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Annual Progress Report

Title of Project: Agriculture and Food Security Project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (AFSP III), Bangladesh

(February to 31 December 2018)

Title of Programme: Agricultural Growth and Employment Programme under Denmark's Bangladesh Country Programme (2016-2021)

Prepared for: Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA)

Prepared by: Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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ACRONYMS:

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|---------|--|
| ABN | Agri-Business Network |
| AFSP I | Agriculture and Food Security Project Phase I |
| AFSP II | Agriculture and Food Security Project Phase II |
| AGEP | Agricultural Growth and Employment Programme |
| APU | Agricultural Planning Unit |
| BARI | Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute |
| BDT | Bangladeshi Taka |
| BHDC | Bandarban Hill District Council |
| BTOR | Back To Office Report |
| CARP | Community Aquaculture Resource Person |
| CBO | Community Based Organization |
| CCRP | CHT Climate Resilience Project |
| CHT | Chittagong Hill Tracts |
| CHTDF | Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility |
| CHTRC | CHT Regional Council |
| CLW | Community Livestock Worker |
| DAE | Department of Agricultural Extension |
| DLS | Department of Livestock Services |
| DoF | Department of Fisheries |
| DANIDA | Danish International Development Agency |
| DKK | Danish Kroner |
| DQA | Data Quality Assessment |
| DWG | District Working Group |

| | |
|---------|--|
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| FF | Farmer Facilitator |
| FFS | Farmer Field School |
| GoB | Government of Bangladesh |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| HDC | Hill District Council |
| HH | Household |
| IFM | Integrated Farm Management |
| IFM-FFS | Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field School |
| IFMC | Integrated Farm Management Component |
| KHDC | Khagrachari Hill District Council |
| M&E | Monitoring & Evaluation |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoCHTA | Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs |
| MT | Master Trainer |
| NGO | Non-Government Organization |
| PDC | Para Development Committee |
| RHDC | Rangamati Hill District Council |
| SAAO | Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer |
| SID-CHT | Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tract |
| ToF | Training of Facilitators |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| USD | United States Dollar |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |

PROJECT SUMMARY:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Project No: | 00094983 |
| Project Title: | Agriculture and Food Security Project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts -Phase III (AFSP III) |
| Project Start Date: | February 2018 |
| Project End Date: | 30 June 2021 |
| Reporting Period: | February to 31 December 2018 |
| Project Budget: | DKK 37 Million (USD 5.89 Million) |
| Executing Agency: | Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT), UNDP Bangladesh |
| Responsible Ministry: | Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) |
| Project Area | Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari Hill Districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh |
| Beneficiaries covered: | The marginal and small farmers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. |
| Project Objective: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increased pro-poor inclusive agricultural growth and sustainable employment creation for marginal and small farm households with enhanced food security in Chittagong Hill Tracts,2. Hill District Councils with enhanced capacity to manage transferred agricultural services in line with CHT Peace Accord. |
| Project Outcomes | <p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Agricultural productivity of female and male marginal and small farm households increased and diversified through IFM-FFS in the Chittagong Hill Tracts</p> <p><u>Outcome 2:</u> Hill District Councils are managing transferred agricultural services in line with the CHT Peace Accord</p> |
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Executive Summary:

The Agriculture and Food Security Project in Chittagong Hill Tracts (AFSP III) (Feb'2018-Jun'2021) aims to support 1200 paras/villages with a total coverage of 30,000 poor and marginal farm households (138,000 people) in CHT districts by gradually establishing 1,200 new FFS in 26 Upazilas across CHT. The objective of AFSP III is to increase pro-poor inclusive agricultural growth and sustainable employment creation for marginal and small farm households with enhanced food security in Chittagong Hill Tracts and to enhance HDCs capacity to manage transferred agricultural services in line with CHT Peace Accord, through building on the key learnings of the AFSP I and AFSP II. The project, which commenced in February 2018, is being rolled out over a four-years duration in partnership with 3 HDCs, and with support by the Danish Government. The total project budget is DKK 37 Million (USD 5.89 Million).

During the first year of AFSP III, a series of preparatory activities were completed, and the project moved successfully to deliver the planned outputs. As of end December 2018, a total of 7,130 selected farmers (of whom 62% were women) attended 270 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) established by the project (in open space) and received training on improved agricultural cultivation and better farming methods. This, in turn, is expected to increase household level production and diversify sources of income of the target farmers overtime. A newly developed FFS curriculum was tested in these FFS through 'learning by doing' approach, established learning plots from where FFS farmers' gathered knowledge and skills.

The preparatory activities included establishment of 270 FFS (out of 1,200 planned under the AFSP III), and selection and training of 270 farmer facilitators (FFs) (34% female FF) assigned to each of the 270 FFS. The FF selection was done in accordance with FF recruitment guideline developed by the project – which included vetting of FF candidates by Hill District Councils (HDC) and technical line departments to ensure their competency and a transparent selection process. The FF training was done through a training of trainers (TOT) approach; initially training was organized for 31 master trainers (MTs), currently 28 existing, who in turn trained 270 FFs. The training venues with residential facilities were same as AFSP II being one venue at Department of Livestock Services in Rangamati, one in Horticulture Development Centre in Bandarban and one in Pahari Krishi Gobeshana Kendra in Khagrachari. Apart from the 270 FFS already established and functioning, 930 communities have also been identified for FFS establishment gradually in 2019 and 2020. A series of mobilization activities such as workshops and consultation meetings were held at all levels (national, district, and community stakeholders) to achieve these results and to ensure clarity of AFSP III objectives and processes to obtain stakeholders' 'buy-in'. For example, 1,203 Para Development Committees (PDCs) and executive committee (EC) members of PDCs were informed on the FFS concept, implementation processes, and relevant project activities. Moreover, 654 persons from different stakeholders of Union, Upazila and District levels of key government departments, LGIs and other key stakeholders were oriented on AFSP III.

The FFS curriculum was developed by incorporating lessons learnt from the AFSP II and following the participatory identification of high value crops (Mushroom, Orange/Malta, Jum Chilli, Papaya and Betel leaf). The AFSP III curriculum consists of 60 sessions/topics and 11 FFS modules which will be regularly updated through periodic review. The validation workshop engaging technical

experts helped finalize the FFS curriculum development process while ensuring its quality and relevance in the CHT.

The project faced few challenges most of which are similar to previously implemented AFSP II; however, those challenges were overcome utilizing experiences gained over time. Financial delivery is also progressing well, with the project incurring an eligible expenditure of **USD 1,713,468 up to 31 December 2018.**

Table 1: AFSP III Achievements against Targets (February to 31 December 2018)

| SL | Indicators | Activities | Target | Achievements |
|---|--|--|---------------------|--|
| Output 1: Community groups and stakeholders mobilized through establishment of IFM-FFS | | | | |
| 1.1 | # of FFS formed/established, including women (50%) and men participated in mobilization initiatives. | Stakeholder (UzDCC, UDCC, HDC, GoB etc.) mobilisation meeting on FFS at Upazilla Level: | 26 upazila | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 upazila • 551 people participation (male:455, female: 96) |
| | | Training for PDC EC members from PDCs/paras on IFM-FFS implementation process, monitoring and role of PDCs: | 2000 PDC EC members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 members (male:1429, female: 583) |
| | | Community Mobilization and FFS Formation: | 270 FFS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 270 FFS |
| | | Selection of Farmer Facilitators | 270 FF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 270 FF (male:178, female: 92) |
| | | Capacity building training for project staff (i.e. community mobilization, supervision, monitoring & reporting). | 34 staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 (male:28, female: 6) |
| Output 2: IFM FFS Curricula Developed and Promoted | | | | |
| 2.1 | # of Modules developed with inclusion and testing of relevant farming HH's reliance on climate change issues into FFS curriculum | Develop and regularly update curricula for IFM FFS menu modules | 11 modules | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 modules developed; • 24 FGDs conducted; • 03 district level workshops conducted; • 01 regional level curricula development workshop organized; • 01 curricula validation workshops organized; • The final draft curricula also tested among FFS Facilitators, MT and FFF during ToT courses and feedbacks were accommodated; |
| | | IFM-FFS Modules, Registers finalised and printed | 11 modules | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 modules finalized; • 1750 copies of registers printed; |
| Output 3: Knowledge and skills of CHT stakeholders [Master trainers, FFS Facilitators, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Officers] enhanced | | | | |
| 3.1 | # of Master trainers, FFS Facilitators, Government of | ToT for Master Trainers on IFM-FFS: | 28 MTs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 MTs (male:20, female: 8) |
| | | ToF for FFs on IFM-FFS. | 270 FFs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 270 FF (male:178, female: 92) |
| | | Training for project staffs and GoB line department | 103 GoB Officers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 103 FF (male:91, female: 12) |

| SL | Indicators | Activities | Target | Achievements |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| | Bangladesh (GoB) Officers | officials on AFSP III and FFS implementation | | |
| Output 4: IFM-FFS implemented through participatory and 'learning by doing approach' | | | | |
| 4.1 | % of IFM-FFS participants graduated (disaggregated by sex and age) with % women | Household Profiling of IFM FFS | 270 IFM FFS households | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 270 IFM FFS households profiling prepared |
| | | Conduct FFS Session | Average 3 to 4 sessions per FFS each month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total 3,375 sessions conducted; Average 3 sessions per FFS each month; Average 23 farmers participated each session out of 25 farmers; Total 777 study plots established at community level; |
| | | Exchange Visit to Explore IFM FFS Learning | 3 exchange visits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01 learning visits organized at Bandarban District; 02 cross learning visits were organized (01 at CHT and other at IFMC working region) |
| | | Organize Bimonthly FF Coordination Meeting | 104 coordination meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72 bi-monthly FF Coordination meetings were organized with average 10 participants at Upazilla level |
| | | Organize Monitoring visit by GoB officers (DAE, DLS, DOF) and other stakeholders. | Need base | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 1528 monitoring visits (124 by GoB line department (DAE/DoF/DLS) Officers, 152 by MT, 1006 by Upazilla FFSCs and 246 by other AFSP staff) |
| | | Monitoring visits by UDCC (Union Development Coordination Committee), UzDCC (Upazila Development Coordination Committee), DWG (District Working Group) etc. | Need base | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 118 monitoring visits by UDCC, UzDCC, DWG. |
| Output 5: Input supply and market linkages promoted and facilitated | | | | |
| 5.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of FFS linked to traders/buyers for selling their agricultural produces (collection centers and group marketing) | Training for Input Suppliers/Input sellers | 240 participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 247 farming input suppliers (male:236, female: 11) such as seed sellers, fertilizer seller, pesticide seller, poultry and fish feed sellers, poultry and livestock vaccines and medicine seller were trained |
| | | Training for community level service providers on agricultural services | 75 Community Livestock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 youth farmers developed as Community Livestock Workers (CLW) |

| SL | Indicators | Activities | Target | Achievements |
|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of HHs with access to quality agricultural inputs | Facilitate Quarterly ABN meetings | Workers (CLW) 26 meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Agrobusiness Network meetings were organized with participation of 356 (male:331 female:25) attendants such as farmer representatives, collection point operators, forward market businesses (<i>arothdar, paikar, bapery</i>), backward market businesses (input sellers/suppliers), community service providers. |
| Output 6: Coordination enhanced and HDC strengthened to manage transferred agriculture services and monitor Local Resilience Plans | | | | |
| 6.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of coordination meeting • # of consultative workshop • # of Local Resilience Plan | Organize District Working Group Meeting | 9 meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 coordination meetings organized with participation of Hill District Council representatives, district level officers from three-line departments (DLS, DAE and DoF), and AFSP District Officer |
| | | Conduct Consultative Workshops | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned for year 2019 |
| | | Support to Local Resilience Plans Develop under CCRP (CHT Climate Resilience Project) | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRP development initiatives are taking place under CCRP project |

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region home to 11 different ethnic groups, in addition to the Bengali population, and has a population of 1.6 million, 70% of whom live in the rural areas. More than two decades of conflict, ending with a peace accord in 1997, have left the majority of its inhabitants in conditions of extreme poverty. Moreover, communities in the region are increasingly experiencing the impact of environmental and climate changes on their livelihoods, deforestation, landslide, seasonal water scarcity, soil erosion and flash flood during monsoon. Traditionally indigenous communities practice Jum cultivation, a local form of 'shifting' or 'rotational' slash and burn cultivation. Out of an estimated 364,000 acres of available cultivable land 27 percent is used for Jum, 20 percent is under plough cultivation, 18 percent is set aside for homesteads and 35 percent is used for plantation or left to fallow. More recently there has been poor use of appropriate farming practices for a range of reasons, including: a lack of knowledge and skills, supply constraints, land shortages, financial limitation or poor access to markets. As a result those communities located in the remotest parts of CHT live in chronic poverty and with very restricted access to services. Other development challenges include a high degree of under-employment, low literacy and limited economic opportunities. The 2013 Household Survey conducted by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) (n=2,500 households) identified that 74 percent households of CHT live below upper poverty line and 52.4 percent households live below the lower poverty line, as per the direct calorie intake method.

The Agriculture and Food Security Project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (AFSP III) is being implemented to improve the overall situation mentioned earlier under Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT) project of Ministry of CHT Affairs and UNDP. UNDP through funding from DANIDA has implemented the Agriculture and Food Security Project in two phases during 2009 - June 2013 and July 2013 to 31 December 2017 benefitting a total of 59,045 poor and marginal farmers through 2,490 Farmer Field Schools in 121 Unions of 26 Upazilas of 3 Hill Districts in the area of Integrated Farm Management, improved farming practices on crops, fruits, vegetables, spices, livestock and fish.

The current AFSP III (Feb'2018-Jun'2021) aims to support 1200 paras/villages with a total coverage of 30,000 poor and marginal farm households (138,000 people) in CHT districts by gradually establishing 1,200 new FFS in 26 Upazilas across CHT. The AFSP III works to increase pro-poor, inclusive agricultural growth and sustainable employment creation for marginal and small farm households with enhanced food security in the CHT, through building on the key learnings of AFSP II during formulation of curricula and modules addressing new strategies on mainstreaming nutrition and consumption of nutritious foods, climate change impacts and high value crops etc. It also seeks to enhance capacity of Hill District Councils to manage transferred agricultural services in line with CHT Peace Accord. In partnership with three HDCs, the project is being rolled

out over a four-year duration from Feb 2018 to June 2021. The planned duration of FFS is season long - 12 months, with three months follow-up support and monitoring after the completion of the FFS cycle. Emphasis is placed on building the capacity of smallholders and communities to increase agricultural productivity and income via strengthening skills on production, value addition, and marketing. It also focuses on engaging all actors in the sector (government bodies, input suppliers, other private service providers, and potential buyers) to increase sustainability.

1.1 Project Objectives:

The objectives of the Development Engagement (DE) are:

1. Increased pro-poor inclusive agricultural growth and sustainable employment creation for marginal and small farm households with enhanced food security in Chittagong Hill Tracts,
2. Hill District Councils with enhanced capacity to manage transferred agricultural services in line with CHT Peace Accord.

The above specific objectives will be achieved by below two outcomes:

Outcome 1: Agricultural productivity of female and male marginal and small farm households increased and diversified through IFM FFS in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

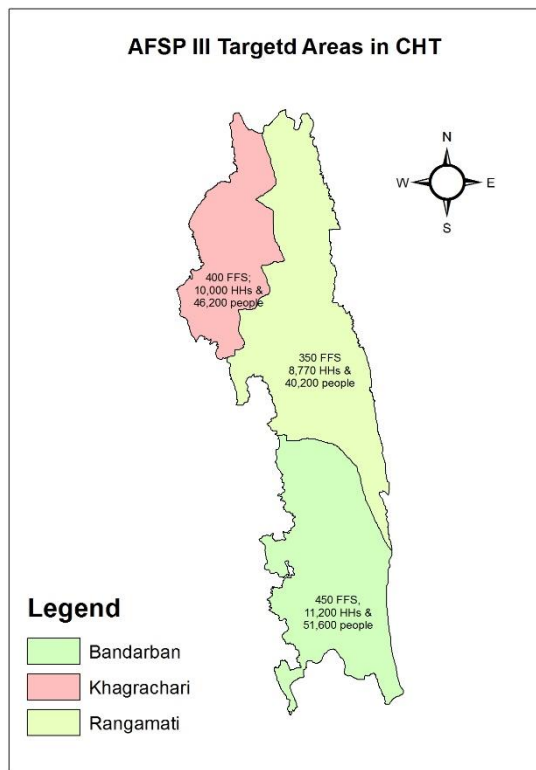
Outcome 2: Hill District Councils are managing transferred agricultural services in line with the CHT Peace Accord

1.2 AFSP III Targeted Area:

The AFSP III intervention areas targeted for 26 upazilas (7 upazilas in Bandarban, 9 upazilas in khagrachari and 10 upazilas in Rangamati District) in CHT with gradually inclusion of 30,000 poor and marginalized households¹ through 1200 Farmer Field School (FFS) in CHT. A total of 138,000 people that represents 8% of the population in CHT will be enriched through the implementation of Farmer Field School, refer the AFSP III map on district wise coverage.

