

BANGLADESH

STRATEGIC COUNTRY OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHENING FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY SKILLS TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS AT FARMER, SERVICE PROVIDER AND POLICY LEVEL



Mymensingh Fish Farmer Associations

The main objective of this partnership is the sustainable marketing and export of safe fish. Fish farming has been encouraged to improve farm incomes, increase protein availability and export revenues. Improved brood stock and training in good aquaculture practices has been provided by various initiatives and fish farming has been enthusiastically taken up.

Key challenges are high input costs, slow fish growth rates from inbred stock, poor quality fish and limited market linkages. Working with the Tilapia Foundation and the district branch of the National Hatcheries Association, actions to improve capacities will focus on ways to make the pond fish value chain operate more effectively through greater cooperation.

NIF: Moshir Rahman, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute;
Niche representatives: Ritish Pandit, Tilapia Foundation; Kudrat E-Elarhi, National Hatcheries Association



Bandarban Pineapple Producers

This niche aims to upgrade its marketing skills and develop the use of branding for improving pineapple marketing.

Pineapple cultivation plays a vital role for socio-economic development and environmental stability in the Bandarban hill district but its remoteness affects producers' ability to obtain remunerative prices.

Through the KGF project, farmers are being supported to develop market linkages via formation of producer and marketing groups. These groups are keen to develop their functional capacities to support the sustainability of these activities.

NIF: Dr Jamal Uddin, KGF Project/BARI
Niche representatives: Lal Hai Baum and Jessi Chakma, Gathsemany para marketing group



Shibganj Mango Foundation

The main objective of the niche is ensuring a safe and supported mango industry. Shibganj is one of the leading mango producing districts but it is far from main urban centres, which affects cost of inputs and produce prices.

A recent technical innovation has been the use of bags to cover the fruit during production. Although initially skeptical due to the costs of bags, the quality of the fruit produced and the reduction in pesticide costs is convincing farmers to adopt this technology.

The farmers have formed an association of 300 members, including 10 women, since the CNA and hope to gain skills in group management and ways to identify and benefit from more remunerative markets that are willing to pay for high quality pesticide-free fruit.

NIF: Dr Sorof Uddin, BARI
Niche representatives: Islam Khan Shamim; Omar Ali

National Platform

Formation is under discussion bringing together members of the CDAIS Technical Advisory group (mainly government organisations), the Taskforce (business, government, academia, projects) and NGOs working in related areas (e.g. Marketplace exhibitors)

Country Team:

Dr Md. Shahjahan, National Project Coordinator

Dr Nasreen Sultana, Country Project Manager

Dr Nur Khondaker, FAO Focal Person

Claire Coote, Agrinatura Focal Person

Rozana Wahab, Lead NIF

Manuela Bucciarelli, FAO HQ Support