

# Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP)- III in Chittagong Hill Tracts

(January to June 2019)

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

Funded by: Denmark

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



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**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

**ACRONYMS:**..... 2

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**..... 4

**Executive Summary:**..... 5

**1. INTRODUCTION** ..... 7

**1.1 Project Objectives:** ..... 8

**1.2 AFSP III Targeted Area:**..... 9

**2. PROGRESS OF AFSP III:**..... 9

**ACRONYMS:**

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:**

<b>Project No:</b>	00094983
<b>Project Title:</b>	Agriculture and Food Security Project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts - Phase III (AFSP III)
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	February 2018
<b>Project End Date:</b>	30 June 2021
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January to June 2019
<b>Project Budget:</b>	DKK 37 Million (USD 5.89 Million)
<b>Executing Agency:</b>	Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT), UNDP Bangladesh
<b>Responsible Ministry:</b>	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA)
<b>Project Area</b>	Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari Hill districts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh
<b>Beneficiaries covered:</b>	The marginal and small farmers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts
<b>Project Objective:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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,</li><li>2. Hill District Councils with enhanced capacity to manage transferred agricultural services in line with CHT Peace Accord.</li></ol>
<b>Project Outcomes</b>	<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) (Jan '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 Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) by gradually establishing 1,200 new FFS in 26 Upazilas. 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 CHT and to enhance Hill District Councils' (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 Jan-Jun 2019, various activities were organized by the project towards success move to deliver planned outputs. In this reporting period **104 Integrated Farm Management- Farmer Field Schools (IFM-FFS) formed** continuing learnings with participation of 2,921 new farmers (male: 1,072 and female: 1,849 thus 63% women) thus cumulative 316 IFM-FFS established and 10,051 farmers (of whom 62% women) enrolled to learn improved agricultural practices through FFS learning approach. The previously developed curricula and modules were reviewed and readjusted considering the need of farmers and implementation feedbacks. **104 new Farmer Facilitators** and cumulative 316 Farmer Facilitators (of whom 32% women) were developed who conducted **5,549 sessions on** FFSs and established 892 study plots following a learning by doing approach. Around 22 out of 25 farmers were participated in each learning session ensuring 88% attendance rate. As a spillover effect due to this learning session at each FFS, a total of 2,361 neighboring farmers (not FFS member) participated spontaneously in some FFS sessions in order to learn and practice agriculture around their households. Master Trainers, GoB line department Officers and other project staffs organized **2,652 monitoring visits** during reporting period to ensure the quality of implementation of Farmer Field Schools.

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 finalizing FFS curriculum development process while ensuring its quality and relevance in the CHT.

The project conducted an internal rapid assessment during May-June 2019 to know the present situation and progress made yet within 270 Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field Schools. The assessment revealed that Over 90% of beneficiary households have been applying multiple IFM FFS technologies. The most popular technologies are vegetables cultivating in pit/bed, preparation and use of Farm Yard Manure, hand pollination in Cucurbits, preparation and use Farm Yard Manure, preparation and use of improved egg hatching pan for chicken and use of IPM techniques in vegetables and orchards. Positive changes happened in beneficiary households on

chicken rearing, the beneficiary households those involved in chicken rearing increased production around 55% after project intervention. Presently 59% households vaccinated their animals and birds which was 18% before project intervention among the beneficiary households – it means 41% households newly under coverage of vaccination program. Around 64% farmers/FFS households reported they are preparing and using the Farm Yard Manure (FYM) which was not practiced earlier, only 1% farmers reported they involved with this practice before project intervention. Farmers increased their sales of poultry and eggs from Tk. 3,755 to Tk. 7,089. All above findings indicate a positive correlation between the productivity and increased income by farmers through project intervention.

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 Bettle 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 financial delivery is also progressing well, with the project incurring an eligible expenditure of **USD 682,533.78** till 30 June 2019.

## INTRODUCTION

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region is a home to 11 different ethnic groups, in addition to the mainstream *Bengali* population, and has a population of 1.6 million, of which 70% live in the rural areas. More than 2 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 impacts of environmental and climate change on their life and livelihoods; which in turn deforestation, landslide, seasonal water scarcity, soil erosion and flash flood are becoming common devastating phenomena. Traditionally indigenous communities practice *jum* cultivation, a local form of 'shifting' or 'rotational' slash and burn cultivation. Out of an estimated about 364,000 acres of available cultivable land where 27% is used for *jum*, 20% is under plough cultivation, 18% is set aside for homesteads and 35% 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: 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 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% households of CHT live below upper poverty line and 52.4% 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 above 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 (AFSP) during 2009-2013 and 2013-2017 benefitting a total of 59,045 poor and marginal farmers through 2,490 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in 121 Unions of 26 Upazilas of 3 Hill Districts in the light of Integrated Farm Management and improved farming practices on crops, fruits, vegetables, spices, livestock and fish.

