages of history. This speaks of PKSF's farsightedness and committed efforts to do good for the ailing humanity. The success of PRIME energized PKSF to extend PRIME in the Sidr and Aila-affected areas in the south of Bangladesh. One extremely crying need in the life of the people in these areas is safe drinking water. In spite of water everywhere, not a drop to drink because of severe salinity, which has largely damaged agriculture too. PKSF has done a wonderful job by cleaning the waters of 20 reservoirs.

Experience and survey say that with micro-credit assistance only a negligible section of the poor can come out of the poverty circle. Sundry forms of discrimination undo the efforts to achieve sustainable development. So, PKSF preferred to initiate an inclusive approach. PKSF feels that poverty alleviation claims attention to health care, nutrition, individual liberty and cultivation of social values. And only that can inject the self-confidence and guidelines to innovate some conducive models of development programmes that promise poverty alleviation for the poor in a sustainable way, which eventually would lead to the liberation of the disadvantaged communities.

Accordingly, PKSF has started a comprehensive project known as Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Household towards Elimination of their Poverty known as

ENRICH. Initially, this project covered 21 selected unions of the country and in the second phase. It has spread over to 14 new unions and 8 more are in the pipeline.

Data and figures of the poor of these unions have been collected and compiled in a scientific method and are stored in the IT system. ENRICH has opened up diverse development windows for the poor. ENRICH includes healthcare, education, training, formation of social capital, employment generation within the communities both in agro-based and non-agricultural enterprises, jobs for the youth, infrastructural development, inexpensive and health-friendly cooking stoves, solar home system, special savings programme, special projects for the ultra poor, disabled and elderly persons, demand-driven micro-credit and community-based programmes. The poor is being particularly facilitated to actively take part in the development process. They can feel that they are the participants in it and hence their human dignity is enhanced.

Finance for Enterprise Development and Employment Creation (FEDEC) is another flagship programme, which is being jointly funded by PKSF and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This is being implemented through a new process known as Value Chain Development (VCD). FEDEC concentrates on the creation of a favourable environment for the poor through skill development, capacity building, marketing opportunities and publicity. This is very important for the small entrepreneurs. Sustainable and commercially profitable projects can be undertaken under these ventures. Of the 35 projects under FEDEC, 7 have been already implemented and the 28 others are progressing in the right direction.

PKSF puts extra emphasis on the protection of environment. Reference may be made to two instances. Use of Urea Super Granule (USG) decreases the loss of nitrogen and increases fertility of the land by 70%; quality-wise this is economic too, while rice production increases by 20% to 25%. Financed by PKSF, one of its Partner Organizations (POs) is producing USG. It ensures supply to the farmers, runs training programmes for the motivation of the farmers. Another example relates to the production of vermi-compost. This is also economic and it involves a simple process too. Vermi-compost preserves the moisture of the soil, mixes air with soil and causes lesser loss of nitrogen. So far, 800 pits have been prepared with the financial assistance of PKSF. More than three hundred farmers have received training in its production and at present, 28 POs are engaged in the process. They receive appropriate technical assistance, CDs and Training Manuals are being distributed to the farmers. 2000 vermi-compost production centres are at work now. Use of vermi-compost adds to the income of the farmers, lessens the cost and this is environment-friendly.

Bangladesh is one of the worst-hit countries in terms of climate change. In the last three decades, Bangladesh has taken various measures to face the challenges thereof. Recently, PKSF has initiated a Community Climate Change Project (CCCP) under Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund. PKSF POs and other NGOs are appropriately enlightened on the active participation of people in the extremely vulnerable areas.

PKSF programmes are implemented by POs at the field level. These POs are selected in a rigid and meticulous process. The officials and staff of the POs take part in regular training programmes conducted by experts in the relevant areas. All PKSF programmes are monitored in an intensive way. Evaluation is done be national and international specialists at regular intervals. PKSF takes necessary measures to improve its activities as per the remarks of these reports.



Message

I am happy to know that Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is going to organize Development Fair 2013 in Dhaka on 12-16 May marking its 23rd anniversary of Foundation. On this occasion, I congratulate all officers, staff and other stakeholders of the Organisation.

