

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

MONTHLY REPORT | SEPTEMBER 2018



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
kg	kilogram
NPSB	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Boron
NPSZn	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Zinc
OFRD	On-Farm Research Division
SAAO	Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer
SRDI	Soil Resource Development Institute
SSMC	Sustainable Soil Management Component
TSPZn	Triple Superphosphate with Zinc
UAO	Upazila Agriculture Officer

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

## Monthly Report | September 2018

### Introduction

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The 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 to December 2019. SSMC is addressing 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).

OCP Foundation's comprehensive 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 systems 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 by OCP Foundation and works related to the promotion of GAPs, entrepreneurship, and farmer organizations by ICARDA. The project targets rice, maize, potato, pulses, and, to a lesser extent, wheat.

SSMC is being implemented with 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 are also involved to promote balanced plant nutrient and GAP solutions for improving crop productivity, crop profitability, and soil fertility. The primary approach of the project for IFDC is to conduct trials with BRRI and BARI and field extension activities with DAE. This monthly report shows the progress achieved in September 2018.

### Technical Program Activities

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As per the annual work plan, major technical activities conducted during the reporting month include the following, which are linked to cropping seasons and deliverables and aimed at achieving the project goal.

## Field Trials

As per the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting of SSMC, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a revised trial protocols for non-rice crops (potato, maize, lentil, and wheat) was prepared and sent to the Focal Point of BARI for review and implementation. About 500 kg of 14N-23P-14K-6S-1B grade OCP compound fertilizer was received from fertilizer importer M/S Bulk Trade International Ltd. and sent to the On-Farm Research Division (OFRD) of BARI for conducting on-station and on-farm field trials on wheat, maize, potato, and lentil crops. Three other categories (TSPZn, NPSZn, and NPSB) of OCP compound fertilizer were also sent to OFRD for trial purposes.

## Farmer Training

In September, four batches of farmer training programs were conducted with 120 progressive farmers. Details by district are presented in Table 1. Of the 120 trained farmers, 103 were men and 17 (14%) were female progressive lentil farmers.<sup>1</sup> Four demonstration farmers also attended the training program. In addition, 20 agro-input retailers were present. The training module during the training program included a PowerPoint, an oral presentation, and group discussions using the participatory approach and practical demonstrations on identification techniques of adulterated micronutrient fertilizers. A total of nine farmer training programs on transplanted (T.) *Aman* and lentil have been completed.

**Table 1. Farmers' Training Organized in September 2018 under SSMC**

Sl. #	District	Upazila	Batches	Farmers			Fertilizer Retailer	Total Participants
				Male	Female	Total		
1.	Natore	Sadar	1	21	4	25	5	30
2.	Natore	Sadar	1	21	4	25	5	30
3.	Natore	Lalpur	1	21	4	25	5	30
4.	Chapai Nawabganj	Gomostapur	1	20	5	25	5	30
	<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>120</b>

## Field Demonstrations

In the reporting month, crops in all 10 SSMC *T. Aman* demonstration plots were in maximum tillering to panicle initiation stage. Urea topdressing applications were done properly in all the demonstration plots. Deputy Director of DAE, upazila agriculture officers (UAOs) and concerned sub-assistant agriculture officers (SAAOs) of DAE, and SSMC senior staff and field coordinator (FC) monitored SSMC *T. Aman* demonstration plots and actively participated in all the activities. Due to shortage of sufficient rainfall, soil moisture stress was noticed in considerable areas in Gomostapur and Nachole upazilas of Chapai Nawabganj district. Overall crop condition was good. pH data of eight soil samples was received from SRDI laboratory, Rajshahi. Soil pH values ranged from 5.1 to 6.4. All the samples were collected from Gomostapur and Nachole upazilas of Chapai Nawabganj district.

<sup>1</sup> Progressive farmers are those who are willing to use the good farm practices (GAPs – such as using good quality seed and balanced doses of fertilizers, maintaining proper spacing from line to line and plant to plant, practicing integrated pest management [IPM] with improved technologies, etc.), establish their own demo plots, share their knowledge, and encourage their neighboring farmers to use GAPs along with improved technologies.



## OCP Compound Fertilizers

As per decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting, a revised demonstration protocol for rice and non-rice crops (*Boro*, potato, maize, lentil, and wheat) was prepared. One thousand kilograms of three categories (TSPZn, NPSZn, and NPSB) of OCP compound fertilizer were received by IFDC SSMC field staff from BADC stock for field demonstration purposes.

## Activity Achievement Against Target

Details of activities completed through September 2018 against the target of the Year 2 Work plan are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Activity Achievement through September 2018 Against Year 1 and 2 Workplan**

Deliverables	Unit	Target	Achievement		% of Target
			In September 2018	Through September 2018	
Orientation training for establishing demonstrations	No.	2	-	2	100%
Farmer training with DAE	No.	60	4	9	15%
<i>Establishment of Field Demonstrations</i>					
Rice ( <i>Aman</i> )	No.	10	-	10	100%

## Media Report

The media campaign for SSMC activities during September 2018 is shown in Table 3, covering daily local print media. In the media campaign, OCP Foundation, as the donor, is always emphasized along with SSMC activities.

**Table 3. Newspaper and Television Reports, News, and Publicity in September 2018**

Sl. #	News Heading	Media	Date	Remark
1.	Organize farmers training at Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj	The Daily Gour Bangla	Sept. 26, 2018	Hard copy of news documented.
2.	Organize farmers training at Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj	The Daily Lal Golap	Sept. 26, 2018	Hard copy of news documented.
3.	Organize farmers training at Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj	The Daily Natun Provat	Sept. 26, 2018	Hard copy of news documented.
4.	Organize farmers training at Sadar, Natore	The Daily Natorer Khabar	Sept. 27, 2018	Hard copy of news documented.

## Photographs of SSMC Activities



**T. Aman Demonstration Plot at Nageswari in September 2018**



**T. Aman Demonstration Plot at Dinajpur in September 2018**



**T. Aman Demonstration Plot Monitored by SSMC Senior Staff and DAE Field Staff at Gomostapur in September 2018**



**T. Aman Demonstration Plot Monitored by SSMC Senior Staff and DAE Field Staff at Kurigram Sadar in September 2018**



**Farmer Training Program on Lentil at Natore Sadar in September 2018**



**Farmer Training Program on Lentil at Gomostapur in September 2018**