



USAID Agricultural Extension Support Activity (AESAs)

Effectiveness of the training to the beneficiaries by adopting technologies provided by the USAID-AESA project and their economic benefits

**Dhaka Ahsania Mission
CARE-Bangladesh and mPower**

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Executive Summary

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been implementing the USAID Agricultural Extension Support (USAID-AESA) project in partnership with CARE Bangladesh and mPower. To materialize this aim, in addition to other approaches, the project created 3,878 village-level producer groups (FPGs) around production and marketing of six prioritized value chains – jute, chili, mungbean, beef, dairy and fish. These groups have been working together to demand and receive extension services and training, as well as collectively purchasing inputs at lower prices and aggregating supply to negotiate better prices for their products. Training and capacity building focuses on empowering producers to request information, skills and technologies that they can then use to improve production and marketing of their farm products. Accordingly, FPG members were trained on key technology aspects related to the six value chains. This report assesses the effectiveness of such training with respect to adoption by FPG farmers and impact to farm productivity.

Data were collected from 4 upazilas (Faridpur Sadar, Keshobpur, Goalondo and Rajbari Sadar) for evaluating jute value chain, 4 upazilas (Bhola Sadar, Char Fason, Chowgacha and Magura Sadar) for chili value chain, 3 upazilas (Amtoli, Barisal Sadar and Patuakhali Sadar) for mungbean value chain, 4 upazilas (Keshobpur, Magura Sadar, Mohommodpur and Kalia) for beef value chain, 5 upazilas (Char Bhadrason, Faridpur Sadar, Jessore Sadar, Rupsa and Teroghada) for dairy value chain, and 4 upazilas (Rupsha, Terokhada, Pirojpur Sadar and Kaliganj) for fish value chain. For each value chain, 66 farmers were randomly selected from FPG groups, on a 50:50 gender basis. Altogether, this study accounted for opinions of 396 farmers (197 male and 199 females). Data were gathered using semi-structured questionnaires, for each of the value chains, which included status of adoption of key technologies taught in the training and yield status for the enterprise during pre-training and post-training period. Data were analyzed separately for each value chain. In the analysis, adoption of technologies and yield were compared between pre-training and post-training periods. This comparison was expressed as means and corresponding confidence intervals at 95% probability level. The relative effect of yield in the post-training was further analyzed in relation to the level of corresponding yields in the pre-training period. The relative effect of yield in the post-training between male and female farmers was also presented.

Finding shows that training provided by the USAID-AESA project to the farmers in six prioritized value chains had been effective in terms of adoption of the trained technologies. Some differences were found between training material and farmers

practice in the dose of fertilizer application (muriate of potash in Jute and triple superphosphate) – these need to be further investigated. Farmers did not adopt all the attributes deemed appropriate to choosing beef cattle and dairy cows - these need to be further investigated.

Yield benefits from all the six value chains in the post-training period were significant - USAID-AESA project may claim a large part of this for the services, including the training, they had been providing the farmers in the study area. This study pointed out that the “low performing farmers” in the pre-training period, across all the six value chains, obtained higher relative yield benefits compared to the “high performing farmers”. Traditionally, the “low performing farmers” are the smallholder farmers; thus the project has been successful in properly addressing its targeted beneficiaries. With respect to gender, male farmers tend to have benefitted (in term of resulted relative yield in six value chains) more than their female counterpart; however, the difference of such benefits were statistically insignificant. Therefore, USAID-AESA project may further claim that it succeeded in providing services to women beneficiaries.