24th Annual General Meeting of PKSF

The 24th Annual General Meeting of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) was held at the PKSF Bashan on 31 December 2012. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, Chairman of PKSF. Among the members of the General Body present were: Dr. Sheikh Mozooq Ali, Dr. A. K. M. Nur-Uz-Nabi, Dr. Nazmunnessa Mahbub, Mr. Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, Dr. M. A. Quassim, Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Dr. Mehrizur Kanti Majumder, Mrs. Majeda Shawkat Ali and Dr. Quazi Mebonuddin Ahmed, Managing Director of PKSF.

A total of 11 important agenda items were discussed. These included the following: revision and approval of the meeting minutes of 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Foundation; report of the Managing Director on the progress of the activities about which resolutions taken earlier and of the initiatives in connection with the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Foundation; Chairman’s submission regarding the main activities of the Foundation; approval of the Annual Report of FY 2011-12 by the Governing Body; audited financial report of the 115 active POs of the Foundation and comments of the auditors; election and re-election of the members of PKSF Governing Body; and appointment of the auditors for FY 2012-13 and fixation of the remuneration for auditors.

As the tenure of five General Body members namely Dr. Iqbal Mahmud, Dr. Nazmunnessa Mahbub, Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Mrs. Majeda Shawkat Ali and Mrs. Zahida Fizza Kabir has duly matured, five new members have been nominated to replace them. They are:- Mr. C. M. Shafi Sani, Dr. Bunsana Saha, Mrs. Bulbul Mahfuzi, Mr. Md. Emranul Haq Chowdhury and Begum Razia Hossain.
Dr. Quazi Khokiluzzaman Ahmad, Chairman of PKSF, placed the annual report of the Governing Body for the perusal of the General Body. The annual report contained the record of the progress of the major activities of the Foundation during FY 2011-12. He also gave a short report of the overall progress of the Foundation. The major points of his submission are given below.

- Acknowledging the fact that traditional microcredit is not and cannot be the final answer to sustainable poverty alleviation and establishment of human dignity, PKSF has taken a number of social initiatives in the recent times. It includes creation of social safety nets for the poor, education services, health services and similar other human development activities. Credit flow of the Micro Enterprise (ME) programme has been increased with a maximum loan ceiling of BDT 1 million.

- Diversity in geographical characteristics of different regions and their implications were taken into consideration and were deeply incorporated in the financial service system of the Foundation. Activities of the Foundation have been extended and have become more organized in areas vulnerable to climate change impacts including char areas, coastal areas, drought and flood-prone areas, island areas, and areas with seasonal poverty and cyclone-prone areas.

- Additional 14 unions have been included under the coverage of the specialized programme known as ENRIC. Information of each household of all the unions selected under ENRIC have been collected and around 60-70% of all households will be henceforth covered under ENRIC initiatives. In addition, ENRIC intends to provide assistance for those who are not enrolled. Some of the assistance programmes could not be executed by the Foundation till now such as construction of roads or provision of safe drinking water. These are some projected activities under ENRIC initiatives to be realized in the near future in association with concerned authorities.

- Security of income and asset of the poor is closely associated with climate change. Abrupt occurrence of disasters such as cyclone or flood takes away whatever advancement the poor might have made and pulls them back into vulnerable conditions again. In order to ensure the safety of the asset and income of the poor, PKSF has recently initiated insurance services for them. Experimental execution of the livestock insurance of the Foundation has demonstrated remarkable success and is presently being implemented at the field level. PKSF is currently working on the enactment of policy guidelines regarding insurance services.

- Further, PKSF has formed three different funds. The Special Fund worth BDT 50 million seeks to facilitate the underprivileged segment of the society with assistance in health and education sectors. All the activities under this fund are covered from the revenue earned. Recently, the family of a Birangona of 1971 liberation war has been rehabilitated with help from the Special Fund. Besides, a total of 182 meritorious children of the ultra poor beneficiaries of the Foundation have received education scholarships in last fiscal year from this fund.

- Another fund is Programme-Support Fund (PSF) which has been formed with an initial amount of BDT 1 billion. This will later be increased to BDT 5 billion. Members of the PKSF POs will be eligible to rehabilitation assistance from this fund at times of emergency.

