

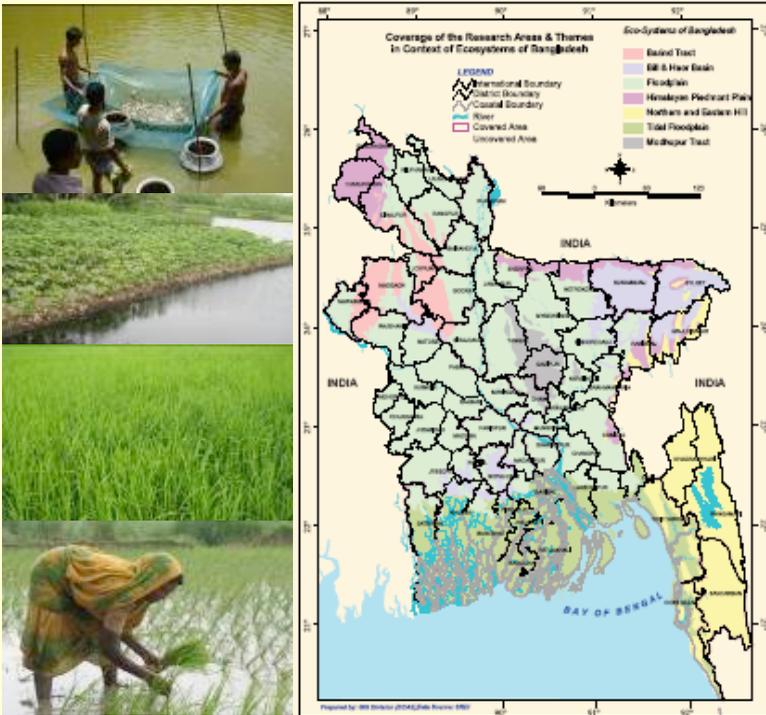
ARCAB – Course of Action

2011 (year 1) is the **Baseline year** for ARCAB during which the full action and research design will be carried out by the partners and communities. The outcome will be "Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation" design (with indicators to be used for both "participatory" as well as "external" monitoring). **The action interventions** will be started from 2012 (year 2).

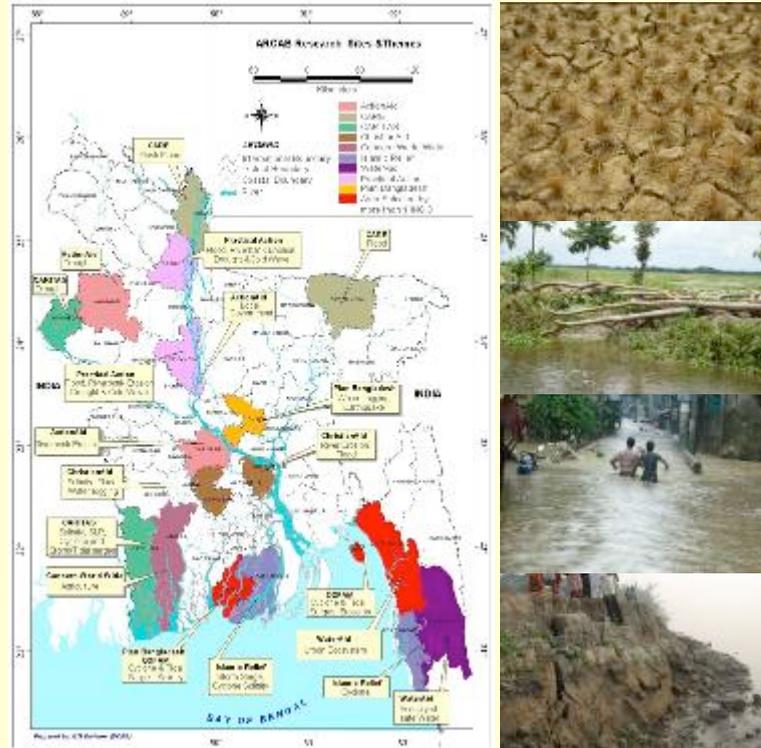
ARCAB – Outreach Programme

There will be a very active Outreach Programme at different levels ranging from the local to the international. At **local Level**, a series of outreach activities with local stakeholders will be designed and at **national level**, active engagement with national policy makers and other partners are planned to be carried out. At **international level**, scientific papers in international peer reviewed journals, other international publications, hosting of international conferences are included.

Besides, there will be a special outreach programme using commissioned folk songs, drama etc.



ARCAB Sites



Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB)



Action Partners



Secretariat:

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)

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What is ARCAB?

Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh

(ARCAB) is a long-term programme of action research focused on Community Based Adaptation (CBA) in five major Livelihood Zones that correspond to five major ecosystems, which are parts of the Ganges-Brahmaputra River flood plains, coastal and hill systems. These zones support livelihood of a very high proportion of the country's population and are characterized by varied types of climate hazards, including flood, tidal inundation, cyclones, drought etc.

ARCAB programme will be carried out by nine International NGOs who have extensive operations in Bangladesh and several international and national research institutions. The objectives of the programme are, among others, collect community based traditional knowledge on adaptation, generate empirical knowledge on community based adaptation through undertaking action research, participatory monitoring activities etc. ARCAB will produce high quality scientific knowledge for dissemination, and methodologies and participatory monitoring systems for replication in similar conditions both nationally and internationally.

ARCAB Features

The programme consists of adaptation interventions by the Action Partners (AP) in vulnerable communities located in the five major Livelihood Zones including the Coast (West and East, as they are very diverse), the Northwest, the Haor and Northeast Flash Flood Zone, Riverine Flood Plains and Chars, and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). These will involve rigorous research and monitoring carried out by the Research Partners (local, national and international) to ensure high quality scientific outputs. The unique features of ARCAB are:

- Research project involving NGOs in a consortium, working with national and international partners
- Researching adaptation methods for rural people and sharing knowledge of those methods with many other people within same livelihood zone
- Looking at diversified livelihoods to reduce dependency on climate-dependent activities
- Research rural-urban linkages and the effects of climate change on these, especially in relation to non-farm livelihoods, flows of goods, information, finance and people (migrants)

Goals of ARCAB

Goal 1

To carry out action research in knowledge and actions for adaptation at community level in order to support the development of climate resilient communities and understanding links between rural and urban places.

Goal 2

To develop knowledge of how to spread information about adaptation to many other communities with similar livelihoods within the zones, in order to scale up the adaptation process rapidly.

ARCAB Partners

ARCAB is using the idea of different types of participants and partners forming a succession of "layers".

Layer 1 - Action Partners: The Action-Partners consist of nine of the world's major International Non Governmental Organisations (INGOs): ActionAid, CARE, Caritas, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief, OXFAM UK, Plan International, Practical Action, Concern Worldwide, and WaterAid.

Layer 2 - Research Partners: The Research-Partners are of three types –

- **Local-Research-Partners** from regional universities in Bangladesh who will work closely with the Action Partners at field level.
- **National level Research Organizations/Universities** that will provide research and training expertise in their respective disciplines to all the Action-Partners in all the CBA field sites.
- **International Research organizations**, which include, among others, International Centre for Climate Change and development (ICCCAD), Institute of Development Studies (IDS), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), United Nations University (UNU) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) etc.

Layer 3 – Capacity Building Partners: ARCAB will have very strong capacity building and training programme- local and national levels training will be provided by PRIP Trust and international training will be provided by ICCCAD through short-courses on CBA.

Layer 4 – Knowledge Management Partner: UNEP's Bangkok-based Regional Adaptation Knowledge Management Platform will be ARCAB's Knowledge Management Partner. It will include a website, regular newsletters, project reports, research reports and peer

reviewed scientific publications in national and international scientific journals.

Layer 5 – Key International Partners: This will involve donors, including those that have not contributed to the project's funding. They will be able to use the project to learn how to use their funds for adaptation and will support to replicate the lesson to other similar communities around the world.

ARCAB – An International Initiative

Although located in a single country it is an international programme involving a number of international Action Partners and Research Partners and with lessons meant to be shared with other developing as well as developed countries, particularly other deltas and similar ecosystems.

- The APs are international NGOs that operate in more than 100 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across the world, countries that are also facing consequences of climate change. It is anticipated that the INGO partners will rapidly engage in sharing of knowledge and experience that are gained in ARCAB in all directions.
- ARCAB will also provide exposure visits for staff and donors who come to Bangladesh. ARCAB international research partners will be involved through workshops, field visits, and sending postgraduate students.
- The International CBA conferences are now held every year, alternate years in Dhaka (2011 planned, and anticipated for 2013 and 2015 etc). The participants will be able to visit ARCAB sites, hosted by ARCAB action partners. In this way, knowledge about adaptation processes could be spread internationally through large number of participants in the CBA conferences.

ARCAB – Link with the Government

Guiding principles of ARCAB involve strong cooperation and collaboration with the Bangladesh government to accelerate their efforts to reduce climate vulnerabilities. ARCAB interventions will be designed to relate and support the government initiatives such as National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCASP). Being an action research programme, ARCAB has the privilege to support the BCCASP to ground its goals e.g. disaster risk reduction, livelihood support, capacity building of the vulnerable communities, including participatory monitoring; multidisciplinary research approach for seeking appropriate context specific adaptation technologies; awareness rising and producing scientific data and knowledge on adaptation.