Poverty alleviation is a multi-dimensional challenge. PKSF has been supporting the poor communities with financial capital for more than two decades. Further, it efficiently coordinates developmental innovative programmes to realize humanistic development of the society by creating a safety net that includes education, health care etc.

'Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households Towards Elimination of their Poverty' is an appreciating initiative of PKSF. Such programme represents a collaborative approach to the poverty alleviation policies of the present government. Under this programme, opportunities of sustainable development are likely to be created with the enhancement of resources of the poor communities in the selected unions of the country.

To build a prosperous, poverty-free and technology-based Bangladesh and the 'Vision 2021' the present government has been implementing huge development programmes for the last four years. As a result, approximately five crores of people are upgraded to middle class from the below poverty level. International community appreciated Bangladesh's advancement in socio-economic development and women empowerment.

I hope, to build a happy and prosperous golden Bangladesh, PKSF will continue its endeavor in future.

I wish all out success of the 23rd anniversary and Development Fair 2013 of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

Message from the Chairman

'Not for profit, but for public service' has been the motto of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) as this organization was established in 1990. It is managed under public/private arrangement. As per its Memorandum of Association, its key objective is poverty alleviation through employment generation. However, it started its journey with micro-credit operations through its Partner Organizations. Then, a concept was popular in the country that micro-credit is the only answer to poverty alleviation. But this was not the right concept. Poverty alleviation cannot be achieved with one component only, this requires education, training, healthcare, financing, access to resources and equal opportunities for all. It should be an integrated development process that involves multiple socio-economic components.

Experience prompted some diversification in micro-credit. The conventional weekly repayment has been replaced by 1-month, 6-months, post-harvest and year-end repayment terms for different activities (such as agriculture, livestock and small enterprise). Based on ground realities, fresh initiatives were taken as reality was taken into account, for example, comprehensive programmes to tackle the *monga* situation.

Recently, particularly in the last three years, fundamental changes have taken place in PKSF's philosophy of development and programmes for poverty alleviation. It has initiated family-based integrated development programmes with a view to bring the poor and backward people out of the vicious circle of poverty characterized by economic, social and other deprivation so that they can contribute to their own and national socio-economic progress. The idea behind being the creation of opportunities for every individual to attain a life and living of human dignity. The new programme, known as Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households towards Elimination of Their Poverty (ENRICH), is being implemented by selected POs in different areas of the country. Now, this is under implementation in 35 Unions of the country. Another 8 Unions have recently been selected for inclusion. The success achieved so far is a worthwhile experience for all of us. Everybody feels involved and inspired. Measures are being taken to strengthen and broaden this initiative.

We hope that this Development Fair and the series of seminars organized on this occasion will create some extraordinary enthusiasm. The views expressed therein would be instrumental toward strengthening our future policies and programmes.

This Development Fair was inaugurated on February 13, 2013. Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the Fair. Preparations were on since then and now this Fair will continue over five days from May 12 to 16, 2013. I express my heart-felt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for inaugurating the Fair.

I welcome all who take part in the Fair and the seminar sessions. I thank all concerned for organizing this Fair and the seminars.

Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad

PKSF at a glance

- Loan disbursement from PKSF to POs : Taka 1,50,776.50 million
- Loan recovered by PKSF from POs : Taka 1,18,277.52 million
- Loan outstanding of PKSF to POs : Taka 32,498.98 million
- Loan disbursement by POs to beneficiaries: Taka 9,06,876.99 million
- Loan recovered by POs from beneficiaries: Taka 8,29,720.94 million
- Loan outstanding of POs to beneficiaries level: Taka 77,156.05 million
- Total No. of members at the field level : 88,68,694
- Total No. of borrowers at the field level : 67,22,033
- Total savings collected at the field level: Taka 27,178.40 million
- No. of POs' staff received training from PKSF: 59,802
- Total capital of PKSF : 31,160.49 million (Un-Audited)

(All information up to February 2013)

23 Years of PKSF

Md. Abdul Karim, Managing Director, PKSF

PKSF has been able to build its exemplary image over the last 23 years at home and abroad. It has achieved this success by implementing a stream of demand-driven programs and projects for poverty eradication transparently and efficiently through adhering to appropriate policies and strategies. It has been possible for PKSF to reach its present state because of the continuous support of the government, sincere cooperation of its Partner Organizations (PO), relentless efforts of its committed staff, enlightened policy guidance of its Governing Body and above all, the spontaneous participation of targeted poor beneficiaries of its different projects and programs.