The current AFSP III (Feb'2018-Jun'2021) aims to support 1,200 para/villages with a total coverage of 30,000 poor and marginal farm households covering 138,000 people in 3 CHT districts by gradually establishing 1,200 new FFS in 26 Upazilas. 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, through incorporating on the key learnings of previous AFSP I and II phases 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 (HDCs) to manage



transferred agricultural services in line with CHT Peace Accord. In partnership with 3 HDCs, the current project is being rolled out over a five-year duration from Feb 2018 to June 2021.

### **1.1 Project Objectives:**

The objectives of the Development Engagement (DE) are to:

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;

These 2 specific objectives of the project will be achieved by implementing these 2 outcomes:

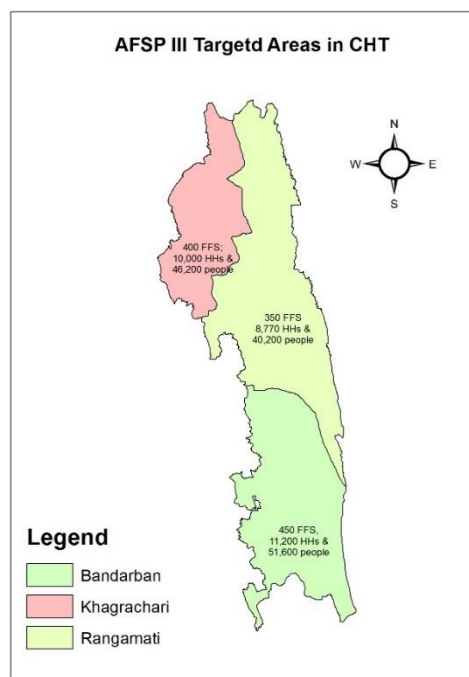
**Outcome 1:** Agricultural productivity of female and male marginal and small farm households increased and diversified through IFM-FFS in the Chittagong Hill Tracts;

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

## 1.2 Intervention areas of AFSP III:

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 include of 30,000 poor and marginalized households<sup>1</sup> through 1,200 Farmer Field School (FFS). A total of 138,000 people that represents 8% of the population in CHT will be enriched through the implementation of Farmer Field School.

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, Lakshmichari, Mahalachari, Manikchari, Matiranga, Panchari and Ramghar. **(iii) Rangamati:** Baghaichari, Barkal, Bilaichari, Jurachari, Kaptai, Kawkhali, Longadu, Naniachar, Rajasthali and Rangamati Sadar.



## PROGRESS OF AFSP III:

**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 1,200 communities through implementation of Integrated Farm Management -Farmer Field Schools (IFM-FFS). Communities have been selected from the AFSP II phase as well as new communities considering a set of selection criteria where vulnerability was highly prioritized. The implementation of Farmer Field School uses as one of the key components of Integrated Farming Systems in order to mainstream nutrition, climate resilience and increased access to markets for enhancing empowerment of farmers. Learnings of AFSP II have been utilizing during implementing the AFSP III activities to achieve 2 outcomes towards inclusive agricultural growth and improving the capacities of Hill District Councils to manage transferred agricultural services. This outcome envisages to increase

<sup>1</sup> 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.

and diversify the agricultural productions of female and male marginal farmers through establishment of Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field Schools. The outcome combines the effect of completing outputs with subsequent activities as followings:

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

Output 2- IFM FFS Curricula Developed and Promoted

Output 3-Knowledge and skills of CHT stakeholders [Master trainers, FFS Facilitators, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Officers enhanced

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

Output 5- Input supply and market linkages promoted and facilitated

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

*Indicator 1.1 # of FFS formed/established, including women (50%) and men participated in mobilization initiatives*

A set of planned activities has been completed under this Output 1. These activities are described below:

**Activity 1.1.1:** Stakeholder (UzDCC, UDCC, HDC, GoB etc.) mobilisation meeting on FFS at Upazilla Level:

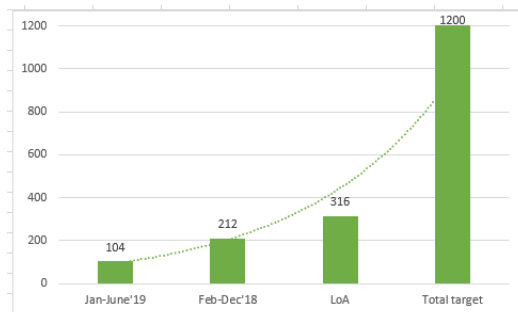
In this reporting period no mobilization meetings were organized - all stakeholder mobilization meetings were organized during the inception period of project phase and achievements also reflected in previously submitted annual report. Stakeholders mobilization meetings were organized at Upazilla level with intended to select communities and extend cooperation for establishment of Integrated Farm Management- Farmer Field Schools and relevant arrangements, with ensuring involvement and participation of stakeholders such as Hill District Councils, Upazilla Parishads, Union Parishads, traditional institutions, community leaders and project staff. Within the meeting, 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.

