

Title **The Agriculture, Nutrition, and Gender Linkages (ANGeL) Pilot Project**

Name Aklima Parvin and Masuma Yunus

WHAT? Are you presenting a project, approach, or research? By what organization(s)? What is the reach? What was done and why? Focus on KEY points, not every detail)



The ANGeL pilot project (2015–18) aims to identify actions and investments in agriculture that will help to improve **nutrition** and **empower women**. IFPRI's Policy Research and Strategy Support Program (PRSSP) designed ANGeL, which the Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture is implementing. The program will evaluate the impact of a combination of three types of interventions for promoting nutrition- and gender-sensitive agriculture:

- **Agriculture Production**—Facilitating the production of the high-value food commodities rich in essential nutrients through the diversification of crops, livestock, and the like.
- **Nutrition Knowledge**—Conducting high quality training in behavior-change communication to improve people's knowledge of nutrition.
- **Gender Sensitization**—Undertaking activities to empower women and raise their status while encouraging gender parity.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Delivery mechanism:** Government agriculture extension agents – mostly male – and female community nutrition workers (CNWs).
- **Target groups:** Households with children under-two with an adult male and female (usually husband and wife).
- **Intensity:** Community-level trainings on nutrition, agriculture production, and gender facilitated monthly for one hour per session, with a total of 25 households in each training group.

SO WHAT? What is the outcome? What was learned? What is the impact? Why does this project, approach, research matter? What difference did this make? What worked? What did not?

ANGEL IN NUMBERS

- **3125 farm families:** Families with children under age two were selected to assess impacts on child nutrition outcomes such as stunting, as well as maternal, child, and family dietary diversity.
- **6025 individuals:** Although ANGeL trains over 6,000 husbands and wives, IFPRI's research suggests that community spillover effects are likely.
- **100 agriculture extension agents and 25 community nutrition workers:** ANGeL draws upon the government's nationwide agricultural extension workforce. Incorporating female community nutrition workers will help demonstrate whether the trainer's gender makes a difference in changing behaviors.

- **16 Upazilas under 16 Districts across rural Bangladesh:** To make sure ANGeL's findings are nationally representative, ANGeL covers a wide variety of settings, and were purposively selected for good market connectivity and agro-ecological suitability.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Increase farm household income
- Stimulate agricultural production diversity
- Promote dietary diversity of pre-school children, child-bearing-age women, and all household members
- Improve infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices
- Promote intakes of calorie, protein, iron, zinc, and vitamin A
- Improve nutrition of pre-school children and child-bearing-age women
- Advance women's empowerment and gender parity between adult male and female

POLICY RELEVANCE

ANGeL addresses two important aspects of the National Agricultural Policy 2013:

1. Encouraging crop diversification and production of crops with greater nutrition value for meeting the nutrition demand of the population
2. Empowering women, encouraging their participation in production and marketing for income generation, and ensuring their nutritional status for improving food and nutrition security,

NOW WHAT?

What are the next steps? If this is a project that is over, write about what is being done to sustain the impact and the learning. Has implementing this activity, and what was learned from it including from mistakes, resulted in any changes to how things are currently being done, the next project that is being pursued? What are you / is your organization planning to do as a result of this activity, research or approach? What are your recommendations to others considering similar actions?

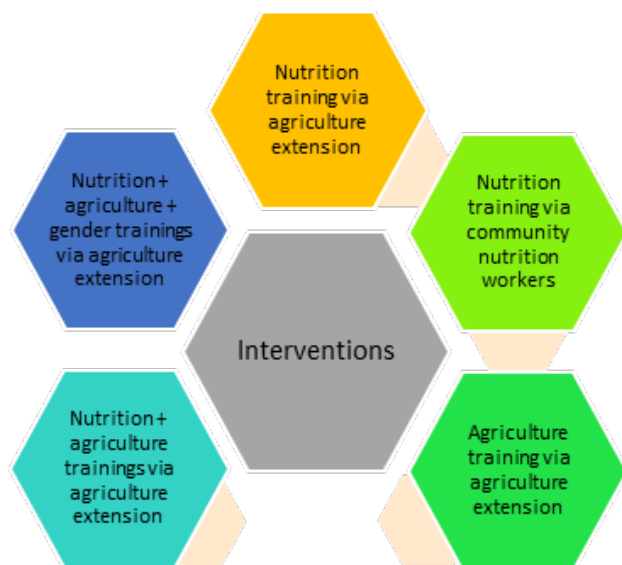
ANGEL TIMELINE:

- **June 2014:** Present concept to Ministry of Agriculture
- **October 29, 2015:** Launch ANGeL Project
- **November 2015:** Conduct baseline survey
- **April – May 2016:** Training of trainers for 125 facilitators
- **August 2016:** Launch field-level trainings
- **April-June 2017:** Conduct midline process evaluation
- **December 2017:** Conduct endline survey

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Ministry of Agriculture will use ANGeL data to (1) identify which interventions most effectively increase agricultural diversity, improve nutrition, and promote women's empowerment; and (2) scale up the most effective interventions all over Bangladesh. **ANGeL is the first ministry-led initiative in Bangladesh to use evidence from a randomized controlled trial to design a national program.**

Figure 1 ANGeL Interventions



CONTACT US

Learn more about ANGeL and IFPRI’s other programs in Bangladesh:

+88 (029898686) | IFPRI-Bangladesh@cgiar.org | <http://bangladesh.ifpri.info> | IFPRI-Bangladesh