The AFSP III targeted to cover all 26 upazilas within the CHT, the upazilas are as follows: **(i) Bandarban:** Alikadam, Bandarban Sadar, Lama, Naikhongchari, Rowangachari, Ruma, and Thanchi **(ii) Khagrachari:** Dighinala, Guimara, Khagrachari Sadar, Lakshnichari, Mahalachari, Manikchari, Matiranga, Panchari and Ramghar.

(iii) Rangamati: Baghaichari, Barkal, Bilaichari, Jurachari, Kaptai, Kawkhali, Longadu, Naniachar, Rajasthali and Rangamati Sadar.



2. PROGRESS OF AFSP III:

2.1 Outcome I: Agricultural production of female and male marginal and small farm households increased and diversified through IFM-FFS in the Chittagong Hill Tracts:

The Agriculture and Food Security Project Phase III targets to support 1200 communities through implementation of Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Communities have been selected from the already supported AFSP II communities as well as new ones in CHT, considering prevailing vulnerability as a criterion for selection. The implementation of Farmer Field School follows as one integrated systems of farm components of farmers with further focus on mainstreaming the nutrition, climate change and impacts and increased access to markets towards empowerment of farmers. Learning of AFSP II have been utilizing during organizing activities under AFSP III. The project aims to achieve two outcomes towards inclusive agricultural growth and improving the capacities of Hill

¹ Considering average 6 people in each household and the project targeted to cover around 138,000 people that represents around 8% of the population in CHT.

District Councils to manage transferred agricultural services. The first outcome envisages to increase and diversify the agricultural productions of female and male marginal farmers through establishment of Farmer Field Schools. The outcome combines the effect of organizing below outputs with subsequent activities:

- Community groups and stakeholders mobilized through establishment of IFM-FFS
- IFM FFS Curricula Developed and Promoted
- Knowledge and skills of CHT stakeholders [Master trainers, FFS Facilitators, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Officers] enhanced
- IFM-FFS implemented through participatory and 'learning by doing approach'
- Input supply and market linkages promoted and facilitated.

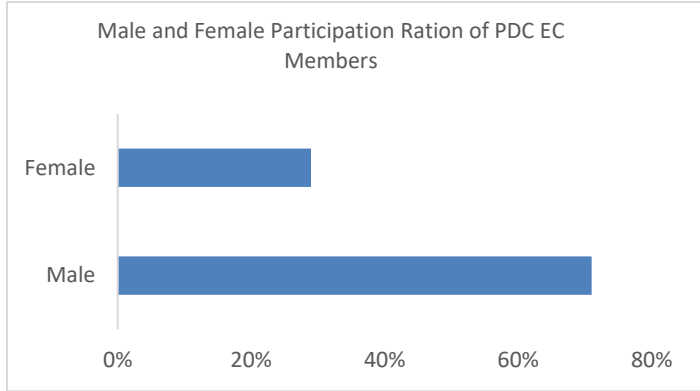
2.1.1 Output 1: Community groups and stakeholders mobilized through establishment of IFM-FFS

Activity 1.1 : Stakeholder (UzDCC, UDCC, HDC, GoB etc.) mobilisation meeting on FFS at Upazilla Level:

26 Upazilla level workshops were organized at Upazilla level, participating 551 members (female-96, male-455) to mobilize stakeholders on selection of communities for FFS establishment and getting required support from stakeholders. Representatives of Hill District Councils, Upazilla Parishads, Union Parishads, traditional institutions, community leaders and project staff were attended in workshops and oriented on project interventions and support required to implement project activities. Within the workshop, participants were oriented on community selection guideline (Annex I) and following which they prepared primary list of communities for AFSP III interventions considering prevailing the vulnerabilities. Stakeholders were sensitized through this mobilization activity and extended cooperation to implementation of project activities.

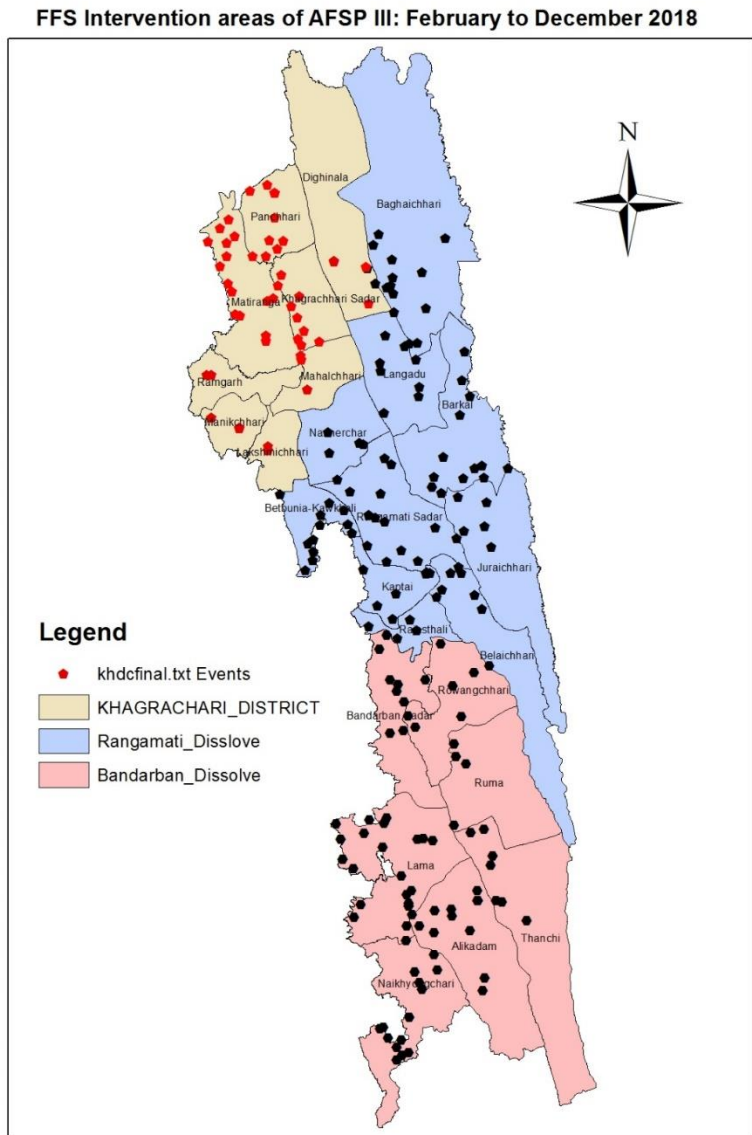
Activity 1.2: Training for PDC EC members from PDCs/paras on IFM-FFS implementation process, monitoring and role of PDCs:

PDC Executive members played a vital role for community mobilization, FF recruitment, FFS community selection and monitoring support to FFS. In this reporting period, a total of 2012 PDC Executive Committee members (30% female) trained and well-known on IFM-FFS implementation process, monitoring and their role and responsibilities to FFS. As immediate results of this training, PDC executives have been providing support in running the FFS including mobilization, monitoring and follow-up of FFS session, farmers attendance and need base support for FFS implementation.



Activity 1.3: Community Mobilization and FFS Formation:

In the very beginning after HDC based staff recruitment an orientation training was organized with participation of AFSP III core staff followed by stakeholder mobilization and consultation meeting at District and Upazila. FFS communities were selected through participatory discussion with community people and screening process involving upazila and district level team members, line department representatives and as per AFSP III community selection guideline². The existing Para Development Committee (PDC) where available provided necessary support on the selection process of the Farmer Field School (FFS). The project total target is to cover 1200 FFS in the project cycle gradually, in this reporting period the community mobilization process done in 270 communities as the part of FFS implementation. Below is the district wise FFS communities selection location map of AFSP III:



Activity 1.4: Selection of Farmer Facilitators

During the reporting period, 270 farmers Facilitators (female-92, male-178) of them 34% women were selected to run FFS in 03 hill districts. Each FF was assigned to run 3 FFS gradually at own and neighboring communities. The selection process was done in accordance with "Farmer Facilitator selection guideline (Annex II). The selection process includes mobilization of farmers to enroll into selection process, screening, aptitude test and primary nomination by a selection committee and finally successful completion of first spell ToF course for Farmer Facilitators. The key emphasis was given to have an active, experienced farmer as potential candidate from local

² The community selection guideline's basic criterions included coverage of diversified ethnicities, household numbers, farming practices, lack of safety net coverage, remoteness, food insecurity and inclusion of women headed households.

community. Upon completion of procedure, selected 270 Farmer Facilitators have been trained to run FFS at local communities. Learning from previous experience, the project kept good number of candidates into roster as immediate response to a turnover situation during project lifespan.

