



S E A M E O  
**SEARCA**



# “FLORESCENCE”

Capturing Initial Outcomes of the

## SUPPORTING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN ASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION THROUGH STRENGTHENED AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

2016 - 2019



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# Message from the Director

## List of ACRONYMS

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| AAS         | Agricultural Advisory Services  |
| ACIAR       | Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research                                 |
| AESA        | Agricultural Extension in South Asia  |
| AEW         | Agricultural Extension Worker   |
| AFEN        | Agriculture and Fisheries Network   |
| APIRAS      | Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network                                      |
| APR         | Asia-Pacific Region   |
| ASEAN       | Association of Southeast Asian Nations  |
| ATI         | Agricultural Training Institute   |
| ATI-RTC-CAR | Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center-Cordillera Administrative Region |
| AWGATE      | ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Agriculture Training and Extension                        |
| BAEN        | Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network   |
| BASA        | Bangladesh Association of Social Advancement  |
| BARC        | Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council  |
| BPN         | Best Practice Note  |
| CAR         | Cordillera Administrative Region  |
| CDMD        | Career Development and Management Division  |
| CF          | Country Forum   |
| CHARMP2     | Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project                       |
| CNA         | Capacity Needs Assessment   |
| CSFBS       | Climate-Smart Farmer Business School  |
| DA          | Department of Agriculture   |
| DAE         | Department of Agricultural Extension  |
| DLF         | Department of Livestock Services  |
| DOF         | Department of Fisheries (Bangladesh)  |
| EU          | European Union  |
| FAAS        |   |
| FAPP        | Fiji Agricultural Partnerships Project  |
| FAO         | Food and Agriculture Organization   |
| FBS         | Farmer Business School  |
| GFRAS       | Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services  |
| ICT         | Information and Communication Technology  |
| IFAD        | International Fund for Agricultural Development   |
| KM          | Knowledge Management  |
| LGU         | Local Government Unit   |
| MA/MAO/CA   | Municipal Agriculturists/Municipal Agriculture Officers/City Agriculturists               |
| MEALS       | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Systems   |
| MOA         | Memorandum of Agreement   |
| NATP        | National Agricultural Technology Program  |
| NFP         | National Focal Points   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| NGO        | Non-Government Organizations  |
| NSC        | National Steering Committees  |
| PACE       | Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises  |
| PhilEASNet | Philippine Extension and Advisory Services Network  |
| PKSF       | Palli Karma Shayak Foundation (an Apex body of Bangladesh NGOs)   |
| PICT       | Pacific Island Countries and Territories  |
| PIRAS      | Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services   |
| PMO        | Project Management Office   |
| PO         | Partner Organization in Bangladesh; Peoples Organization in Philippines   |
| PRA        | Participatory Rural Appraisal   |
| PS4L       | Pacific Seed for Life Programme   |
| RMP        | Rural Millionaire Programme (Fiji)  |
| RTC        | Rural Training Centre (Fiji)  |
| SAAS       | Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific Islands Region Through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services |
| SDI        | Social Development Initiatives  |
| SEA4RAS    | Southeast Asian Network for Rural Advisory Services   |
| SEARCA     | Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture  |
| SPC        | Secretariat of the Pacific Community  |
| USP        | University of the South Pacific   |
| YPARD      | Young Professionals for Agricultural Development  |
| 3YWFP      | Three-Year Work and Financial Plan  |

## Background

The “Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific Islands Region through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services” or SAAS is a three (3)-year project implemented by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) with financial support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The goal of the project was to empower poor smallholder farmers in Asia-Pacific Region (APR) through access to improved, more effective, and demand-driven agricultural advisory services (AAS). The grant sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Strengthen individual and organizational capacities of agricultural advisory service stakeholders in target countries and at regional and sub-regional level, which will directly benefit poor farmers, indigenous communities, and producers’ organizations; and,
2. Facilitate the availability and accessibility of appropriate and up-to-date knowledge and evidence on innovative advisory services from a range of sources in the APR region (through country fora and through APIRAS) and worldwide (through GFRAS).

The direct target stakeholders included stakeholders working in and with AAS in Bangladesh, Fiji, and Philippines:

1. Regional and sub-regional AAS service providers from all public, private, and civil society sectors;
2. Farmer/producers’ organizations as providers and clientele of AAS;
3. Public/private/civil society extension and AAS organizations in the project countries;
4. Higher education institutions providing education and research in AAS: They shall benefit from the knowledge management; and,
5. Local and national government units and policy makers.

As a context, the project sought to respond to the demands of that time in its three country priorities:

In Bangladesh, the meeting to launch the Bangladesh Extension Network (BEN) was organized by the Second Crop Diversification Project (SCDP) of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) on 1 September 2014. This meeting was attended by 76 extension professionals representing different sectors, agricultural universities, research centers, private sector and NGOs and the meeting constituted an ad hoc executive committee to take forward the activities of BEN . During the second meeting (24 September 2014), the BEN has identified two sub-committees, one to work on a draft constitution and the other to develop a webpage. Due to lack of financial support, BEN hasn’t been able to organize a full-fledged meeting of the network to initiate capacity need assessment activities. BEN also need more professional support and advice to strengthen its activities such as knowledge management, network development, leadership, need assessment and capacity development, fund raising etc.

In Fiji, several past IFAD initiatives, namely, a regional grant on Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations program (MORDI) and a national grant to the Partnership in High Value Agriculture project (PHVA) identified successful lessons which this project can build on. MORDI worked with 32 communities (comprising 619 households and a target population of 3,447) and empowered a number of communities through Community Development Plans (CDPs); linking communities with policy and planning processes at all levels; and mobilizing partnership support for the implementation of CDP

activities. The PHVA initiative was designed to build on the successes of MORDI and pave the way for an eventual lending programme in the country by piloting a small number of interventions to explore new approaches around community development and the commercialization of high-value fruits and vegetables. PHVA is being implemented by the Fijian NGO Partners for Community Development Foundation (PCDF) with two activity areas are: Production and Marketing of High Value Crops (Identification and formation of farmer groups, Training of farmers, Community facilitation and Establishment of a commercial seedling nursery); and Market Linkages and Facilitation (Market research, Value chain assessments, Market linkage activities and Pilot credit scheme).

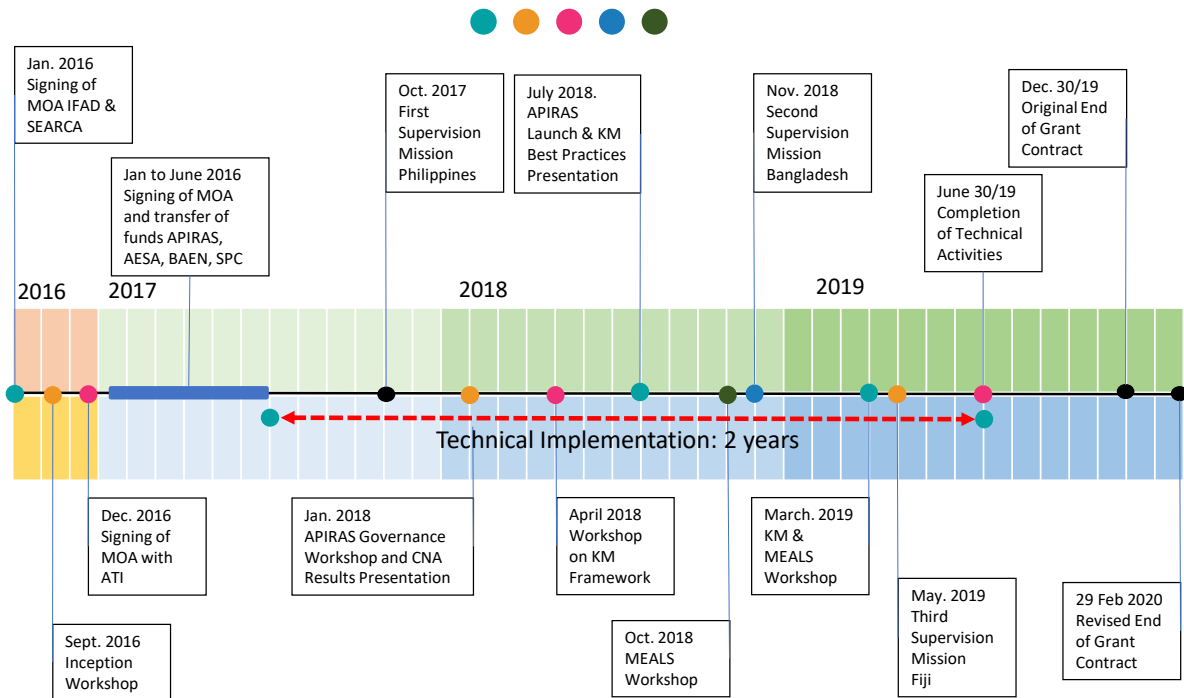
Since PHVA inception in March 2013, efforts have been made to link farmers effectively to markets and to market operators. Community facilitation activities have included the establishment of social/organization profiles, resource/group potential assessment, promotion of community awareness and understanding the project's goal, the activities, roles and responsibilities of participants in the project, the identification of interested and active farmers, and the formation and strengthening of farmer groups. Over 100 farmers have been profiled into a database and seven groups of about ten farmers have been formed and registered. Average land area per farmer is around two acres and they plant a wide range of vegetables including tomatoes, capsicums, lettuce and celery. About 100 farmers attended training on Vegetable Production Techniques and a further 96 farmers on Farm Business Management. The current project will build on and as well as scaling up of these successful IFAD-financed operations in Fiji in an innovative approach. With these significant undertakings, there was a need to consolidate the extension efforts for a more programmatic engagement of all stakeholders in the country.