- Disaster Management Fund is another fund of this nature. Measures are being taken to broaden its scope and utilization opportunities. From now on, not only natural disasters but man-made or household level adversities will also be covered under this fund. The current amount of this fund is BDT 3.25 billion out of which a total of 0.4 billion has been distributed in the last fiscal year.

- Microcredit borrowers produce various high-quality products but these are not duly recognized and patronized. PKSF has recently undertaken an initiative to establish a display and sales centre at DHaka. As soon as this centre is launched, concerned beneficiaries of PKSF will be able to display and sell their distinctive products. The preparations for its public opening are underway.

- PKSF has received a grant amount of USD 10 million under Kuwait Goodwill Fund for Promotion of Food Security in Islamic Countries popularly known as KFEAD to be utilized for the eco-social development and food security of the ultra poor beneficiaries.

- European Commission (EC) funded project titled ‘UJOBITO’ will be launched very soon in which PKSF will jointly work with Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

- Bangladesh Climate Change Action Plan (BCCSAAP) is an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to enhance the resilience to adopt with climate change impacts. Under BCCSAAP, GoB created Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRf) and Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF). The administrative responsibilities of both the funds have been bestowed on PKSF by GoB. PKSF is responsible for the monitoring of the financial activities of BCCTF. On the other hand, 10% of the total fund of BCCRf is designated for NGO implemented projects. PKSF will directly coordinate the financial management of BCCRf.

At the end, Dr. Quazi Khokiluzzaman Ahmad thanked all the members of both the Governing Body and General Body of the Foundation for their constant support and direction. He also thanked the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the donor organizations of PKSF. He thanked all the Farmer Organizations (POs) of PKSF and their beneficiaries for being a part of PKSF and congratulated them on their continuous success.
Inauguration of Community Climate Change Project (CCCP)

The Community Climate Change Project (CCCP) under Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) has been conceived to enhance the capacity of selected communities to increase their resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change. CCCP has identified and initially targeted three vulnerable zones: 1. saline-affected coastal areas, 2. flood-affected char-lands and river basins and 3. drought-affected or rainfall-source areas. Prospective NGOs for implementation will initially be selected on the basis of their project proposals. Once an NGO passes the Concept Review Phase, it will be requested to submit a detailed project proposal. PKSF has established a separate Project Management Unit (PMU) for the overall implementation and operations of CCCP that will provide guidance to the NGOs. The guiding principle of the grant award system is "simplicity with transparency". To ensure that decisions are made in the shortest time possible and activities are carried out efficiently, every possible care will be taken on behalf of PKSF.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of CCCP by the Governing Council of BCCRF. PKSF organized a launching ceremony of CCCP on Saturday 17 November 2012 at PKSF Auditorium, Dhaka.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the event as the Chief Guest while Ms. Christine Chimes, Acting Country Director, The World Bank Bangladesh was present as the special guest. Over four hundred participants including government officials, representatives from various development partners, civil society, NGOs, researchers, PKSF officials, journalists and allied stakeholders attended this ceremony. Dr. Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, Chairman of PKSF presided over the function. Dr. Quazi Moshaluddin Ahmed, Managing Director of PKSF delivered a welcome address and Dr. Fazle Rabii Sadeque Ahmed, Project Coordinator of CCCP presented a project overview.

Dr. Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed in his remarks said that the vulnerable communities in geographically and climatically disadvantaged areas of the country are the worst victims. Adaptation activities under CCCP will particularly target these communities while implementing NGOs will be responsible to ensure the active participation of the concerned communities. He thanked the development partners for their contribution to BCCRF and the Governing Council of BCCRF for putting trust on PKSF.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP in his speech addressed Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and underscored that the present government has taken various steps to address the impact of climate change. He said that the government has established a Climate Change Unit under the preview of Climate Change Trust Fund Act, 2010 and so far allocated an equivalent amount of US$350 million from its own budget for the implementation of BCCRF. It is indeed a landmark example for a LDC country like Bangladesh, which reflects the earnestness of Bangladesh to sincerely deal with climate change impacts. The minister also articulated the importance of CCCP, as it will involve NGOs and the concerned vulnerable communities.