Activity 1.5: Capacity building training for project staff (i.e. community mobilization, supervision, monitoring & reporting).

In the beginning of year 2018, a two days long residential training has been organized on community mobilization, supervision, monitoring and reporting mechanism of AFSP III. The project core staffs including HDCs and SID-CHT participated and obtained a clear understanding on effective monitoring and reporting tools and techniques, data collection and quality control mechanism, dataflow and reporting diagram, data entry and maintenance of database. A total of 34 participants (27 male and 6 female) from HDC and SID-CHT participated and got common understanding. The training involved hands on practice and relevant exercises to specific roles. It was decided that the HDC based Monitoring Officer will be the focal person to maintain the monitoring and reporting database at HDCs level and District FFS Expert is the focal person of SID-CHT, District Team.



2.1.2 Output 2: IFM-FFS Curricula Developed and Promoted

Activity 2.1: Develop and regularly update curricula for IFM FFS menu modules

The curricula of FFS under AFSP III was prepared following series of consultations involving different level stakeholders including farmers, representatives from local communities, Farmer Facilitators, project staff, representative's local government institutions, GoB line department Officers, and Scientists of CHT research institutions. The curricula development process also considered the review of various secondary materials, incorporated experience of similar implementations in CHT and materialized recommendations of relevant implementation for preparing a contextual and demand driven curriculum for CHT farmers. The Curriculum Development Team (CDT), comprising of Technical Coordinator- FFS Training and Quality, District FFS Experts and selective Master Trainers who lead the process for curriculum development. Following process applied for curriculum development

Activity 3.1: ToT for Master Trainers on IFM-FFS:

During the reporting period, 28 Master Trainers (female 08 and male 20) have been developed to roll out ToF sessions for Farmer Facilitators. The ToT course for Master Trainers were organized for 22 days in 03 spells (01st spell-06 days, 2nd spell-08 days and 3rd spell-08 days) with residential facilities at Khagrachari and Bandarban district. The course schedule includes the curricula contents, facilitation skill developments and extra curriculum activities that require to develop a participant to Master Trainer. Course participants are GoB line department Officers, Master Trainers, selective Upazilla FFS Coordinators and other potential staff under AFSP III project. Among developed Master Trainers 08 personnel joined from GoB line departments (DAE, DoF and DLS). Technical Coordinator, District FFS Experts and 01 Resource person from Integrated Farm Management Component were engaged to facilitate the training course. As outcome of this training respective participants have been running ToF course for Farmer Facilitators and providing backstopping support to FFS implementation.



Activity 3.2: ToF for FFs on IFM-FFS.

During the reporting period 270 Farmer Facilitators (female-92, male-178) have been developed in 03 Hill districts (Bandarban-90, Khagrachari-90, Rangamati-90) through Season Long Learning Course on Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field School. Learning from experiences revealed that good Farmer Facilitators leads to ensure good Farmer Field School. Therefore, the project concentrated more to developing the quality of Farmer Facilitators through guiding the ToF course by the “learning by doing approach” with hands on practice and sharing of experiences. Besides Farmer Facilitators have been motivating to develop as model farmer that have been contributing in



developing confidence of Farmer Facilitators. As immediate result trained FFs have been running FFS sessions in their respective communities.

Activity 3.3: Training for project staffs and GoB line department officials on AFSP III and FFS implementation:

18 Upazilla FFS Coordinators (female-03, male-15) from HDCs were trained for 3 days on IFM FFS implementation approach including their roles while organizing activities in the field.

As immediate outcome, trained staffs have been extending support to FFs and organizing initiatives required for FFS implementation in the field.

103 GoB Officers (female-12, male-91), designated as Upazilla Agriculture Officers, Upazilla Fisheries Officer, Upazilla Livestock Officer, Agriculture Extension Officer, Veterinary Surgeon, Veterinary Field Assistants, Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer from GoB line departments (DAE, DLS and DoF) were trained for 3 days on IFM-FFS implementation approach including monitoring of FFS in the field. During the training participants also trained monitoring process practically in the field. As outcome trained GoB Officers have been providing monitoring support to FFS implementation in the field. As immediate results of the training, the GoB officers conducted 128 monitoring visits to IFM-FFS and provided technical suggestions/advices to FFS participants, established linkages between farmers and government line departments for inputs and available service delivery options.

34 Project staff (female-06, male-28) from HDCs and SID-CHT Project with designation as District Officers, Monitoring and Reporting Officers, Upazilla FFS Coordinators, District FFS Experts were trained with hands on practice for 02 days on monitoring process including tools, database maintenance and GPS coordinates collection procedure. Upon receiving training trained staff have been providing monitoring support in the field, maintaining progress database and collected GPS



coordinates of established FFS in the field. As immediate outcome of training, trained participants provided 1404 monitoring visits during this reporting period to implementing 270 Farmer Field Schools.

Activity 3.4 Refresher Training for FFs:

This activity planned to organize in 2nd quarter of 2019 upon completion the implementation of 01st cycle FFS.

2.1.4 Output 4: IFM-FFS implemented through participatory and 'learning by doing approach'

Activity 4.1: Profiling of IFM FFS Households:

During the reporting period, the household profiling of 270 newly formed FFS, accumulating total 7130 farming households completed successfully those have been analyzed and stored as individual baseline information of respective farmers. The findings show that the majority of FFS members are fulltime farmers. Moreover, the educational status, types of animals and birds reared vaccination status of the animals and poultry were captured of each household from this profiling. This profiling will support tracking the changing status of each household over the project period. The profiling database appeared as 62% of enrolled farmers are women participants in established FFS.

Activity 4.2: Conduct FFS Session:

Initial after community selection and FF training, FFS session has been conducting at the community level. In this reporting period, a total of 3,375 FFS sessions (average 3 sessions in each FFS per month) were conducted where farmers have been getting opportunities to learn on improved agricultural cultivation;

and have been establishing study plots through learning by doing approach. In total 776 study plots already established at community level, and 270 Farmer Facilitators (FFs) have been directly engaged to facilitate FFS sessions as per the guideline following IFM-FFS curriculum. Over 7,100 farmers of



270 communities participated in the session where average 23 farmers participated out of average 25 participants in each FFS. The gender segregated data showed that women and men participants were 63 percent and 37 percent respectively, which indicates greater female participation in the FFS sessions of AFSP III.

Activity 4.3: FFS Running Cost:

Provided FFS running cost to 270 established FFS for managing expenses of training materials for FFS sessions and setting study plots for exploring learning. As outcome of this activity, weekly FFS sessions being organizing in established FFS and 777 study plots were established to those FFS.

Activity 4.4: Support to Farmers - Post FFS Learning utilization:

The activity will start during 09-12 months of FFS cycle thus it planned to organize during 01st to 2nd quarter of 2019.

Activity 4.5: Organize Farmer Field Days:

The activity will start during 09-12 months of FFS cycle thus it planned to organize during 2nd quarter of 2019.

Activity 4.6: Organize Exchange Visit to Explore IFM FFS Learning:

01 learning visits organized, 13 personnel (female-03, male-10) attended with participation of farmers, Farmer Facilitators, GoB line department Officers, selective Upazilla FFS Coordinators and Master Trainers in Bandarban to evident and explore the learning of FFS. Exchange visit participants have been replicating learning to own area that they acquired from the visit.

02 cross learning visits were organized (01 at CHT and other at IFMC working region), participating key staff of AFSP and IFMC. One visit was hosted by AFSP team in Rangamati and Khagrachari district during November 2018 another visit was hosted by IFMC team at its Jessore working region in February 2018. During the visit both teams shared critical observations including technical feedbacks to each other team those found helpful for improving FFS implementation strength.



01 international study tour was organized to Malaysia and Indonesia participating 10 officials from primarily from Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, whilst other participants were selected from Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Activity 4.7: Organize Bimonthly FF Coordination Meeting:

72 bi-monthly FF Coordination meetings were organized with average 10 participants at Upazilla level to review the progress thus plan the FFS implementation for effectively organize of activities in the field. Upazila FFS Coordinator facilitated this meeting where Upazila level GoB line departments (DLS, DAE and DoF) and the service providers i.e. Community Live Stock Worker (CLW), Community Poultry Workers (CPW) and Community Aquaculture Resource Person (CARP) participated. These helped:

- a. sharing FFs field experiences;
- b. becoming aware of implementation status and progress of FFS;
- c. getting opportunities/information of service providers (e.g. Vaccination);
- d. Generating suggestions/initiatives from line department; and
- e. Identifying challenges including opportunities for effectively organize of activities

Activity 4.8: Organize Monitoring visit by GoB officers (DAE,DLS, DOF)and other stakeholders.

