

ASIA-PACIFIC FARMERS' PROGRAM (APFP)
ANNUAL WORKPLAN AND BUDGET
(1st November 2019 to 31st January 2021)

BRIEF PROJECT PROFILE

Country	Bangladesh
Project Title:	Asia-Pacific Farmers' Program (APFP)
Project Number:	APFP-Country-year
Financial year:	2019-2020
Planning period:	1 st November 2019 – 31 st October 2020
Year of implementation	2019-2020

Total budget proposed for year 1: (2019-2020)	64,000 USD
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Key Performance Indicators of AWPB

Key Indicators	Baseline (November 2019)	5-year Target (June 2024)	Year 1 target (October 2020)
Budget	-	-	-
-IFAD Country Program	-	-	64,000 USD
-Other Sources	-	-	-
NFOs (in numbers)	1	-	-
Sub-national FOs (in numbers)	12	-	20
Members (in numbers)	30,68,932	-	30,76,082
- Number of women	76,978	-	79,232
- Number of youth	-	-	-
Total Business Plans prepared (in numbers)	-	-	20
Business Plan financed by -IFAD-country portfolio (In numbers)	-	-	-
-APFP country budget	-	-	20
-APFP basket fund	-	-	-
- other sources (in numbers)	-	-	-
Total number of farmers/herders directly reached by other sources of financing (i.e. other than APFP)	-	-	-
Total number of farmers/herders directly reached by APFP	-	-	50,000
Number of macro-economic or social policy issues raised	-	-	2
Summary strategy to be pursued (on gender/ youth/ nutrition/ environment and climate/ innovation) ¹	-	-	2 (Youth, Environment and Climate)

¹ Specify which 1-3 issues are the most relevant to the country AWPB and summarize the strategy or targets

1. Background of APFP

Crop agriculture in Bangladesh is constrained every year by challenges, such as a) Loss of Arable Land, b) Population Growth, c) Climate Changes, d) Inadequate Management Practices, e) Unfair Price of Produces, and f) Insufficient investment in research and policy advocacy. In Bangladesh, about 80,000 ha of ploughable land is going out of production every year. The loss is alarming and needs to be addressed immediately. Due to the pandemic situation, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh advice to ensure the best utilization of arable lands throughout the country. The land-use policy of the government should be updated and applied immediately to stop further loss of cultivable land. Another problem with agriculture is the increase in the growth of the population. These two problems of productive land loss and population growth need to be addressed simultaneously to ensure sustainable crop production. Country's crop production is also affected frequently by tropical storms, floods, drought, and salinity. Varieties/technologies resilient to these natural hazards need to be developed. Renewable energy, afforestation, etc. are needed to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. To sustain crop production, chemical fertilizers should be integrated with organic manure and costly non-urea fertilizers should continue to be subsidized. The incidence of pests and diseases lately become severe due to climate change impacts. Therefore, more varieties resistant to the pests should be evolved. Moreover small and marginal farmers of Bangladesh have almost no or limited access to financial institutions, e.g. banks, insurance, other financial institutions, etc. These farmers also don't get the necessary support from the existing farmer's associations and cooperatives to bargain for the fair price of their produces. Therefore, investment in these existing farmers' cooperatives and associations at the local, regional, and national levels is very important. Besides investment in agricultural research, study and policy advocacy to help generate technologies to cope with climate change hazards and disseminate such technologies at farmer's level.

Considering those challenges, APFP will strengthen selected FOs' capacities so that they can be able to provide various support to their members at a different level. APFP will also organize training as well as a workshop for FOs so that the leadership capacity increased and the organization becomes sustainable.

To achieve the above-mentioned target and objectives, this project will implement with the following 3 components and with some specific activities:

Component 1: Development of FO Economic Services

Component 2: Policy engagement

Component 3: Program Management and Coordination

2. Background of Agriculture Sector and FOs in the Country

Bangladesh has an area of about 50,000 square miles of which about 22.3 million acres (69 % of total land area) are cultivated land. A majority of the population, approximately 16 million families (about 80 million people), depend on agriculture for their livelihood. More than three-quarters of the total population in rural areas derive their livelihood from the agricultural sector. About 48 % of the labor force is still employed in Agriculture. Among the total labor force, 46% are women from crop cultivation to fisheries; women participate in a wide range of activities. It can be stated that agriculture plays a dominant role in the growth and stability of the economy of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has achieved GDP growth of more than 6 % on an average during the last decade. GDP growth is accelerating gradually. Along with the current FY2018-19, the GDP growth rate of the economy of Bangladesh surpassed the 7 % mark for consecutive four times since FY2015-16. According to BBS, the GDP growth stood at 8.13 % in FY2018-19, which was 7.86 % in the previous fiscal year. Among the 3 broad sectors, the growth of the agriculture sector increased to 3.51 %, which was 4.19 % in the previous fiscal year.