In the beginning of its operations in 1990, with a view to generating employment for the rural poor, PKSF set the goal of creating self-employment opportunities in the rural off-farm sector and adopted the strategy of promoting microcredit program for attaining this goal. This microcredit program, launched for rural moderate poor has been upgraded over time in accordance with the changing needs and eventually evolved into "inclusive financing program". PKSF's present financing program for employment creation includes moderate poor of both urban and rural areas, ultra poor, micro entrepreneurs, marginal and small farmers. Each set of said population is offered customized services as per their needs.

At the beginning of the new millennium, PKSF started integrating technical services with its financing program under a number of its specialized projects. PKSF has so far provided training to more than 2 million poor and implemented many schemes for transferring agricultural technology under these projects.

In 2006, PKSF launched a specialized program for mitigating *monga*, an age-old seasonal famine-like situation in the northern part of the country. The success of this program led to its eventual expansion in the SIDR and AILA-stricken areas in two different phases. Technical and health services were integrated with financial services for

the ultra-poor under this program. Long term rehabilitation programs were undertaken coupled with projects for enhancing supply of potable water in AILA-stricken area and "cash for work" program in SIDR affected area. PKSF has been implementing market chain development programs since 2008 under a focussed project. PKSF has so far completed implementation of 8 projects and is implementing 28 different projects in this regard.

PKSF has added new dimension to its mission and programs in 2010. PKSF redefined its core goal as "instituting human dignity" instead of limiting its efforts towards achieving economic freedom only and started undertaking new programs for attaining this goal. It started monitoring impact of its credit program on employment for the first time.

Education, health, disaster management, micro insurance, job placement programs have been undertaken not as offshoot activities of microfinance program, but as programs by dint of their individual merits. Mapping of various rural business clusters has been completed with a view to commencing programs for the development of rural industries. PKSF has already bought a piece of land at a prime location of Dhaka for providing incubation marketing facilities to develop brands of micro entrepreneurs. It has also endorsed the idea of developing virtual market facilities for micro entrepreneurs.

PKSF has also started implementing a project aiming to enhance capacity of the poor to increase their resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

In addition to natural catastrophes, PKSF has recently expanded the scope of its disaster management policy so that it can support programs for enhancing capacity of poor to cope with man-made disasters and created fund for this purpose. It has recently decided to undertake long term rehabilitation program for the victims of Rana Plaza collapse. Moreover, PKSF has started implementing actuarial based

micro insurance in life, debt, and health and livestock sector for the first time in Bangladesh. About 1100 informal tutorial schools are being conducted to prevent drop out of school children from poor families. PKSF has inspired its Partner Organizations in providing scholarships to 12 thousand meritorious students from low-income families over the last two years. PKSF has itself spent Tk. 5.5 million for providing scholarships during the same period.

PKSF has recently launched a program titled ENRICH in 43 selected unions in different parts of the country. With the core objective of instituting human dignity, PKSF has undertaken this program to create productive and sustainable employment opportunities for the targeted low-income population by ensuring optimum use of their existing resources and enhancing their human capacities. In order to increase productive assets, each family is being provided with education, health, technical and financial services in a coordinated manner under this program.

At present, PKSF is providing various services to 9 million beneficiaries through more than 6000 branches of its 203 Partner Organizations. PKSF has so far made Tk. 150 billion available to its POs. The POs have delivered credit amounting to Tk. 900 billion to its beneficiaries. PKSF will increase flow of resources to beneficiaries in future with a view to eradicating poverty through sustainable employment generation. It will go ahead with creative programs in the coming days for enhancing human capacity and capability to cope with disasters along with its existing education, health and financing programs. The core objective of all these efforts will be instituting human dignity of the poor citizens of this country by taking them permanently out of the vicious cycle of poverty. PKSF will keep on moving forward to achieve this goal with the continuous support of the Government, partner organizations, development partners and above all, the spontaneous support of the enterprising disadvantaged population.

Governing Body of PKSF



Dr. Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad
Chairman

