



FONDATION



## Sustainable Soil Management Component (SSMC) of OCP Foundation's Agricultural Development Project in Bangladesh – Stage 1



Monthly Report (April 2017)

## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Acronyms and Abbreviations .....	iii
Introduction.....	1
Technical Program Activities .....	4
Baseline Survey Report.....	4
UAOs and SAAOs of DAE Orientation Program.....	4
Demonstration Sites and Farmers Selection for Aman, 2017 .....	5
Farmers Training.....	5
Participation of FC in SAAOs Conferences.....	6
Field Trial Protocol .....	6
Demonstration Protocol.....	6
OCP Company Fertilizer.....	6
Participation of First Steering Committee Meeting .....	6
Photographs of SSMC Activities .....	7

## List of Figures

	<b>Page</b>
Figure 1.    SSMC Project Locations.....	3

## List of Appendix

	<b>Page</b>
Appendix 1.  Details on the Number of Participants by Gender in the Orientation Program .	7

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

APS	Ammonium, Phosphorus, and Sulfur
BADC	Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
FC	Field Coordinator
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
kg	kilogram
NPS	Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Sulfur
OCP	Office Chérifien des Phosphates
SRDI	Soil Resource Development Institute
SSMC	Sustainable Soil Management Component
TSP	Triple Superphosphate
UAO	Upazila Agriculture Officer

# **Sustainable Soil Management Component (SSMC) of OCP Foundation's Agricultural Development Project in Bangladesh – Stage 1**

## **Monthly Report (April 2017)**

### **Introduction**

OCP Foundation signed an agreement with the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) for implementation of the Sustainable Soil Management Component (SSMC) of OCP Foundation's Agricultural Development Project in Bangladesh – Stage 1 for a period of three years, from January 2017 until December 2019. SSMC will address many of the increasing, serious soil fertility concerns of the northern districts of Bangladesh while also helping farmers enhance crop productivity and profitability through the implementation of improved soil management methods in the overall context of market-sensitive good agricultural practices (GAPs).

The **goal** of SSMC Stage 1 is **sustainable management of soil to enhance yields and farmers' incomes under resilient production systems**, which contributes to the overall goal of OCP Foundation's Agricultural Development Project in Bangladesh.

The **objectives** of the proposed project are to:

1. Evaluate the role of secondary and micronutrients, including the application of different compound fertilizers, on crop productivity as affected by soil acidity.
2. Promote balanced plant nutrient and good agricultural practice solutions for improving crop productivity, crop profitability, and soil fertility through extension workers and agro-input retailers.

OCP Foundation's overall project also includes input from OCP Foundation and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The overall objective of this agricultural development project is "sustainable management of soil to

enhance yields and farmers' incomes under resilient production system in Bangladesh, resulting in food and nutrition security, improved health and livelihoods.” The project includes the SSMC in addition to monitoring and capacity building inputs from OCP Foundation and work related to the promotion of (GAPs), entrepreneurship, and farmer organization by ICARDA. The project will target rice, maize, potato, pulses, and to a lesser extent, wheat crops.

SSMC is being implemented together with the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) counterparts – Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI). Additionally, agro-input retailers will be involved to promote balanced plant nutrient and GAP solutions for improving crop productivity, crop profitability, and soil fertility. The primary approach of the project will be for IFDC to conduct trials with BRRI and BARI and field extension activities with DAE.

SSMC is being implemented in 12 *upazilas* (sub-districts) of the targeted districts of Kurigram, Nilphamari, and Dinajpur in the Rangpur division and the districts of Bogra, Chapai Noawabganj, and Natore in the Rajshahi division (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup> SSMC activities began in January 2017, as the contract was signed in January. Therefore, this monthly report shows the progress achieved in April 2017.

---

<sup>1</sup> The upazilas were selected based on certain criteria: (1) a higher percentage of cultivable land; (2) growth of at least two major crops; (3) a relatively low soil pH level; (4) more progressive farmers; and (5) ease of access to the upazilas for project activity implementation.