In the Philippines, there were two projects nearing completion where a post scenario situation shall be taken care of by this project in preparation to their sustainability after the IFAD project funding ends. It shall draw lessons and capacitate extension service providers and implementers at all levels (individual, institutional, and policy environment) in having IFAD project gains institutionalized in the extension system in the local government units (LGUs) wherein extension and rural advisory services had been devolved under Republic Act 7061.

The Agricultural Training Institute of the Department of Agriculture (ATI-DA) which has been a partner of IFAD project titled "Rapid Food Production Enhancement Program" through its former Director, Dr. Asterio P. Saliot expressed interest to collaborate with SEARCA in its activities under this grant. The Philippine Extension and Advisory Services Network (PhilEastNet, formerly Philippine Extension Network), a professional organization of extension professionals also indicated willingness to collaborate in the professionalization of extension under this project.



## IFAD – SAAS TIMELINE



*Note: End of Grant moved to 29 February 2020 to allow for completion and submission of Final Audit Reports*

SAAS project life was officially three (3) years. Year 1 started on 6 June 2016 after the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between IFAD and SEARCA. Closing date for the technical implementation of the SAAS project was on June 30, 2019. Grant completion date was originally scheduled on December 31, 2019 but was moved to February 29 to allow time for submission of final audit reports. The two years of technical implementation and heavy-populated work plan and budget compelled the Country Fora to focus on delivering the outputs prescribed in the project’s results framework. Reports were more on numbers and activity-specific.

The good thing however, was that midway to implementation, there was a realization among SAAS stakeholders that there was a need to systematically capture the transition from output to outcomes and eventually, to impact. There were discussions to implement a MEAL system. Unfortunately, crafting the MEALS took time and after receiving the consultant’s output, there was no more time to roll it out and actually implement the system. Still, good things do not remain hidden. Beyond black and white narratives and statistics, stories of interests started to emerge.

## SAAS Outputs: the Building Blocks for Sustainability

Three years of ploughing and planting in the extension field, SAAS retires with outputs meant to be the building blocks of empowerment of smallholder farmers in the Asia Pacific.

BAEN expressed the need for more professional support and advice to strengthen its activities such as knowledge management, network development, leadership, need assessment and capacity development, and fund raising to be able to empower the country's smallholder farmers. SAAS provided all these. BAEN already conducted its own Capacity Needs Assessment (CAN) and consequently developed its very own Capacity Development for Extension and Advisory Services in Bangladesh report detailing options for development. The capacity development plan defined training needs that directly responded to the demands of farmers. Through SAAS, BAEN developed its Agricultural Knowledge Management Strategy and its Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning System (MEALS). It was also through SAAS that BAEN developed its Strategic Plan. For BAEN, these key outputs set the stage for a more meaningful engagement with the smallholder farmers in the country.

For Fiji, there was a need for an integrating platform – a mechanism that will consolidate and sustain IFAD and other stakeholders' efforts in strengthening extension work in the country. PIRAS found this platform in the organization of the Fiji Agricultural Advisory Services Network (FAAS). FAAS is now the country's Country Forum which aggregates all extension stakeholders, including extension-related actions and services. While FAAS accomplished other deliverables under the SAAS project, it was the creation of the forum itself that made the difference in Fiji. It provided the venue for extension workers to come together to grow and build and support the smallholder farmers in Fiji.

For the Philippines, the challenge was to build on and mainstream the gains of other extension projects in the country, including those supported by IFAD. Doing so however required PhilEASNet to navigate through the pluralistic extension service provision and attempt not only to harvest knowledge but to build synergy as well with key stakeholders in the sector. PhilEASNet's banner module for its capacity-building intervention is the Climate Smart Farm to Business School. Under CHARMP, it was Farm to Business School. PhilEASNET, under SAAS, expanded the module's dimension to include climate change and climate smart agriculture.

The above major outputs are measures of what SAAS has delivered in terms of activities. They however do not tell the story of the values or impacts that SAAS desired for its ultimate targets: the smallholder farmers. The importance of the mentioned outputs lies on their capacity to provide the foundation for a more meaningful service to the farmers. This is what the document is all about. The challenge is that a very short project like SAAS with only two years of technical implementation, outcomes may be difficult to observe or even capture. With focus on executing activities and achieving deliverables, snippets of outcomes are easy to miss. Even key individuals tasked to report during the close-out meeting were not really conscious of putting outcomes in writing. Reports were heavy on recording of outputs. Oral narratives however unmistakably flowed to observations beyond inventory of outputs. Ripple effects of certain trainings were mentioned; synergies were observed; individual stories of people who gained new knowledge and experience dotted the otherwise highly technical narratives.

## Stirrings from the Field

Noting the subtle indications of outcomes – or even impacts, during the close out meeting, key stakeholders of the SAAS project decided to pursue additional undertaking to cap the SAAS Project. It was decided that documentation of outcomes or impacts will be done. It was time to try and connect the dots. SEARCA, in coordination with CFs from Bangladesh, Fiji and Philippines, engaged local consultants to do the outcome documentation.

### *Ripples in Bangladesh*

Kbd. S. M. Awlad Hossain is a Program Coordinator at the Social Development Initiative (SDI) in Dhamrai. Mr. Hossain received two trainings from BAEN, first on Gender and Nutrition Sensitive agriculture, and second on Market and Value chain Development in Agriculture. He acquired and utilised the knowledge and skills gained from BAEN trainings and is now providing similar trainings to six (6) groups of small farmer beneficiaries of SDI consisting 150 members. Because of Mr. Hossain, small farmers are now producing safe vegetables without using any agro-chemicals and are consuming their own produce for their family's nutrition. Farmers under Mr. Hossain's mentoring have adopted proper post-harvest practices like cooling, shorting, grading, packaging, handling, loading, unloading, and proper storing of their agro-products. As a result, their post-harvest loses are drastically reduced and they are earning more compared to when they were on their own.

Azmin Akter was a home maker from the Village of Basna from Dhaka District. Azmin felt powerless and could not make contribution to family decisions due to her lack of economic contribution. Azmin joined a village female organization consisting of 15 women members and participated in trainings and income generating activities implemented by SDI extension agents who were re-echoing their learnings from BAEN modules. Azmin is now involved in homestead gardening with vegetables and fruits from where she gets nutritious food for her family. She gets additional value from her vegetables and fruits by practicing proper post-harvest activities like sorting, grading, washing, transporting and handling. As a result she is able to reduce the post-harvest loses of her vegetables and fruits and is now earning by marketing her surplus produce. Azmin is earning her own money now and can contribute to family expenses. She is also active in managing family affair and can make decisions for their own welfare and well-being.

Then there is Shokhi Choron Sarker from the village of Gajeshshori in the District of Tangail. Shokhi Choron, is a honey bee farmer who received a training on "Value Chain & Market Development in Agriculture" with especial attention on Honey production and value chain development. The training was provided by extension workers of the Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA) who in turn received their trainings from BAEN. Shokhi Choron affirmed that after taking trainings and with minimal operational support from BASA, he learned to maximize the value of his honey by enhancing his production in terms of quality and quantity and by understanding the needs and requirements of his potential buyers. In addition to raw honey production, Shokhi Choron are getting bee waxes from beekeeping which is used for making cosmetics, candles, and furniture polish. For Shokhi Choron, beekeeping is a way to solve unemployment and for him personally, it was a way that increased his income and improved his and his family's living standards.

### *An Opportune Confluence in Fiji*

Establishing FAAS was just a target in the SAAS MOA between PIRAS and SEARCA. In light of the state of the art of extension work in Fiji however, establishment of FAAS provided an effective and coordinated platform for the agriculture advisory extension services (AAES) providers in Fiji. FAAS complimented the monopolistic extension services provided by government through the Ministry of Agriculture. The SAAS approach of conducting multi-stakeholder consultations re-awakened interests in AAES. Private AAES Providers, retired agricultural extension officers, professionals and farmers expressed interest to join FAAS and volunteered to deliver technical advisory support services to AAES providers and the farmers.

Understanding challenges and farmers demand in the country, the aggregation of AAES providers through FAAS paved the way for the conduct of relevant trainings like Taro Beetle Eradication, Mushroom Farming, Value Chain Analysis, and Agri-Food processing and quality control for the export market. These trainings happened because FAAS happened. In the broader context, the timing for the establishment of FAAS was spot on. AAES was prioritized by the Fiji Government as reflected in the Fiji Agriculture 2020 Policy Agenda that highlights the need to build modern agricultural development systems through Rural Transformation Centres (RTCs) for timely/demand driven and decentralized integrated service delivery. The Agenda calls for improving AAES delivery in the areas of education and training in agriculture, curriculum alignment, access to finance, agricultural information and technologies (animal, health production, land use, soil health, pests & disease, climate smart agriculture practices), agricultural facilities and infrastructure and strengthening linkages between research extension-farmers.

FAAS provided the avenue for AAES providers in the country to come together and engage the Fiji Government.

### ***Serving Farmers Together in the CAR, Philippines***

The SAAS Project under PhilEASNet tells a story of how a project navigated through pluralistic extension service provision and succeeded to work in harmony with another IFAD-supported project. SAAS in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) was implemented in the midst of a much bigger project called CHARMP2, another IFAD supported project meant to improve livelihood and increase farm family income of rural poor through sustainable agricultural development and improvements in land tenure security, food security and watershed conservation.