**Activity 1.2.1:** 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 in mobilizing community, recruiting FF, selecting FFS community and monitoring support to FFS. In this reporting period, **no PDC Executive Committee members trained**. However, as of this period 2,012 members trained on IFM-FFS implementation process, support and monitoring.

### Activity 1.3.1: Community Mobilization and FFS Formation:

Conducting stakeholder mobilization and consultation meeting at District and Upazila levels, FFS communities were selected through participatory discussion and rigorous screening process involving Upazila and district level community member, project team members, line department's representatives following the AFSP III community selection guideline<sup>2</sup>. The existing Para Development Committee (PDC) where available provided necessary support in mobilizing farmers and formation of Farmer Field School (FFS) in respective community. In this period, **104 Integrated Farm Management – Farmer Field Schools formed newly** with participation of 2,921 farmers (male: 1,072 and female: 1,849 thus 63% women) through community mobilization and participatory process.



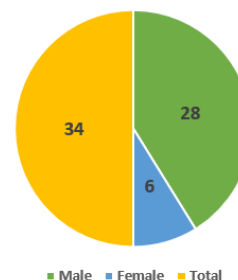
### Activity 1.4.1: Selection of Farmer Facilitators (FF)

During the reporting period, **104 new Farmer Facilitators** 32% women farmers were selected to run FFSs. Each Farmer Facilitator is assigned to run 3 FFSs gradually at his/her own and neighboring communities. The selection process of hiring FF 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 community. Upon completion of procedure, selected 104 Farmer Facilitators have been trained to run FFS at local communities.



### Activity 1.5.1: Capacity building training for project staff (i.e. community mobilization, supervision, monitoring & reporting).

The main objective of this training is to build capacity on effective monitoring and reporting tools and techniques, data collection and quality control mechanism, dataflow and reporting diagram, data entry and maintenance of database for Hill District Councils (HDC) and SID-CHT project staff. So far this project trained a total of **34 participants** (28 male and 6 female) from HDC and SID-CHT.



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

Moreover, **08 core project staff** such as District FFS Experts, Monitoring and Reporting Officers, Districts Officers were trained on Annual Monitoring and Reporting Data collection in order to make common understanding on data collection, validation techniques and database management.

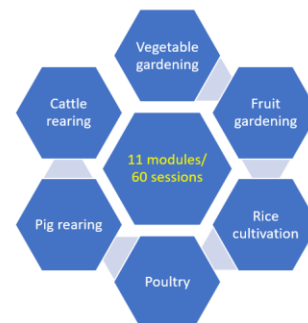
## Output 2: IFM-FFS Curricula Developed and Promoted

*Indicator 2.1 # of Modules developed with inclusion and testing of relevant farming HH's reliance on climate change issues into FFS curriculum*

**Activity 2.1.1:** Develop and regularly update curricula for IFM-FFS menu modules

The curricula of FFS under AFSP III was prepared following a series of consultations involving different level stakeholders like farmers, representatives from local communities, Farmer Facilitators, project staff, representative's of local government institutions, GoB line department's Officers, and Scientists of CHT research institutions. The curricula development process also considered systematic 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) formed comprising of Technical Coordinator- FFS Training and Quality, District FFS Experts and selective Master Trainers who lead the process for curriculum development.

The Curriculum Review Workshop and Technical Coordination Meeting plays important role in reviewing and updating the IFM-FFS curricula and menu modules. During the reporting period **01 Curriculum Review Workshop** was organized for 02 days with participation of 11 Technical Experts including Master Trainers (female-02, male-09). The input from these staff the IFM FFS curricula and menu modules were updated considering



implementation feedbacks and need of farmers. Technical Coordination Meeting arranged on quarterly basis and during the reporting period **02 Technical Coordination Meetings** were organized to review and plan addressing the technical needs for further improved quality of Farmer Field Schools.

As of today, **11 modules comprising 60 sessions** including preparatory, vegetable gardening, fruit gardening, rice cultivation, poultry rearing, pig rearing, cattle rearing, fish culture in pond/creek, marketing, nutrition and high value crop modules have been developed. The curricula also include some general sessions with special topics to address pressing needs of CHT farmers. The FFS curriculum considers as always, a draft which admits the accommodation of feedbacks as and when required to meet demand of farmers.