Ms. Christine Kimes, Acting Country Director, World Bank Bangladesh mentioned that Community Climate Change Project (CCCP) is a grant-oriented project which will help communities to increase their resilience and ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. She also mentioned that CCCP is an important window for grant financing to non-government organizations.

Mr. Aparup Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, MoEF chaired the technical session of the ceremony. 4 different presentations were made in the technical session. These were: "Adaptation options in flood-prone areas of Bangladesh" by Professor Aminul Nabi, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University; "Agricultural adaptations in drought-prone areas" by Dr. M. Asaduzzaman, Ex-Research Director, BIDS; "Impact of climate change on salinity and probable remedial measures" by Professor Ansarul Karim, PhD, Environmentalist & Educatorist and "Adaptation in relation to climate-induced displacement" by Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, BIDS.

The launching ceremony ended with the voicing of the hope that CCCP will surely increase the adaptive capacity of the communities affected by climate-induced risks while directly contributing to the Vision 2021 of the Government of Bangladesh towards climate change adaptation.
PKSF High Officials Visit PO Areas of Operation

Dr. Quazi Moshahidul Islam, Managing Director of PKSF visited Sharirpur Development Society (SDS), a PO of PKSF on 25 November 2012. Dr. Jashim Uddin, Deputy Managing Director (Admin. & Finance) of PKSF accompanied him during this visit. They visited different field areas of SDS activities at Sharirpur. They also visited Meghna Mahila Sanstha, a group of female beneficiaries of SDS operated by its Kendal Char branch in Bhalashpur union of Jhira upazila of Sharirpur. They had a discussion with the group members on the problems and prospects of manufacturing and marketing of their products. During this discussion, group members who are working as wage employees at present showed their interest to become entrepreneurs themselves. In this regard, they would like to seek assistance from both SDS and PKSF. On behalf of PKSF, the MD and DMD assured the beneficiaries to provide continuous assistance and cooperation.

Afterwards, PKSF high officials visited farming activities of Ms Aleya Begum, a SDS member and offered words of encouragement for using modern agricultural techniques for cultivation. They also encouraged other SDS members to follow Aleya’s example that has earned visible success.

In the evening, the MD and DMD attended a meeting to exchange greetings and views with the senior staff of SDS. In his address, Dr. Quazi Moshahidul Islam said that in order to continue the sustainability of an organization everyone must perform his/her individual duty. He also emphasized on issues like dissemination of modern agricultural techniques and distribution of high quality seeds at appropriate time among the farmer communities to ensure agricultural sector development. Dr. Jashim Uddin expressed his satisfaction regarding the overall progress of the organizational activities. He also put emphasis on the expansion of the Micro Enterprise (ME) loan outreach and IGA implementation.

High officials of PKSF also visited Kashihata union of Vedorganj upazila on 26 November 2012. They visited a number of SDS activities including ENRICH interventions and the programmes now being implemented by Kashiful Mahila Samity. Meanwhile, they also visited a health camp under ENRICH operation. Dr. Quazi Moshahidul Islam expressed his contentment on the overall progress of ENRICH interventions so far, in particular in the areas of education, health and farming activities. As a concluding step of their visit, they exchanged views with the influential people of the locality.

Dr. Quazi Moshahidul Islam, Managing Director of PKSF and Mr. Md. Fazlul Kader, Deputy Managing Director (Operations) visited Centre for Community Development Assistance (CCDA) in Comilla, a PO of PKSF on 15 December 2012. During their visit, they visited a Value Chain Development (VCD) initiative titled ‘Prawn Culture with other Carps in the Floodplain Areas’ which is currently being implemented in Adampur of Daudkandi upazila. They also visited the construction work of a prawn hatchery.

One of the main working areas of CCDA is the low land areas of Comilla district that usually remain under water for 5/6 months in the rainy season. As a result, crop cultivation becomes quite difficult. However, different kinds of fish are being cultivated in these areas. Farmers are forced to sell their fish at a lower price during the months of November and December due to continuous decline of water level in the plain areas. Naturally, the farmers do not get expected price of their products. To ensure a reasonable profit of the fish farmers, mixed cultivation of prawn with the traditional fish cultivation is a viable answer. CCDA initiated this VCD venture in 2010 with the assistance from PKSF.

