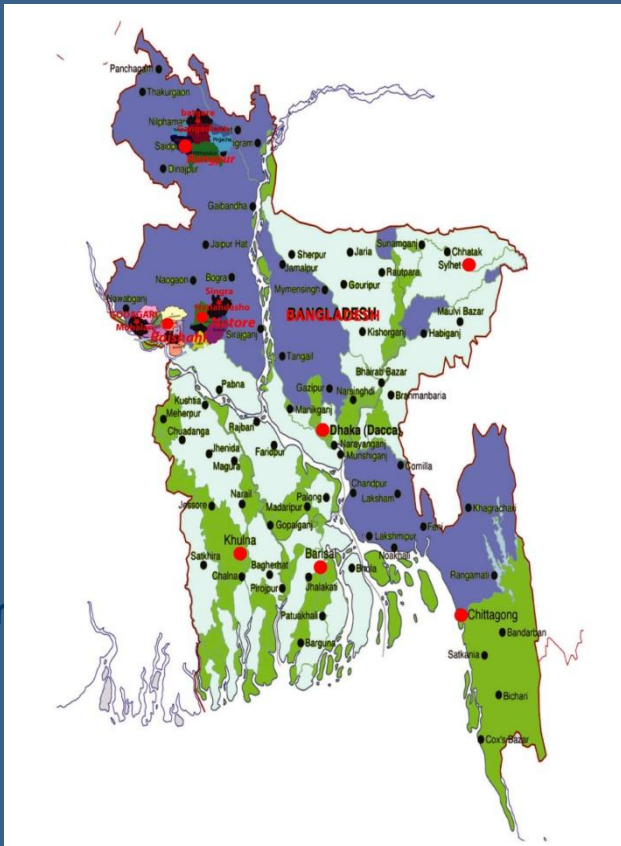




Eco-Village Programme



ESDO runs our Eco-village program in 6 regions, including:

- Zero Waste Village in Rajshahi;
- Empowering indigenous community in Rangpur;
- Eco village in Rangpur to help community development;
- Awareness & Employment for women- Empowering the Rural People in Munshiganj

Goals of the Eco-Village:

- Developing human capacity for the determination of one's own future
- Change the behavior and attitude of the people in relation to their surroundings,
- Teach the skills and knowledge to ensure the rebuilding of a healthy livelihood and environment.

"Our vision is to build a model of organic and environmentally safe and sustainable village."

About Eco-Village

The future rests on educating ourselves and our children to recognize that the key to a sustainable life is about quality, not quantity. An eco-village is the right environment to begin this education and to reclaim the lost balance with the earth and within ourselves. ESDO recognizes that such a development intervention is essential to conserve the environment of Bangladesh, to ensure progression of the socioeconomic situation of communities, to improve the health and wellbeing of community members, and to therefore eradicate poverty. This is a significant contribution towards Bangladesh achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Benefits

We support holistic community development and create programs which benefit the entire community. We are focused on the empowerment of women and the creation of sustainable, environmentally friendly development. We have a long term approach and have seen significant progress in our communities, including:

- 150% increase in literacy rates within communities
- 15% increase in average income levels
- 30% decrease in household costs
- 90% increase in households meeting hygiene and sanitation benchmarks
- 40% reduction in disease



Training and capacity building of the villages is a critical part of the program

Women's Empowerment



All of the eco-village programs have a focus on empowering the women in the community. We recognize that by investing in the education and training of women, as change-makers within their community, we can affect whole of community change.

Zero Waste Village & Organic Farming

Prior to the commencement of the zero waste village, waste was dumped indiscriminately across the village and the fields. Aside from the environmental and health impacts of open dumping, this was also a lost opportunity for the community to benefit from their waste resources.

Based on our waste survey, up to 85% of the waste produced in Molahan village each month is organic, from kitchen scraps and agricultural waste. Therefore compost is an essential part of the zero waste villages. The program provides technical assistance to allow the villages to produce high quality compost, which they can use on their fields or kitchen gardens and the excess can be sold at market for up to 35 taka per kilogram



Paper, plastic, glass and aluminum can be collected and sold to recyclers. Each household in the eco-village produces 10 to 15 kilograms of recyclable waste per month, which can represent up to 150 taka of additional income for the household. The program will build the capacity of the participants to generate additional income.

The community run, Zero Waste Resource Center goes beyond selling recyclable materials, by training villages to up-cycle materials for new purposes

Indigenous Education and Knowledge Center

For the indigenous peoples of northern Bangladesh, Bangla is often not their mother tongue, and many children struggle to enter mainstream primary schools. ESDO provides indigenous pre-primary schools to support the transition to mainstream schools for these children and allow them access education that would otherwise be unavailable within these communities.



We also provide education programs three indigenous languages, supporting these communities to maintain their unique language and culture.

Through our indigenous knowledge centers we assist the indigenous peoples in preserving their linguistic and cultural heritage. The indigenous knowledge center also plays a critical role in preserving knowledge about the native wetland plants, many of which have unique medicinal properties. The wetlands and marshes in the area are increasingly under threat due to increased settlement. Preserving indigenous knowledge and empowering indigenous communities is an essential part of the wider environmental protection of the area.

Adult Education & training



The Eco-Village program provides adult literacy classes and technical training for members of the village. We provide technical assistance and training in a range of areas, including: IT training, business operation and financial management, building, electrical work, sewing, jewelry making, candle making and vegetable growing.

The adult education aims to provide equip villagers, mainly women, with the skills to operate small businesses and provide essential supplementary income generation and reduce the communities dependence on field laborer work and eliminate underemployment.