### **Activity 2.2.1** IFM-FFS Modules, Register's finalised and printed

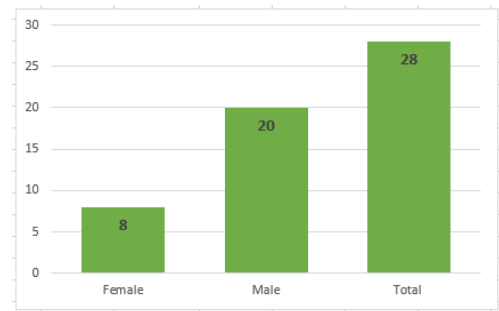
No new IFM-FFS module and Register's has been finalized and printed during this reporting period. As of this reporting period, **1750 FFS Registers developed**, printed and distributed to all FFSs. The Register's comprises with detail information of each FFS including community resources, farmer's enrollment and attendance, study plot information with farmer's reaction and monitoring feedbacks. Farmer Facilitators have been maintaining all of those FFS records by using these printed registers.

### **Output 3: Knowledge and skills of CHT stakeholders [Master trainers, FFS Facilitators, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Officers] enhanced**

*Indicator 3.1: # of Master trainers, FFS Facilitators, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) Officers*

#### **Activity 3.1.1:** ToT for Master Trainers on IFM-FFS:

During the reporting period, **28 personnel (female 08 and male 20) were trained** the 4<sup>th</sup> spell ToT Course on IFM-FFS for Master Trainers. The ToT course for Master Trainers were organized for 27 days in 04 spells (01st spell-06 days, 2nd spell-08 days, 3rd spell-08 days and 4th spell 05 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 were from GoB line department's Officers, Master Trainers, selective Upazilla FFS Coordinators and other potential staff under AFSP III project. As outcome of this training respective Master Trainers have been running ToF course for Farmer Facilitators and providing backstopping support to FFS implementation.



#### **Activity 3.1.2:** ToF for FFs on IFM-FFS

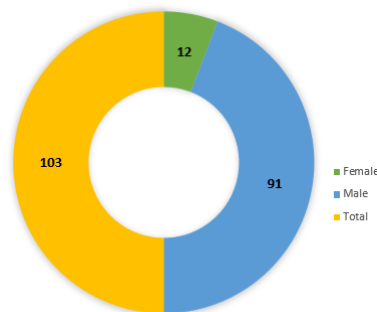
During the reporting period, total of **104 Farmer Facilitators (32% female)** have been trained on Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field School. A good learning has been emerged through this component that an experienced Farmer Facilitator leads to ensure good Farmer Field School. All trained FFs have been running FFS sessions in their locality. This project will collect some outcome data on this component in its next progress report.

### Activity 3.1.3: Refresher Training for FFs

Upon completion the implementation of 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of FFS, this training will be conducted between July to September 2019 of next reporting period.

**Activity 3.1.4:** Training for project staff and GoB line department officials on AFSP III and FFS implementation:

**No trainings conducted** in this reporting period as last reporting period covered a number of significant trainees having a total of 103 Farmer Facilitators (male 91; female 12) from GoB officials.

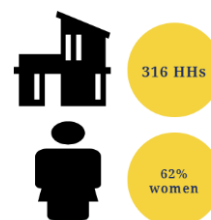


## Output 4: IFM-FFS implemented through participatory and 'learning by doing' approach'

*Indicator 4.1: % of IFM-FFS participants graduated (disaggregated by sex and age) with % women*

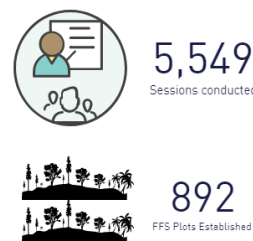
**Activity 4.1.1:** Profiling of IFM FFS Households:

During the reporting period, household profile for **104 IFM-FFS communities** thus cumulative 316 IFM-FFS communities recorded where about 62% of enrolled farmers are women participants. This profiling will support tracking the changing status of each household with respect to the project's intervention over the project period.



**Activity 4.1.2:** Conduct FFS Session

In this reporting period, a total of 5,549 FFS sessions (average 3 sessions per month for each FFS) was conducted on improved agricultural practices and set 892 study plots at community level to explore the IFM FFS learnings through hands on approach. Around 22 out of 25 farmers were participated in each learning session ensuring 88% attendance rate. As a spillover effect due to this learning session at each FFS, a total of 2,361 neighboring farmers (not FFS member) was participated spontaneously in some FFS sessions in order to learn and practice agriculture around his/her household.