Process and progress monitoring mechanism are in place within implementation framework of AFSP III. During this reporting period 1528 monitoring visits were organized of those 152 monitoring visits made by Master Trainers, 1006 visits made by Upazilla FFS Coordinators, 246 monitoring visits made by other AFSP staff and 124 monitoring visits were made by GoB line department (DAE/DoF/DLS) Officers to implementing 270 FFS to monitor the process closely and extend support to the FFS implementation.

Activity 4.9: Monitoring visits by UDCC, UzDCC, DWG etc.

118 monitoring visits made by Union Development Coordination Committees (UDCC) and Upazilla Development Coordination Committees (UzDCC) during this reporting period.

07 monitoring visits organized, participating 48 District Working Group (DWG) members more specifically responsible Counsellors of HDCs, head of GoB line departments (DAE, DoF, DLS), HDC based AFSP District Officer to witness practical scenario in the field and find measures to establish the linkages need.



Based on identified monitoring findings, AFSP staff accommodated feedbacks for further improvement of programmatic strength.

Activity 4.10: Organize FFS Learning Sharing workshop at District and Regional level

These activities are planned to organize during 2nd quarter of 2019.

Activity 4.11: Organize Monthly AFSP III coordination meeting at HDCs

31 monthly AFSP III Coordination Meetings organized with attendance of average 17 participants at district level. Meeting participants were joined from Hill District Council based AFSP III staff working within district and SID-CHT, UNDP project staff working within and apart from district.



During the meeting participants discussed the implementation progress, identify challenges and plan the implementations for following month. The meeting found effective for enhance the coordination and support and responsibilities and implying decisions. The monthly meeting acted as an interactive forum for AFSP upazila level staff to present their findings/observation and solutions to potential problems.

Output 5: Input supply and market linkages promoted and facilitated

Activity 5.1: Support community managed collection Points for improving market facilities

FFS farmers have been organized into Producer Groups capable of planning their production and market their products collectively. Collection points found a point for linking buyers and producers thus selection of collection point places including mobilization of communities have been ongoing for rendering support for establishment. The project planned to support communities for increased access to market through mobilizing communities for group marketing and linking buyers and producers at collection points.

Activity 5.2: Training for Input Suppliers/Input sellers:

202 farming input suppliers (women:11, men: 236) such as seed sellers, fertilizer seller, pesticide seller, poultry and fish feed sellers, poultry and livestock vaccines and medicine seller were trained on quality of inputs, precautionary measures and general advises during selling of inputs. During the training many participants expressed that they have been doing business long time but this is first ever they received training on quality of inputs that surely helpful for identifying quality inputs thus to build a credible business. As outcome of the training, trained input sellers have been selling quality inputs to farmers and providing general advises to farmers on utilizing farming inputs.

Activity 5.3: Training (new batch/refreshers) for community level service providers on agricultural services

45 youth farmers developed as Community Livestock Workers (CLW) through 05 days long hands on training on primary animal healthcare including vaccination procedures during December 2018. Resource personnel were engaged from Department of Livestock Services and project internal sources for conduction of this training. As outcome of this training trained CLWs have been vaccinating animals and providing general health care support to FFS farmers and yet to date 2632 animals already vaccinated by CLWs.

Activity 5.4: Learning visit to other area of best marketing facilities for farmers

This activity is planned to organize in year 2019

Activity 5.5: Facilitate market linkages workshops- Agri-Business Networks (ABN) actors and Farmers

This activity is planned to organize in 2019

Activity 5.6 Facilitate Quarterly ABN meetings

19 Agrobusiness Network meetings were organized with participation of 356 (female-25, male-331) attendants such as farmer representatives, collection point operators, forward market businesses (arothdar, paikar, bapery), backward market businesses (input sellers/suppliers), community service providers for agrobusiness deals and getting market response. This is Upazilla level event, organize quarterly basis for improving agro-based marketing negotiations. As outcome of this event businessmen and farmers have been mobilizing for transection commitments to each other.

Success Story 1

An Ordinary Farmer to Model Farmer

The story is all about Mr. Deborshi Chakma (25 years), son of late Amullyo Bikash Chakma from Joy Kumar Karbari Para, Kabakhali union, Dighinala, Khagrachari district. His father passed away five years ago and he has to take responsibility of his family but he was unemployed. To manage his family's living cost he had to go to Chottogram two years ago through a relative. Since his educational qualification was poor he could not get better job. He could not provide financial support to his family. After a period, he came back to his own village. He was engaged as day labor for his income and was an aimless person. But with own interest he started to watch YouTube, Channel I and DIPTA TV Agricultural programme.

His life started to see new momentum at the time when he got an opportunity as a Farmer Facilitator (FF) through Khagrachari Hill District Council under AFSP-III intervention. He received "ToT for Farmer Facilitators on IFM-FFS" and successfully completed three spells training based on which he started his new responsibility as Farmer Facilitator in June 2018. He started agricultural farming in his own farm and gradually his knowledge and family situation changed positively. Now he has started sharing knowledge and hands on practices of his farm with FFS members and villagers. He has started innovative ideological work in a short time. He produced vermin compost, Banana, Papaya, Beans and Fish in his farm. He already started to utilize vermicompost in his homestead gardening and water melon cultivation in organic system.



Few of his current farming components:

| S.N. | Ongoing Activities Name | Land area and cost | Expected income |
|------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Cucumber | 30 decimal, 15,000 | 70,000 |
| 2. | Papaya | 60 decimal, 20,000 | 70,000 |
| 3. | Banana | 10 decimal, 5,000 | 25,000 |
| 4. | Beans | 20 decimal, 2,000 | 8,000 |
| 5. | Fish | 20 decimal, 80,000 | 200,000 |
| 6. | Poultry rearing | Tentative cost: 8,000 | 45,000 |
| 7. | Vermin Compost | Tentative coat: 10,000 | 120,000 (both use in own land and selling of earth worm) |
| 8. | FYM | No specific cost | Use only in own farming |

Once asked about his current and future plan: "he wants to ensure quality and increases all farm crop gradually in integrated farming approach, maintain properly as per training knowledge, build up goodwill to community, be a model farmer and change livelihood". His future plan is to increase vermi-compost

production and extend the business, increase Banana and Papaya Gardening in the large scale and establish a sales center in the Dighinala bazar to sell his organic farm products.

Success Story: 2

More return from homestead garden

“I never properly used my homestead places and fallow land before involving myself with FFS. But now I'm getting income from it.” as said 45 years old farmer Miz. Sandhya Rani Chakma, one of beneficiary of Baitta para IFM-FFS. The FFS is located at Longadu sadar union of Longadu upazila of Rangamati and just 03 km from upazila sadar and mainly communicated with upzaila sadar by roadway. She made herself as member after formation of IFM-FFS on 19 August 2018. A family with 08 members faces problems when their cultivable land mostly paddy field submersed under Kaptai lake water and even cannot cultivate vegetable properly at Boro (winter) season. She sometimes cannot harvest rice like other member of the FFS due to sudden rise of water level. Even don't use her 30 decimals homestead places for vegetable gardening. ***“In this season primarily I get TK-2,500/- after selling coriander, spinach, lalshak and radishes and again planted coriander, spinach, lalshak and radishes, bottle gourd, red pumpkin, French bean, tomato, chilli and egg plant and hope to get another TK-5,000/- from my homestead gardening. I brought every corner of my homestead places under vegetable cultivation.”*** as she described. This year she got chance to cultivate vegetables on 05 decimals fridge land. This condition was started after taking session of homestead space planning. As a result she is not only getting income from it but also acting as a source of family nutrition. She cultivated on ideal pit and bed mixed with cow dung used hand pollination and sex pheromone trap technique for quality production. ***“I think these techniques helped me for getting quality product. I'll continue these activities and will also use upgraded hatching pan for my broody hen”*** she again quoted. She is planning to cultivate summer vegetables in her homestead garden due to water scarcity during this season.