SAAS adopted two of the best practices of CHARMP 2 with modifications to suit the situation – the participatory approach in planning and the community livelihood assistance funding strategy – in the implementation of two interventions for the farmers. Guidance from CHARMP 2 staff members was sought particularly during the planning stage of the interventions. They served as resource persons and provided some tips based on their experience. SAAS did not have to reinvent the wheel. It simply enhanced what has already been working based on CHARMP 2 experience and made it its own. One example of this initiative is the Farm to Business School where SAAS enhanced it to include Climate Smart technologies – bringing forth a new module called Climate Smart Farm to Business School.

Here are the details of the stories.

The BAEN Story

The immediate outcomes of the Supporting Smallholder  
Farmers in Asia Pacific Islands Regions through  
Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS)  
Project

## **RIPPLES IN BANGLADESH**

(The BAEN Story)

Nipa Monalesa  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

December 2019

## Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the authority of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funded “Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific Islands Region through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS)” Project to select me as the CONSULTANT as Case Study Writer to document the interventions of the project and to trace the impact of the interventions at the field level and to record feedback from Policy Makers, Program Managers and other stakeholders.

SAAS (Bangladesh part) has done a tremendous initiative to capacity development of Extension & Advisory Service (EAS) providers and the farmer beneficiaries at the field. It was very challenging but rewarding experience for me to conduct this assignment.

A very particular thanks goes to Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali, National Focal Point of SAAS (Bangladesh part) project, Secretary General of BAEN & Pro-Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka for his overall technical support and guidance to conduct the assignment. I am thankful to Sk. Md. Nur-E-Alam and Md. Julfiker Moin, Office Secretary of the SAAS Project who gave necessary information and documents when necessary.

I am grateful to the Executive Members of the Society for Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) for their support on organizing field exposure event and coordination with the partner organizations throughout this assignment.

I extend my thanks to the Social Development Initiatives (SDI, an NGO located at Dhamrai, Dhaka) and Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA, an NGO located at Tangail) who are the important implementing partners of IFAD funded Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE) and SAAS projects in Bangladesh for providing their time and assistance throughout in completing this study. Without their support it would have been difficult for me to finish the data collection on due time. I also acknowledge the contribution of all the people involved in data collection from the field who participated in the interview and Focus Group Discussion and provided information.

I finally grateful to the authority of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for their efforts to complete this task. It would be highly appreciable if the findings of the study are duly considered and applied for the future steps.

Nipa Monalesa  
The Consultant

## Introduction

The aim of “Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific Islands Region through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS) Project was to empower poor smallholder farmers in Asia-Pacific Region through access to improved, more effective, and demand-driven Agriculture Advisory Services (AAS). The project was supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and managed by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

Under this grant, the Asia Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS) served as the regional platform and it along with the sub-regional platforms like Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA), and Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (PIRAS) who supported and mentored the country platforms of extension and advisory service (EAS) providers namely:

- (a) Philippine Extension and Advisory Services Network Inc. (PhilEASNet)
- (b) **Society for Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN)**
- (c) Fiji Agricultural Advisory Services (FAAS)

The objectives of the project were:

1. Strengthen the capacities of AAS stakeholders in Participating countries and at the regional and sub-regional levels which will directly benefit poor farmers, indigenous communities, and producers’ organizations and;
2. Facilitate access to up-to-date knowledge and evidence on innovative advisory services from a range of sources in the region through country forums (CFs) and the Asia Pacific Islands Network for Rural Advisory Services (APIRAS) and worldwide through Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).

The Main Activities of the project were:

1. Undertake establishment and capacity assessment of country fora as well as of sub-regional networks and APIRAS to strengthen governance of AAS institutions
2. Improve individual capacities of AAS to effectively serve smallholder farmers and respond to their demands
3. Development of knowledge management hub, along with KM strategy
4. Policy Engagement in high level policy dialogue at national and regional levels
5. Project Coordination

Over the past three years, these country platforms in Philippines, Bangladesh and Fiji have organized several activities to enhance capacities of EAS providers and this has resulted in positive outcomes at the farmer level.

In Bangladesh part of the project, 5 (five) thematic areas were identified in the Planning and consultation workshop (held during 01-02 April 2017 at Bangladesh Academy for Rural

development, Cumilla) for improving the capacity of agricultural extension and advisory services (AEAS) in Bangladesh. Five Working Groups were formed as follows:

1. Adaptation to Climate Change
2. ICT for Management, Monitoring and Knowledge Management
3. Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Extension
4. Market & Value Chain Development
5. Curricula Review (Under Graduate, Training module)

First four working groups prepared following four training modules after piloting the trainings with validations of the contents:

- Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
- Market and Value Chain Development in Agriculture
- ICT and Knowledge Management in Agriculture
- Climate Change Adaptation in agriculture

In the initial stage of the SAAS project, BAEN conducted another training on “Web operation & content Management”. Trainees of these training were selected from Government, Non-government and private Advisory Service Providing organizations, IFAD funded "Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE)" project, IFAD funded "National Agricultural Technology Program (NATP)", YPARD, and other organizations. Trainees of these trainings conducted further trainings to their beneficiaries with their fund at field level.

The fifth working group conducted a policy dialogue on “Improvement of Agricultural Extension & Information System Curricula of Universities and Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh”. BAEN also conducted another policy dialogue on “Strengthening Coordinated Extension Services for Sustainable Agriculture”. Policy level individuals of Bangladesh like Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh; Vice-Chancellors of universities; Directors General of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Service (DLS), Department of Fisheries (DOF); university Professors; Government, Non-government & Private Extension Service providing organizations; PACE & NATP projects were participated in these policy dialogues.

BAEN also organized 8 (eight) workshops for capacity development of Extension Service providers of Bangladesh. Country level knowledge management (KM) strategy was also developed by BAEN through SAAS project.

There are evidences of such interventions resulting in enhanced application of new knowledge in farming and associated behavioral change among participants especially in areas where these interventions were piloted. Some of the policy and KM interventions have also influenced decision makers and users of knowledge products leading to potential changes at the at the EAS policy and practice level.



The field interventions under the SAAS project are over. Presently, the project needs to collect the evidence of such immediate outcomes. The target of this report is to collect and analyze data, observations and testimonies related to the outcomes of these events and produce a report illustrating the evidence of such immediate outcomes from SAAS project interventions.

### **Specific objectives of the report**

1. To document the statements/testimonies from the beneficiaries and others who participated in the SAAS interventions
2. To record feedback from programme managers who facilitated such interventions
3. To document feedback from policy makers who were part of policy consultation dialogues organised under the project
4. To collect response from varied users of knowledge generated and promoted specifically through the project interventions
5. To document other types of evidence both quantitative and qualitative using a number of methods including short description to be presented as case studies

### **Scopes of the study**

1. A TOR was supplied by the SAAS Project Coordinator which was helpful to guide the way of the study.
2. Different types of reports of SAAS intervention in Bangladesh were available BAEN website which was helpful to collect primary information for the study.
3. National Focal Point (NFP) of SAAS (Bangladesh) project, Office Secretary, BAEN Executives, others stakeholders of SAAS project including policy makers and beneficiaries were very helpful to provide relevant information for the study

### **Limitations of this study**

1. Period of time was very limited to conduct the study.
2. A very few stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project were interviewed.
3. BAEN conducted a large volume of work to improve EAS in Bangladesh. But only a few were covered in this report.

### **Methodology**

The study was conducted during a very short time. After signing contract, SAAS (Bangladesh part) activities were reviewed from BAEN website and thorough consultation with project personnel. Information regarding BAEN conducted workshops, trainings, policy dialogues, Knowledge Management strategy, etc. were collected from SAAS project personnel. A program schedule was prepared to collect data from the EAS Program Managers, beneficiary farmers, policy makers, and other project stakeholders. The respondents were informed earlier for their time for face to face interview and Group Discussion.

It was seen from the BAEN reports that BAEN provided training to the EAS providers of different government, non-government and private organizations. Trainees of the BAEN training were requested to provide further similar training to their beneficiaries. On these considerations, cell phone contracts were made with a portion of BAEN Trainees. They are requested to inform about the number of batches and number of beneficiaries they provided training. The information was recorded.

For data collection by face to face interview, a questionnaire was developed and multiplied. On 06 December 2019, Interviews were conducted with CEO of Social Development Initiative (SDI, an NGO) and Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA, an NGO) at their head Office in Dhaka. On 07 December 2019, a visit was made to visit SDI at Dhamrai to observe their activities at field level. Program Managers of SDI (BAEN Trainees) were interviewed first. Then two group discussions (one male group and one female group) were made at field level. The name of the groups were “Basna Male Safe Vegetable Producer group” and “Basna Female Safe Vegetable Producer group”. Twenty group members (8 male and 12 female) were attended in these two group discussions. Individual face to face interview were also conducted with them to understand their knowledge, skill, practice and attitudinal changes regarding training topics. Details information was collected from two beneficiaries (one male and female) for writing case studies regarding their livelihood improvement by visiting their crop fields and homes.

Similar visit was made on 09 December 2019 to observe the activities of BASA at Shakipur Tangail. Program Managers of BASA (BAEN Trainees) were interviewed first. Two Group discussions were conducted with two female groups (Nari Unnyan Group containing 10 female members and Joba Nari Unnayan Group containing 25 female Members) of BASA at Shakhipur, Tangail who receive trainings on "market and value chain" and "Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture" from EAS of BASA. Face to face interview was also conducted with them to understand the level of changes regarding knowledge, skill, practice and attitude of the group members. Details information were collected from two female beneficiaries for writing case studies regarding their livelihood improvement by visiting their home and field.

On the same day afternoon, another group discussion was made with the beekeepers group who receive “Value Chain and Market Development” training from the EAS of BASA to understand the knowledge and practices of Honey value chain of beekeepers. One beekeeper was interviewed in details to write a case study on his livelihood changes.

