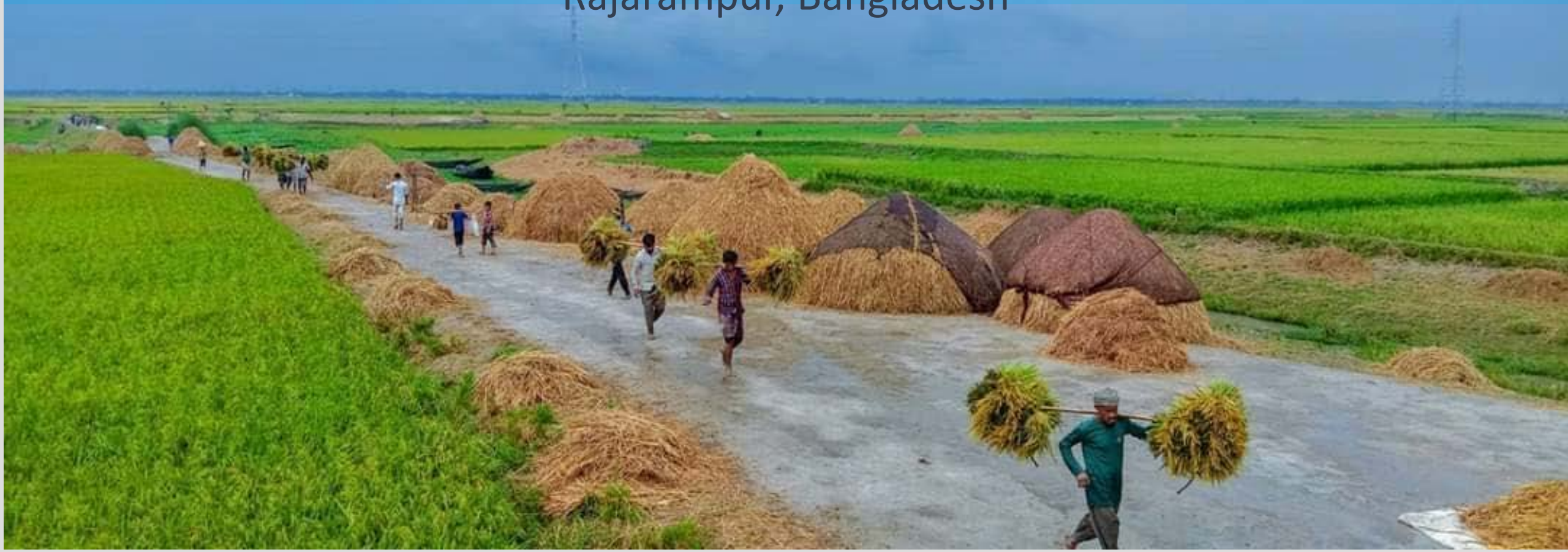




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



DIGITAL VILLAGE: Rajarampur, Bangladesh



OVERVIEW



Project Name: Increasing Access to Finance for Farmers' Organizations in Bangladesh (MMI-Bangladesh A2F+)

Implemented by: FAO

Government counterpart: Ministry of Agriculture (lead)
Agencies: BADC, DAE, DLS, DoF, BB

Financed by: GAFSP-Missing Middle Initiative (MMI)

Project location: North and south Bangladesh (IAPP area)

Outcome: Sustainable farmer organizations are providing smallholder farmer members with access to value chains, markets, technical knowledge, information and finance

Beneficiaries: 55 farmers organizations (Gov registered)

Duration: Three years (starting from April 2018)



55 POs
1 apex



15 value chains
crop, fisheries,
livestock and agro-
forestry



Virtual Call Centres (VCCs)
55 primary, 2 regional



8 200
64% women



Farmers' Accountant Network (FAN)
110 FBF

Business Solutions:

Rural Invest



16 districts
32 upazilas
55 villages



Innovative finance:
500 K USD (NCBs)
800 K USD (FAO-MMI)

Project M&E powered by:



Collect Mobile



Google
Data Studio

VILLAGE INFO



1 751 HH (Farm HH: 65%. Non-farm: 35%)

95% crop farmers

90% have livestock

10% fishers

1 Producer organization (**Dhontola**)

1 Agril. info & comm centre (AICC)

1 Virtual call centre (VCC)

1 Agril. machineries rental centre

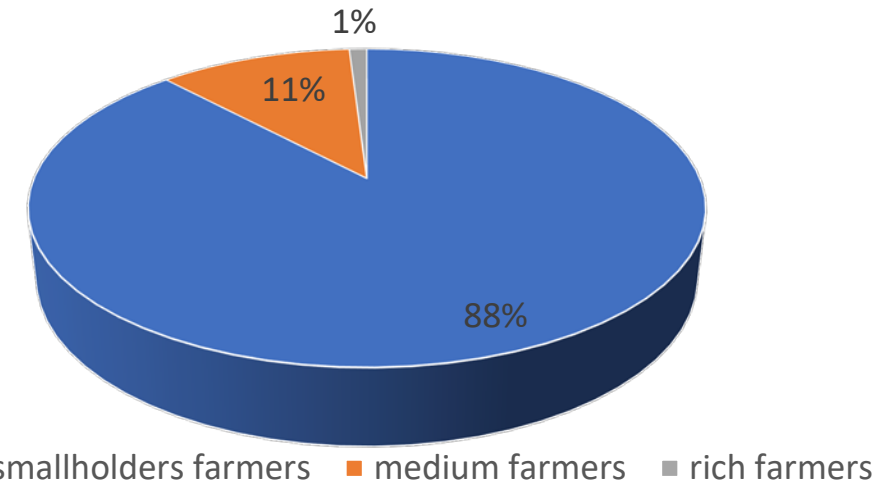
2 Tractors **3** Power Tillers

2 Paddy Threshers **2** choppers

1 Combine harvester

1 Reaper

0.5 km buried pipe irrigation



Cropping pattern	% agril land cover	
Boro-Fallow-Aman	55%	
Potato-Aus-Aman	20%	} MMI investment
Potato-Maize-Aman	20%	
Others (fruits & veg)	5%	



INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATIONS FOR SMALLHOLDERS

Soft skills: Strengthen capacity of FOs to provide services to their members; inclusive leadership, financial literacy, community auditing

Common facility centre: input shop, drying floor, seed storage, AI/vaccination service, bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides

Appropriate scale mechanization: Machinery rental services reduce production costs and post harvest losses

Seed village: community-based seed production

Digital agriculture: virtual call centre, mobile apps, mobile financial services (bKash, NAGAD), social media (fb, WhatsApp groups), RuralInvest toolkit, Digital Green, Agricultural Information Window, linkage with info service providers, etc.

Digital ecosystem of Rajarampur village



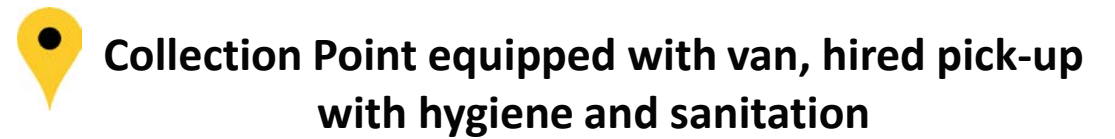
Digital Agriculture



Improved access to services



Improved supply chain



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE OF DHONTOLA AGRI COOP

Smallholder farmers face a huge challenge adapting and responding to COVID-19:

- Income loss and price uncertainty due to supply chain disruption
- Risk of infection due to lack of awareness and protective equipment
- Disruptions in production and processing due to labour shortages as a result of the lockdown
- Irregular supply of inputs
- Limited cash reserves and limited access to finance
- Poultry industry was hurt by misleading rumours that poultry carried COVID-19




**Virtual Call Centres (VCCs)
in response to COVID-19**

MMI Bangladesh A2F+


- Pages
- Home page
- COVID-19 MMI Response page-1**
- COVID-19 Response page-2
- Progress page-1
- Progress page-2
- Performance of FOs
- RLF Strategy, Rurallinvest, GAAP
- Baseline
- HH income, hh size, loan need

Progress: Sale of produce and input supply through VCCs




664.1 M. Ton

Crop




145.9 M. Ton

Vegetable




258372 Liter Milk
119764 Piece Eggs
23463 Piece Poultry

Livestock



26.5 M. Ton

Fisheries



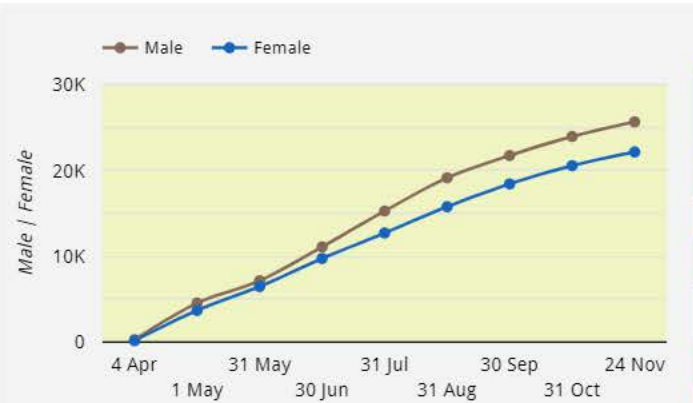
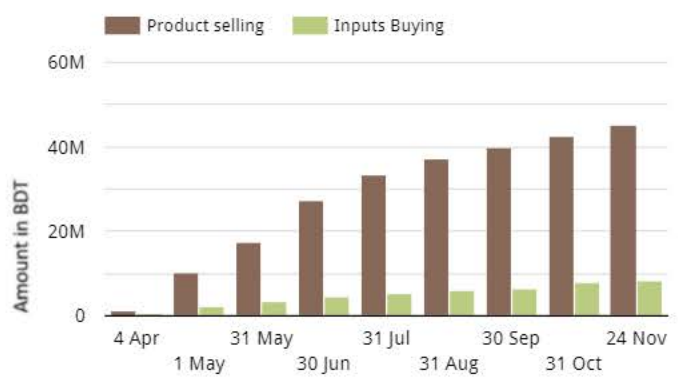
197.5 M. Ton

Inputs

38,309 Calls received for product selling

19,772 Calls received for inputs buying

14,789 Calls received for technical advisory



Commodity	Unit of Sales	When Sold Individually (BDT)	When Sold through VCC (BDT)
Banana	Bunch	175	180.67
Chili	Kg	42	45.92
Mung bean	Kg	60	63.87
Paddy	Kg	20	21.59
Potato	Kg	16	17.63
Watermelon	Piece	70	74.63

Cumulative sale of produces and procurement of inputs

Cumulative number of members benefited from VCC

Price variation: individual versus VCC sales

Challenges

• Many rural community members and smallholder farmers

Support Needed

(As expressed by farmers)

Ensure food security through financial support or in-kind incentives to the most

Data managed by .collect

Show all

drive-download-20....zip
Canceled



and many miles to go.....

Institutional innovations

- **Strong, inclusive institutions**
- **Uniform extension guideline on building strong POs**
- **PO-led holistic financing**

Digital innovations

- **E-extension strategy (universal farmer registers, farmers' smart card, digital FFS, farmers' input voucher management system, e-clustering)**
- **E-credit, e-arat (e-wholesale market), e-mech (hello tractor!), etc.**



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Thank you.

