

Overview of the Department of Agricultural Extension and the IFMC Project

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Introducing the Department of Agricultural Extension, DAE

DAE Mission Statement

- To provide need based and effective extension services to all categories of farmers as they can contribute in sustainable agriculture and socio-economic development by maximum utilization of their resources.

History of DAE

- The Agriculture Department was established in 1870.
- Started functioning as an independent agriculture department in 1906.
- The department had a farm of 1000 acres in Monipur, Dhaka in that time.
- District agriculture officers were first appointed in 1914.
- Agriculture graduates were first recruited for agriculture extension service in 1943.
- DAE was created in 1982.

Role of DAE

- DAE is the largest government department under the Ministry of Agriculture for providing agricultural extension services among the farmers in Bangladesh.
- The main mandate of DAE is to transfer agricultural technologies.
- DAE is now (2017) implementing 23 projects including the Introducing the Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC)

Key Functions of DAE

- Ensure improved agricultural advisory services to the farmers.
- Increase agricultural production and ensure food security.
- Introduce environmentally friendly agriculture and safe food production.
- Promote manure production and soil health management.
- Produce seeds and facilitate storage facilities for seeds at farm level.
- Ensure agricultural input supply and quality assurance.
- Encourage crop production by using efficient use of irrigation water.
- Promote farm mechanization.
- Extend climate smart agricultural technologies to the farmers.
- Export and import agricultural commodities.

- Implement subsidy, incentives and rehabilitation programmes.
- Assist farmers in obtaining agricultural loans from financial institutions.

Strength of DAE

- 26,042 employees (22,000 of which are under the Field Service Wing)
- 16 Agriculture Training Institutes
- 75 Horticulture centers
- 32 Quarantine stations

Wings of DAE

- Administration and Finance
- Field Service
- Horticulture
- Training
- Crops
- Plant quarantine
- Plant protection
- Planning, Project Implementation and ICT

Units under the field service wing

- 14 regions headed by 14 additional directors
- 64 districts headed by 64 deputy directors
- 486 upazila headed by 486 upazila agriculture officers
- 15 metropolitan office headed by metropolitan agriculture officers
- 14032 blocks operated by 14032 sub assistant agriculture officers

Hierarchy of DAE personnel



Major Achievements

- Food production increased more than 3 times compare to 1970-71, wher as agricultural land decreased by 30%.
- At present, Bangladesh ranks 4th in rice production in the world. It ranks 3rd in vegetable production and 7th in mango production.
- DAE has been disseminating agricultural technologies and providing advisory services on more than 200 crops.
- DAE has developed 41 agricultural apps for digital agriculture.

Introducing the Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC) Project

Project Title	Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC), Agriculture Growth and Employment Program (AGEP)
Implementing Agency :	Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture
Donor:	Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB)
Project Period:	July 2013 to June 2018
Total approved cost of the project (Lakh Taka):	DANIDA = BDT 324,00.00 (DKK 225 M) 75% GOB = BDT 108,00.00 (DKK 75 M) 25% Total = BDT 432,00.00 (DKK 300 M)

Background

After the successful completion of the Agricultural Extension Component (AEC), Regional Fisheries and Livestock Development Component (RFLDC), Noakhali and Barisal under ASPs-II, the governments of Bangladesh and Denmark agreed to continue the work under a new program. This is called the 'Agriculture Growth and Employment Program (AGEP)' and was designed in alignment with the Vision 2021, which aims at transforming the Bangladeshi socio-economic environment from a low income economy to the first stages of a middle income economy.

The AGEP consists of three components:

- (1) Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC),
- (2) Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and
- (3) Agro Business Development Component (ABDC).

The IFMC will be implemented by the DAE, while AFSP will be implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MOCHTA). ABDC will be implemented by Katalyst and funded through a joint donor basket fund.

IFMC Objectives

Development Objective

- Pro-poor, inclusive and sustainable growth and employment creation.

Immediate Objective

- Increased agricultural production among female and male members of landless, marginal and small farming households

