

Accelerating Vegetable Productivity Improvement (AVPI)

MONTHLY REPORT | DECEMBER 2018



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AVPI	Accelerating Vegetable Productivity Improvement
BMO	Briquetting Machine Owner
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
FDP	Fertilizer Deep Placement
FTF	Feed the Future
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
ha	hectare
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
mt	metric ton
NPK	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium

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Highlights

Introduction

The Accelerating Vegetable Productivity Improvement (AVPI) project is the second partnership between the Walmart Foundation and the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) to improve the livelihoods of low-income female vegetable and fruit farmers in Bangladesh.

The project targets the horticulture subsector (vegetables and fruits), which is particularly relevant to women farmers. The project is expected to reach an estimated 38,000 beneficiaries.¹ This report contains a monthly update covering project activities in December 2018. Although the project is expected to be completed by December 2018, Walmart Foundation agreed in principle to a no-cost extension of the project through March 2019 with the objective to capture at least two result indicators: (1) number of areas under good agricultural practices (GAPs) including fertilizer deep placement (FDP) and (2) number of farmers using GAPs and FDP.

Results

- **Area Coverage under GAPs, including Fertilizer Deep Placement (FDP) Technology, in Winter 2018-19:** Winter season vegetable cultivation began in August. Application of GAPs, including FDP, by women horticulture farmers in winter 2018-19 started in the middle of August at AVPI project locations. As per AVPI weekly reports, a total of 4,376 hectares (ha) of vegetable and fruit area have been brought under FDP technology during the winter season of 2018-19 until the reporting period. Transplanting of winter season vegetable will continue through the end of January 2019 and picking/harvesting will continue through May 2019.
- **FDP Briquette Production:** Information is being collected on *Guti* (briquette) fertilizer production from 233 AVPI villages. In December 2018, a total of 217.55 metric tons (mt) of *Guti* urea and 21.00 mt of NPK

¹ AVPI conducted a census during winter 2016-17 to determine the current agriculture status of all 28,360 women farmers who were trained during the IFDC-Walmart activity 2013-15 period in the Feed the Future (FTF) zone. A total of 21,892 farmers were found active in winter 2016-17. AVPI will train another 16,000 women horticulture farmers in 400 batches throughout the life of the project. Therefore, the number of expected beneficiaries will be 21,892 + 16,000 = 37,892.

briquettes were produced. The overall production of *Guti* fertilizers in AVPI villages during the winter 2018-19 vegetable and fruit season was 1,289.45 mt (1,174.95 mt *Guti* urea and 114.50 mt NPK briquette) as of the reporting month.

Technical Activities

Winter Season 2018-19: AVPI began its winter season 2018-19 activities in August as per the approved work plan. The activities include: women horticulture farmers' training on GAPs (including FDP) and polynet houses with trickle irrigation; motivational meetings with previously trained women horticulture farmers; motivational workshops and operational training of fertilizer briquetting machine owners (BMOs); farmers' orientation training for demonstration establishment; establishment of demonstration plots to show the results of improved technologies compared to farmers' practices; vegetable marketing seminars to improve the knowledge of women horticulture farmers on product quality and marketing-related issues; and agro-input retailers' training on polynet houses, trickle irrigation systems, and crop cuts.

AVPI completed the following activities for the winter 2018-19 season during December 2018.

Technology Transfer

- **UDP Vegetable Demonstration Plot Crop Cuts:** In December 2018, AVPI organized four crop cuts on cabbage. Therefore, AVPI completed all 15 demonstration plot crop cuts, which includes eight crop cuts on cauliflower and seven on cabbage. AVPI field monitoring officers and sub-assistant agriculture officers of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) jointly conducted the vegetable crop cuts.
- **Farmers' Field Crop Cuts on Vegetables:** In December 2018, AVPI organized four crop cuts from AVPI farmers' fields on cauliflower. Therefore, AVPI completed all 20 targeted farmers' field crop cuts (10 each on cauliflower and cabbage). AVPI field monitoring officers and sub-assistant agriculture officers of DAE jointly conducted the vegetable crop cuts.

