

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

MONTHLY REPORT | January 2019



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAO	Assistant Agriculture Officer
BADC	Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BLB	Bacterial Leaf Blight
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
FC	Field Coordinator
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
ha	hectare
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
kg	kilogram
m	meter
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MLT	Multi Location Trial
mt	metric ton
NPSB	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Boron
NPSZn	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Zinc
NPKSB	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash Sulfur, and Boron
OFRD	On-Farm Research Division
PSO	Principal Scientific Officer
SAAO	Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer
SRDI	Soil Resource Development Institute
SSMC	Sustainable Soil Management Component
Tk	Bangladeshi Taka
UAO	Upazila Agriculture Officer
UP	Union Parishad

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Introduction

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 January 2019.

Technical Program Activities

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

In the reporting month, SSMC senior staff, and local BARI on-farm research division (OFRD) scientists visited 12 different field trial plots of OFRD research station and multi-location trial (MLT) sites at Bogra, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur Sadar, and Chapai Nawabganj. Crop conditions in all the on station and on farm sites were in good shape. Treatment effect noticed in some trial plots. SSMC project established all the 13 on-station and on-farm field trials on Potato, Maize, Wheat, and Lentil at different research stations and MLT sites of Bogra, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur Sadar, Chapai Nawabganj, and Rajshahi districts.

Farmer Training

In January, seven batches of farmer training programs were conducted with 210 progressive farmers. Details are presented in Table 1. Of the 210 trained farmers, 156 were men and 23 (11%) were female progressive *Boro* farmers.¹ Seven demonstration farmers also attended the training programs. In addition, 31 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. Thirty four farmer-training programs on *T. Aman*, Lentil, Potato, Maize, Wheat and *Boro* were completed.

Table 1. Farmers' Training Organized in January 2019 under SSMC

SL. #	Districts	Upazilas	Batches	Male	Female	Total	Fertilizer Retailers	Grand Total
1.	Kurigram	Nageshwari	1	21	4	25	5	30
2.	Kurigram	Sadar	1	21	4	25	5	30
3.	Dinajpur	Sadar	1	21	4	25	5	30
4.	Nilphamari	Saidpur	1	18	7	25	5	30
5.	Bogra	Gabtolli	1	22	4	25	4	30
6.	Gomostapur	Chapai Nawabganj	1	26		26	4	30
7.	Nachole	Chapai Nawabganj	1	27		27	3	30
	Total		7	156	23	179	31	210

Field Demonstrations

In January 2019, three SSMC *Boro* rice demonstration plots were established in different locations. Details by district are presented in Table 2. Layout, fertilization and seed sowing are done properly. The upazila agriculture officers (UAOs), concern sub-assistant agriculture officers (SAAOs) of DAE, and field coordinator (FC) actively participated in the activities such

¹ 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 demonstration plots, share their knowledge, and encourage their neighboring farmers to use GAPs along with improved technologies.

as site selection, layout design, application of fertilizers, seed sowing, and other farm management practices.

Table 2. Boro Rice Demonstration Established in January 2019

Sl. #	Upazila	District	Variety	Target	Established	Date of Transplantation
1.	Sadar	Nilphamari	BRRIdhan 29	1	1	Jan 15, 2019
2.	Sadar	Kurigram	BRRIdhan 58	1	1	Jan 21, 2019
3.	Nageswari	Kurigram	BRRIdhan 29	1	1	Jan 26, 2019
			Total	3	3	

Activity Achievement Against Target

Details of activities completed through January 2019 against the target of the Year 3 Workplan are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Activity Achievement through January 2019 Against Year 3 Workplan

Deliverables	Unit	Target	Achievement		% of Target
			In January 2019	Through January 2019	
Orientation training for establishing demonstrations	No.	2		2	100%
Farmer training with DAE	No.	60	7	34	57%
<i>Establishment of Field Trials</i>					
Lentil	No.	3		3	100%
Potato	No	4		4	100%
Wheat	No	2		2	100%
Maize	No	4		4	100%
Total		13		13	100%
<i>Establishment of Field Demonstrations</i>					
Rice (<i>T. Aman</i>)	No.	10		10	100%
Lentil	No	10		10	100%
Potato	No	10		10	100%
Wheat	No	10		10	100%
Maize	No	10		10	100%
<i>Boro</i>	No	10	3	7	70%
Total		60	3	57	95%
<i>Crop Cut</i>					
<i>Field Demonstration</i>					
Rice (<i>T. Aman</i>)	No.	10		10	100%
Field days (<i>T. Aman</i>)	No.	5		5	100%

Media Report

The media campaign for SSMC activities during January 2019 is shown in Table 4, covering daily national and local print media. In the media campaign, OCP Foundation, as the donor, is always emphasized along with SSMC activities.

Table 4. Television Reports, News, and Publicity in January 2019

Sl. #	Name of the Newspaper	Location	Date	Remark
A. National News Paper				
1.	Organize farmers training at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Vorer Dorpon	08-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
2.	Organize farmers training at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Daily Ittefaq	11-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
B. Local News Paper				
1	Organize farmers training at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Prothom Khabar	08-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
2.	Organize farmers training at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Safe	08-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
3.	Organize farmers training at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Amader Protidin	08-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
4.	Organize farmers training at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Bayannor Alo	08-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
5.	Organize farmers training at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Juger Alo	08-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
6.	Organize farmers training at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Daily Dinkal	11-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
7.	Organize farmers training at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Daily Bayannor Alo	11-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
8.	Organize farmers training at Gabtoli, Bogra	The Daily Chandny Bazar	18-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
9.	Organize farmers training at Gabtoli, Bogra	The Daily Satmatha	18-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
10.	Organize farmers training at Gabtoli, Bogra	The Daily Mukto Jamin	18-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.
11.	Organize farmers training at Gabtoli, Bogra	The Daily Mukto Shokal	18-Jan-19	Hard copy of news documented.

Other activities

In this reporting month, survey of 323 trained farmers were completed. all of the trained farmers interviewed by FC at different upazilas under SSMC project areas.

Additional Director (Input), DAE monitored several non-rice demonstration plots at Nilphamari, Saidpur and Dinajpur Sadar.

Photographs of SSMC Activities



On-farm Field Trial on Wheat at Amnura, Chapai Nawabganj in January 2019



On-farm Field Trial on Lentil at Godagari, Rajshahi in January 2019



Field Demonstration plot on Lentil at Gomostapur of Chapai Nawabganj in January 2019



Field Demonstration plot on Wheat at Gomostapur of Chapai Nawabganj in January 2019



Farmers Training program on Boro rice at Gomostapur of Chapai Nawabganj in January 2019



Farmers Training program on Boro rice at Sadar of Dinajpur in January 2019