

## **EXTENSION FIELD TRIP TO AN UPAZILLA HEAD QUARTERS**

### **Introduction**

Extension Field Trip of the undergraduate students of agriculture faculty of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University arranged by the Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Information System is a special kind of tour for a week to an upazilla head quarter in connection with the partial fulfillment of practical syllabus in Agricultural Extension. The outcome of the field trip is documented by each student in the form of Extension Field Trip Report which is a requirement for final practical examination of B.Sc.Ag (Hons).

### **Objectives of Extension Field Trip**

Extension Field Trip is undertaken to:

- i) Acquaint the students with the organizational set up of the major upazilla level Govt. Extension Organizations especially upazilla Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Offices;
- ii) Acquaint the students vis-a-vis with, the major activities and programs in connection with crop, livestock and fisheries at block and village level;
- iii) Have an understanding the duties and responsibilities of the upazilla level officials along with their staff;
- iv) Have an understanding the approaches and working procedures of the extension related organizations and roles played by the extension personnel and staff;
- v) Experience the transfer of agricultural technology through training, method demonstration, result demonstration, farm and home visit and by other extension teaching methods;
- vi) Experience the adoption of agricultural innovations by the farmers, women and youth also to identify their problems in adopting the innovations especially related to crop livestock and fisheries;
- vii) To identify and enlist the problems of personnel and staff of the extension organizations to materialize their duties and responsibilities;
- viii) Have an understanding the major non-government organizations working in the upazilla for agricultural development;
- ix) Understand the linkage between the extension and research organizations, and linkages between the extension agencies and the farmers;

- x) Understand as how the different upazilla level extension organizations keep co-ordination between them.

Field Trip conducted by the extension personnel and workers in the field is a specific kind of visit to a place where the farmers group, gain practical experiences relating to the use and benefit of an agricultural/or practices, methods and learning environment. Through observation and discussion the farmers gain knowledge and experience related to the adoption of technology.

#### How Extension Field Trip is planned

- i) The chairman of the department of Agricultural Extension and Information System arranges meeting with the teachers to fix up a date consulting Deans of the respective faculties, especially when the first practical examination is over.
- ii) The chairman and the teachers meet the Additional Directors/ Deputy Directors/District level officers for the selection of a suitable upazilla/ upazillas considering the objectives of the field trip and physical facilities that may be needed for the students and teachers including the learning opportunities.
- iii) Previsits are undertaken by the head/practical class teachers to tentatively select upazillas where upazilla officials and the teachers agree and feel satisfactory with the physical facilities like accommodations, class rooms and the field visits, the project activities and finally the 6 day tour-schedule.
- iv) The 6 day field trip program of the student is submitted to the respective Deans and Vice-Chancellor for necessary official implications and final approval.
- v) Letters to the upazilla officials are sent with final tour program related documents and other necessary instructions scheduling the activities of the students on each day; copy of the idlers are also sent to the regional, district level officials and the concerned officials of SAU.
- vi) Just before the tour an Orientation Meeting is held where VC, Dean and the teachers give proper orientation, advice and explain the extension field trip. A few students and teachers speak on the occasion as how to do things during the field trip.
- vii) Class teachers hold discussion meetings with the students of the respective practical groups and give necessary instructions for each event, especially related to the preparation of Extension Field Trip Report and select student leader for activities in connection with Academic, Accommodation, Transport, First-Aid, Recreational and

all other related matters.

- viii) Finally the teacher guide(s)/ class teacher(s) distribute each student a six-day program, a badge, a note book, an interview schedule and the instructional leaflet. Besides, the students are advised to carry with them necessary luggage and personal materials.

### **Scheduled Activities during Field Trip**

#### **Opening Day**

The Chairman, Agricultural Extension and Information System, SAU, generally requests upazilla Agricultural Officer (UAO) to perform as the Coordinator of Extension Field Trip.

After the students and teacher-guides arrive at an upazilla HQ they are immediately received by the Field Trip Coordinator, (Upazilla Agricultural Officer remain Coordinator when the student group belongs to B.Sc.Ag. students). Teacher-guides and students are taken to their respective places for loading. The coordinator arranges the following: i) the lecture room; ii) a general meeting to open the Extension Field Trip involving concerned upazilla official, field level worker, local influential, visiting students and teacher; and iii) formal welcome addresses from all concerned.

#### **Class Lecture Session of the upazilla Officials**

- i) Major parts of the six-day field trip are spent on class-room lectures by the selected upazilla extension and rural development officials as scheduled in the six-day program. In case of any occupation of the officials lectures are rescheduled on different date and time;
- ii) Class lectures of upazilla officials largely include organizational setup, their duties and responsibilities, role played by them, their working procedure and exposure on other related matters; and
- iii) After the lecture is over the students ask questions on relevant matters and take down the main points and thus a lecture session of an official ends.

### **Data Collection**

During field trip major emphasis is given on the data collection from the farmers and analysis of data by the students. The teacher-guides and the Coordinator arrange and conduct these

events in the following way:

- i) a suitable block/village is selected by the extension officials ahead of time and keep the farmer informed about the arrival of the students in scheduled date and time;
- ii) UAO and their field level staff lead students and teachers on the spot where the student are divided into sub-groups to go for data collection in different parts of the block/'village;
- iii) Students are taken to the heads of the selected farm families and they are introduced with each other explaining the objective of the visit;
- iv) For interviewing and data collection one farm family head is selected for one student and the student and the selected farmer go in a suitable place favorable for interviewing;
- v) The student establishes rapport and explains the objective of the interview;
- vi) The student proceeds with the interview item wise as structured in the schedule or talks in the way the farmer feels easy;
- vii) The student follows steps of interviewing and keep the farmer living with his talk and get the essential information noted down/cheek marked;
- viii) Often students go beyond the scheduled items to enquire about general agricultural situations which may become helpful in writing the field trip report;
- ix) The filled up interview schedules are submitted to the teacher-guide(s) and they instruct the students in a group for data coding and analyzing for necessary interpretation; and
- x) On the basis of the data students gain a comprehensive understanding of the overall agriculture situations, adoption of innovations, effectiveness of extension activities and problems of the farmers.

### **Field Visit, Discussion Meeting, Workshop and SAU Visiting Team**

The teacher-guides and the upazila officials try to make every moment of the field trip a learning opportunity for the students. Hence, apart from data collection the students have to undertake following visits and interactions with the farmers and extension agencies.

- i) Field visit to show a demonstration plot with new technology and project activities including a meeting with farmers is arranged in the vicinity of the plot;
- ii) The students try to investigate the related facts on transfer of technology vis-à-vis.

The farmers ask different queries to the visiting students and officials.

- iii) On or before 5<sup>th</sup> day of the field trip SAU Visiting Team led by the Chairman, Agricultural Extension and Information System with Dean and the senior teacher arrive at the Upazila HQ to supervise the students as how they are learning. A small meeting is arranged with the SAU Visiting Team for open discussion on the outcome of the field trip.

### **Preparation and Submitting the Draft Field Trip Report**

From the fourth day evening students begin the draft writing of the Field Trip Report as designed by the class-teacher earlier. The students carefully organize facts and write the report in proper sequence. Teachers and upazila officials render necessary help. The draft report is made final on the last morning session and it is submitted by all the students before noon on the final day.

### **Closing Ceremony and Departure for SAU**

For public relations and for thanks giving the students and the teachers invite the upazila officials, influential, concerned farmers and the people in a cultural get-together in the last evening. This is followed by some cultural events like poetry recitation, singing of songs, small drama and others. Finally the students and teachers depart from the upazila HQ on the sixth day afternoon and come back at SAU by evening.