- **Field Day on Crop Production under Polynet Houses with Trickle Irrigation and Farmers' Practice:**

In December 2018, AVPI organized one field day program on eggplant production under polynet houses with trickle irrigation using urea deep placement (UDP) and broadcasted urea as well as farmers' practice without polynet houses and trickle irrigation. A total of 40 participants



Farmers carrying harvested eggplant from an AVPI demonstration plot established under polynet houses with trickle irrigation

(31 female and nine male) attended the program. The upazila agriculture officer and sub-assistant agriculture officer of DAE, a local leader, a media representative, and AVPI officials were present for this program. The results on yield increases and savings of water will be summarized after completion of all harvesting of the demonstration plots. So far, a total of six demonstration field days (five for seedling raising and one for crop production) against the targeted 10 field days for winter season 2018-19 have been completed with a total participation of 240 farmers (188 female and 52 male).

- **Field Data Entry:** The AVPI Monitoring and Evaluation unit is continuing the job of data entry of different events accomplished under the project as follows.

- ✓ Agro-Input Retailers Training Evaluation Forms
- ✓ Farmer Training Evaluation Forms (GAPs)
- ✓ Farmer Training Evaluation Forms (Polynet)
- ✓ Field Days (UDP) Participant List
- ✓ Field Days (Polynet) Participant List
- ✓ Agro-Input Retailer Training Participant Profile
- ✓ Motivational Meeting with Previously Trained Farmers List
- ✓ Farmer Training (GAPs) Participant Profile
- ✓ Farmer Training (Polynet) Participant Profile
- ✓ Vegetable Marketing Seminar Participant List
- ✓ Motivational Workshop and Operational Training of BMOs Participant List

Table 1 provides information on the activities accomplished as of December 2018 against targets for the 2018-19 winter vegetable season.

Table 1. Activities Conducted for 2018-19 Winter Vegetable Season Through December 2018

Activities	Unit	AVPI Progress During Winter 2018-19 Season Through December 2018			Remarks
		Target	Actual	%	
Objective 1: Fertilizer Deep Placement (FDP)/Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)					
Farmer training	Batch	130	130	100%	
Farmer orientation for demo establishment	Batch	1	1	100%	
Motivational meeting with trained farmers	Number	200	100	50%	
Motivational workshop and operational training of BMOs	Number	2	2	100%	
Awareness and opportunity identification event/meeting with agro-input dealers and retailers	Number	25		0%	
Field demonstration	Number	15	15	100%	
Crop cuts from					
➤ Demo plots	Number	15	15	100%	
➤ Farmers' field	Number	20	20	100%	
Field days	Number	5	5	100%	
Design and develop technical leaflets, flyers, posters, signboards, flags, promotional bags, and caps		*	*		Continuing activity
Objective 2: Piloting Polynet Houses with Trickle Irrigation					
Farmer orientation for demo establishment	Batch	1	1	100%	
Field demonstration (seedling raising-5 + crop production-5)	Number	10	10	100%	
Farmer training	Batch	10	10	100%	
Field days	Number	10	6	60%	
Provide direct technical assistance to farmers in introducing polynet houses with trickle irrigation and FDP technology		*	*		Continuing activity
Agro-input retailer training	Number	2	2	100%	
Objective 3: Improving Farmer Market Knowledge/Access to Market Information					
Vegetable marketing seminar	Number	2	2	100%	

Media Campaign: The media campaign for AVPI activities during December 2018 is shown in Table 2, covering daily national newspapers, local print media, electronic media, and online news. In the media campaign, Walmart Foundation, as the donor, is always emphasized in relation to AVPI activities.

Table 2. Newspaper and Television Reports, News, and Publicity, December 2018

Sl. No.	News Heading	Media	Date/Time	Remark
Print Media				
(i) National Newspaper				
1.	Farmers training program at Bhola	The Daily Bangladesh Protidin	Dec. 5, 2018	Hard Copy of News Documented
2.	Field day on polynet houses at Chuadanga Sadar	The Daily Jaijaidin	Dec. 16, 2018	Hard Copy of News Documented
(ii) Local Newspaper				
1.	Demonstration plot crop cut and field days program at Jhikargachha	The Daily Noapara	Dec. 13, 2018	Hard Copy of News Documented
2.	Demonstration plot crop cut and field days program at Jhikargachha	The Daily Jessore	Dec. 13, 2018	Hard Copy of News Documented
(iii) Online News				
1.	Farmers training program at Bhola	The Daily Bangladesh Protidin	Dec. 5, 2018	http://www.bd-pratidin.com/last-page/2018/12/05/381241

Reporting

The AVPI Monthly Report of November 2018 was submitted to the Walmart Foundation.