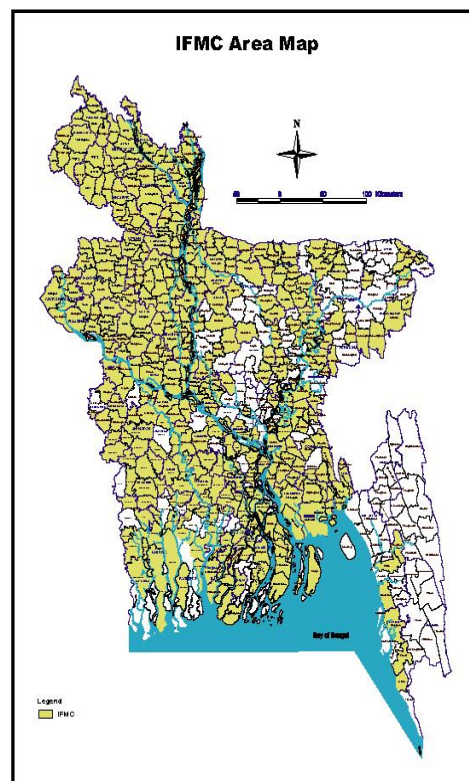
Specific Objectives

- Female and male farmers have been empowered and increased number of total farm activities and diversification adopting Integrated Farm Management (IFM) technologies and management practices
- Female and male farmers have been empowered and linked to service providers, market actors and micro-finance organizations to increase farm profitability, through the formation of Farmer Organization (FO)
- National dialogue on farmer-centered extension approaches has been strengthened

Project Locations:

- 373 Upazila under 61 district except 3 hill district. Selection criteria: (1) poverty prone and (2) susceptibility to the effects of climate change and natural calamities.

Division	Dist (Nos.)	Upazila (Nos.)
Dhaka	12	65
Rajshahi	8	66
Rangpur	8	57
Barisal	11	66
Khulna	10	51
Chittagong	8	52
Sylhet	4	16
All	61	373



Manpower

Project Offices	Manpower (GoB)	Manpower (Danida)	Total
HQ, Dhaka	11	24	35
Regional Offices (6) in Barisal, Comilla, Jessore, Mymensingh, Rajshahi & Rangpur	18	66	84
District Office (20)	-	60	20
Total	29	150	179

Key Activities

- Implementation of IFM 20,000 Farmer Field Schools, FFS
- Capacity development of Farmers Facilitators (FF) on IFM FFS
- Capacity development of DAE Staff on IFM FFS
- Orientation, Workshop & Meeting
- Farmer's Organization (1062)
- Capacity development of DAE staff on development of Farmer Organization (FO)
- Capacity development of FO leaders and Focal persons on market linkage and business development
- Support to FOs
- Create National Platform
- Organize meetings, seminars and joint field visits

Training Modules of IFM-FFS

- Crops: Rice
- Homstead gardening: Vegetables and fruits, farm yard manure production
- Poultry
- Livestock: Small and large ruminant
- Fisheries: Pond cultured fishes
- Food and nutrition: Classification and function, nutrition for different age group, girls and adolescents, pregnant, cooking, etc,
- Climate change
- Social issues

Gender Inequality Is Bad for All

- Inequities in access to and control of assets have severe consequences for women's ability to provide food, care, and health and sanitation services to themselves, their husbands, and their children, especially their female children. Women with less influence or power within the household and community will be unable to guarantee fair food distribution within the household.

- Women’s contribution to food production, food preparation, and child care are critical underpinnings for the social and economic development of communities, yet efforts in this direction are hampered by malnutrition.
- Furthermore, malnutrition in women contributes significantly to growing rates of maternal deaths and is directly related to faltering nutritional status and growth retardation in children. Maternal malnutrition has been linked to low birth weight, which in turn results in high infant morbidity and mortality rates, adding to health care costs and undermining the human resource potential for an economy. It is also now clear that fetal malnutrition harms health status in later life.
- Better-nourished girls are more likely to stay in school and to learn more. Targeting to improve the nutrition status of girls and adolescents will help to ensure that women’s status improves throughout the life cycle.

Gender and Nutrition

- IFMC is very much concern about gender sensitization and nutrition for women. The project ensures equal participation of both male and females in every activity implementation. Female and male farmers have been empowered and increased number of total farm activities and diversification adopting Integrated Farm Management (IFM) technologies and management practices.
- Among the project staff there are 25 women (out of 179 total).
- The project has developed 493 female Farmer Facilitators (FF) out of 2079 FF for running FFSs. (%)
- Project developed 879 male and 890 female Business Focal persons (BFP) for operating business activities of Farmer organizations.
- Ensures at least one female in executive committee (President/ secretary/ cashier). Already IFMC built up capacity of 545 male and 347 female FO-leaders to strengthen farmer organizations.
- Each FFS included a module on social issues such as gender equality which is compulsory for all participants in combined sessions which is spread over full FFS intervention period.
- 50% female farmers are also included in motivational tour.
- Food and nutrition topics are focused in a separate module. It is elaborately discussed in FFS with both the male and female farmers by hands on practice.
- Each FFS has a module on homestead gardening to produce safe fruits and vegetables by the farmers.

Expected Outcomes/Impact on Gender and Nutrition

- Minimum 50% female control over income from homestead vegetables, fruits and poultry production.
- Minimum 20% higher intake of animal protein by under 5 children (in trained households).