At present, there are 30 prawn nurseries in flood plain areas where farmers are trained on prawn cultivation. An increased level of interest among the fish farmers has been evident for prawn cultivation with additional demand for fingerlings. Acknowledging the increasing demand, PKSF has undertaken the initiative for the establishment of prawn hatchery to produce prawn fingerlings. During their visit, the MD and DMD of PKSF attended a meeting to exchange views with fish farmers. The farmer communities expressed their gratitude for the material and other kinds of assistance provided by PKSF as well as the expansion of prawn cultivation in this vulnerable area.
Annual Review of all ongoing programmes of PROSPER comes under regular activity of the donor agency DFID. In addition to which, Annual Review of PROSPER for the year 2012 has been accomplished during October to November 2012. Dr. Riazul Islam, International Team Leader of PCU PROSPER visited the Greater Rangpur region during 1-15 October 2012 and the southwestern region during 15-18 October 2012 for evaluation of the PROSPER programme as part of Annual Review 2012.

According to the Performance Grading System of DFID, PROSPER has got a grade of A+ (Outputs Moderately Exceeds Expectation) in its Annual Review 2012. As noted by DFID in its annual review, PRIME, a credit plus approach with technical assistance with its primary health care services and disaster management mechanism for poverty alleviation, can be considered as a sustainable poverty alleviating model.

Annual Review 2012 has suggested the expansion of PROSPER activities through both ‘Horizontal Deepening’ and ‘Vertical Deepening’. Another suggestion relates to the possibility of inclusion of the ultra poor households outside of PRIME working areas. A possibility of the extension of project duration has also been indicated.
Progress of FEDEC

Finance for Enterprise Development and Employment Creation (FEDEC) is a jointly funded project of PKSF and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). FEDEC focuses on strengthening non-financial support such as skill development, capacity building, training, and market access. These issues are vital for successful implementation of micro-enterprise development since these provide some sustainable and commercially viable solutions that enable an efficient and effective value delivery process. FEDEC is divided into three sub-components: Micro-enterprise lending, Training and Value Chain Development for the implementation of sub-sector operational activities. Under FEDEC, PKSF has taken an initiative, the first of its kind, of implementing Value Chain Development (VCD). Till now, a total of 35 Value Chain Development (VCD) projects have been undertaken of which 7 VCD projects have been successfully completed and rest 28 are currently in progress under FEDEC. During October-December 2012, six new VCD projects have been put under implementation.

Summer Tomato Cultivation

This VCD project has been initiated to enhance the capacity and productivity of 300 farmers from 10 villages of 2 unions in Sarsha upazila, Jessore. Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF), a PO of PKSF is implementing this project. Under this VCD project, training, technical assistance, good quality tomato seeds and marketing assistance will be provided for increasing the productivity as well as income of the farmer community. To implement this year-long VCD project, an agreement has been signed on 30 December 2012 between JCF and PKSF.

Power Loom Winter Cloth Production Project-2

A project titled ‘Winter Cloth Production using Power Loom for Increasing Income Level of the Entrepreneurs Project-2’ has been undertaken recently under FEDEC. This VCD project proposed by Dahi Moulik Unnayan Sangeeta is expected to increase the number of power loom users in Astdighi upazila of Naogaon union. This also seeks to expand the winter cloth production activity using power loom in Talora union of Dhaupharia upazila, Bagura. 40 entrepreneurs from the project area will receive training on power loom establishment and management as well as some necessary technical assistance. In addition, 10 individuals at local level will receive training on skill development. 5 of them will be trained in designing and rest 5 will be given training on mechanical skills. It is expected that these initiatives will substantially contribute to poverty alleviation and income generation of the poor. Skill development training is likely to increase efficiency and productivity.