Agriculture is an important engine of growth of the economy, there is no other alternative but to develop the agriculture sector for the alleviation of poverty by achieving accelerated economic growth. Meanwhile, the achievement of food security and the generation of employment opportunities of the huge population of the country are directly linked to the development of agriculture, there have been continued efforts by the Government for the overall development of this sector.

There is a continuous transformation of Bangladesh's economy as measured by changes in the sectorial shares of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This structural change indicates a rapid movement away from an agriculture-dominated economy. Agriculture's share of GDP declined from 62 % in 1975 to 19 % in 2013, but agriculture's share of total employment has not declined as much. The declining share of agriculture in GDP should not be interpreted to reflect a

shrinking role of agriculture in the overall growth of the economy or poverty reduction. Notably, the service sector has expanded at a rapid pace at this stage of economic transformation. Much of the growth in the services sector relates to the marketing and processing of agricultural products resulting from rapid commercialization and diversification in agriculture.

The agriculture sector is dynamic, changing with the demand of the people, availability of technology, and change of management practices. Thus, it requires regular adjustments with different planning and development programs. A diagnostic study of Bangladesh Agriculture revealed that to foster the growth of this important sector harmonizing with the management of natural resources and addressing the challenges is required.

The land is the main source of livelihood in rural Bangladesh. It was found that the proportion of both medium and large farmers have both rapidly gone down since 1988. Households owning up to three Bighas of land (up to 0.4 ha) constitute about 70% of all households but control only 20% of the total land. As opposed to this, only 4% of households (with 15 Bigha or 2 ha and above land) controls about one-third of the land. The average size of owned land stood at 0.61 ha in 1988 and significantly declined over time to peak at 0.48 ha in 2007 - a decline of 21% over the last two decades and further decreased to 0.39 ha in 2014. It was observed that, as with farm size, the proportion of the marginal farmers (owning up to 0.40 ha) has risen from about 21% in 1988 to 24% in 2008 and further increased to 28% in 2014. At the same time, the amount of land under their command almost tripled. The group we identify as functionally landless with tiny farm holdings – comprising 33-35% of all farmers – have also been commanding more land over time. By and large, marginal and small farm households now cultivate more than four-fifths of the total land in rural areas. We observed that the dominance of the share-cropping system in the tenancy market has dwindled over time, and the contributions of other tenancy arrangements have been growing.

Nevertheless, current climate change issues are considerably affecting the food security of the millions of people of Bangladesh, as the country is one of the country's most vulnerable to climate risks. Climate change will diminish rainfall in the dry season and will increase winter and pre-monsoon temperatures significantly, causing more frequent and more severe droughts in Bangladesh. Some parts of the Northern region and some parts of the hill region will experience moderate drought during the Robi and Pre-Kharif season (November to February) by 2030.

In Bangladesh, damage caused by natural disasters is one of the main reasons of crisis for poor households. Every year, natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, salinity erosion, and droughts cause extensive damage to crops, homes, household, and community assets, which can lead to illness or death and a decrease in livelihood opportunities for the poor. Precisely in the agricultural sector, one-fourth of total cultivable land (8.42 million hectares [ha]) is affected by drought, while 0.3 million ha are waterlogged. Approximately 5.6 million ha are flood-prone and 0.82 million ha of coastal and offshore tidal plains are affected by salinity. Additionally, annual losses by pests, diseases, and weeds amount to 20-50 % of the total yield, while losses during storage are at 14 %. Disasters also hamper physical access to food and food stocks, destroy crops, disrupt markets, easy access, and affect household food security.

The crisis of Bangladesh agriculture and farmers had been started in the decade of the sixties. In the name of the green revolution Bangladesh, the multinational companies had been started to control the agriculture sector. Nowadays, if farmers want to think about agriculture they have to think about tractor, pesticides, fertilizer, seeds all of which are out of their own controlled, so they are dependent on multinational companies for their cultivation, for their livelihoods.

Even after producing some production farmers are not getting their fair and just price for their products. Intermediaries are getting the benefits of the hardship of the poor farmers. Farmers are not getting adequate services from government service providers.

However, the country has much potential, yet the farmers face many other challenges in earning a living. One challenge is access – access to markets, information, agricultural technologies, and related services and public goods. Another challenge is the lack of awareness of individual farmers of their basic rights.

