



# USAID Agricultural Extension Support Activity

## Report on Training Need Assessment of Private Agricultural Extension Agents 2016



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary objective of the project is to increase the farmers' access to improved extension services leading to increased household incomes, nutritional status and food security for 110,000 participating farmers who were mobilized into 3,854 Farmers' Producer Groups (FPG) under 6 value chains including Jute, Chili, Mungbean, Dairy, Beef Fattening and Fish.

The farmers have limited access to quality agricultural inputs and services, also public extension services are not sufficient to meet the needs of the farmers. The project has found that alongside of public service, the private extension service providers are playing a vital role to serve the farmers day-to-day solutions. Considering these facts, the project hired a consultant for identifying needs, capacity building areas and strategies, through conducting TNA for private extension agents e.g. input retailer, and LSPs-LHW, AI, Spray, Tillage, Irrigation, AICC, *Patilwala*, Nurserer.

The SSIs have been conducted by the enumerators for data collection from private extension agents covering 10 upazila from 9 districts. Through random sampling, a total number of 416 private extension agents have been interviewed and data were collected from them which has been analyzed and finalized with the assessments of the training needs.

In spite of not having required knowledge, sprayers provided relevant advisory services to the farmers. Findings revealed that all the interviewed sprayers need training on "identification of disease and right pesticides/insecticides" and "environmental impact of the spray". Also, 23 respondents had knowledge gap and required to receive training on "harvesting technology" followed by 21 on "germination techniques", 09 on "seeds ratio", 09 on "pesticide application", 06 on "disease and pest diagnosis" and 02 on "fertilizers dose".

The Tillage Service Providers (TiSP) provided advisory suggestions to the farmers while, due to the lack of knowledge, 76.06 percent TiSPs needed training on "fertilizers dose", followed by 70.42 percent on "seeds rate", 39.44 percent on "germination technique", and 38.03 percent on "disease and pest diagnosis", 32.39 percent on pesticide application and 12.68 percent on "harvesting technology". Also, 94.37 percent (67 out of 71) TiSPs needed training on the cultivation method of Mungbean followed by chili 91.55 percent and jute 87.32 percent.

The Irrigation Service Providers-ISPs (82 percent) required training on "harvesting technology", followed by 63 percent on "germination techniques", 40 percent on "seeds ratio", and 32 percent on "disease and pest diagnosis", 21 percent on both "pesticide application" and on "irrigation frequency at different stages of crops". In order to provide advisory suggestions, training on cultivation method of jute, chili and Mungbean is very much needed because 98.25 percent (56 out of 57) ISPs didn't know about the cultivation method of chili followed by Mungbean 92.98 percent and jute 91.23 percent.

Nurserers (94.12 percent) required training on "appropriate feed requirement" and "major disease and management". For oxygen deficiency measurement, 88.24 percent nurserers need training followed by 82.35 percent on "fertilizers and lime dose", "nursery management", "quality of fingerlings" and "management of toxic gas", 70.59 percent on "feed preparation", 64.71 percent on "stocking density".

All the (100 percent) *Patilwala* required training on "oxygen deficiency measurement and management" followed by 90 percent required training on "disease and remedies", "fingerling stocking rate and species combination", "fingerling treatment". For "toxic gas management", "appropriate feed requirement and feed preparation" and "quality fingerlings identifications" 80

percent needs training followed by 50 percent on “fingerlings transportation”, and on “fertilizer & lime dose for pond preparation”.

Livestock Health Workers-LHWs (100 percent) needs training on “artificial insemination” followed by 86.67 percent on “feed management”, 82.22 percent on “vaccination”, 71.11 percent on “breed selection”, 57.78 percent on “de-worming”, 46.67 percent on “rules and regulation in using animal drugs”, 40.00 percent on “primary treatment and disease management”, 20.00 percent on “livestock rearing”, and 2.22 percent on “medicine”.

Artificial Insemination Service Providers-AISPs (72.73 percent) needs training for “vaccination”, “primary treatment and disease management”, and also “feed management”, 63.64 percent on “breed selection”, 54.55 percent on “medicine”, 27.27 percent on “livestock rearing”, 18.18 percent on “artificial insemination”, and 9.09 percent on de-worming.

Retailers (97.70 percent) need training on cultivation method of jute and chili, 95.98 percent needs training on livestock rearing and finally, 95.40 percent needs training on cultivation method on Mungbean and on fish/shrimp/prawn farming.

In order to ensure quality service provision and overcome the service provision constraints, the agriculture service providers require support as strengthening their linkages with the relevant nearby wholesalers and retailers to get the quality machine, tools and equipment, fuel and lubricant suppliers. And also to organize training on repair and maintenance of their machines by the dealers, company or workshops and assist them for storage of fuel and lubricants to use during the peak season. For fish fingerlings, the service providers can establish purchasing relationships with the established fish hatcheries, available government fish hatcheries. Also, they can place advance orders to the hatcheries after collecting the quantity from the farmers to ensure the quality of fingerlings. Also, considering the collective and bulk transportation, the quality transportation can be cost effective.

The livestock service providers can strengthen working relationship with the local level government livestock service agents and they will get more technical updated information and support services for quality seeds and equipment for artificial insemination and disease treatment. The strong demand and supply relation can be facilitated as per farmers’ requirements, so that the retailers will take advance initiative to collect technology, information and quality inputs for the farmers. Also, they can be trained on latest technology to provide solutions at the farmers’ door step. With regard to the critical cases, they can facilitate for referrals to the desired service agents.

The capacity building strategy considered to organize ToT to the lead private extension agents followed by cascade training. The lead agents also implement demonstration and extension of learned activity out of the training. Also, strengthening the networking and linkages can facilitate the sustainable capacity building process, where the information technology and intensive monitoring and follow-up, supplements the whole process.