She thanked Farmer Facilitator Mr. Pratul Bikash Chakma and RHDC for implementing FFS activities in her village and hope this type of farmer frankly project will not only help to get more production from their farms but also help for earning more income in their area. Now after seeing her success the surrounding members inspired and doing like her.



Pic-01: Ms. Sandhya Rani Chakma working in her homestead gardening.



Pic-02: Ms. Sandhya Rani Chakma working in her French bean field.

2.2 Outcome 2: Hill District Councils (HDC) are managing transferred agricultural services in line with CHT Peace Accord:

The outcome focuses to enhance the capacities of the HDCs in managing agricultural services decentralized with the CHT Peace Accord and subsequent legal reforms - 33 functions and powers are to be transferred to the HDCs as per the Peace Accord, including agricultural services. On paper, these power and functions have already been transferred from the line ministries/agencies to the HDCs. However, the HDCs have still not managed to take full ownership of the transferred functions from these line ministries/agencies. With the capacities of the HDCs enhanced, the envisaged outcomes will be: improved coordination and management functions, including regulatory framework of HDCs to manage transferred agricultural services. Therefore the project aim to establish linkages and organize actions to enhance coordination between HDC, the Upazila and Union Parishads and target communities concerning development Local Resilience Plans against climate change.

2.2.1 Output 6: Coordination enhanced and HDC strengthened to manage transferred agriculture services and monitor Local Resilience Plans

Activity 6.1: Support to strengthen HDC's capacity and enhance coordination to manage agricultural services

The project has been screening the coordination gap points between HDCs and transferred line departments following which a detail action plan will be developed to contribute to this output.

Activity 6.2: Organize District Working Group Meeting:

During the reporting period seven District Working Group (DWG) meetings were organized with a total of 48 attendants and participants are respective Councilors of Hill District Council, district level officers from three-line departments (DLS, DAE and DoF), and AFSP District Officer. Apart from the AFSP III activities, the quarterly DWG coordination meetings covered discussion on interdepartmental coordination matters. The DWG meeting minutes are referred to respective Upazilla line department Officers for necessary measures. As outcome of this initiatives, 03-line departments under a coordination mechanism between Hill District Councils and within line departments to explore and extend support each other interrelated needs.

Activity 6.3: Conduct Consultative Workshops:

The activities is planned to organize during 2nd quarter of 2019 involving participants from HDCs and its managed project, GoB line departments and Local Government institutions.

Activity 6.4 Support to Local Resilience Plans Develop under CCRP:

LRP development initiatives have been organizing under CCRP project which will be supported once LRPs are ready during 2nd quarter of 2019.

3. Visibility & Communication:

Based on the UNDP visibility guidelines, AFSP III developed several types of visibility and promotional materials were developed and utilized. The major visibility and communication material were as 270 FFS signboards were installed at community level (one for each FFS), produced 55 banners for organizing training/workshops, distributed 340 t-shirts, 340 caps, 340 Bags and around 4100 notebooks and 1750 IFM FFS registers with reflection of GoB, DANIDA and UNDP logos for visibility as well.

4. Project Management and Partnerships:

The Agriculture and Food Security Project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (AFSP III) is managed by UNDP through the ongoing project of Strengthening Inclusive Development in CHT (SID-CHT) signed between the Government of Bangladesh and UNDP for the period of February 2017 to September 2021 where the Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA) is an implementing partner and it

forms part of this agency's assistance under the Programmatic Framework of the UN for Support to the CHT 2015-2020. The Programmatic Framework governs the content of the wider support to CHT structured around three pillars of support: (i) sustainable livelihoods and natural resource management, (ii) social services, and (iii) governance with this the AFSP III being part of the first and third areas of assistance. The project will be managed by UNDP as part of the portfolio of projects delivered through the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) that manages SID-CHT. The project will benefit from the full capacity of this Facility/UNDP related to CHT and synergies in implementation achieved through e.g. one Planning, Monitoring, Reporting (PMR) unit and operations platform supporting implementation of all projects. A National Project Manager (NPM) is responsible for the implementation of the project. At the Country Office, implementation and assurance role is overseen by the country office Senior Management Team. At the field level, the Livelihood and Natural Resource Unit of SID-CHT, comprising of fully or partially dedicated experienced officials, coordinates and manages all actions funded by Danida.

As it was done for Agriculture and Food Security Project II (AFSP II), UNDP works with Hill District Councils (HDCs) for implementing Farmer Field Schools (FFS) under the Agriculture and Food Security Project III (AFSP III) through signing Letter of Agreement (LoA). Accordingly, Letter of Agreements has been signed with 3 HDCs for the period of February 2018 to 30 June 2021 to implement the field activities. As per the CHT Peace Accord, the HDCs manage all relevant line departments e.g. Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and Department of Fisheries (DoF). The Departmental Head of 3 line departments meet regularly where HDC councilor and AFSP III staffs also participate to discuss on Agricultural services and necessary decisions are taken to further enhance services for farmers.

A total of 48 staffs (female-09; male: 39) have been recruited who are engaged fully in the implementation of AFSP III activities under 3 HDCs (Rangamati 18, Bandarban 14 and Khagrachari 16). The key positions being District Officer-AFSP III (3), Senior Master Trainer (3), Master Trainer (7), Monitoring and Reporting Officer (3), Market Development Officer (3), Finance and Admin Assistant (3), Upazila FFS Coordinator (26). The District Officers, Senior Master Trainers, Monitoring and Reporting Officers, Market Development Facilitators are based in district while other staffs are based in Upazilas.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation:

With utilization of earlier learnings (Phase II), the AFSP III established a systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanism in all places i.e FFS community, Upazila, District and regional level. In this reporting period the AFSP III Result Framework (RF) is at the final stage with baseline status and

target setting till to project period up to June 2021. The AFSP III indicators is placed in the UNDP M&E Plan with year wise target breakdown. The core staff of FASP III trained up on the Monitoring and reporting mechanism, data collection tools techniques and the database. A offline data management system is already place to track the process and progress monitoring data each month.

At the field level, the staff of the project and implementing partners (HDCs), GoB line department officials, union and upazila parishad representative undertook monitoring visits and participated in staff planning and coordination meetings with the stakeholders to identify key successes and areas for further improvement. This information is collected and analyzed by the AFSP III, before making clear recommendations for addressing challenges observed in the field.

A detailed breakdown on the different parties involved in monitoring of AFSP III given below:

Community Level: The PDC Executive member those participated in IFM FFS training are involved as the main vehicle for overseeing and monitoring the FFS activities. They have been monitoring the ongoing session attendance, FFS session conduction by FFs and finally each FF maintains a monthly monitoring tool which is checked by the PDC chairperson and submitted to the Upazila FFS Coordinator.

Union Level: Union Parishad representatives visits the FFS communities and share their feedbacks and suggestion to FFs and community people. Even, the UP representatives discuss the findings in their monthly meetings where union parishad representatives and other union level stakeholders, including PDCs/FFs representatives and women leaders, discuss progress of FFS activities and seek necessary support from the UPs as appropriate. In this reporting period, a total of 118 visits made at the field level to provide necessary guidance to the communities for smooth implementation of AFSP activities.

Upazila Level: AFSP III Upazila-based staff are the lowest tier in monitoring and inputting data in the project's database. A simple offline data management system is placed at each upazila. The Upazila FFS Coordinators have been maintained to track the process and progress mentoring data each month. Data is verified during field visits to the FFS communities. The monitoring data and field experiences are shared with relevant stakeholders in the progress sharing meeting at upazila level. Upazila level other actors, such as regional GoB staff, have periodically visited FFS to undertake monitoring activities and provide technical support.

District Level: HDC based project staff and SID-CHT based staff made monitoring visits and follow-up support to the FFS communities. They also maintained the FFS Progress Monitoring Database on regular basis. The major findings from field visits, lessons learnt, and achievement are shared at the HDCs monthly coordination meeting with major decision if any shortfall/or deviation as per their plan. In this reporting period, a total 1404 visits made to FFS communities by the AFSP III staffs.

Regional/Central Level: Ongoing monitoring visits are conducted by regional/central based AFSP III staff, Senior Management with time to time feedbacks to AFSP III core staff. It's a regular practices by SID-CHT staff to maintain Back To Office Report (BTOR) immediate after each field visit. This report has been sharing with senior management of SID-CHT and National Project Director (NPD) of MoCHTA. Based on the off line data management system, progress reports are prepared on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly and yearly). Monthly reports reflect activity and output level indicators, such as the number of beneficiaries trained, number and types of grants distributed, demonstration plots established and number of GoB visits to the field. Quarterly reports are prepared based on the immediate results of the activities and are focused on qualitative information – how farmers are implementing their FFS learning, their feelings, challenges faced and way forward. Senior management of CHTDF and UNDP also visit project sites to facilitate the implementation and to provide quality-assurance and oversight to these activities.