Bull Rearing to Increase Milk Production in Char Areas

This VCD project will be implemented in 7 wards of Urvirar union in Swangip upazila, Chattogram district and in 2 wards of Urvirar union in Comptonwaj upazila, Noakhali district. A total of 200 bull rearing farmers will be part of this VCD project. Society for Development Initiatives (SDI), Diaks will implement this year-long project. Under this project, farmers will be trained to acquire better managerial skills with further improvement of their traditional method of bull rearing. Besides, they will receive technical counseling services, medical services including vaccitation. Adequate medical supplies will also be ensured with assistance in marketing of the milk produced. An agreement was signed on 31 December 2012 between PKSF and the concerned organization for the implementation of the project.

Safe Vegetables Production and Marketing Project-2

This VCD project of vegetable cultivation is being implemented in 4 villages of Sonibaug union and 8 villages of Rowlail union of Dhanari upazila. Around 200 farmers are facilitated with technical and technological assistance.
for producing insecticide-free vegetables. Besides, assistance in marketing of produced vegetables will also be provided for market expansion, reduction of production cost as well as income and employment enhancement of the farmers. Society for Development Initiatives (SDI), a PO of PKSF is implementing this project. Duration of this VCD project is 14 months. An agreement was signed on 31 December 2012 between SDI and PKSF.

**Crab Culture**

The crab culture VCD project has already been successfully implemented in 3 unions of Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira district. With this success in the context, this VCD project has recently been replicated in additional 8 unions of Shyamnagar and 9 unions of Keor don upazila in Khulna district. A total of 600 farmers are involved in this VCD project. Newabandi Gonoshasthi Foundation (NGF), a PKSF PO is implementing this VCD project. An agreement was signed on 31 December 2012 between NGF and PKSF for the implementation of this 14 months project.

**Hygienic Dry Fish Production**

A total of 200 entrepreneurs in Najirhat area of Cox’s Bazar are presently receiving technical and technological assistances for dry fish production. This VCD project has already made visible impacts on the local entrepreneurs. So far, 9 months of project implementation have passed and it is evident from the experience that marketing policy of dry fish need to be strengthened by new initiatives for greater success. In response to this, project duration has been expanded for additional 6 months.

In addition to VCD project implementation in different areas of the country, initiatives have recently been undertaken to provide Business Development Services (BDS) in different subsectors. POs have undertaken three initiatives in this VCD titled ‘Employment Creation through Establishment of Black Bengal Farm and Breed Development’ have recently been taken to support farmers with provision of various kinds of business development services.

Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) is implementing this initiative at Matranga upazila of Khagrachari district, Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF) in Sadar upazila of Jossore district and JAKS Foundation in Sadar upazila of Jaintiapur. It is expected that modern methods of goat rearing will be gradually customized at the beneficiary level with this initiative. It will contribute to the establishment of goat rearing as a sustainable IGA and will create self employment opportunities at household level.

Besides, Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF) has taken another initiative to implement a venture titled ‘Salinity Resistant Rice Seed Production, Processing and Marketing’. Under this initiative, 500 farmers of Kaliakair, Shyamnagar and Ashashuni upazilas of Satkhira district are receiving assistance in producing and processing of salinity resistant rice seed.

5th Supervision Mission of Finance for Enterprise Development and Employment Creation (FEDEC) has been completed during 3-13 November 2012. A 3-member team representing Supervision Mission of IFAD has evaluated the project activities. Apart from evaluating activities at PKSF level, the team has visited 7 different POs. A wrap-up meeting of this Mission was held on 13 November 2012 in the office of the Finance Ministry. The meeting was headed by the Secretary of Banking and Finance Division. The Mission has expressed their satisfaction with the overall progress of FEDEC.
ENRICH Moves Ahead

Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverty (ENRICH), a pioneering programme of PKSF was initiated in 2010 with the objective to transform the traditional microcredit operation mechanism of the Foundation. The underlying rationale of this unique PKSF endeavour is to enhance the existing abilities and resources of the poor households in order to alleviate poverty in a sustainable way. At the initial stage, 21 unions were included under ENRICH interventions but later additional 14 unions were incorporated at the second phase. The survey of the additional 14 unions is now at the final stage.

