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

MONTHLY REPORT | SEPTEMBER 2019

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BSMRAU	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DG	Director General
GAPs	Good Agricultural Practices
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
INMS	International Nitrogen Management System
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
OFRD	On-Farm Research Division
SRDI	Soil Resource Development Institute
SSMC	Sustainable Soil Management Component
TSP	Triple Superphosphate
Zn	Zinc

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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 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 September 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 this reporting month, considering the previous relevant comments on draft trial reports, concerned scientists of the On-Farm Research Division (OFRD), Bogra, Dinajpur, and Rajshahi, sent the final version of seven trial reports on maize, lentil, potato and wheat to IFDC SSMC.

Other Activities

- In this reporting month, 14 batches of follow-up meetings on adoption of GAPs with trained and non-trained farmers were conducted in 11 upazilas with 168 participants, including progressive farmers in different locations.
- As specified by OCP Foundation, a list of analytical requirements for fertilizer registration (TSPZn fertilizer) was provided to them.
- An IFDC SSMC Soil scientist attended a three-day workshop on 2018-19 research review and the 2019-2020 future research program of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) during September 23-25, 2019.
- An IFDC SSMC soil scientist attended a two-day International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) Workshop (inaugural and technical session) for the South Asia Demonstration (Dhaka) on September 15-16, 2019, which was organized by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU).
- A follow-up meeting was held with the Director General (DG) and focal point of DAE on overall progress and future plan of SSMC project activities.

Activity Achievement Against Target

Details of activities completed through September 2019 against the target of the Year 3 Workplan are presented in Table 11.

Table 1. Activity Achievement through September 2019 Against Year 3 Workplan

Deliverables	Unit	Target	Achievement		% of Target
			In September 2019	Through September 2019	
Orientation training for establishing demonstrations	No.	2		2	100%
Farmer training with DAE	No.	60		60	100%
Establishment of Field Trials					
Lentil	No.	3		3	100%
Potato	No.	4		4	100%
Wheat	No.	2		2	100%
Maize	No.	4		4	100%
Total		**13**		**13**	**100%**

Deliverables	Unit	Target	Achievement		% of Target
			In September 2019	Through September 2019	
Crop Cut					
Field Trials					
Lentil	No.	3		3	100%
Potato	No.	4		4	100%
Wheat	No.	2		2	100%
Maize	No.	4		4	100%
Total		**13**		**13**	**100%**
Establishment of Field Demonstrations					
Rice (*Aman*)	No.	10		10	100%
Rice (*Boro*)	No.	10		10	100%
Lentil	No.	10		10	100%
Potato	No.	10		10	100%
Wheat	No.	10		10	100%
Maize	No.	10		10	100%
Total		**60**		**60**	**100%**
Crop Cut					
Field Demonstration					
Rice (*Aman*)	No.	10		10	100%
Rice (*Boro*)	No.	10		10	100%
Potato	No.	10		10	100%
Lentil	No.	10		10	100%
Wheat	No.	10		9	90%
Maize	No.	10		10	100%
Total		**60**		**59**	**98%**
Field Days					
Field days (*Boro*)	No.	6		6	100%
Field days (Potato)	No.	5		5	100%
Field days (Lentil)	No.	5		5	100%
Field days (Wheat)	No.	5		5	100%
Field days (Maize)	No.	5		5	100%
Total		**26**		**26**	**100%**

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