



Activity Sheet 70

Infrastructure Development in Bangladesh

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to analyse how the development of rural transport infrastructure addressed issues related to poverty, and to reflect on key lessons that may be applied to other regions.

Group Work

1. Read the extract from the case study (attached).
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - A. In what way was this project able to address poverty issues?*
 - B. What lessons that can be drawn from this project that may be applied to other countries?*
3. Prepare your findings on flip chart and to elect a person to present the group's findings.



Infrastructure development in Tangail district, Bangladesh

The objectives of the Tangail Infrastructure Development Project launched in 1992, are to provide access to and from growth centres and their influence areas for marketing of agriculture and other commercial goods improved and ensured in the project area, hence the requirement for sustainable all weather access to and from growth centres.

Current progress includes the development of 152km of rural roads and 12 economic centres/markets, in addition to some 800,000 man days of direct employment and several thousand permanent jobs have been generated indirectly.

The project aims to improve market access, step up the marketing of agricultural and commercial goods and sustainably enhance the attractiveness of rural regions as an environment in which to live and work. A variety of measures served to make central marketplaces more attractive. Furthermore, having declared the continuous promotion of "destitute women" as an objective of its work, the project offered temporary employment opportunities in addition to a training programme.

Extract from: Rural roads: a market approach with concepts for finance and organisation. By G. Metschies, GTZ (1998)