On 10 December 2019, interview was made with the Project Director, NATP-2 (DLS part); on 11 December 2019, interviews were made with the Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Director General (DG) of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Project Director of Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC) of DAE; on 12 December, 2019 from the Prof. Dr. Md. Mahbubul Alam, KM Consultant of SAAS Project (Bangladesh Part). On 13 December 2019, a visit was made at a city outlet of Dhaka where the safe vegetables were sold to the Members of ‘Safe Life (a city based organization)’ which were produced by the beneficiaries of SDI.

Thus a total of 5 group discussions were made and 40 farmer beneficiaries and 10 other stakeholders were interviewed for the study.

## Observations / Findings

### 1. Statements/testimonies from the beneficiaries

Statements were recorded from three male farmers and four female farmers from SDI farmers group. Statements from two male farmers and four female farmers were recorded from BASA beneficiaries. Farmers/Beneficiaries selection method was random. In Some cases extension agent who participated in the training gave training directly to the beneficiaries. In some cases, some extension agent was trained by participants who attended in the training. Then that particular extension agent gave training to the beneficiaries.

### 2. Feedback from programme managers

Response from the Programme Manager of SDI and BASA were recorded. They shared their experience during the training of the beneficiaries. They gave some suggestions on some issues regarding the training.

### 3. Feedback from policy makers

As Stated before, two Policy Dialogue were organized under this project. Namely:

- 3.1. **BAEN Policy Dialogue-1:** Strengthening Coordinated Advisory Services for Sustainable Agriculture in Bangladesh
- 3.2. **BAEN Policy Dialogue-2:** Improvement of Agricultural Extension and Information System Curricula of Universities and Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh

Policy makers from different tier were presented at the policy dialogue. Several veteran recommendations were made in both of the event. Present status and activity at the policy level against the proposed recommendations were recorded from the different Chief personnel from different organizations.

### 4. Response from varied users

"Shosti" a volunteer organization, that collect safe vegetables from the farmers and sell it to the consumers. They are helping the farmers for ensuring better price of their commodity. They are trying to make linkage between the farmers and consumers. Feedback from this organisation was recorded.

### 5. Other types of evidence both quantitative and qualitative as case Studies:

Several case studies were included:

- A case study on: "The story of Jahanara to Become Self-sufficient"
- A case study on: "Training helps Mosharaf to get a Healthy and Beautiful Life"
- A case study on: "Changes after Training makes Mitu Akter Self-employed"
- A case study on: "Honey Farmer Shokhi Choron Sustainability by Ensuring good price"

Statements/testimonies from the beneficiaries and others who participated in SAAS interventions Bangladesh

Attempts had been taken to record the statements/testimonies from the ultimate beneficiary small holder farmers of Bangladesh by conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) followed by Face to Face Interviews by using an interview schedule.



First FGD was conducted with eight (8) members of Basna Female Safe Vegetable Producer Group in the morning on 07 December 2019. The group was organized and nourished by Social Development Initiatives (SDI, an NGO) Dhamrai Office.

In this FGD, questions related to immediate outcome of SAAS interventions (specially training) were asked to the beneficiaries. Firstly they were asked some questions regarding the training on "**Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture**". **It was recorded that they had enough knowledge on basics of Food and nutrition.** They had knowledge on **food requirement** of infant, Young child, Adolescent girls and pregnant women.



**nutrition by homestead farming** and rooftop gardening. It was found that they were aware

Then they were asked about **safe food production** for family nutrition. In Bangladesh women are immensely engaged in agricultural activities. Homestead gardening is a key activity of the rural women. In the FGD, they told about safe food production and its impact on pregnant women. Then they were asked about **food handling and hygiene.** **They** had positive feedback about food handling. They were asked about the cooking procedure of raw vegetables. Their answers were satisfactory. Then they were asked about **family**

about family nutrition. They had a concept that they are not only the producer of the safe vegetables and fruits, they consume these products for their family nutrition and the surpluses are sold for earning.



Then they were asked about the Training on Market and Value Chain Development in Agriculture. It was found that they had clear concept on **market and market actors, value chain development and market map, market constraints, etc.** Their replies were satisfactory. They replied by different constraints like price fluctuation of the vegetables commodity, lack of coordination of different actors related to market. They stated that after receiving BAEN Training

through SDI personnel, they were able to reduce their post-harvest loses of their agricultural commodities by adopting proper post-harvest practices. As a result, their income was increased.

Regarding the training on use of ICT & Knowledge Management in Agriculture, it was found that only a very few were the user of ICT apps by using their cell phones. Most of them were not equipped with ICT services.



After the long FGD, the participants were interviewed individually in face to face condition with the help of an interview schedule. In the interview, they felt friendlier to share their feeling and experiences about their trainings. Some of them told that to enhance use of the more ICT tools they need hands on training. They opined that refresher trainings are needed to sustain such activities.

They reported that they were getting continuous benefits from the SAAS interventions. They were also interested for getting further trainings for their livelihood improvement. It was surprising that there was harmony of satisfaction of the individuals.



Second FGD was conducted with 12 members of Basna Male Safe Vegetable Producer Group in the afternoon on 07 December 2019. The group was also organized and nourished by SDI Dhamrai Office. The group members were asked about SAAS intervention through SDI and its immediate outcomes.

It was found that most of the group members had sound knowledge on **safe food production**. They had tremendously changed their health condition. Physically all the farmers now have a sound health after getting the knowledge. Presently, they are aware about **gender, nutrition, food handling and hygiene, gender sensitization to ensure family nutrition, Use of ICT in extension Services, Behavioral change Communication in Gender and Nutrition**. They told that they help their partner to do **homestead farming for their family nutrition**.



They had a good idea on **Market, Market Actors, Existing Market Systems, Value Chain, Value Chain Development and Market map**. Some of the participants were regular in **Use of ICT in Marketing**. They use their cell phones in marketing their product. Now they are also concerned about the **Market constraints**.



After this FGD, Face to Face interviews were conducted with individual farmers. They were asked some questions about the training and its outcomes. They shared their feelings individually about the training and training outcomes.



All the farmers expressed their satisfaction about the training. They expressed that presently they do not use any pesticides in their crop fields. They use vermicompost in their field instead of chemical fertilizers for crop production. They are producing safe vegetables and fruits. They consume these safe foods. As a result they are now physically safe and fit. Due to safe vegetable production their skin irritation is now reduced drastically. They are practicing proper post-harvest practices to reduce their post-harvest losses. Their surplus crops are selling in the market in a higher price. With the help of SDI, they established a low cost local cold storage and they are sending their safe vegetables in an out-let of Dhaka city which is governed by another organization named “Safe life”.

Third FGD was conducted with two female groups of 35 members of **Shakhipur, Tangail** in the morning on 09 December 2019. These groups were organized by Bangladesh Association of Social Advancement (BASA, an NGO). The names of these groups were **Nari Unnyan Group containing 10 female members** and **Joba Nari Unnayan Group containing 25 female Members**.



Three BASA staffs (EAS providers) received training on Gender & Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Market & Value Chain Development in Agriculture from BAEN as SAAS initiatives. The staffs provided further similar trainings to their beneficiaries. In the FGD, the BASA beneficiaries were asked questions related to Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Market & Value Chain Development in Agriculture.

**The BASA beneficiaries stated that homestead farming for family nutrition** was key component of the training. They gained **knowledge on gender, nutrition, nutrition for child and adolescent, food handling, hygiene, home food safety**. They had also knowledge on Market, Market actor, Value Chain, etc. They had huge interest on Market map. How they sell their products to the nearest market and its impact was very clear to them. They explain the use of ICT and Market constraints. After receiving training and advice from the EAS of BASA, they were able to face the constraints the faced in production and marketing of their products.



**Face to face interview was also conducted with them to understand the level of changes regarding knowledge, skill, practice and attitude of the group members.** Individually they were asked questions regarding those training. They explained how the training make their life economically viable.



Fourth FGD was conducted with the honey producing beneficiaries of BASA. EAS providers of BASA provided training to the honey producing group on Market and Value Chain Development in Agriculture.







They were asked questions on Market and Value Chain, market map, market constraint, etc. They responded that after receiving training, they were able to produce honey in a modern way, they were able to add values by adopting different practices at different chains and they were able to face their problems for honey marketing with proper packaging.

### Feedback from Programme Managers who facilitated SAAS interventions

Attempts were made to collect feedback from Program Managers who received training from SAAS project of BAEN and facilitated further similar training to their beneficiaries. A total of 123 Program Managers (85 male and 38 female) from different Government, Non-government and Private Extension Service Providing organizations received 5 trainings from SAAS project organized by BAEN. The Program Managers provided further training to their beneficiaries by using their own organizational funds and resources. It was not possible to take feedback from all the Program Managers. Only a few were interviewed. These are stated below:



Kbd. S. M. Awlad Hossain, Program Coordinator of Social Development Initiative (SDI, an NGO) is working at Dhamrai Office. An interview was conducted with him for collecting the feedback from him regarding SAAS initiatives. His feedback was as follows:

- Mr. Awlad Hossain received two trainings organized by BAEN on i) Gender and Nutrition Sensitive agriculture, and ii) Market and Value chain Development in Agriculture.
- He gained knowledge and skill on the training topics clearly.
- He is able to use BAEN training modules and knowledge hub.
- He utilised the knowledge and skill gained from BAEN trainings by providing similar training to 6 groups of small farmer beneficiaries of SDI consisting 150 members.
- After taking training from Mr. Hossain, small farmers are now producing safe vegetable without using any agro-chemicals.
- Farmers are consuming these agro-products for their family nutrition.
- Farmers' family members are now aware about nutrition requirement based on age and gender.
- Happiness is belonging in the SDI beneficiary farmers without any conflict among the family members.
- Farmers adopted proper post-harvest practices like cooling, shorting, grading, packaging, handling, loading, unloading, storing of their agro-products as a result their post-harvest losses are drastically reduced and they are earning more than the previous time.



