

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

## MONTHLY REPORT | JULY 2019



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## Contents

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Introduction.....	1
Technical Program Activities .....	1
Field Trials .....	2
Farmer Training .....	2
Other Activities.....	2
Activity Achievement Against Target .....	3
Media Report .....	4
Photographs of SSMC Activities .....	5

## Tables

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Table 1. Farmer Training Organized in July 2019 under SSMC .....	2
Table 2. Activity Achievement through July 2019 Against Year 3 Workplan .....	3
Table 3. Television Reports, News, and Publicity in July 2019 .....	4

## 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
OFRD	On-Farm Research Division
SRDI	Soil Resource Development Institute
SSMC	Sustainable Soil Management Component

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

## Monthly Report | July 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 GAPs 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 July 2019.

### 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

In this reporting month, 13 balanced fertilization and micronutrient omission-related draft trial reports on maize, wheat, potato, and lentil were received by SSMC, IFDC, from the Chief Scientific Officer, On-Farm Research Division, BARI. Findings of the trials were highlighted in the IFDC SSMC 5<sup>th</sup> Half Yearly Report (January-June 2019). All of the draft reports were reviewed, and relevant comments were sent to the Chief Scientific Officer, OFRD, BARI, for correction and final editing.

## Farmer Training

In this month, three batches of farmer training programs were conducted with 90 participants, which include 75 progressive farmers and 15 fertilizer retailers. Details are presented in Table 1. Of the 90 trainees, 59 were male and 16 (18%) were female progressive *T. Aman* farmers.<sup>1</sup> The training program included an oral presentation, group discussions using the participatory approach, and practical demonstrations on identification techniques of adulterated micronutrient fertilizers. Sixty farmer training programs on *T. Aman*, lentil, potato, maize, wheat, and *Boro* were completed during Year 3 of SSMC.

**Table 1. Farmer Training Organized in July 2019 under SSMC**

Sl. #	Districts	Upazilas	Batches	Male	Female	Total	Fertilizer Retailers	Grand Total
1.	Chapai Nawabganj	Gomostapur	1	21	4	25	5	30
2.	Dinajpur	Dinajpur Sadar	1	17	8	25	5	30
3.	Kurigram	Nageshwari	1	21	4	25	5	30
	<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>90</b>

## Other Activities

- In this reporting month, the IFDC SSMC 5<sup>th</sup> Half Yearly Report (January-June 2019) was submitted to OCP Foundation. This report was also sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, heads of the concerned institutes, and relevant focal points.
- In this reporting month, IFDC SSMC organized seven batches of informal meetings with trained and non-trained farmers on adoption of GAPs. A total of 132 progressive farmers from different SSMC project locations attended these meetings.

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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.

## Activity Achievement Against Target

Details of activities completed through July 2019 against the target of the Year 3 Workplan are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Activity Achievement through July 2019 Against Year 3 Workplan**

Deliverables	Unit	Target	Achievement		Percentage of Target
			In July 2019	Through July 2019	
Orientation training for establishing demonstrations	No.	2		2	100%
Farmer training with DAE	No.	60	3	60	100%
<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>Crop Cut</i></b>					
<b><i>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>Aman</i> )	No.	10		10	100%
Rice ( <i>Boro</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%
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b><i>Crop Cut</i></b>					
<b><i>Field Demonstrations</i></b>					
Rice ( <i>Aman</i> )	No.	10		10	100%
Rice ( <i>Boro</i> )	No.	10		10	100%
Potato	No.	10		10	100%
Lentil	No.	10		10	100%
Wheat	No.	10		9	90%
Maize	No.	10		10	100%
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b><i>Field Days</i></b>					
Field days ( <i>Boro</i> )	No.	6		6	100%
Field days (Potato)	No.	5		5	100%
Field days (Lentil)	No.	5		5	100%

Deliverables	Unit	Target	Achievement		Percentage of Target
			In July 2019	Through July 2019	
Field days (Wheat)	No.	5		5	100%
Field days (Maize)	No.	5		5	100%
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: One demonstration on wheat was damaged in Year 1; therefore, no crop cut was conducted.

## Media Report

The media campaign for SSMC activities during July 2019 is shown in Table 3, covering daily local print media. In the media campaign, OCP Foundation, as the partner, is always emphasized along with SSMC activities.

**Table 3. Television Reports, News, and Publicity in July 2019**

Sl. #	News Heading	Media	Date	Remark
<b>A. Electronic Media</b>				
<b>B. (i) National Newspaper</b>				
1.	Organize farmers training program at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Manob Jomin	July 18, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
2.	Organize farmers training program at Sadar, Dinajpur	The Daily Somoyer Alo	July 19, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
<b>(ii) Local Newspaper</b>				
1.	Organize farmers training program at Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj	The Daily Chapai Dristi	July 17, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
2.	Organize farmers training program at Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj	The Daily Raj Barta	July 17, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
3.	Organize farmers training program at Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj	The Daily Chapai Chitra	July 17, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
4.	Organize farmers training program at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Sokoler Khobor	July 18, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
5.	Organize farmers training program at Nageshwari, Kurigram	The Daily Juger Alo	July 18, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
6.	Organize farmers training program at Dinajpur Sadar, Dinajpur	The Daily Uttar Bangla	July 19, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
7.	Organize farmers training program at Dinajpur Sadar, Dinajpur	The Daily Ajker Deshbarta	July 19, 2019	Hard copy of news documented.
<b>C. Online Newspaper</b>				
1.	Organize farmer training program at Nageshwari, Kurigram	<a href="http://www.noyakhabor.com">www.noyakhabor.com</a>	July 17, 2019	<a href="https://www.noyakhabor.com/?p=2472">https://www.noyakhabor.com/?p=2472</a>

## Photographs of SSMC Activities



Farmer Training Program on the T. Aman Cultivation Technique at Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj, July 2019



Farmer Training Program on the T. Aman Cultivation Technique at Nageshwari, Kurigram, July 2019



Farmer Training Program on the T. Aman Cultivation Technique at Dinajpur Sadar, Dinajpur, July 2019



Participants of the Farmer Training Program on the T. Aman Cultivation Technique at Gomostapur, July 2019