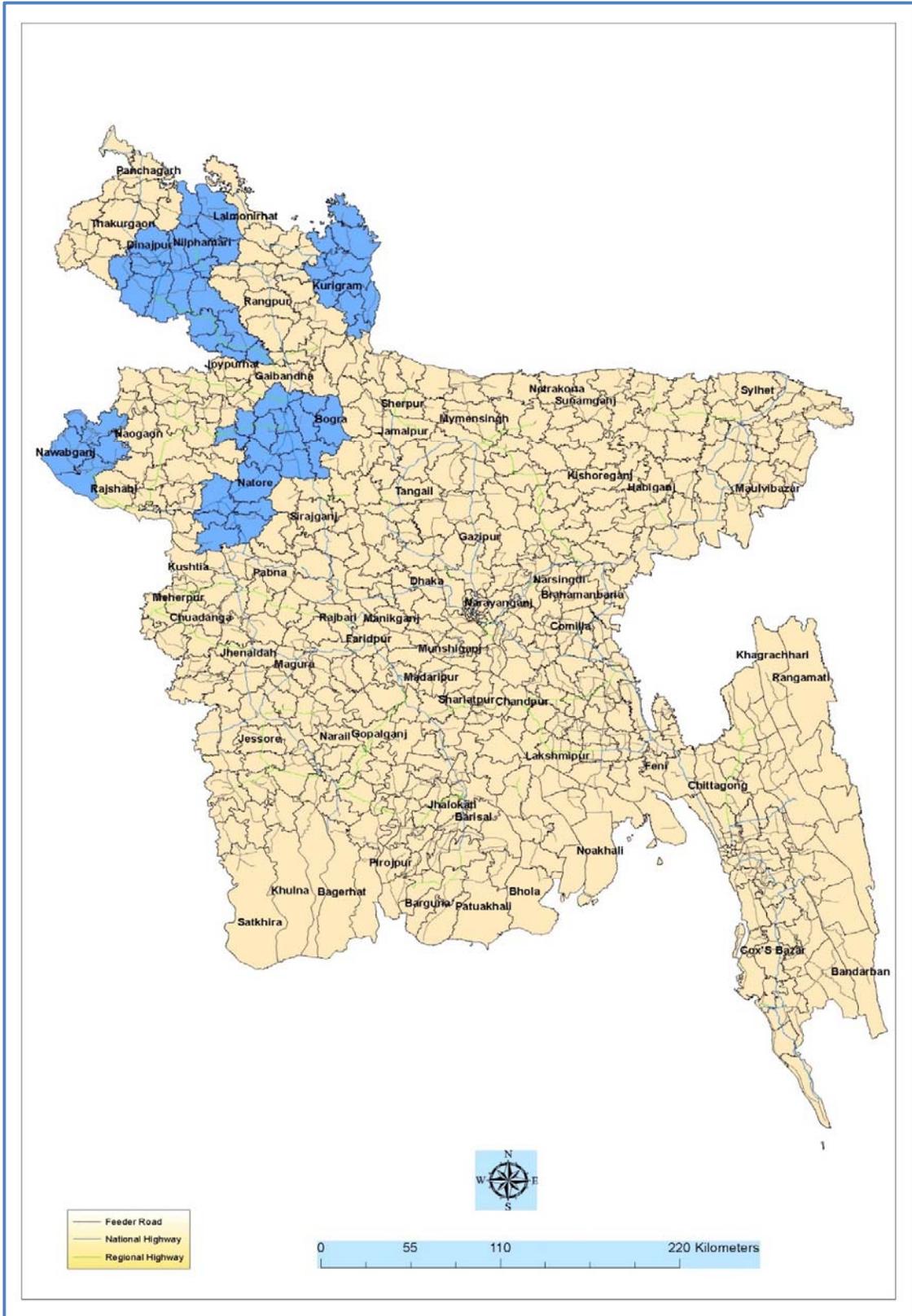


Figure 1. SSMC Project Locations

## **Technical Program Activities**

As per the annual Work Plan, major technical activities conducted during the reporting period included the following, which are linked to cropping season and deliverable and aimed at achieving the project goal.

### **Baseline Survey Report**

- Senior Consultant, Dr A.M.M Shawkat Ali has been engaged in preparing the Baseline Survey on Farmers Agronomic Practices and Soil Fertility Management. IFDC Deputy Director Asia and senior staff of SSMC assisted him with relevant literature and secondary data. Data Management Unit provided all the analyzed Tables of primary data.
- Dr A.M.M Shawkat Ali has finalized the preliminary draft of the Baseline survey report. The Deputy Director of IFDC Asia has sent the preliminary draft report to OCP Foundation for their review. A Power Point presentation on Baseline survey report was prepared by the Deputy Director of IFDC Asia for presentation in the Ministry of Agriculture, GOB.
- The survey report is structured into i) Profile of 400 selected farmers, ii) Soil Fertility Management, iii) Agronomic Practices and iv) Conclusions and Recommendations.

### **UAOs and SAAOs of DAE Orientation Program**

- Two Orientation programs of UAOs and SAAOs of DAE on SSMC activities for Aman 2017 were conducted in Saidpur and Natore Sadar of Nilphamari and Natore districts respectively on 25 and 26 April, 2017. Focal Points of DAE (HQ), 12 Upazila Agricultural officers, 2 Deputy Directors, 35 SAAOs and one horticulturist attended the program. Two senior staff, one field coordinator (FC) of SSMC, IFDC and one senior scientific officer of SRDI also attended the program as resource persons. Participants were briefed about the guidelines regarding farmers training, establishment of demonstration plots, field days, crop cut and identification techniques of adulterated micronutrient fertilizers at field level through power point presentation and group discussion.