The project has a plan to do Internal Data Quality Assessment (IDQA) both at desk and field level, and it will be placed in 2019 as the part of project's systematic monitoring mechanism. Moreover, to capture the results of AFSP III, the project planned to conduct an internal result study in the middle of year 2019. This study will support to measure the upper level indicators as per the Result Framework of AFSP III.

6. Lesson Learned Challenges and Action Taken:

Whilst the project has faced several issues during implementation of the planned activities, necessary actions have been taken to overcome the challenges. The challenges faced and actions taken by the project includes the followings:

- ✓ LoA signing with 3 Hill District Councils took longer time which further resulted delay in starting staff recruitment, community mobilization activities in the field. On occasions it was difficult to identify FF within FFS clusters, who met the set criteria. This was particularly the case regarding female FFs, as there were few educated female candidates who applied for the

role, despite project staff physically visiting communities to encourage applications. Re-advertisement was encouraged in few cases.

- ✓ Basic language and literacy prevented challenges. This was particularly problematic during ToT sessions, as while most MTs were conversant to Bangla they were not able to speak or understand languages of minor ethnic communities i.e. Mro. To overcome this challenge, where possible participants were able to identify a common language (i.e Marma) that multiple FFs were able to understand.
- ✓ Frequent staff turnover during the reporting period, particularly by Master Trainer (MT) has been challenging to manage. The impacts have been somewhat mitigated by the staff roster system that was initially established during recruitment. Furthermore, the 9 Upazila FFS Coordinators have been developed through MT ToT to support Master Trainers during ToT for FF. Consequently, this challenge is being managed.
- ✓ Local political unrest in few of the areas like Naniarchar, Baghaichari, Jurachari hampered regular activities particularly the Upazila stakeholder mobilisation in the field. However, with support and involvement of local leaders and stakeholders the issue has been solved with little delay in the area. Political turmoil during the reporting period has being problematic, as it has created many delays to project roll-out. Unfortunately, the difficulties presented by this challenge are out of the project's control.

7. Budget and Expenditure:

Total financial delivery of the AFSP III is USD 1,713,468 up to 31 December 2018.

| Outputs | Budget from Jan-Dec'2018 | | Expenditure Report (Feb'18-Dec'18) | |
|---|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | DKK | USD | DKK | USD |
| Output 1: Communities/Stakeholders mobilised to establish IFM-FFS | 170,334 | 27,123 | 192,727 | 30,689 |
| Output 2: IFM-FFS Curricular Developed | 206,583 | 32,895 | 208,527 | 33,205 |
| Output 3: Knowledge and skills of CHT stakeholders (Master trainers, FFS Trainers/Facilitators on IFM-FFS, GoB Officers) enhanced | 852,448 | 135,740 | 923,895 | 147,117 |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Output 4: IFM-FFS implemented through participatory and 'learning by doing' approach | 10,227,591 | 1,628,597 | 8,889,859 | 1,415,583 |
| Output 5: Access to market linkages (input-output) promoted and facilitated | 388,364 | 61,841 | 368,083 | 58,612 |
| Output 6: Coordination enhanced and HDCs strengthened to manage transferred agriculture services and coordinate LRPs and monitor Local Resilience Plans | 158,647 | 25,262 | 177,485 | 28,262 |
| Total | 12,003,967 | 1,911,460 | 10,760,577 | 1,713,468 |

Exchange Rate 1 USD = DKK 6.28

8. NEXT PLAN/WAY FORWARD:

| Activity/Task | 2019 | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1. Output 1: Communities/Stakeholders mobilised to establish IFM-FFS | | | | |
| 1.1 Stakeholder mobilisation meeting on FFS | | | | |
| 1.2 Training for PDC (para development committee) executive committee members from 1203 PDCs/paras on IFM-FFS implementation process, monitoring and role of PDCs (2 PCE EC members from each PDC, each batch 30 participants) | | | | |
| 1.3 Recruitment of staffs and Selection of Farmer Facilitators | | | | |
| 2. Output 2: IFM-FFS Curricular Developed | | | | |

| Activity/Task | 2019 | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 2.1 Develop and regularly update curricula for IFM FFS menu modules | * | * | | |
| 2.2 IFM-FFS Modules, Registers finalised and printed (including FFS registers) | | | | |
| 3. Output 3: Knowledge and skills of CHT stakeholders (Master trainers, FFS Trainers / Facilitators on IFM-FFS, GoB Officers) enhanced | | | | |
| 3.1 ToT for Master Trainers on IFM- FFS | * | | | |
| 3.2 ToT for FFs on IFM-FFS. | * | * | * | * |
| Promotional materials for Farmer Facilitators (T-shirt, caps, bags) | * | * | * | * |
| 3.3 Training for project staffs and GoB line department officials on AFSP III and FFS implementation (per batch 30 participants) | * | | * | |
| 3.4 Refreshers Training for FFs on IFM-FFS. | | | * | * |
| 4. Output 4: IFM-FFS implemented through participatory and 'learning by doing approach' | | | | |
| 4.1 Conduct FFS sessions at community level (FF Remuneration) 270 FF 1st round 1 FFS, 2nd round 2 FFS until Dec 2020 | * | * | * | * |
| 4.1 Conduct FFS sessions at community level (FF Remuneration) 131 FF starting from Apr 2019 to cover 1 FFS in 1st cycle, 2 FFS in 2nd cycle until Jun 2021 | * | * | * | * |
| 4.2 FFS Running cost | * | | * | |
| 4.3 Input grant to farmers- post the FFS learning phase | * | | * | * |
| 4.3 Contingency reserved for FFS implementation | | * | | * |
| 4.4 Organise Farmers Field Days - one event per Union/year for 3 years | * | | * | * |

| Activity/Task | 2019 | | | |
|---|------|----|----|----|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 4.5 Organize exchange visits on IFM-FFS learning (all relevant stakeholders) | | * | | * |
| 4.6 Organize exchange visits (outside country) | | | | |
| 4.7 Management support to FFS Implementation - operational cost for HDCs (travel, DSA, office rent, office supplies, fuel and maintenance etc.) | * | * | * | * |
| 4.8 Organize Bi-monthly FF Coordination meeting at Upazilla level | * | * | * | * |
| 4.9 Organize Monitoring visit by GoB officers (DAE,DLS, DOF)and other stakeholders, and Support to the technical sessions of the FFS (2 sessions in each FFS) by SAAO/VFA/FA. | * | * | * | * |
| 4.10 Monitoring visits by UnFC, UzAC, DWG etc. | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11 Organize FFS Learning Sharing workshop at District and Regional level | | * | | * |
| 4.12 Organize Monthly AFSP III coordination meeting at HDCs | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11 Human Resources - HDC | | | | |
| 4.11.1 District Officer - AFSP III (3) | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11.2 Senior Master Trainer (3) | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11.3 Master Trainers (7) | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11.4 Monitoring and Reporting Officer (3) | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11.5 Finance and Admin Assistant (3) | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11.6 Upazilla FFS Coordinator (26) | * | * | * | * |
| 4.11.7 Market Development Facilitator (3) | * | * | * | * |

| Activity/Task | 2019 | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 5. Output 5 Input supply and market linkages promoted and facilitated | | | | |
| 5.1 Support community managed collection Points for improving market facilities | * | * | * | |
| 5.2 Training for Input Suppliers/Input sellers (2 upazila 1 batch, 2 days training) | * | | | |
| 5.3 Training (new batch/refreshers) for community level service providers on agricultural services | * | | | |
| 5.4 Learning visit to other area of best marketing facilities for farmers | | * | | |
| 5.5 Facilitate market linkages workshops- Agri-Business Networks (ABN) actors and Farmers | * | | * | |
| 5.6 Facilitate Quarterly ABN meetings | * | * | * | * |
| 6. Output 6 Coordination enhanced and HDCs strengthened to manage transferred agriculture services | | | | |
| 6.1 Support to strengthen HDC's capacity and enhance coordination to manage agricultural services | | | | * |
| 6.2 District/Regional/National level seminars/workshops | | | * | * |
| 7. Communication, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation | | | | |
| 7.1 Project M&E Activities (designing, data collection, orientation etc.) | | | * | * |
| 7.2 Planning and review meeting/workshop | * | * | * | * |
| 7.3 Study/Assessment/Evaluation | | | | * |
| 7.4 Visibility & Communication | * | * | * | * |
| Six Monthly Report | | * | | * |

| Activity/Task | 2019 | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 8. Technical Advisory/Consultancy Services | | | | |
| 8.1 Consultancy services (National) | * | * | | |

Annex: 1 AFSP III Community Selection Guideline for FFS support:

About 1200 communities will be selected to establish IFM-FFS under AFSP III. All the 26 Upazilas of 3 hill districts will be covered over the project period.

