

## BRIEFING NOTE

for Workshop at Westin Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

### Climate Change Screening in Bangladesh – Agriculture and Water & Sanitation

**Rationale** - It is estimated that climate change could affect more than 70 million people in Bangladesh due to the country's geographic location, low elevation, high population density, poor infrastructure, high levels of poverty and high dependency on natural resources. The agricultural and water & sanitation sectors have been identified as some of the most vulnerable sectors to climate change in Bangladesh.

**Objectives** - Considering the importance of the agricultural and water & sanitation sectors to overall development of Bangladesh, and in particular their contribution to supporting life and livelihoods of poor communities, the Embassy of Denmark (EoD) together with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), decided in 2008 to launch a climate change screening of activities within the two sectors. The objectives of this screening are to:

- Propose procedures and methodology for climate change screening applicable for the agricultural and the water & sanitation sectors.
- Conduct climate change screenings of GoB / Danida agriculture and water & sanitation sector programmes.
- Prepare Climate Management Plans.
- Prepare proposals for immediate short term adaptation interventions.

The climate screening process is facilitated by a team of international and local experts.

**Stakeholder involvement** - The climate change screening exercise is taking its departure in the activities of the two Danida funded sector programmes. However, the intention is that the screening methodology and tools developed should as far possible be of wider use in the two sectors. In order to ensure this, focus is on actively involving key stakeholders at both central and local level during the whole screening process.

**Current Status** - The following main steps have been completed in the climate screening process so far:

- A climate screening methodology, including a screening matrix, has been developed and was discussed and tested during various stakeholder workshops in October 2008.
- Training workshops on screening methodology and the screening matrix were held with Dhaka based agricultural and water & sanitation programme staff. After the workshops, the staff and counterpart staff carried out self-assessments on their respective activities' vulnerability to climate change.
- Field visits have been carried out in three regions (Northwest, Noakhali, Patuakhali & Barguna).
- Data collected during field visits and from the self-assessments have been analyzed and synthesized.
- Preliminary adaptation options have been identified.
- A web-site has been established ([www.bangladesh-climate.org](http://www.bangladesh-climate.org)).

**The Way Forward** - The following activities will be undertaken in the period from February – May 2009:

- Consolidation of results from the climate screening exercise.
- Preparation of Climate Management Plans for agriculture and water & sanitation interventions.
- Development of Adaptation Options, based on screening results and existing national policies.
- Formulation of 5-10 pilot projects.
- Development of additional information material.