Progress of the Ongoing ENRICH Initiatives

Establishment of Branches and Recruitment

According to the household survey conducted on the 21 unions of ENRICH, which had been covered at the very initial stage, it was revealed that 73% of the households (85,523 out of 117,616) are eligible for ENRICH interventions. As of November 2012, a total of 57,739 households (67.51%) of 21 unions are under ENRICH interventions.

4 branches have already been established through 14 respective POCs selected in additional 14 unions under ENRICH 2nd phase. The household survey has been completed by November 2012. The initial target of this survey was to cover 85,583 households of which 84,583 households have been surveyed. According to this survey, 66,378 (78.48%) households are eligible for ENRICH interventions.

PKSF has already prepared a software for data entry in relation to ENRICH coverage and soon a workshop will be held for the orientation of the software usage and process of field level data entries.

Health Programme

By the end of November 2012, health-related information of (1,00,164) households (95.16%) and 4,40,435 individuals (81.39%) have been collected from 21 unions of ENRICH in the 1st phase. Health assistants recruited under ENRICH health programme visited households of their respective unions and provided health services to 71,813 patients at their homes till now.

A total of 20,457 health cards have been distributed while 9,481 static clinics as well as 2,023 satellite clinics and 74 health camps have been in place. A total of 1,66,525 health-related leaflets/posters/health notes have been distributed.

Education Programme

Education programme of ENRICH is designed to enhance the ability and merit of the primary level children of the beneficiaries in all the 35 unions of ENRICH by preventing drop out and improving the quality of education. As of November 2012, around 14,404 students in 523 evening education centres of the initial 21 unions of ENRICH received educational support with additional 5,256 students through 190 evening education centres in the additional 14 unions of ENRICH 2nd phase.

Medicinal Plant Cultivation

Cultivation of medicinal plants, primarily Basak is an ENRICH initiative to increase household level income and ensure supply of raw materials to local pharmaceutical industries. At present, around 0.33 million Basak seedlings are planted in 29 unions. Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and The ACME Laboratories have signed MoU with PKSF to purchase Basak leaves at rate of BDT 35 per kg from different ENRICH unions. Till now, both the companies have purchased 758 kg of dried Basak leaves.

Community Development Programme

PKSF feels committed to help in the infrastructural development of the non-government school/college/madrasa in additional 14 unions that have come under ENRICH
interventions. Institutions in need of such assistance, have been asked to submit their requirement to build and/or repair tube-wells, sanitary latrines, Pond Sand Filters (PSF) and small culverts/bridges. Necessary resources will be taken accordingly to help them under Community Development Programme.

**Youth Employment Programme**

A youth development programme has been specially designed under ENRICH to create youth employment opportunities through the establishment of linkages with different employer organizations. Till now, 319 young individuals received employment opportunities of which 212 in G4S, 67 in Pran RFL and rest 40 in The ACME Laboratories.

**Bandhu Chala and Solar System**

3,053 health and environment friendly improved cooking stoves (ICS) popularly known as Bandhu Chala have been distributed till now while another 1,389 will be distributed very soon. A total of 1,676 solar lanterns and 977 solar home systems have been distributed so far.

**Special Savings Programme**

A special savings programme has been initiated in 21 ENRICH unions which primarily targets female-headed ultra-poor households and disabled people. Every single enrollee under this savings programme must deposit a minimum monthly savings amount of BDT 600. After a period of 2 years, the deposited amount will be doubled (maximum deposit amount of BDT 20,000) from ENRICH fund which can be utilized for acquiring assets or investing in any productive activities. So far, 21 POs have selected 1,094 persons for this specialized savings programme out of which 136 have already been enrolled.

**Financial Assistance Programme**

ENRICH has undertaken the initiative to provide 3 types of financial assistance among its enlisted beneficiaries. Till now, PKSF has disbursed a total of BDT 153.8 million of which BDT 143.3 million as Income Escalating Loan in favour of 17 POs; BDT 39.1 million as Livelihood Development Loan in favour of 4 POs; and BDT 6.58 million as Asset Creation Loan in favour of 3 POs. The estimated budget of this programme for FY 2012-13 is approximately BDT 1100 million.