- Twenty four plastic containers with required chemical ( Barium chloride and Sodium Sulfate) handed over among 12 SAAOs of DAE for using in farmer's training class to demonstrate the technique of identifying adulterated micronutrients at field level.
- For smooth implementation of SSMC activities through DAE, 100 (50+50) copies of Annual Work Plan (Bangla), 2017 of SSMC activities and Training Manual (Bangla) distributed among the DAE officials during orientation programs
- Participants were briefed about the guidelines regarding farmers training, establishment of demonstration plots, organizing field days, crop cut methods and reporting. They were also participated in practical demonstration of identification techniques of adulterated micronutrient fertilizers at field level.

### **Demonstration Sites and Farmers Selection for Aman, 2017**

- All the Aman, 2017 demonstration plot sites that have already been selected by concern the SAAOs at Dinajpur Sadar, Nageswari, Natore Sadar, and Shahjahanpur upazilas visited by Field coordinator (FC),SSMC and finalized. The FC has also confirmed with the concerned farmers who expressed their interest to establish demo plots at their lands.
- FC has maintained liaison with DAE officials with Upazila Agriculture Officers and SAAOs of different upazilas regarding demonstration site selection and farmers training program.

### **Farmers Training**

- For farmers training program in Aman, 2017 season, FC has collected farmer list (35 farmers for each batch) from 5 upazilas (Dinajpur Sadar, Saidpur, Nilphamari Sadar, Nageswari, and Kurigram Sadar upazilas). Five batches of farmers training will be held before Aman transplantation.
- For training program they collected the potential farmers' lists in cluster/Field basis who are interested to use micronutrients and follow good agricultural practices.

## **Participation of FC in SAAOs Conferences**

- Field Coordinator attended four SAAO conferences at Upazila Agriculture Offices, DAE at Nageswari and Nilphamari Sadar, Gabtali and Natore sadar upazilas. He briefed all the SAAOs on objective and activities of SSMC project.

## **Field Trial Protocol**

- Senior staff of SSMC, IFDC discussed with concerned focal points of BRRI and BARI regarding budget break up of on station as well as on farm field trials program under SSMC as per format provided by SSMC- IFDC.
- Focal point of BRRI submitted a draft budget break up of on station and on- farm field trial program to SSMC,IFDC.
- After receiving three categories of OCP compound fertilizers, field trial protocols for Aman, Boro, Potato, Maize, Lentil and Wheat were updated.

## **Demonstration Protocol**

- After receiving three categories of OCP compound fertilizers demonstration protocols for Aman, Boro, Potato, Maize, Lentil and Wheat were updated.

## **OCP Company Fertilizer**

- SSMC senior officials are in touch with BADC for getting the required amount (800 kg) of fertilize being gifted to Bangladesh Government by OCP Company. As the fertilizers have come in bulk in three container this will require bagging by BADC.

## **Participation of First Steering Committee Meeting**

- As per proposal of OCP Foundation regarding participation of all Focal points from MOA, BADC, BRRI, BARI, DAE and SRDI in the first steering committee meeting at Morocco, IFDC Deputy Director, Asia has made all required arrangements getting government order to the relevant Focal Points accordingly.

## Appendix 1. Details on the Number of Participants by Gender in the Orientation Program

Sl. #	District	Host Upazila	Total		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Nilphamari	Saidpur	23	3	26
2	Natore	Natore Sadar	26	1	27
<b>Total</b>			<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>53</b>

### Photographs of SSMC Activities



Senior Consultant and Senior Staffs of SSMC engaged in preparing Baseline survey report on April, 2017



Senior Consultant, IFDC Deputy Director, Asia and Senior Staff of SSMC engaged in preparing Baseline survey report on April, 2017



FC is discussing with SAAOs and farmers for demonstration site selection at Saidpur, Nilphamari on April, 2017.



FC is discussing with SAAOs and farmers for demonstration site selection at Saidpur, Nilphamari on April, 2017



Orientation program of UAOs and SAAOs of DAE on SSMC activities at Saidpur, Nilphamari on April, 2017.



Orientation program of UAOs and SAAOs of DAE on SSMC activities at Natore Sadar, Natore on April, 2017.



FC is discussing with SAAOs and farmers for demonstration site selection at Saidpur, Nilphamari on April, 2017.



Orientation program of UAOs and SAAOs of DAE on SSMC activities at Saidpur, Nilphamari on April, 2017.



Orientation program of UAOs and SAAOs of DAE on SSMC activities at Saidpur, Nilphamari on April, 2017.



Orientation program of UAOs and SAAOs of DAE on SSMC activities at Natore Sadar, Natore on April, 2017