The project arranged an internal rapid assessment during May-June 2019 to know the present situation and progress made yet within 270 Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field Schools. Key findings of assessment are as below:

- Over 90% of beneficiary households have been applying multiple IFM FFS technologies. The most popular technologies are vegetables cultivating in pit/bed, preparation and use of Farm Yard Manure, hand pollination in Cucurbits, preparation and use of Farm Yard Manure, preparation and use of improved egg hatching pan for chicken and use of IPM techniques in vegetables and orchards. About 98% beneficiary farmers reported that the intensity of insects and disease attack reduced due to use of IPM techniques and have been getting better productions which further establishes a positive correlation between crop productivity and application of technologies by IFM FFS farmers.
- Positive changes happened in beneficiary households on chicken rearing, the beneficiary households those involved in chicken rearing increased production around 55% after project intervention. The assessment data stated that average 14 number of chicken (all types/categories in age) were in each household before project intervention but presently the average number increased to 22 in number. It means average 8 chicken increased in each household after project intervention those are involved with chicken rearing.
- Significant changes happened on duck rearing and productivity increased around double at household. Before project intervention, each household started with an average one duck and presently each duck farming household possessing 2-3 ducks.

#### **Activity 4.1.3:** FFS Running Cost

Provided FFS running cost to 316 established FFS for managing expenses of training materials for FFS sessions and setting study plots for exploring learning during last reporting period. As outcome of this activity, weekly FFS sessions being organized in established FFS and 892 study plots were set to explore the IFM FFS learnings.

#### **Activity 4.1.4:** Organize Farmer Field Days:

In this reporting period, total **29 Farmer Field Days** organized where around 1,865 farmers (47% women) participated. Farmer's, learnt through FFS displayed their own products and techniques in those events which were helped increase visibility of this project.

#### **Activity 4.1.5:** Support to Farmers - Post FFS Learning utilization

No post FFS learning support provided to any farmer in this reporting period.

#### **Activity 4.1.6:** Organize Exchange Visit to Explore IFM FFS Learning:

In this reporting period, **01 exchange visit** was organized, participating 15 participants (female-05, male-10) including farmers, Farmer Facilitators and different level project staff of Rangamati district to Khagrachari district. The objectives of this visit was to enhance the learning for



materializing by one team to another team through physical observations and share experiences for mutual benefits.

**Activity 4.1.7:** Organize FFS Learning Sharing workshop at District and Regional level

In this reporting period, **02 workshops were organized** on FFS learning sharing at district level with participation of 75 people (male: 61 and female:14) to identify challenges, opportunities and learnings of FFS implementation. Project stakeholders such as farmers, Farmer Facilitators, different level HDC based project staff with management, GoB line department officers, representatives of Local Government Institutions and Traditional Leaders were participated in this event and shared practical experiences individually and within group works for preparing recommendations.

**Activity 4.1.8:** Organize Monthly AFSP III coordination meeting at HDCs

In this reporting period- **16 monthly Coordination Meetings organized** with attendance of average 16 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.

**Activity 4.1.9:** Organize Bimonthly FF Coordination Meeting:

**51 bi-monthly FF Coordination meetings** were organized with average 15 participants at Upazila level to review the progress of FFS implementation for effectively organizing of activities in the field. Upazila FFS Coordinator with guidance by Master Trainer facilitated this meeting where Farmer Facilitators, 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. They key discussion points were as followings:

- Review of progress
- Plan FFS sessions and provide guidance
- Plan the monitoring and backstopping support
- Plan the coordination and service provisions
- Observations, monitoring and findings
- Discussion on technical issues (need based)
- Agenda on Basis

**Activity 4.1.10:** Organize Monitoring visit by GoB officers (DAE, DLS, DOF) and other stakeholders

In order to understand the process and progress of the project around **2,652 monitoring visits** conducted of which 440 monitoring visits made by GoB officials, 344 visits by Master Trainer, 1,533 visits by Upazila FFS Coordinators and 335 visits by other AFSP staff. These monitoring visits help provide necessary support to the beneficiaries as well.

**Activity 4.1.11:** Monitoring visits by UDCC, UzDCC, DWG etc

In this reporting period, **280 monitoring visits** conducted by Union Development Coordination Committees (UDCC) and Upazila Development Coordination Committees (UzDCC).

## Output 5: Input supply and market linkages promoted and facilitated

*Indicator 5.1 # of FFS linked to traders/buyers for selling their agricultural produces (collection centers and group marketing)*

*Indicator 5.2 % of HHs with access to quality agricultural inputs*

**Activity 5.1:** Training for Input Suppliers/Input sellers

In this reporting period- 4 batches having **99 farming input suppliers** (male:77 and female: 22) were trained on quality of farming inputs, precautionary measures and general advises during selling of inputs. Most of the participants were from seed seller, fertilizer seller, pesticide seller, poultry & fish feed seller, poultry and livestock vaccines and medicine seller.

**Activity 5.2:** Facilitate market linkages workshops- Agri-Business Networks (ABN) actors and Farmers

In this reporting period- **10 workshops** with participation of 240 people (male: 217 and female: 23) were organized to find linkages mechanism between farmer groups, collection points and Agribusiness Network actors. Workshop participants were farmer group leaders, collection point operators and different types forward market businesses such as *arothdar*, *paikar*, input sellers and public-private service providers who discussed to find business opportunities through buy and sales for mutual benefits. As outcome of organized workshops new business deals have been established among participating members.

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

In this reporting period, **36 community resource persons** (male: 29 and female: 7) were developed as Community Livestock Workers (CLW) through 05 days long hands on training on primary animal healthcare including vaccination procedures. Resource personnel were engaged from Department of Livestock Services and project internal sources for conduction of this training. In addition, 45 Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) were developed and reported in last reporting period, As outcome of this training trained CLWs have been vaccinating animals and providing general health care support to FFS farmers.

Moreover, the recent internal Rapid Assessment refers that presently 59% households vaccinated their animals and birds which was 18% before project intervention among the beneficiary households – it means 41% households newly under coverage of vaccination program. The assessment data stated that farmers received vaccination services for their animals mainly from two sources. Among the farmers those vaccinated their animals, 52% got services from Community Livestock Workers (CLW) or non government sources where as 48% got this services from GoB officers. It indicates the coordination and linkage with GoB service providers and the CLW among the community level farmers.

In this reporting period, 27 youth participants (female 04, male 23) trained on Vermi earth worm production and learnt hands on relevant production techniques to supply the vermi worms to farmers. Notably vermi earth worms are special type earth worms that utilize for preparing very good quality compost fertilizer within shorter period. Indeed, such earth worms have much demand and there is shortage of supply in rural CHT communities. As Outcome of the training, trained personnel have been supplying vermi worms including compost fertilizers to farmers.

#### **Activity 5.4: Facilitate Quarterly ABN meetings**

**17 Agrobusiness Network meetings** were organized with participation of 277 people (male: 262 & female: 15) attendants from 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.

#### **Activity 5.5: Support community managed collection Points for improving market facilities**

In this reporting period, 09 community managed collection points were set to improve market facilities through linking farmers and traders for competitive sales and mutual benefits. FFS farmers have been organized into Producer Groups capable of planning their production and market their products collectively. The project has been mobilizing communities on group marketing and link them to traders for better access to market for increased access to market

through mobilizing communities for group marketing and linking buyers and producers at collection points.

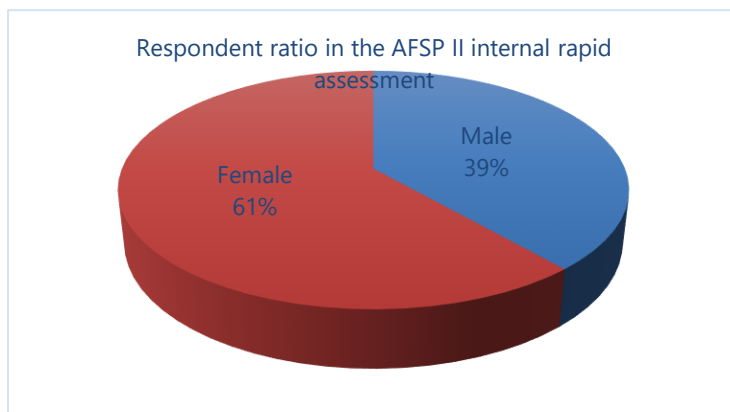
### **Activity 5.6: Learning visit to other area of best marketing facilities for farmers**

In this reporting period- **02 learning visits** were organized and 37 participants (female-06, male-31) attended to gather marketing experiences to best marketing places where readily good examples are available, and farmers have been benefitting through good marketing practices. Participants of these visits were farmers, Agribusiness Network representatives and project staff who gathered experiences from the visit to add value in implementing marketing interventions under the project in CHT.

## **Major Findings of Internal Rapid Assessment (Draft) AFSP III**

### **1. Basic Findings:**

- Total 355 sample households were selected for this rapid assessment. A comparative analysis was done based on the base situation of the same number of households with after project intervention;
- Out of this sample size 39% were male respondents and 61% were female respondents;
- Agriculture is the main occupation of respondents 97% (including 13% Jhum), others are day labor and housewife;
- Average around 4.7 members exists in each FFS beneficiary household;



### **2. Assessment Findings:**

#### ***IFM FFS promoted technologies used and Production:***

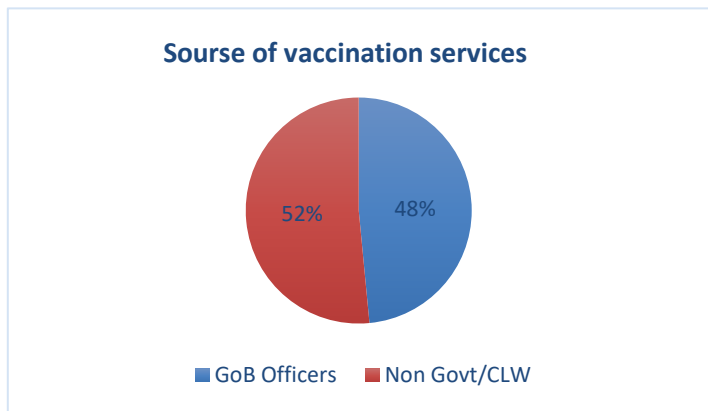
- Over 90% of beneficiary households have been applying multiple IFM FFS technologies. The most popular technologies are vegetables cultivating in pit/bed, preparation and use of Farm Yard Manure, hand pollination in Cucurbits, preparation and use Farm Yard Manure, preparation and use of improved egg hatching pan for chicken and use of IPM techniques in vegetables and orchards. About 98% beneficiary farmers reported that the

intensity of insects and disease attack reduced due to use of IPM techniques and have been getting better productions which further establishes a positive correlation between crop productivity and application of technologies by IFM FFS farmers.

- Positive changes happened in beneficiary households on chicken rearing, the beneficiary households those involved in chicken rearing increased production around 55% after project intervention. The assessment data stated that average 14 number of chicken (all types/categories in age) were in each household before project intervention but presently the average number increased to 22 in number. It means average 8 chicken increased in each household after project intervention those are involved with chicken rearing.
- Significant changes happened on duck rearing and productivity increased around double at household. Before project intervention, each household started with an average one duck and presently each duck farming household possessing 2-3 ducks

Vaccination and linkage with GoB Officers:

- Presently 59% households vaccinated their animals and birds which was 18% before project intervention among the beneficiary households – it means 41% households newly under coverage of vaccination program;



- The assessment data stated that farmers received vaccination services for their animals mainly from two sources. Among the farmers those vaccinated their animals, 52% got services from Community Livestock Workers (CLW) or non government sources where as 48% got this services from GoB officers. It indicates the coordination and linkage with GoB service providers and the CLW among the community level farmers.
- Around 63% farmers communicated with the local level GoB service providers on agriculture, fisherish and livestock related problem and seeked services.

Cultivation of HYV:

- Around 79% farmers involved with High Value Crops of vegetables and fruits after after joining with FFS;
- The major cultivation is stated below:

SL	Name of High Value Crop (HVC) (Vegetable/fruits)	% of farmers/HHs doing	Remarks
1	Papaya	55%	Out of 355 sample farmers/HHs, those have been doing are reported here.
2	Jhum Chili (Green chili)	52%	
3	Orange/Malta	30%	
4	Betel leaf	8%	
5	Mushroom	2%	

Use of FYM:

- Around 64% farmers/FFS households reported they are preparing and using the Farm Yard Manure (FYM) which was not practiced earlier, only 1% farmers reported they involved with this practice before project intervention;
- 17% farmers/FFS household needed to bought Farm Yard Manure (FYM) and used in their fields;

Marketing:

- Around 72% farmers/FFS households stated that the necessary/essential agricultural inputs i.e fertilizer, seeds, seedlings are available and can managed in their areas as required;
- Still need to work on group marketing activities, only 7% farmers said that they have been marketing their products in a group/or as group marketing;

Sales of animals/eggs & vegetables:

- Before FFS intervention, around 74% households sold their animals/birds/eggs in last one year with average Tk. 3,755. But it seemed increased after project intervention, around 83% households sold those after project intervention with around Tk. 7,089 by household;
- It indicates the economic return increased over the time through FFS intervention among the beneficiary households;

## Success Story 1

### Sukriti Chakma dreams through chicken rearing

***“Very interesting thing is there was very little weights lose and no ecto-parasites on my hens body after using upgraded hatching pan and till now I got TK. 14,510/-.”*** as described by beneficiary Mr. Sukriti Chakma. He is living with his other three family members at 33 Hazachara para under Subalong union of Barkal upazila. Agricultural activities are his means of living and he attached himself as a member of 33 Hazachara para IFM-FFS in 2018. He felt interest in it after knowing from broody hen management and chick management from FFS session. He also has mango orchard and rear chicken and cattle. Now his chick hatchability jumped >90% from 65-73% that was never happened before, with technical support from local service providers he vaccinated his cattle and chicken as needed. ***“FF Mr. Priyo Kumar Chakma helps me very much during vaccination from GoB and gives suggestion for fruit orchard management. I spend Tk-14,510 for buying a wooden boat and for managing my vegetable garden, fruit orchard and for different family means. My future plan is to establish a local chicken farm in a large scale.”*** he added.