Similar feedback was received from another Program Manager named Mr. Abu Nayem Ripon, Assistant Value Chain Facilitator of SDI Dhamrai Office. After receiving two trainings from BAEN, Mr. Ripon provided similar training to 5 small farmer beneficiary groups of SDI consisting of 125 members. Both Mr. Awlad and Mr Ripon stated that safe vegetables produced by the SDI farmers of Dhamrai are sending to some outlets of Dhaka city. As a result the farmers are getting legal price and the consumers of Dhaka city are getting fresh safe vegetables. After receiving BAEN trainings, SDI prepared a local cold storage with low cost. Farmers can store their product in the cold storage for a short time. The SDI farmers of Basna village earned a reputation for producing safe food. As a result, sometimes their products are selling from the farm gate without loss.



Mst. Masuma Panna and Mr. Md. Samsul Alam, two Program Organizers of Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA, an NGO) had received three training from BAEN on:

i) Gender and Nutrition Sensitive agriculture, ii) Market and Value Chain Development in Agriculture, and iii) Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture. They discussed the training topics and contents with their other colleagues named Mosammat Soma Khatun and Mr. Md. Alamin. They were interviewed in their office at Shokhipur, Tangail. Their feedbacks were as follows:

- They gained knowledge and skill on the training topics clearly.
- They provided similar training to 12 groups of BASA, each group containing 25 farmers.
- Farmers' family members are now aware about homestead kitchen gardening, gender concept, safe food Production to ensure family nutrition, gender sensitization to ensure family nutrition, food handling, hygiene, market map, value chain development, market actors, use of ICT in agricultural marketing, etc.



Both Mrs. Soma and Mr. Alamin stated that safe vegetables produced by the BASA beneficiary farmers are sending to Tangail town to sell. As a result the farmers are getting legal price and the consumers of Tangail city are getting fresh safe vegetables. After receiving BAEN trainings, the farmers of BASA are now capable to produce safe vegetables without using agro-chemicals and by using compost and organic fertilizers and botanical pesticides, sex pheromone, etc. Their cost of production was reduced and earning was increased.



The bee keeping farmers also received value chain development training. They are now able to produce honey. Raw honey is purified by them. Then they are selling this honey to BASA. BASA is branding the honey with the name of 'Aadi Honey' after further purify and packaging. This branded honey is selling all over Bangladesh. As a result farmers are getting benefit by reducing their problems.

## Feedback from Policy Makers

**BAEN** conducted two Policy Dialogues on: i) Strengthening Coordinated Extension Services for Sustainable Agriculture, and ii) Improvement of Agricultural Extension & Information System Curricula of Universities and Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh. A total of 110 Policy level individuals of Bangladesh like Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh; Vice-Chancellors of universities; Directors General of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Service (DLS), Department of Fisheries (DOF); university Professors; Government, Non-government & Private Extension Service providing organizations; PACE & NATP projects were participated in these policy dialogues. Due to lack of time, all of them were not interviewed for this study. Only three policy level individuals were interviewed for this study to get their feedbacks which are stated below:

On 11 December 2019, an interview was conducted with Prof. Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahamed, Vice-Chancellor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka. He stated that he participated both the two policy dialogues organized by BAEN with financial help from IFAD



funded SAAS project Bangladesh part. He reported that the recommendations made from these dialogues were very excellent for the agricultural development of Bangladesh.

He told that in the first dialogue, there was a recommendation of initiating National Agricultural Extension System (NAES) that will operate centrally and will coordinate the Extension and Rural Advisory services of different Government, Non-Government and private EAS providing organizations. He again stated that there is National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in Bangladesh to coordinate agricultural research activities of different research organizations. Similarly, there is necessity to establish NAES to coordinate and strengthen agricultural extension and rural advisory services. He told that the policy makers of Bangladesh are hardly trying to initiate this type of system over last 10 years. BAEN is very success to suggest this to include in the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP). A huge number of Agricultural Innovation and Technologies are being developed yearly. But only 5% of them are diffused and rest of them are not used by the farmers. So with compatible with NARS there should must have National Agricultural Extension System(NAES) for the proper diffusion of all good agricultural innovations.

Regarding the second policy dialogue, Prof. Dr. Kamal stated that Agricultural Extension and Information System Curricula of Universities and Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh should be improved which are recommended in the policy dialogue organized by BAEN. As the recommendation of BAEN policy dialogue, he suggested to have common need based curricula of Agricultural Extension & information System of all the agricultural faculties of the universities of Bangladesh. Finally he reported that as per recommendations of BAEN policy dialogue, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University is already has taken an initiative to update its outcome based curricula on agricultural extension and included information system courses in it. Other universities are trying to do so.

**Another interview was conducted with Dr. Md. Abdul Mueyed, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) on 11 December 2019 at his office.**

BAEN policy dialogue had a recommendation to include National Agricultural Extension System (NAES) into National Agricultural Extension Policy. On this issue, Dr. Mueyed was asked about the present status of National Agricultural Extension Policy. He stated that as the recommendation of BAEN policy dialogue,



Ministry of Agriculture has taken an initiative to establish National Agricultural Extension System (NAES) for Strengthening Coordinated Advisory Services for Sustainable Agriculture in Bangladesh. He reported that DAE requested Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali (Secretary General,

BAEN and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka) for reviewing and necessary correction of draft National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) as an Extension expert. Accordingly, Dr. Ali has done the job and arranged policy dialogue regarding this issue. Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture was the Chief of that policy dialogue. Dr. Muyeed reported that the NAEP will publish very soon.

Dr. Muyeed expressed his felling for improving the syllabus of Agricultural Extension courses of the universities of Bangladesh and the training courses of the extension service providers of Bangladesh which was the main recommendation the 2<sup>nd</sup> policy dialogue of BAEN. He expressed an immense praise over the training manuals prepared by BAEN. He is also satisfied with the training activities and impact of trainings under SAAS project.

## Response from varied users of knowledge generated and promoted specifically through the SAAS project interventions



On 14 December 2019, an Interview was conducted with Kbd. Mrityunjoy Roy, Project Director, Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC), Phase-II, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). He was the editor of the Training Modules published by BAEN. Not only as a State Extension Representative he is also the publication secretary of BAEN. He agreed that these training modules will be integrated with another training program of IFMC project. So, it signifies that after the completion of SAAS project, these training modules will act as

knowledge generating tools for such interventions. He also suggested to translate the training Modules into local language (Bengali) for further use to train the EAs providers and farmers.



On 14 December 2019, an interview was conducted with Prof. Dr. Mahbubul Alam, Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka at his office. He was the Knowledge Management Strategy Development Consultant of SAAS Project. He was asked questions regarding Knowledge Management Strategy, and its use. He said that it will help to map Agricultural Advisory Services in Bangladesh. It will facilitate the availability and accessibility of appropriate and up-to-date knowledge related to AAS that will directly benefit stallholder farmers and indigenous communities. Presently, 95 agricultural apps developed by various agricultural organization of Bangladesh are linked

in BAEN website which are used by various stakeholders of BAEN for information.



On 14 December 2019, another interview was conducted with Dr. Monjur Mohammad Shahjada, Project Director, National Agricultural Technology Program (Phase-II), Department of Livestock (DLS) component. Different questions were asked to him regarding Training components, ownership of Livestock program, value chain, producer group, etc. He suggested to arrange the training program in locally for **decentralization** rather than central location. He emphasized on **ownership** issue of the livestock program. He said that women are the main actor to regulate livestock program. So, the ownership must go to women. He reported that 12 EAS providers of DLS received training from BAEN. They again provided further similar training to the beneficiaries of DLS, especially Common Interest Group (CIG) members of DLS. Among the four training modules prepared by BAEN, he requested to arrange more training on “Market and Value Chain Development in Live stock”. He was satisfied with the training modules prepared by BAEN. He urged for **fresher training** for producer groups.



## Case study – I. Jahanara

### The story of Jahanara to Become Self-sufficient



Name: Jahanara Akter  
Village: Protima Bonki  
Union: Uttor purbo Para  
Upazila: Sakhipur  
District: Tangail  
Cell No: 01739719898

Protima Bonki is a remote village of Sakhipur Upazilla under Tangail district, 2.2 km away from the Upazilla headquarter. Jahanara, a female farmer of 40 years, is a resident of this village, who studied upto class-VIII. Jahanara had no right to take any decision of her family affairs. She was totally dependent upon on her husband for money and any kind of decision. For this reason for making a self-identity, she wanted to do something.

**Participation of Jahanara with income generating activities:** Mr. Hafiz and Mr. Osman, two organizers of Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA, an NGO) went to Jahanara's village. They talked about different activities and motivated the rural members about many income generation activities. They formed a female organization consisting 25 women members. Jahanara became motivated and tried to do something and she joined the group.

**Types of training received by Jahanara from BASA:**

- Three-day training on "Values and Norms"
- One-day team maintenance training
- Three-day training on "Homestead Vegetable Cultivation"
- Three-day training on "Gender & Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture"
- Two-day Training on "Advanced Animal Resource Management"
- Three-day Training on "Value Chain & Market Development in Agriculture"
- Three-day Training on "Climate Smart Agriculture"
- Two-day Training on "Use of ICT in Agriculture"

**Jahanara received following Inputs and credit from BASA:**

- Vegetables seed
- Tree seedlings
- Vaccine of cow and goat
- Pesticide pill of cow and goat
- Seed of grass
- Deposit book
- Vermi compost
- Deposit book



### **Changes after Training:**

After receiving training from BASA, she started homestead vegetable cultivation with new zeal and aspiration. She also suggested her neighbouring female farmers to cultivate different types of crops on their land. With the help BASA NGO and their motivational program, she started her agricultural operations with new zeal and aspirations.

