

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

MONTHLY REPORT | March 2019



*This report by IFDC was made possible through funding support from the OCP Foundation.*



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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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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## Monthly Report | March 2019

### 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 March 2019.

### Technical Program Activities

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As per the annual work plan, major technical activities conducted during March 2019 include the following, which are linked to cropping seasons and deliverables and aimed at achieving the project goal.

## Field trials

In the reporting month, crop conditions of all crops (potato, lentil, wheat and maize) were in good condition in all the on station and on farm trials. All the 13 on-station and on-farm field trials conducted by the On-farm Research Division (OFRD) of BARI at different regional research stations at Bogra, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur districts were monitored regularly by different OFRD scientists and SSMC senior staff. All the Lentil and Potato crops were harvested from trial plots, but data are yet to be processed.

## Farmer Training

In this month, six batches of farmer training programs were conducted with 180 progressive farmers. Details are presented in Table 1. Of the 180 trained farmers, 134 were male and 21 (16%) were female progressive wheat and lentil farmers.<sup>1</sup> Six demonstration farmers also attended the training programs. In addition, 25 agro-input retailers, who are also engaged in farming, were present. The training module used in the training programs include theoretical presentation, and group discussions using the participatory approach, and practical demonstrations on identification techniques of adulterated micronutrient fertilizers.

**Table 1. Farmers' Training Organized in March 2019 under SSMC**

SL. #	Districts	Upazilas	Batches	Male	Female	Total	Fertilizer retailers	Grand Total
1.	Kurigram	Sadar	1	21	4	25	5	30
2.	Natore	Sadar	1	22	4	26	4	30
3.	Nilphamari	Sadar	1	24	1	25	5	30
4.	Dinajpur	Sadar	1	21	4	25	5	30
5.	Natore	Lalpur	1	23	4	27	3	30
6.	Natore	Lalpur	1	23	4	27	3	30
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>180</b>

## Crop cut

In this month, five crop cuts from lentil and eight from wheat demonstration plots have been completed in different locations. SSMC senior staff, field coordinator (FC), DAE officials, Union Parishad (UP) members, and concerned demonstration farmers attended the crop cut and field day program. It was observed that in almost all the demonstration plots among the three fertilizer treatments, lime-treated OCP compound fertilizers (NPSZn and NPSB) treatment plots performed better. Crop yield data by treatment are in the process of finalization and will be reported in the next monthly report.

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



## Field day

In this month, six wheat and lentil demonstration field days were organized at Sadar of Nilphamari and Dinajpur and Lalpur of Natore districts (Table 2). SSMC senior staff and FC, DAE officials, local farmers, and fertilizer dealers attended the crop cut and field day program. A total of 613 farmers attended the field day program (male-377 and female-211). Demonstration farmers shared their experiences with all the participants. It was observed that in all the demonstration sites, harvested wheat and lentil yields in OCP fertilizer treatment plots increased, compared to farmers plots. The data are under compilation and results will be reported in the next monthly report.

All the farmers showed their interest in OCP compound fertilizer if its quality would remain good and available at their locality. Concerned demonstration farmers expressed their positive opinions about SSMC demonstration plots and the crop performance. Reporters of electronic media and local newspapers and electronic media attended the field day program.

**Table 2. Field Days Organized in March 2019 under SSMC**

SL. #	Districts	Upazilas	Batches	Male	Female	Total	Fertilizer retailers	Grand Total
1.	Kurigram	Sadar	1	48	47	<b>95</b>	5	<b>100</b>
2.	Natore	Sadar	1	64	41	<b>105</b>	4	<b>109</b>
3.	Nilphamari	Sadar	1	57	38	<b>95</b>	5	<b>100</b>
4.	Dinajpur	Sadar	1	60	35	<b>95</b>	5	<b>100</b>
5.	Natore	Lalpur	1	70	31	<b>101</b>	3	<b>104</b>
6.	Natore	Lalpur	1	78	19	<b>97</b>	3	<b>100</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>613</b>

## Activity Achievement Against Target

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

**Table 3. Activity Achievement through March 2019 Against Year 3 Workplan**

Deliverables	Unit	Target	Achievement		% of Target
			In March2019	Through March2019	
Orientation training for establishing demonstrations	No.	2		2	100%
Farmer training with DAE	No.	60	6	45	75%
<b><i>Establishment of Field Trials</i></b>					
Lentil	No.	3		3	100%
Potato	No	4		4	100%
Wheat	No	2		2	100%
Maize	No	4		4	100%
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b><i>Establishment of Field Demonstrations</i></b>					
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%
Boro	No	10		10	100%
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b><i>Crop Cut</i></b>					
<b><i>Field Demonstration</i></b>					
Rice ( <i>T. Aman</i> )	No.	10		10	100%
Potato	No.	10	10	10	100%
Lentil	No.	10	5	5	50%
Wheat	No.	10	8	8	80%
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Field Days</b>					
Field days ( <i>T. Aman</i> )	No.	5		5	100%
Field days ( <i>Potato</i> )	No.	5	5	5	100%
Field days ( <i>Lentil</i> )	No.	5	2	2	40%
Field days ( <i>Wheat</i> )	No.	5	3	3	60%
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>75%</b>

## Media Report

The media campaign for SSMC activities during March 2019 is shown in Table 4, covering daily 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 March 2019**

Sl. #	News Heading	Media	Date	Remark
<b>A. Electronic Media</b>				
1.	Organize field days at Sadar, Nilphamari	Channel I	28-Mar-19	17:00 PM News
<b>B. National News Paper</b>				
1.	Organize farmers training cum field days program at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Daily Prothom Alo	02-Mar-19	Hard copy of news documented.
<b>C. Local News Paper</b>				
1.	Organize farmers training cum field days program at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Daily Bayannor Alo	01-Mar-19	Hard copy of news documented.
2.	Organize farmers training cum field days program at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Daily Bayannor Alo	02-Mar-19	Hard copy of news documented.
3.	Organize farmers training cum field days program at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Weekly Dag	03-Mar-19	Hard copy of news documented.
4.	Organize farmers training cum field days program at Saidpur, Nilphamari	The Daily Karatoa	03-Mar-19	Hard copy of news documented.
5.	Organize farmers training cum field days program at Shajahanpur, Bogra	The Daily Mohasthan	04-Mar-19	Hard copy of news documented.



## Photographs of SSMC Activities



Field demonstration plot of *Boro* at Sadar, Nilphamari in March 2019



Field demonstration plot of *Wheat* at Sadar, Dinajpur in March 2019



Farmers Training program on wheat at Sadar, Dinajpur in March 2019



Crop cut program of wheat at Nachole, Chapai Nawabganj in March 2019



Field day program on lentil crop cut at Lalpur, Natore in March 2019



Field day program on wheat crop cut at Sadar, Dinajpur in March 2019