Note: All targeted communities will be selected at once but FFS will be established gradually in 3 years over the project period.

A. Steps to be followed in selecting communities generally:

Step-I

At this step, the respective District Team will prepare a Union wise list of communities. District Team comprise of district level HDC based AFSP staff and staff of SID-CHT Project working in respective district. Using the updated M&E database, they will put remarks against applicable community, whether it supported by establishment of FFS earlier or geographical location of community in Reserve Forest areas, are also important to cope with strategic plan of the project. For example, if a community supported through establishment of FFS in 2009 then in remark column it would be noted as "FFS in 2009". On the other hand, if the community is located within Reserve Forest areas, it would be noted as "Reserve Forest Community", even both information may fit to single community at applicable situation. Once this listing is over then District Team will move to next step for selection of communities.

Step II

This step reveals as ground work to finalize the Upazilla and Union wise distribution of communities for FFS support through Agriculture and Food Security Project, Phase III. A total 1200 communities (Bandarban-350, Khagrachari-400 and Rangamati-450) finally will be selected for FFS support through AFSP III. In compliance with district target it assumed that around 36 communities will be selected from each Upazilla. However, the Upazilla-wise targets for selection of communities may vary on practical considerations. In this situation, total number of communities and/or unions exist within Upazilla might set on scale for selecting Upazilla level targets for FFS support. Before moving to Upazilla level meeting, exception and adjustment of plan will be shared with Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management Unit, SID-CHT Project. In line with the strategic plan, at least 48 communities (Bandarban-15, Khagrachari-15 and Rangamati-18) would be selected which are adjacent to Village Common Forests (VCF).

Step-III

A community selection meeting will be organised at Upazilla to select communities for FFS support through Agriculture and Food Security Project, Phase III. The following participants to attend the meeting:

- Chairman and Vice Chairman of respective Upazilla Parishad
- GoB Officers of three Line Departments-DAE, DLS, DoF
- All UP Chairman
- Representatives from HDC – 1
- Representative from SID-CHT Project-1
- Female UP Ward Member (Union Development Coordination Committee Member) – 1 from each Union

The representative from SID-CHT Project/HDC will share the above list (mentioned in step-II) to participants at the beginning of the meeting.

III (a) Union wise allocation

In the meeting, participants will decide Union wise allocation (Number of communities) for FFS implementation based on total allocation for the Upazila. While Union wise allocation, participants may consider certain criteria e.g. total population of the Union, dependence on agriculture by the communities, food security, access to agriculture services etc.

III (b) Community selection

Communities will be selected from PDC and non PDC communities. Following the Union wise allocation, meeting participants will select communities for FFS establishment using the below criteria:

Criteria 1: All ethnicities living in the Upazila/Union to be covered;

Criteria 2: Farming communities (where most of the HHS' occupation is agriculture)

Criteria 3: *Prevailing the agricultural vulnerabilities within community such as affected by flash floods, droughts, heavy rainfall, rat floods, disease outbreaks etc.*

Criteria 4: A community yet not supported through establishment of FFS earlier will get priority.

Criteria 5: Communities with more household deserve priority

- Criteria 6:* Relative presence of development/safety net programs (Priority will be given to the communities which are un-served; i.e. are not part of any IGA/regular safety net programs by the GoB/NGOs. In cases of mixed communities i.e. where some of the members are served, priority will be given where majority community members are unserved)
- Criteria 7:* Priority to the most disadvantaged and marginalized communities in remote areas
- Criteria 8:* Food insecurity (priority to the areas where no food security coverage is available)
- Criteria 9:* Location (remote but relatively accessible areas will get preference)
- Criteria 10:* Presence of women-headed households

Every Farmer Facilitator will be implementing 02-03 FFS over the project phase; reference- FFS implementation plan. Selection should comply the grouping of communities in Cluster of FFS which will be taken care by Farmer Facilitators. A meeting minutes enclose with list of communities including grouping into FFS cluster will be prepared for sharing.

Note The project will explore the possibility the 2nd option as practical situation (e.g. availability of time for implementation or overrule the process by meeting participants)

Step IV

The meeting minutes with the finally selected list of communities alongside grouping into FFS Cluster will be submitted to HDC with copy to respective Union Parishads, SID-CHT Project and other relevant parties.

Annex:2 GUIDELINE FOR SELECTION OF FARMER FACILITATORS (FF)

The role of Farmer Facilitators (FF) in FFS learning is very much crucial to maintain quality in the FFS. During implementation of the AFSP I the project experienced some good lessons, for instance- the project learned that involvement of PDC in the primary selection of Facilitator is very important which ensured quality selection of facilitator and better acceptance by the farmers. In order to ensure selection of quality FFs the AFSP III will involve the following steps and criteria with little change from the AFSP I and AFSP II:

Required qualifications and experiences for the FFs:

Active (real) farmer with minimum 5 years of agriculture/farming activities as main livelihood occupation. **The UP Chairman/UP Ward Member/Karbari/Headman will provide a certificate that whether the applicant is a real farmer.**

Age limit will be 25-50 years. No students or fresh graduates (just completed study) will be eligible;

Minimum education – Class-V. For experienced and energetic farmers education qualification is flexible if s/he understands Bangla well as Bangla will be the language for training;

Permanent resident of the selected community or the selected cluster of communities;

Having good organizing skills and willing to learn;

Well acceptance by the community;

Cultural sensitivity;

Excellent communication skills in local language(s) and understands Bangla;

Committed to demonstrate FFS learning and sharing with other farmers

Interested to work under PDC supervision and maintain communication with local service providers;

Good FFS member, fulfilling above criteria will get preference during selection

Step 1: Identification of FFS cluster

All the communities for FFS support will be selected at a time. Possible cluster of FFS communities (2-3 communities) in the Union will be identified following the below criteria:

Comparatively easy access/communication among the cluster communities and geographically located in a cluster.

The local level stakeholders will be closely involved in identifying the FFS Cluster.

Step 2: Recruitment notice:

Following HDC's recruitment guideline the recruitment notice (information) to be reached out to all cluster communities where FFS will be established or supported. In this regard, the notice can be shared with Union Parishad, local NGOs, Upazila Offices, Headman/Karbari offices and other public places like markets, schools etc. Upazila/Union based HDC staffs will ensure wider circulation including clarification of requirements to selected communities.

Step 3: Primary Selection of FF by PDC/Community

Following the above mentioned criteria, the PDC or community, through a general meeting, will nominate maximum 2 farmers (one male and one female) to apply for the FF position.

After community nomination – the selected Farmers will apply to HDC for FF position following recruitment notice guideline.

If there don't exist a community, project staff will explore opportunities to follow the same involving respective Karbari to recommend candidates with consensus of community in a meeting.

Note. The PDCs and Communities should be clearly informed that nomination by the PDC/community does not necessarily mean that the person they have nominated, will be finally selected for FF. The person has to qualify in the test.

Step 4: Oral Test of candidates / Farmers

Following HDC's recruitment guidelines, procedures and previous experiences HDC may form an oral interview panel with the representatives of different institutions or departments to take oral test preferably in Upazila (according to previous experience). Under the leadership of HDC's representative, the members of the oral interview panel may be from Upazila Parishad, agriculture line department, representative from Union Parishad, traditional leaders (Headman / Karbari) and the representative from SID-CHT Project. The oral interview panel will recommend to HDC for final selection. It should be noted that the recommendation of Danida Appraisal Team needs to be followed during the interview and selection.

The oral interview panel will recommend 2 candidates for one "FFS Cluster of PDCs/communities". If the first candidate fails in the training, the second candidate will be selected to join next training. If the second candidate also fails in the training, HDC will inform the respective communities/Union Parishad and will recruit newly.

Step 5: Primary Selection by HDC

Following the recommendation of oral interview panel, the HDC will make decision for primary selection. The primary selected Farmers will be called to join the first round training on IFM-FFS to be organized by HDC and SID-CHT Project.

Step 6: Final selection and appointment by HDC

Following successful completion of the first round IFM-FFS training, the successful training participants – who will pass in the training exam, will be recruited by HDC as Farmer Facilitator (FF).