Organizations, cooperatives, groups, or associations among farmers have the potential to address these challenges, increase farmers' capacity, increase and sustainably diversify production, improve food and nutrition security, and act as major agents of change in Bangladesh. Farmers' organizations are increasingly seen as key partners in global initiatives, including in the World Committee on Food Security, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), and the scaling up nutrition movement.

In Bangladesh, at the policy level, there are varieties of policies to directly support the FOs such as the national agricultural Policy (NAP), Agricultural Extension Policy, National Cooperative Policy and the rural development Policy (2001) that emphasize FOs (or groups, as they are commonly referred to in the policies). But, most of the FOs' are formed with support from government agencies, National NGOs, International NGOs, and some are formed autonomously. In most of these cases, they are used as mechanisms to implement activities and other services rather than as self-ruling and viable organizations that capable of partnership with other development actors. They don't have the necessary capacity to do advocacy even at the local level. It has been found that just over 2% of these can federate at any level.

As such, their voice in policy development and decision-making level is rarely heard. Although some FOs' are currently federated at the district level, only a handful of organizations claim to speak on behalf of farmers at the national level. They also provide widen services to the members to protect their common social, economic, and cultural interests.

Farmers of Bangladesh are contributing to the national economy, but their contributions are not getting proper recognition. That's why the farmers' groups need to raise their voices to uphold the legitimate demands of the farmers. They should work together. Farmers have to increase their production, and their control over their production has to be established. Following this objective, APFP can invest to set a plan of action for the welfare of the farmers of Bangladesh.

3. Farmers' Organizations' network and a key strategy for economic service delivery

Empowerment of FOs and their members are needed to deepen their participation in development processes. There is a need to raise awareness of the advantages of being organized that go beyond accessing the benefits of external projects. Strong and well-organized FOs can play an important role in shaping the agenda of decision-makers and service providers, defining the most suitable interventions and services for their needs. Skills in lobbying and networking (with local government, service providers, other communities, and FOs) are critical here. There is also a need to build knowledge of the Government's strategies, policies, and processes so that FOs can understand exactly where the different entry points are, how decisions are made, and where they can most effectively participate. Preferably, FO representatives would be present in Union and Upazila Parishads. Though in Bangladesh there have some platforms who are working for the rights, technology transfer, doing policy advocacy, etc. from the national level.

Still, a strong and vibrant national platform should be established through which farmers' voices can be heard and their needs addressed. Additionally, they can prove themselves as competent service providers. To do this, a directory and institutional structure will need to be established and updated regularly to ensure good communication flow as well as accountability between the different levels of the organizations and those working on behalf of the membership at the national level.

Some key national platforms in Bangladesh contribute to the sector having a different role, and summary information of some of them as has been provided below:

Bangladesh Farmers Forum: Bangladesh Farmers Forum is a national platform of 15 national and local farmers-fishers organization in Bangladesh. Its focus areas are Women's right to food, water, land and social protection, recognition in agriculture, livelihood and dignity; sustainable agriculture, etc. It organized several seminars, meetings, etc. for policy advocacy, the allocation for agriculture in the national budget, etc.

Haor Farmers and Fishers Alliance (HFFA): Haor Farmers and Fishers Alliance is a platform to raise the voices of farmers and fishers in Haor. HFFA aims for a society where farmers and fishers are living meaningful lives where they can enjoy their legitimate rights. The objectives of HFFA are to establish knowledge-based on farmers and fishers' communities; create an enabling environment for farmers and fishers to identify their legitimate rights and appropriate responsibilities, and enhance capacities of farmers and fishers in utilizing resources sustainably. HFFA implement activities including peer learning, knowledge gathering and sharing, field-based group discussion, TV show-based discussion, radio program-based discussion, and discussion on agriculture-related news. HFFA works with the Rights-Based Approach to enhance the capacities of 'Right Holders' like the farmers and Fishers for them to be capable enough to claim their legitimate rights. Additionally, HFFA tries to sensitize the 'Duty Bearers' towards the rights holders. HFFA has 16000 members.

Coastal Farmers' Organization (CFO): The Coastal Farmers' Organization is an outcome of a project implemented by COAST Trust. There are 180 farmers in CFO covered in 3 districts of Bhola, Noakhali, and Cox's Bazar, comprising 15 to 20 members in a group. The total number of members is 36000, among them 20% are female. There is a ward committee, union committee, and Upazila committee in CFO. CFO is managed and facilitated by COAST Trust. CFO

conducts mobilization to materialize the rights of farmers, technology transfer, and establishment of linkage with government services. Technology transfer is one of the major successes of COAST Trust along with CFO. COAST has transferred 14 technologies to the framers and it is mostly related to organic/natural agriculture. COAST also provides/arranges emergency medical support for livestock in remote coastal chars. Other issues addressed by CFO are seed and land problem, the fair price of agricultural products, and adaptive technology for climate change.

