

## Discussion event on “Rural Haat Development”

### Background

Despite steady progress towards industrialization, agriculture remains the most important sector in Bangladesh. The agriculture sector contributes about 21% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accommodates around 50% of the total labor force. In addition, around 76% of the labor force lives in rural areas. Thus, any endeavor to increase agricultural output through better marketing and better access to inputs actually help majority of the rural people and rural economy as a whole. Rural markets (usually called ‘haats’) help in the marketing of agro-products and provide access to inputs required for agricultural production. The development of rural marketing and distribution opportunities may thus be said to directly foster growth and entrepreneurship among the rural poor. However, the rural markets are beset with many problems which are mainly associated with **governance** and **infrastructure**.

As a developing country, Bangladesh is assisted in its progress in social and economic context by multifarious development agencies whose programs consist of diverse portfolios ranging from Health and sanitation to Market development. There are also programmes which provide assistance in developing infrastructure for the rural markets. Under such light, Katalyst sees the scope of synergy with other development organizations interested to work in rural haat development. Under this partnership, Katalyst would provide its technical experience gathered from previous activities while other development bodies would provide support for infrastructure improvement and development.

### Objectives of the event

The objectives of the workshop are -

- To share the concept of rural haat development
- To share the mandates and objectives of interested development organizations
- To initiate the process of collaboration

### Program

Date:	February 28, 2010 (Sunday)	
Venue:	Katalyst Conference Room (House 20, Road 6, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212)	
Duration:	Two hours (3.00 – 5.00 pm)	
Agenda:	Welcome Address by <i>Dr. Martin Godau</i>	3.00 – 3.10 pm
	Presentation on the concept by Katalyst	3.10 – 3.50 pm
	Q/A session & Open discussion	3.50 – 5.00 pm

Organized By: