Campaign for prevention of saline water to restore agriculture in coastal region of Bangladesh

Background:
Bangladesh is one of the vulnerable countries in the world that is mostly affected by climate change. In the last two decades, a growing number of floods, droughts and cyclones caused extensive economic damages to the poor and marginalized people of Bangladesh. Besides, the shrimp industry has changed for the worst the life of the majority of its countryside inhabitants who rely on agricultural for a daily living. Rich national and foreign investors have initiated shrimp farming in agricultural lands, considered as very favorable to this kind of cultivation. Shrimp farming though, has caused water salinity and as a consequence, deterioration of aboriginal agricultural productions, growing desertification of affected areas, and human migrations toward more fruitful agricultural sites or toward cities in search of jobs reallocation.

Considering the circumstances, LEDARS along with some NGOs and civil society bring forward to prevent the miserable condition of the coastal people. This campaign will be able to create a movement to engage the community people against the saline water.

Goal:
To create a salinity free living area for the next generation.

Project objectives:
- To strengthen advocacy initiatives in local, regional and national level.
- To set up a model village in the coastal area to show how people can survive without a shrimp based economy
- To conduct a comparative study on saline water shrimp industries

Main activities of the project:

1. Solidarity meeting with community:
LEDARS And other NGOs organizes solidarity meeting with community members in order to raise awareness around the danger of saline waters in agricultural lands. The main objective of the meetings is to engage community people in the campaign against the use of saline water for shrimp farming.
2. Formation of a civil society committee against saline water:
LEDARS organizes a discussion meeting related to the usage of saline water in agricultural lands to alleviate the damages related to its use were put forward. As a result of that meeting a civil society committee call “Saline water prevention movement” form with the aim of sensitizing policy makers and the civil society at large.

3. Training of development workers:
LEDARS organizes two orientation seasons to development workers on problems of saline water and tools to raise awareness among community members.

4. Human Chain and Memorandum Submission:
The 'Saline Water Prevention Movement Committee organizes a human chain in Shyamnagar bus stand in Satkhira district. At the same day the committee submits to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh a memorandum to ban saline water shrimp farming in agriculture lands in coastal areas of Bangladesh. Copies of the memorandum have also sent to honorable Minister for Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Fish and Livestock; Divisional Commissioner, Khulna; Deputy Commission of Satkhira and Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Shyamnagar has received the Memorandum on behalf of the Government and stressed the benefits of this initiative.

5. March to defend the rights of coastal people at national level:
LEDARS, BAPA and Planters Movement jointly organize the “iMatter Climate March” in Dhaka from Sahabagh to National Press Club. Hundreds of young people attend the march.

For more info, please contact to

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