Kendrio Krishak Maitry (KKM): The Kendrio Krishak Maitry was founded in 2009 as an outcome of a project called “Food Security for Sustainable Household Livelihood” (FOSHOL) funded by the European Commission (EC) and Action Aid Bangladesh (AAB) from 2005 to 2009 in 7 districts of Bangladesh. The main objective of the project was to provide food security support/ assistance to 21556 poor households dependent on agriculture. KKM is continuously supported by AAB.

KKM is a membership-based organization and a union-based federation of farmers' groups. It is comprised of 31 union federation of 837 village level (krishok deal) farmers groups under 10 Upazilas of 7 districts. KKM is comprised of 90 elected members of 31 union federations. At the village level, the membership is comprised of 25 to 40 farmers. KKM has taken initiatives to form a national forum of farmers called “Sara Bangle Krishok Jote” (All Bengal Farmers Forum). KKM is a member of the Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), through which KKM was associated with 17 Asian-based organizations. KKM has linkages with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), Bangladesh Agriculture Department Corporation (BADC), Action Aid Bangladesh and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As of 2009, the membership of KKM is 21556, among them 40% are women. KKM applied for registration for a joint-stock company at the central level and also from cooperatives at the Upazila level.

KKM aims to materialize the rights of deprived and marginalized farmers, ensure food security, materialize the dignity and recognition of women farmers, sustainable livelihood, pro-farmers policies and working for dignity and well-being in the life of farmers through strengthening the organization of farmers and also by forming a national coalition of farmers in Bangladesh.

KKM's achievements include: increased women farmers leadership and visibility, received recognition from BADC to provide seed certificate of grading of the seed company, popularized organic agriculture among the farming communities in working areas, contribution in quality seeds production and distribution in working areas, and successful in terms of profitability and sustainability in quality rice seed production and distribution.

Bangladesh Farmers' Marketing Group Association (BFMGA): Three years after the completion of the NCDP, several farmer leaders who participated in the project decided to develop a network among 75 active, semi-active, and dismantled farmers' marketing groups (FMGS) that were formed under the project. One of the major objectives of this networking and coordination was to ensure the marketing of high-value vegetables and fruits at the central market of Gabtoli, Dhaka. There is still unmet demand for high-value fruits and vegetables in Dhaka, and this network aims to meet it. The strategy adopted by the network is to register the interested FMGs as primary cooperatives and then to federate them into a central cooperative, the BFMGA. This process of networking and federating is ongoing. As of April 2013, BFMGA had submitted registration documents of 16 FMGS to the DoC.

There is an important need for FOs to be more familiar with the various relevant Government policies and strategies. It will provide broad support for their development. Familiarity with these policies will allow them to advocate for better enforcement.

Now, there are a variety of policies that emphasize FOs (or groups, as they are commonly referred to in the policies). Although the roles and needs of FOs are recognized at the policy level, this tends to be inadequately translated into practice in agricultural development planning and programs. A large number of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies developed by the Government of Bangladesh. These policy instruments include:

- Three broad policies: the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) (2018), National Cooperative Policy (2012) and the Rural Development Policy (2001);
- One specific cooperative law, drafted in 2011, but not yet approved;
- Three policy tools focusing on agricultural extension as agents are expected to work with and through FOs;
- More specific sub-sector policies (fisheries, livestock, water management) that also impact the way the Government works with FOs.

4. AWPB Component approach and output

4.1 Component 1: FO Services Development

Through the component 1, APFP is targeting to develop the FO through raising its capacity from member to organizational level. Under these circumstances, several initiatives have been taken which will be supervised by the NIA (National Implementing Agency) each country. From Bangladesh, COAST Trust will undertake these procedures. First of all the selection of partner FOs following the specific time frame. After that, the profiling and mapping of the selected 20 FOs will be conducted. This data will be updated following the information of existing membership, governance, and management. Following the steps, an individual FO national directories will be established. All selected FOs will prepare their own business and marketing plans. Besides 20 FO wise workshops thereafter a national workshop would be organized targeting the yearly strategic planning. Here the main focus will be on production, investment, income, etc. For FO services development, 1 service center for Farmers will be settled, these centers will be equipped with ICT facilities, and these centers will provide referral services to the farmers. Furthermore, an online platform with a dedicated website will be developed to promote farmers' products. This initiative will help our farmers to get a secure selling place along with market access.

