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Technical Report

**Project Title: “Seed Grant: Evaluating the effectiveness of
women farmer training program in Bangladesh”**

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Introduction

AVA Development Society is a partner organization of IRRI to implement the activity of evaluation the effectiveness of women farmer training program in Bangladesh. Here, AVA Development Society has conducted 15 FGDs, one FGD conducted at one upazila. FGD was conducted with female participants who are also participating in the Quality Seed Production (QSP) Training. AVA Development Society was conducted the survey and FGD using kobo collect data collection software according to IRRI guideline and protocol.

Description

For Key Informant Survey and Focus Group Discussion it is selective farmers each upazila Key Informants and 2 FGDs in each upazila. The survey indicators for which data/information were collected are sex (male/female), age of a beneficiary, education level, household size, own children between 0-18 years, member of community group, constitution of those groups, total land under rice farming, land under women ownership, land with joint ownership, when/how long the participant engaged in the farming, nursery bed preparation, nursery sowing, main land preparation, transplanting, fertilizer application, pest management, irrigation management, weeding, harvesting, threshing, winnowing, drying, storage, name of rice variety which you regularly grow, buy seeds or save own seeds, key consideration in preparing seed bed, knowledge on fertilizer management, how do you manage fertilizer application, administer water, clean the seeds before going for sowing, seed treatment, germination testing, rouging, major pests in rice, major diseases that affect rice, who harvest the field, who does threshing, method follow for threshing, how do you store seed, where store seed, GPS etc were covered in survey format. To collect information on these issues PRA techniques Key Informant (KI) survey and Focus Group Discussion were applied. The Key Informants are selected women farmers. FGD session organized with the selected women farmers also provided information on social issues. Information collected from baseline and Key Informant Survey and Focus Group Discussion were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively.



Fig: Quality Seed Production Training in Rajshahi



Fig: Quality Seed Production Training in Rangpur



Fig: Quality Seed Production Training in Sylhet

Project Area

Division	District	Upazila	Village
Rajshahi	Rajshahi	Paba	Kanchiapara
	Natore	Lalpur	Kachua
	Chapai Nababganj	Gomostapur	Mukrampur
	Naogaon	Manda	Kusumba
	Pabna	Ishwardi	Muladuli
Rangpur	Gaibandha	Gaibandha Sadar	Talukhoridas
	Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar	Char Borobari
	Rangpur	Pirganj	Boro Darga
	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar	Salmara
	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar	Ishwarpur
Sylhet	Moulvibazar	Kulaura	Nachni
	Sunamganj	Biswamvarpur	Lokhipar
	Sunamganj	Biswamvarpur	Sirajpur
	Sunamganj	Chatak	Kupia
	Sunamganj	Jamalganj	Chandarbari

Work Plan

SL No.	Activity	Number of Activities	Remarks
01	Baseline survey using kobo collect software following IRRI guideline and protocol.	150 selected female farmers	First baseline survey completed before the Quality Seed Production (QSP) training of those women farmers of AGGRi program.
02	Second survey using kobo collect software following IRRI guideline and protocol. The survey will be conducted immediately after training.	150 selected female farmers	This survey was conducted immediately after the Quality Seed Production (QSP) training of AGGRi program.
03	Final survey using kobo collect software following IRRI guideline and protocol. The final survey will be conducted tentatively three months later.	125 selected female farmers	This survey will be conducted 3 months after the Quality Seed Production (QSP) training of AGGRi program.
04	Conduct FGD before the Quality Seed Production (QSP) training	15 FGD	FGD has completed before the Quality Seed Production (QSP) training of those women farmers of AGGRi program.
05	Conduct FGD immediately after the Quality Seed Production (QSP) training	15 FGD	FGD was conducted immediately after the Quality Seed Production (QSP) training of AGGRi program.
06	Report submission	01	Technical & Financial reports submit.



Fig: Focus Group Discussion in Rajshahi



Fig: Focus Group Discussion in Rangpur



Fig: Focus Group Discussion in Sylhet

Working Team in the Project

The working team arrangement for implementation of “Evaluating the effectiveness of women farmer- training program in Bangladesh” was made as agreed with IRRI. It consisted with two full time project staff. They were supervised by the Coordinator of AVA Development Society whose input was part time in the program. Another two part time officials of AVA Development Society also were involved with the program. They were Executive Director for overall administrative supervision of the program and an account.

Findings of FGDs

- ✓ Most of the participants of training informed that they could attend the training due to close proximity of venues from their residence. It was convenient for them to go to training venue easily.
- ✓ Participants of training were satisfied with training materials and training methodology which made effective dissemination of knowledge and skills on seed production technology to them.
- ✓ Participants were satisfied with the training duration to understand the subject matters of training that meet their expectation.
- ✓ The participants who attended the training became very much enthusiastic and confident to quality seed production.
- ✓ It was observed that the women participants who have been involved in training on Quality Seed Production became well motivated and their confidence level increased to raise their family income through Quality Seed Production.
- ✓ The capacity building through Quality Seed Production training empowered the women socially and economically. As a result their voices are being raised both at family and social level and also in the public forum. These will contribute to establish their rights.
- ✓ Majority of participants have committed to apply their knowledge and skills from training in seed production practice and share it with their community. This has created a process of social induction for adopting the Quality Seed Production technology as a means of increasing income by others of the community.

Issues and Challenges

The major issues and challenges are conducting final survey situation created due to COVID-19 from late March. Local administration including Union Parishad requested the farmers and NGO staff to avoid meeting due to COVID-19. As a result monitoring work by AVA Development Society was hindered especially after late March. Most important is that AVA Development Society could not conduct final survey due to this unusual situation. This challenge could not to be overcome under the present situation.

Recommendations

Based on challenges faced and other facts observed by AVA Development Society the following recommendations are being made here to make a sustainable promotion of these varieties in project and nearby areas.

- 1) The government has now allowed all development work to be carried out by maintaining health safeguard (mask, personal distance, hand wash/sanitizing, other safeguard measures etc). As a result implementation cost is expected to rise in all respects. IRRI should consider an increase in implementation budget for the next program.
- 2) Participant's selection process should be intensified to achieve the project target. IRRI's attention is being requested to be focused for accelerating participant's selection process.
- 3) IRRI may also consider instructing the NGOs for selection of project participants using set criteria to reduce absentee in the training session.

Conclusion

This training program was highly appreciated by the women farmers. These women farmers want this kind of related training again for them. They said that they learned many things from this training which they were not known before. They also said that they will be applying their knowledge from this training in practical field. They also mention that they will share their knowledge and experience to others also.