***“Mr. Sukriti Chakma doing very well and getting benefits from FFS provided chicken rearing system. He inspires others too. If he wants to set a chicken farm in a large scale then of course upazila livestock office will help.”*** as described by Mr. Samiran Kanti Mohajan VFA, Subolong union, Barkal upazila.

## 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.

## 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:**

In this reporting period- **02 District Working Group meetings** (DWG) and attended by 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 inter-departmental coordination matters. The DWG meeting has been contributing to improve the coordination and management functions of Hill District Councils towards managing transferred agricultural services in line with 1997 Peace Accord. 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 activity is planned to organize during 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019.

### **Activity 6.4: Support to Local Resilience Plans Develop under CCRP:**

In this reporting period- 20 sites (average 5 paras/villages in each site) were selected for rendering support to fulfill the intended objectives of CHT Climate Resilience Project. Respective communities were mobilized for developing capacities in response to climate change.

The AFSP III intends to support the LRP through i) Supporting communities to address their farming needs through establishment of Integrated Farm Management- Farmer Field Schools. li) addressing synergies between AFSP III and CCRP towards sustaining the development.

13 LRPs developed with engagement of community people by Climate Resilience Committee;

## **Visibility & Communication:**

In this reporting period, the project developed various visibility and promotional materials such as 54 banners, 164 caps, 164 T-shirts and 164 bags those were utilized by relevant stakeholders. In addition, the project also developed some corporate promotional materials such as wall calendars, desk calendars, USB pen drives through utilizing matching funds of donors. All of those materials printed following the UNDP visibility guideline thus in turn immensely helped to brand the project including donors and implementing partners.

## **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 are 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. An 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.

## 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:

- ✓ Selection and mobilization of communities took more time than originally it expected. However, mobilization of communities including farmers, found helpful for implementation of FFS.
- ✓ Good farmers were selected for developing as Farmer Facilitators, involving local communities and other stakeholders. It took time but found helpful for developing skills of Farmer Facilitators thus implementation of FFS.
- ✓ Basic Bengali language and literacy was helpful during ToT sessions. Most of the Master Trainers (MTs) are not able to speak or understand languages of minor ethnic/indigenous communities. To overcome this challenge the participants were engaged to facilitate the discussion and learning from others.
- ✓ Local political unrest in few 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 helped continuing planned activities. Local political unrest delayed some of the activities.

## Budget and Expenditure:

Major outputs	Expenditure Report (Jan'19 to June'19)	
	DKK	USD
Output 1: Communities/Stakeholders mobilised to establish IFM-FFS	154,155	24,547
Output 2: IFM-FFS Curricular Developed	527,304	83,966
Output 3: Knowledge and skills of CHT stakeholders (Master trainers, FFS Trainers/Facilitators on IFM-FFS, GoB Officers) enhanced	707,714	112,693
Output 4: IFM-FFS implemented through participatory and 'learning by doing' approach	2,099,421	334,303
Output 5: Access to market linkages (input-output) promoted and facilitated	369,972	58,913
Output 6: Coordination enhanced and HDCs strengthened to manage transferred agriculture services and coordinate LRPs and monitor Local Resilience Plans	427,747	68,113
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,286,312</b>	<b>682,534</b>
<b>Ex rate</b>		
<b>1 USD = DKK 6.28</b>		

## NEXT PLAN/WAY FORWARD:

Activity/Task	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		
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	*	*

Activity/Task	Q3	Q4
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	*	*
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)	*	*

Activity/Task	Q3	Q4
4.11.5 Finance and Admin Assistant (3)	*	*
4.11.6 Upazilla FFS Coordinator (26)	*	*
4.11.7 Market Development Facilitator (3)	*	*
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	*	*

Activity/Task	Q3	Q4
Six Monthly Report		*
8. Technical Advisory/Consultancy Services		
8.1 Consultancy services (National)		



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

About 1002 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 since to cope with strategic plan of the project. For example, if a community supported through establishment of FFS in 2009 then in remark column there will be noted "FFS in 2009". On the other hand, if the community is located within Reserve Forest areas, there will 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 1002 communities (Bandarban-318, Khagrachari-324 and Rangamati-360) finally 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) should be selected Reserve Forest areas. Beyond regular target, 66 additional communities will be selected from Naikhongchari of Rangamati district in order to response the Rohingya issue.

### **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, 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-serviced; 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 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)**

This is notable that 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 II will involve the following steps and criteria with little change from the AFSP I:

Required qualifications and experiences for the FFs:

Active\_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).

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