**Workshop**

A workshop was held on 15 October 2012 for the POs of 21 unions included in ENRICH's phase 1 to discuss and examine the progress of ENRICH. Executive Directors of all 21 ENRICH POs, Union Coordinators, as well as representatives from the facilitating partner of Bandhu Chala programme-GIZ and EZ Consultancy Service Ltd along with the procurement partner of the medicinal plant cultivation programme-The ACME Laboratories participated in this workshop.

**PKSF Signs Agreement**

- An Agreement was signed between Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Marie Stopes Clinic Society on 07 October 2012 to train Community Health Promoters (CHP) of PR/WH Healthcare Services. The areas to be covered in this training is Pregnant Mother, Newborn Children & General Health. Dr. Sajidul Islam, Deputy Managing Director (Admin. & Finance) signed this agreement on behalf of PKSF.

- An Agreement was signed between Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Dr. Nowshor Ali Sardar, a consultant, on 4 November 2012. The survey was conducted on “Study on the Impact of Using Urea Super Granule (USG) on Economics of Rice Production and related Agro-economics Practices” under LIFT. Mr. A. Khan Khaleque Miah, Deputy General Manager (Admin.) signed this agreement on behalf of PKSF.

- An Agreement was signed between Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Department of Livestock Services (DLS) on 24 December 2012. Under this agreement, PKSF will provide microenterprise loan in favour of the poultry and dairy beneficiary farmers of DLS project that intends to provide assistance services among the small-scale farmers to ensure their employment leading to poverty alleviation. Dr. Jashim Uddin, Deputy Managing Director (Admin. & Finance) signed this agreement on behalf of PKSF.
Training/Study Visit/Workshop

Training wing of PKSF conducts specialized training courses on different aspects of microcredit programme management for PKSF staff, PO officials, field level workers and beneficiaries at both home and abroad. Primarily for very practical reasons, the training courses are designed on the basis of the annual demand of PKSF POs. In addition, training programmes are arranged for other organizations on request. All the training programmes are aimed at enhancing the capacity of the officials at different levels. IGA training for beneficiaries, study tour for foreign representatives and internship for the students of different renowned universities on poverty alleviation programmes are other regular activities of PKSF training division. During October to December 2012, training wing of PKSF organized following training courses at PKSF training centre and also at different training venues across the country and abroad.

In-Country Training Courses for PKSF Officials

- 3 PKSF officials attended a 6-day long seminar and training titled ‘Agricultural Investment’ organized by Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- A PKSF official participated in a 19-day long training on ‘Procurement Training for Goods, Works & Services’ organized by the Ministry of Planning.
- 2 PKSF officials attended a 2-day long National Convention organized by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh (ICSB) on ‘Modernization of the Companies Act: Enhancing Good Governance’.

In-Country Training Courses for PO Officials

Training Courses at PKSF Training Centre

Microcredit Management

A total of 39 mid-level officers of 33 PKSF POs attended 2 training courses on ‘Microcredit Management’ at PKSF Shaban.

Supervision and Monitoring

PKSF organized 1 training course on ‘Supervision and Monitoring’ for 21 mid-level officials of 16 PKSF POs.

Strategic Planning for NGO/MFI

PKSF organized 2 training courses on ‘Strategic Planning for NGO/MFI’ for 43 high/mid-level officials of 32 PKSF POs.

Monitoring & Evaluation

PKSF organized 2 training courses on ‘Monitoring & Evaluation’ for 47 high/mid-level officials of 38 PKSF POs.

PRIME Implementation & Microcredit Management

PKSF organized 3 training courses funded by the PRIME project on ‘PRIME Implementation & Microcredit Management’ for 68 mid-level officials of 39 PKSF POs.

Training Courses Organized at Outsourced Training Centres

Group Dynamics, Saving and Credit Management

PKSF organized 10 training courses on ‘Group Dynamics, Saving and Credit Management’ for 394 field workers of 64 POs.

Microenterprise Management & Lending

PKSF organized 5 training courses on ‘Microenterprise Management & Lending’ for 119 mid-level officials of 21 POs.

Training for Beneficiaries

In order to increase the capacity of the beneficiaries in IGA implementation, a total of 2,103 beneficiaries were trained, of which 560 beneficiaries were from FEDEC, 1913 beneficiaries from PRIME and rest 198 from LIFT.

