

Chapter 12

Our Pride

It is very encouraging for all members of the project team: Government officers and staff, NGO workers, and the Technical Assistance Team, with their colleagues in Government Ministries, in the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and, of course, the project beneficiaries and participants to have received special recognition for the project's successes and achievements, as follows.

IFAD Gender Award for Asia and the Pacific Region 2017

In recognition of its Gender Equality on Land Settlement to landless families, the Char Development and Settlement Project-IV has been awarded the IFAD Gender Award for Asia and the Pacific Region for 2017.

Land titles are granted in the joint names of husband and wife, with the wife's name coming first on the title deed. This is exceptional in the context of Bangladesh, where women are generally excluded from ownership of land. This often puts them in an extremely vulnerable, dependent, and disadvantaged position. Receiving an official title to land has far-reaching positive consequences. For example divorce rates, polygamy and violence against women have significantly decreased. Furthermore, women's social status has increased as a result of their land ownership and they now enjoy somewhat more influence in the home. The practice of having the woman's name first has now been followed in other places in Noakhali district.



Fig. 12.1. DTL (middle) of CDSP IV holding the Gender Award, Rome, Italy, 2017.

National Award for Tree Plantation 2017

The Government of Bangladesh has awarded the National Tree Plantation Award 2017, presented by the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to the Forest Department, Implementing partner of CDSP-IV, in recognition of the very successful plantations. The Forest Department is one of the six government implementing agencies involved and is establishing shelterbelts to protect the coastal chars from storms and cyclones. During 2011 to 2017, the Forest Department has successfully established 7,400 ha of mangrove plantation, 200 ha of foreshore plantations and more than 260 km of roadside plantations. 80 km of plantations have also been established along drainage channels.



Fig. 12.2. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handing over the award to Md. Saiful Islam, Forester, Char Bata Beat Office, Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.

British Expertise Award 2018

CDSP-IV has won the British Expertise award 2018 for international positive social impact. British Expertise International is the leading UK private sector organization for British companies offering professional services internationally. Its membership consists of close to 200 corporate member companies ranging from many of the large UK general consultants to a wide variety of other smaller consulting companies.



Fig. 12.3. British Expertise Award 2018.