Key output	Units
Number of FOs updated the profile (following the APFP FO profiling format)	20
New FOs joined the NFO	8
New member joining the platform	Total: 7150 Male: 5720 Female: 1430 Youth Male: Youth female:
Number of FOs updated their strategic plan and business plan	20
Number of business plan financed by	
- IFAD Country Programme	-
-SME/Private sector fund	-
-APFP country budget	20
-APFP challenge fund	-
Number of farmers directly benefitted	Total: 50000 Male: 40000 Female: 10000

	Youth Male: Youth female:
Amount of money leveraged by private sources of financing (in USD)	-
Amount of money leveraged by IFAD country Programme (in USD)	
Average Incremental income of farmers	

4.2 Component 2: Policy Engagement

(Describe the major policy that the FOs/platform will take up during the period of the AWPB, discuss its importance, and how it can positively change the situation of the family farmers in the country. Discuss why this policy is the priority issue of the platform.)

Elaboration of the FO’s strategy for policy engagement is one of the prime objectives of this project. To do this, COAST Trust along with its selected FOs will organize 20 local level workshops to identify local policy issues to work with and to take as an advocacy strategy. Later a national workshop will be organized based on these identified priority advocacy issues and to prepare a national strategic plan. This will help to seek the attention of the policymakers and policy implementers to some important local issues too. Along with that to support their issues, a validation study will be conducted. This study will be a formal, academic study with scientific data, it will support them by placing information and data on what types of pesticides are being used, what are their negative impacts based on scientific evidence, what are the safe and effective alternatives. Besides advocacy events will be onwards. FO leaders will be trained in priority skills for policy mediation. The accreditation of FOs in sub-regional bodies will be recognized. In addition to policy briefs and papers elaborated and learning routes will be identified.

Key output	Units
Priority policy agenda: 1. Youth Engagement towards sustainable development of Agriculture in Bangladesh 2. Environment and Climate Change 3.	
Number of policy papers prepared	2
Number of KM product produced and shared with RIA	2
Number of the stakeholder consultation workshop	4

4.3 Component 3: Program Management and coordination

The allocated budget in this component will be utilized for conducting an on-site review, audit, and remuneration part for Field promotion officers, Accounts & Admin Officer, M&E staff, and

Programme manager. Furthermore, COAST Trust representatives will participate in the IFAD supervision mission and policy level workshops and consultation.

5. Activities to be undertaken

The key activities to be undertaken for each component as follows:

Code	Activity
<i>Component 1: FO services development</i>	
1.1.	Preparing detailed profile of APFP partner FOs
1.2	National workshop on preparing Strategic Plan of 20 FOs
1.3	Strategic planning workshop of 20 FOs
1.4	Establishing 1 service center for farmers
1.5	1 Training on business plan preparation and marketing for 20 FOs
1.6	20 FO level meetings on business plan and marketing
1.7	Support to an online platform with a website to promote farmers product
<i>Component 2: Policy engagement</i>	
2.1	20 Local-level workshop to identify local policy issues to work with and to take advocacy strategy
2.2	1 National level workshop to identify priority advocacy issue and to take national strategy plan
2.3	A study to validate the priority advocacy issue
2.4	Preparing a national documentary/publication on the advocacy issues in Bangladesh (Target for 2nd year)
2.5	4 national-level advocacy events (Target for 2nd year)
2.6	20 Linkage meetings with organizations working with farmers and fishers in Bangladesh
2.7	Preparing policy research papers/publications/documentations (Target for 2nd year)
2.8	Sharing policy advocacy and campaign issue in Community radio
<i>Component 3: Programme Management</i>	
3.1	Salaries and remuneration
3.2	Travel and allowances
3.3	Audit

Addressing thematic agenda and Cross-Cutting Concerns (Gender and youth; nutrition; environment and climate/ innovation; knowledge management)²

² Include one to two paragraphs on two key issues/areas that will be pursued in the country

6. Budget Summary

Include here a paragraph summarizing the total expenditure and the %age allotted for each of the components. In the table below, specify the amount that will be contributed from each source (or at least the target amount to be sourced out from other partners/stakeholders).

	Total Budget	APFP Country Budget	APFP Basket fund	Other Sources	Banks	SME Fund
Component 1: FO services development	12,588 USD	12,588 USD	-	-	-	-
Component 2: Policy engagement	40,824 USD	21,836 USD	-	-	-	-
Component 3: Programme Management & Coordination	36,412 USD	29,576 USD	-	-	-	-
Total	89824 USD	64,000 USD	-	-	-	-

Appendix 1: Summary of log frame Indicators and target (see separate sheet)