Training for External Organizations

PKSF organized 2 training courses on “Microcredit Management” in October 2012 for IDCOL and its partner organizations. A total of 37 mid-level officials attended these training courses.

Internship Programme

PKSF conducts internship programme on the basis of the applications received from students of renowned universities, institutes and recognized research organizations. A student from American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) has completed his internship on 31 December 2012. Besides, 8 students from University of Dhaka and Dhaka International University (DIU) are currently engaged in doing their internship with PKSF.
Credit Operations Status of PKSF

PKSF disbursed BDT 10399.21 million under its mainstream microcredit programme and BDT 33.05 million under its projects up to December 2012. Cumulative loan disbursement from PKSF to the POs was BDT 147206.44 million and the recovery rate of loan from the POs to PKSF was 98.16% as of December 2012. A summary of PKSF's cumulative loan disbursement and loan outstanding to the POs as of December 2012 is presented in the following table.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programme/Projects</th>
<th>Own Loan disbursement (in million BDT)</th>
<th>Loan Oustanding (in million BDT)</th>
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<tr>
<td>PLDP-II</td>
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<td>REIDP-UCL</td>
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<td>Projects Total</td>
<td>14906.94</td>
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<td>Grand Total:</td>
<td>147206.44</td>
<td>32887.89</td>
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FY Loan disbursement (In Million BDT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme/Projects</th>
<th>Loan Disbursement (FY 2011-12)</th>
<th>Loan Disbursement (FY 2012-13)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December-11</td>
<td>December-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMC</td>
<td>2832.80</td>
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<td>ME (OR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lift (Non PO)</td>
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<td>KGF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9982.56</td>
<td>10432.26</td>
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</table>

Loan Disbursement from PO to Borrowers

As of 31 December 2012, the POs, through revolving the amount provided by PKSF, have disbursed BDT 880.41 billion and the number of borrower was 6.65 million of whom 91.52% were women. Cumulative loan recovery rate from the grassroot borrowers to the POs was 99.34%.
About PKSF

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) was established in 1990 with the aim of poverty alleviation through employment generation. Apart from providing financial and technical assistance to the underprivileged segment of the society, PKSF has played a vital role in creating employment opportunities through inventive operational activities. Over the last two decades, PKSF has set some non-conventional and distinctive examples in the process of implementing development activities. PKSF has further broadened its various mainstream programmes and projects with the understanding of its responsibilities to make poverty alleviation a reality.

Present Governing Body of PKSF

Dr. Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad Chairman
Dr. Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed Managing Director, PKSF
Dr. Pratima Paul-Majumder Member
Dr. A. K. M. Nurul Nabi Member
Mr. Khondaker Ibrahim Khaled Member
Dr. M. A. Quassim Member
Barrister Nihad Kabir Member

Editorial Board

Advisor : Dr. Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed
Dr. Jahim Uddin
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Book Post

National Consultation Workshop

A national consultation titled ‘National Consultation Workshop for the Formulation of Work Plan for Post Rio+20 Conference’ was held at PKSF Bhavan on 10 November 2012. In accordance with the decision of the inter-ministerial meeting of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, PKSF organized the above workshop to review the Rio+20 outcomes and to further determine its follow up action.

The purpose of this workshop was to produce ‘Outcome Document’ for each of the five thematic areas to provide guidance to formulate framework, to identify gaps in sustainable development approach as well as in priority thematic areas with goals, targets and indicators in order to facilitate the subsequent consultations to definitely articulate national post-2015 development goals/SDGs.

The day-long workshop was divided into two sessions. The introductory plenary session was chaired by Dr. Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman of PKSF. Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economics Division, Planning Commission and Mr. Neal Walker, UN Resident Coordinator were present in this session and made some useful comments. The session acquired an efficiently interactive character with the participation of the audience.

Later, five separate dialogue sessions covering five broader themes came under discussion. These are:

1. Population, Education and Health
2. Economic Growth, Poverty and Hunger
3. Environment, Climate Change, Green Economy and Energy
4. Governance and Human Rights
5. Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns.

The closing plenary session was chaired by Mr. Mohammad Mijarul Quayes, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.