Jahanara increased her knowledge on gender sensitive food and nutrition. As a result, she is able to cultivate nutritious vegetables and fruits for her family members.

Her husband also helped her. She can take any decision now with her husband. Now she is a model farmer of the BASA NGO. At present she is passing her family life happily with her husband, two sons and a daughter.

Now she cultivates seasonal vegetables in one acre (0.4 hectare) of land and established a fisheries project in one acre (0.4 hectare) of land. She cultivates rice in rest of her land.

In 2019, she cultivated bean, bottle gourd, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, brinjal and other vegetables in 60 decimals (0.24 hectare) of land and earned Tk. 90,000.00 (Taka ninety

thousands). Beside this, she cultivated puishak (Indian spinach) in a plot of 40 decimals (0.16 hectare) and earned another Tk. 90,000.00 (Taka ninety thousands).

Finally, she becomes to make herself with a self-identity.

## Case Study – II. Mosharaf

### Training helps Mosharaf to get a healthy and beautiful life



Name: Md. Mosharaf Hosen

Village: Basna

Union: Sanora

Upazila: Dhamrai

District: Dhaka

Cell No: 01946205466

Basna is a remote village of Dhamrai Upazilla under Dhaka district. Mr. Mosharaf Hosen is a farmer of this village. He was 35 years old. He had education with nine years of schooling. He was engaged with Society for Development initiatives (DSI, an NGO) for three years. He received three days training on Safe vegetables cultivation, Gender and Nutrition Sensitive

Agriculture and three days training on market and value chain development in agriculture from SDI.

He stated that before engaging with SDI activities he used chemical fertilizers and pesticides in his crop fields. After receiving training, he started safe vegetable cultivation on his own land.

With the help of safe vegetable cultivation knowledge and motivational programs of SDI he started his agricultural operations newly and successfully continued the practices. Consequently, he was selected as a safe vegetable cultivation resource person by SDI. He suggested other group members of SDI and neighbouring farmers to produce safe vegetables on their land without using agro-chemicals and by using organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides.

He stated that he was able to regain his lost soil health with his untiring labour in the agricultural field by adopting ecological agricultural method. His family members also helped him. At present he passes his family life nicely with his family members. At present, Mr. Mosharaf cultivates seasonal vegetables (summer and winter), onion, cabbage, cauliflower, banana, papaya and rice in his land. Mosharaf stated that within a very short time, he increased his wealth. By his untiring labour, he improved his living house, kitchen and cowshed. He purchased an irrigation machine with electric motor. Mosharaf and his family members were very satisfied with his present agricultural practices. All the farmers of that locality are inspired by the success of Mosharaf. Being a model of successful ecological farmers, many personnel of SDI and donor agencies visited Mosharaf's farm and home several times.

**Mosharaf received following Trainings from SDI:**

- Three-day training on "Safe Vegetable cultivation Methods"
- Three-day training on "Gender & Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture"
- Three-day Training on "Value Chain & Market Development in Agriculture"
- Three-day Training on "Climate Smart Agriculture"
- Two-day Training on "Use of ICT in Agriculture"

**Mosharaf reported that safe vegetable cultivation had mainly the following purposes:**

- To improve soil health by maintaining environment friendly practices
- To apply environment friendly management of pest
- To improve human health
- To protect the environment

**Methods:**

Mosharaf stated that after receiving Nutrition and safe vegetable cultivation training, he used mainly manures instead of chemical fertilizers such as cowdung, teak leaf, eucalyptus leaf, cattle urine, compost, farm yard manures, pheromone traps and water hyacinth for his crop cultivation. In case of vegetable cultivation, he also depended mainly on manures. In case of cereal crop like rice cultivation he used very little amount of chemical fertilizers with large amount of manures. Now, Mosharaf do not use any chemical pesticide in vegetable fields. He used a very little amount of chemical pesticide in rice field at the time of severe pest attack. He

mainly used mechanical, cultural, biological methods for pest control. Sometimes, he used botanical pesticides like neem, nishinda, biskatali, etc. for pest control. He never used any chemicals for weed control. He controlled weeds only by cultural operations.



### **Changes after Training**

Mosharaf stated that by using safe vegetable cultivation method of agriculture, he could lower his production cost without decreasing of his production.

With this method of cultivation he was satisfied as he could feed his family nutritious and tasty food.

Another important point is that he could improve his soil health and environment. But in practical situation, most of the farmers used chemical pesticides for severe attack in rice field. He therefore had to use a trace amount of chemical pesticides in rice field in case of very severe pest attack. He thought that if he did not do so, the rice production could decrease.

After taking training from SDI ( as an SAAS intervention), Mosharaf is also practicing proper post-harvest practices after harvesting his crops like cleaning, sorting, grading, loading, unloading, handling of his products. As a result he reduced his post-harvest losses.

Twice in a week, he transport his safe vegetables to Dhaka city for selling as a result he is getting more price for his products. Mosharaf happily said that after using this method their facial look became more beautiful than earlier. Their family life also became more peaceful.

However, Mosharaf was able to overcome his previous losses of soil health, increase his wealth and profit by minimizing the production cost.



### Case study – III. Mitu Akter

#### Changes after Training makes Mitu Akter Self-employed



Name: Mitu Akter  
Husband's name: Md. Solaiman  
Village: Choto Mousha  
Union: Dariapur  
District: Tangail  
Cell No: 01860066750

Mitu Akter got married with Mr. Md. Solaiman at a very early stage and lived in the village 'Choto Mousha'. Her family has five members including a daughter of two years. Her husband sold the property of her father and went outside of the country for work. After going abroad of her husband, it was very difficult for Mitu to maintain the full family expense well. For this reason, Mitu wanted to do some income generating activities to bear the family expenses. But, Mitu was not in a position to do any kind of work due to lack of knowledge and skill.

**Participation of Mitu Akter with income generating activities:** With the motivational activities of an NGO, named Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA), Mitu joined in a village female organization consisting 25 women members. After getting motivation from the BASA Extension Agents, Mitu akter decided to participate in income generating activities.



**Mitu Akter received following Trainings from BASA:**

- Three-day training on “Values and Norms”
- Three-day training on “Homestead Vegetable Cultivation”
- Three-day training on “Gender & Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture”
- Two-day Training on “Advanced Animal Resource Management”
- Three-day Training on “Value Chain & Market Development in Agriculture”
- Three-day Training on “Climate Smart Agriculture”
- Two-day Training on “Use of ICT in Agriculture”

**Mitu Akter received following Inputs and credit received from BASA:**

- Sapling of fruit
- Vermi compost
- Cutting of napier grass
- Vegetables seed
- A credit of BDT. 50000 for rearing cow
- Seed of grass
- Vaccine of cow and goat
- Pesticide pill of cow and goat
- Deposit book

**Changes after Training**

- Mitu stated that after taking trainings from BASA, she renovated her cowshed. She regularly clean her cowshed. She is able to cultivate napier grass for her cow. As a result

the health condition of her cow remains sound. The production of milk is increased tremendously.

- Mitu is also involved with homestead gardening with vegetables and fruits. She is able to use vermi compost in her garden. From homestead vegetable garden, she is getting nutritious vegetables and fruits for her family. Demand of her family food items is fulfilled.
- Mitu increased her knowledge on gender sensitive food and nutrition. As a result she is able to cultivate nutritious vegetables and fruits for her family members. Her family members also consume milk for nutrition.
- Mitu can add value of her vegetables and fruits by practicing proper post- harvest activities like shorting, grading, washing, transporting and handling. As a result she is able to reduce the post-harvest loses of her vegetables and fruits and is getting more earning by marketing of those.
- Ultimately, she becomes self-sufficient by her own earning and she can bear the family expense. She is able to overcome her previous losses, increase her wealth and she can take decision for her family affairs.

## Case Study – IV. Shokhi Choron

### Success of Shokhi Choron as good honey producing farmers



Name: Shokhi Choron sarker  
Village: Gajesshori  
Upazilla: Mirzapur  
District: Tangail  
Cell No: 01710696942

Beekeeping is a low investment and low input business enterprise with immediate return. It not only has the potential to transform lives of people but also makes the sustainable use of natural resources prevalent throughout the country.

In Tangail, honey production is successfully acquired in a wide range of area. In recent years beekeeping has been recognized as a pivotal avenue towards poverty alleviation, livelihood enhancement and food security.

Shokhi Choron, a honey bee farmer, is the permanent resident of the village named Gajeshori under Mirjapur sub-district of Tangail district.

named as, which is approaching towards commercialisation of honey. The information was primarily collected through Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Visits were also carried out to agencies like Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA) and discussions were held with the key officials.

Shokhi Choron stated that he received training on “Market and Value Chain Development in Agriculture” from BASA (NGO).



Shokhi Choron received three-day training on “Value Chain & Market Development in Agriculture” with especially attention on Honey production and value chain development.



### **Learnings from the training:**

- Shokhi Choron learned value chain represents all the activities that are required to bring a product or service from formation to final consumers, even final disposal after use. It undergoes different production phases, marketing and distribution. National and international chains linkages and boundaries and buyer's requirements are known with the help of value chain analysis.
- It further gives information about the international standards and can well be used as a tool for international benchmarking. It helps in analyzing the links and flow of information within the chain. The strengths, weaknesses and losses in the process are also revealed.
- Honey should be free from any objectionable matter, flavour, aroma or taint that may be absorbed from foreign matter and the original constituent of honey i.e. pollen should not be removed as far as possible during its production, harvesting, processing and storage.
- Honey should not have fermented or begun to effervesce.

### **Shokhi Choron received following Inputs from BASA:**

- Hand gloves

- Honey bee cage
- Queen bee
- Queen cap
- Help in purifying, packaging and storing
- Marketing facilities



#### Changes after Training:

- Shokhi Choron stated that after taking trainings from BASA, he knew how to maintain the hygiene. The production of honey is increased tremendously.
- Now a days Shokhi Choron sells honey directly to local consumers or to the wholesalers. Payment for the product is mostly done through direct cash but sometimes credit transactions also take place between different value chain actors.
- Shokhi Choron can add value of his honey by practicing different activities like purifying, chemical analysis, packaging and marketing. Maximum amount of honey is harvested from multifloral crops which include mustard, litchi, kalijira (black gram), mangrove forest and others. As a result the nutritive value of honey is increased.
- With the help of BASA (NGO), Shokhi Choron has branded his honey as 'Adi Honey'.

- The overall benefit of Shokhi Choron is poverty alleviation, livelihood enhancement and food security.
- In addition to raw honey production, Shokhi Choron are getting bee waxes from beekeeping which is used for making cosmetics, candles, furniture polish, etc. So, beekeeping is a potential earning activity of him to solve his unemployment and to improve his income for uplifting his living standard.



## Case study – IV. Azmin

### Story of Azmin to become self sufficient



Name: Azmin Akter

Husband's name: Entaz Ali

Village: Basna

Union: Sanora

Upazila: Dhamrai

District: Dhaka

Azmin was a home maker at the early stage of her married life. Her husband's named is Entaz Ali who is a farmer. He had a small piece of land and his income was not satisfactory to maintain the full family expenses. At the same time, Azmin didn't got proper honor from her husband to take any family decision. For this reason, Azmin felt that she was needed to involve

with any income generating activities. But, she was not in a position to do any kind of work due to lack of knowledge and skill.

**Participation of Azmin with income generating activities:** With the motivational activities of an NGO, named Society for Development initiatives (SDI), Azmin joined in a village female organization consisting of 15 women members. After getting motivation from the SDI Extension Agents, Azmin decided to participate in income generating activities.

**Azmin received following Trainings from SDI:**

- Day long training on “Compost Preparation”
- Three-day training on “Safe Vegetable cultivation Methods”
- Three-day training on “Gender & Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture”
- Three-day Training on “Value Chain & Market Development in Agriculture”
- Three-day Training on “Climate Smart Agriculture”

**Changes after Training**

- Azmin stated that after taking “Gender & Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture” training from SDI, she became aware about health condition of her family members. Now, she is trying to maintain hygiene at the time of cooking and taking of food.
- She is able to consider her daughter and son at the same way without any bias and provide the same facilities to them.
- Azmin is involved with homestead gardening with vegetables and fruits. She is able to use compost in her garden. From homestead vegetable garden, she is getting nutritious vegetables and fruits for her family. Demand of her family food items is fulfilled. Her family members also consume milk for nutrition.
- Azmin can add value of her vegetables and fruits by practicing proper post- harvest activities like shorting, grading, washing, transporting and handling. As a result she is able to reduce the post-harvest loses of her vegetables and fruits and is getting more earning by marketing of those.
- Ultimately, she becomes self-sufficient by her own earning and she can bear the family expenses. She is able to overcome her previous losses, increase her wealth and she can take decision for her family affairs.

## Lessons Learned from SAAS (Bangladesh) Project

From the SAAS project intervention in Bangladesh, following lessons are learned:

- SAAS project in Bangladesh has tried to expedite the country for BAEN to enhance the capacity of Rural Advisory Service (RAS) Providers. Five working groups were formed by arranging a capacity development workshop. Collecting, improving, documenting and disseminating of good agricultural practices and approaches is one of the important aims of BAEN. SAAS (Bangladesh part) project and BAEN executives reported that they arranged five (5) learning and sharing workshops and visited 37 RAS organizations of Bangladesh to collect good agricultural practices and extension approaches. Another workshop was arranged on “New Extension Learning kit & Writing Good Practice Noted in Extension” to improving and documenting the practices and approaches. Accordingly, seven (7) good practice notes were written within a very short period of time which are published in BAEN website for dissemination. Selected good organizations were awarded by BAEN for their good practices and approaches. These types of workshops, exchange visits, writing good practice notes are helpful to disseminate good agricultural practices and approaches for increase agricultural production in a sustainable way.
- Training makes an individual perfect to do his/her job properly. With the help of IFAD funded SAAS project, BAEN working groups prepared four (4) training modules after piloting and validation by participating EAS providers of GOs, NGOs and Private Extension Service providing organizations. By using these training knowledge and Training modules, capacity of the EAS providers are increased. They provided similar training to their beneficiaries with their own organizational funds and resources. Ultimately, the small farmers were benefited as follows:
  - Small farmers’ knowledge and skills on improved safe crop production are increased and they are practicing modern practices for safe food production.
  - They formed a favorable attitudes towards chemical free safe vegetable and fruit production
  - They are awarded about gender equity and equality, nutrition requirement based on age and gender, different nutrient containing foods, necessary crop production, post-harvest practices, crop value chain development, value addition, use of ICT for information, etc.
  - Their health condition is improved.
  - Uses of agro-chemicals are reduced and safe food are producing and consuming for family nutrition.
  - They are practicing good post-harvest practices like cooling, sorting, grading, packaging, wrapping, loading, unloading, handling, transporting of produced crops as a result post-harvest losses are reduced.

- Surplus agro-products are selling with added value. Sometimes, farmers' produces are selling from the farm gate with logical price as their bargaining power is increased.
  - Some safe vegetables and fruits are sending to the outlets of Dhaka city and city dwellers are getting fresh safe vegetables and fruits with logical price.
  - Production cost is reduced and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) is increased.
  - Hygiene and sanitation conditions are improved.
  - Gender equity is almost ensured and family bonding is increased.
  - Decision making ability of the females are increased, their self-identity is ensured self-dependency of male female family members is established.
  - ICT is used for agricultural weather information. .
  - Marketing facility is improved.
  - Honey bee farmers are able to face their problems and producing quality honey after removing impurities.
- BAEN conducted two policy dialogues. As per decisions of these dialogues, Nation Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) is being modified with establishing National Agricultural Extension System for coordination among EAS providers. Curricula of Agricultural Extension & Information System discipline of the universities and Training modules of EAs providers are being improved. These attempts are helpful to strengthening sustainable agriculture in Bangladesh.
  - BAEN developed Knowledge Management Strategy and developed a website. Knowledge products are published in this website. Eight five (85) agricultural knowledge apps developed by different agricultural organizations of Bangladesh are linked with this website. These attempts are useful to the various stakeholders of agricultural sectors including crop, livestock, fisheries, forestry. The project has introduced web-based knowledge management hub where different organizations or persons already can share their leanings to disseminate knowledge product to wider level stakeholders.
  - Farmers are linked with the backward and forward market in order to create accessibility in the market for quality agri-inputs and better market prices for the produces. An aggregation point for the produced vegetables was found to be under construction by the PACE project, funded by IFAD, which is supposed to increase farmers' profitability and reduce transaction costs.
  - The SAAS (Bangladesh) project conducted by BAEN has been linked with existing GOs,-NGOs and private EAS providers by engaging different stakeholders/AAS agents who transformed knowledge on the project intended themes to the smallholder producers. This approach has been an excellent idea to reach a large number of populations with minimal cost and resource engagement.
  - The project has promoted agricultural technologies like vermi-compost, sex pheromone trap to decrease production costs and increase production of safe vegetables.
  - An integrated households approach was found by engaging smallholder farmers with the different agricultural production including livestock, fish and vegetable production, adaptation with climate change, consumption and nutritional knowledge as well as market access to quality inputs and services which was helpful to sustain the project benefits.

## Way Forward

- More knowledge sharing workshops, exchange visits, writing good practice notes and disseminating of good practices should be continued for strengthening agricultural development of the country.
- BAEN training modules are generic type and prepared in English. More specific types of training modules should be prepared in local languages (Bengali).
- BAEN training is offered to few EAS providers and farmers beneficiary, not covered all the country. It should be provided to all over Bangladesh.
- More policy dialogues should be conducted on various issues for strengthening rural advisory services.
- Knowledge Management Strategy developed by BAEN should be implemented for all over the country. BAEN website should be regularly updated. All agricultural app should be link with this website for the use of various stakeholders.
- Existing farmers' organizations are to be linked with the backward and forward market to make them able to bargain for legal price to buy input and sell outputs from their aggregation point.
- The SAAS (Bangladesh) project interventions should be ensured for most of the GOs,-NGOs and private EAS providers of the country.
- The technologies and approaches in the BAEN training modules should be replicated in other areas that will boost safe vegetable production countrywide.
- Integrated households approach including crop, livestock, fisheries production with adaptation to climate change should be taken into consideration for sustaining the project benefits.

### List of Participants

| Sl. No. | Name                         | Address  |
|---------|------------------------------|--|
| 1       | Md. Mosharrof Hossain        | SDI Farmer, Basna, Dhamrai, Dhaka                |
| 2       | Md. Entaj Ali                | SDI Farmer, Basna, Dhamrai, Dhaka                |
| 3       | Md. Shoriful Islam           | SDI Farmer, Basna, Dhamrai, Dhaka                |
| 4       | Mst. Azmin                   | SDI Farmer, Basna, Dhamrai, Dhaka                |
| 5       | Mst. Zobeda Begum            | SDI Farmer, Basna, Dhamrai, Dhaka                |
| 6       | Salma Akter                  | SDI Farmer, Basna, Dhamrai, Dhaka                |
| 7       | Jahanara Begum               | SDI Farmer, Basna, Dhamrai, Dhaka                |
| 8       | Kbd. S. M Awlad Hossain      | Program Coordinator, SDI, Dhamrai, Dhaka         |
| 9       | Md. Abu Nayem Ripon          | Assistant Value Facilitator, SDI, Dhamrai, Dhaka |
| 10      | Md. Shamsuzzaman             | Assistant Value Facilitator, SDI, Dhamrai, Dhaka |
| 11      | Radharani                    | BASA Farmer, Shokhipur, Tangail                  |
| 12      | Morjina                      | BASA Farmer, Shokhipur, Tangail                  |
| 13      | Mst. Jahanara Akter          | BASA Farmer, Shokhipur, Tangail                  |
| 14      | Shokhi Charon                | BASA Farmer, Shokhipur, Tangail                  |
| 15      | Mst. Shoma Khatun            | Community Facilitator, BASA, Tangail             |
| 16      | Md. Alamin                   | Assistant Value Chin Facilitator, BASA, Tangail  |
| 17      | Md. Osman Faruki             | Project Coordinator, BASA, Tangail               |
| 18      | Fakir Tayebur Rahman         | Training Officer, BASA                           |
| 19      | Mst. Masuma Akhter Panna     | AGM (Project), BASA                              |
| 20      | Md. Shamsul Alam             | Credit Officer, BASA                             |
| 21      | Dr. Monjur Mohammad Shahjada | Director, PIU-NATP-2, DLS                        |
| 22      | Prof. Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahamed | Vice-Chancellor, SAU                             |
| 23      | Dr. Md. Abdul Mueed          | DG, DAE  |
| 24      | Kbd. Mrityunjoy Roy          | PD, IFMC, DAE                                    |
| 25      | Prof. Md. Mahbubul Alam, PhD | Knowledge Management Consultant, BAEN            |

-End of BAEN Story-

The FAAS Story

The immediate outcomes of the Supporting Smallholder  
Farmers in Asia Pacific Islands Regions through  
Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS)  
Project

**AN OPPORTUNE CONFLUENCE**  
(The FAAS Story)

Jiu Daunivalu

December 2019

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Members of FAAS for their commitment and support towards the establishment of FAAS through the SAAS Project intervention during the past three years (2017-2019).

Also acknowledge the funding support provided by IFAD through GFRAS, APIRAS and PIRAS, for the SAAS Project that benefit AAES providers and farmers in Fiji.

J. Daunivalu



## PREAMBLE

This Report outlines the impact of interventions from SAS Project, at field, sub-regional and regional levels, and support provided for the country platform, FAAS to provide and/or deliver the services required by AAES providers and farmers in Fiji.

Fiji Government has prioritized the agriculture advisory extension services, as reflected in the Fiji Agriculture 2020 Policy Agenda (Agenda). The Agenda calls for improving agricultural advisory extension service (AAES) delivery in the areas of education and training in agriculture, curriculum alignment, access to finance, agricultural information and technologies (animal, health production, land use, soil health, pests & disease, climate smart agriculture practices), agricultural facilities and infrastructure and strengthening linkages between research-extension-farmers.

SAAS Project interventions led to successful establishment of the Fiji Agriculture Advisory Services (FAAS). The interventions involved wider stakeholder consultations, and policy assessment and development. FAAS provides an effective and coordinated platform for the agricultural advisory extension services (AAES) providers, complementing the monopolistic extension services provided by government through the Ministry of Agriculture, and other private sector AAES providers.

Key SAAS Project activities undertaken and successfully achieved by FAAS with the support of PIRAS, APIRAS and GFRAS are outlined in this Report.

## 1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This Report illustrates the ‘outcome of the SAAS project interventions’ at country fora level, and support provided by the sub-regional and regional levels with impacts on the AAES providers and farmers in Fiji. The Report specifically highlights the following:

- a. Background of agricultural advisory extension services (AAES) in Fiji
- b. Challenges and gaps of agriculture advisory extension services (AAES)
- c. SAAS project interventions
- d. AAES Governance and Policy Framework
- e. Evidence in terms of Cases and/or a Short Video and Audio interview

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In assessing the impact of the SAAS Project interventions at country platform (FAAS), the level of support provided by the sub-regional and regional levels were also assessed, by undertaking the followings:

- a. Literature/desktop review on past projects’ reports and data;
- b. Interacting with the key staff involved in organizing the project interventions; and
- c. Travelling to project locations and organize key informant interviews and focus group discussions

## 3. AAES IN FIJI

The Agriculture sector remains important and backbone of Fiji’s economy, for income generation and food security. The sector supports the livelihoods of 49 percent of Fiji’s population that reside in rural areas. The Government through the Ministry of Agriculture developed a national policy titled ‘Fiji Agriculture 2020 Policy Agenda (Agenda) that governs and drives development and growth of the agriculture sector at all levels.

The Agenda aims at achieving a diversified, economically, environmentally and sustainable economy in Fiji, and articulates that agricultural extension is a building block for rural transformation and plays a pivotal role in fostering Modern Organized Agriculture for sustainable livelihoods, food and nutrition security and resilient communities in Fiji. The Agenda calls to build modern agricultural development systems through Rural Transformation Centres (RTCs) for timely/demand driven and decentralized integrated service delivery. To achieve this, the Agenda calls for improving agricultural advisory service (AAS) delivery in the areas of education and training in agriculture, curriculum alignment, access to finance, agricultural information and technologies (animal, health production, land use, soil health, pests & disease,

climate smart agriculture practices), agricultural facilities and infrastructure and strengthening linkages between research extension- farmers.

In addition, the Agenda mandate establishment of a Fiji Agricultural Council to provide advisory support to Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and promotion of public private partnership (PPP) to strengthen and leverage investment and policy strengthening for the sector.

AAES landscape in Fiji has changed from a sole public service provision to a more pluralistic with new non-state actors also providing advisory functions, through SAAS interventions during the past three years (2017-2019), based on the support provided by the regional (APIRAS), sub-regional (PIRAS) platforms.

SAAS interventions that saw the formation of FAAS, prioritized multi-stakeholder consultations and assessment of gaps/challenges, including trends and scenario analysis for assessing, designing and developing farmers' economic activities, and AAES focusing specifically on agricultural practices and innovations, and policies and approaches.

Attached as Annex 1 is the list of AAES Stakeholders.

#### **4. CHALLENGES AND GAPS**

SAAS Project interventions involved wider stakeholder consultations with government agencies and non-government institutions in Fiji. The initial consultation process at field or country level was held in August 2017, led to the formation of FAAS. A situation analysis of the AAES was carried out by the stakeholders that identified five major weaknesses and challenges of AAES in Fiji.

##### **a. Poor enabling policies for AAES**

Currently the only agriculture policy relating to mandate on extension services is the Fiji 2020 Agenda (Agenda). The Agenda articulated that AAS is a building block for rural transformation and plays a pivotal role in fostering Modern Organized Agriculture for sustainable livelihoods, food and nutrition security and resilient communities in Fiji. The policy lacks clear articulation of priority needs for AAES and the role of other AAES in Fiji.

##### **b. Limited linkages and coordination between AAES**

With the paradigm in plurality of the AAES landscape in Fiji provides opportunity to streamline and improve advisory functions to a wider population but it also brings challenges related to effective coordination of activities amongst service providers. Currently, there is minimal mandate established to support effective coordination of actors in AAES to ensure complementary and joint initiatives.

c. Limited capacities of AAES (institutional, organizational, individual)

A range of technical and functional capacity constraints at various levels have been identified. At the institutional level, there is limited linkages and partnerships with poor visioning, strategic planning, resource mobilizations, knowledge management and advocacy capacities. At the organizational level, there was a need to strengthen governance and management of AAES through policy advocacy, management, human resource development, planning and designing need based programmes, networking and partnering. At the individual level, it was recognised that while technical capacities are important, functional skills are equally important such as communication skills, networking and participatory approaches.

d. Poor availability and access to up-to-date information and knowledge in agriculture

Limited access to information and sharing amongst AAES providers in Fiji. A key contributing factor is that there is limited availability and access to a central platform to manage, retain and disseminate information and knowledge to clients and beneficiaries. In addition, ICTs and social media offer new opportunities to advance AAES from 'push' (e.g. radio, television, SMS) and 'interactive' services (e.g. Government to Customer services, interactive website) further on to transactional (e.g. mobile payments, banking services, payment platforms) and connected services. (e.g. a network of sensors and databases integrated over secure platforms to provide timely, accurate and real-time information. Transactional capabilities are the key to linking AAES being offered over ICT platforms.

This has been prioritized in the national policy, but has not been fully developed to effectively deliver the AAES that would benefit AAES providers, actors, supporters and enablers of the agriculture value chain in Fiji.

e. Evidence based impacts of AAES (Technology and Innovation)

Although AAS has been prioritized as reflected in the Agenda, it remains under resourced to meet the ever-growing demands for efficient AAES. A key related challenge is the lack of evidence on the impact of AAES contributions to national development agenda. In addition, there is lack of research on AAES, in relation to process of planning, conducting and evaluating research itself, whether it is research carried out on AAES policy, capacity building and approaches, methodologies and methods. Greater attention is needed for AAES research to build the evidence base for AAS that addresses long term impacts and for uptake of past research ensuring adequate consideration of the range of new public-private AAES models that are currently in play, and addressing educational challenges of future generations including engagement of vulnerable groups, food security in marginalised and climate affected areas, and on-going soil degradation.

## 5. SAAS PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

SAAS Project interventions has helped identify the type and level of AAES that has been, is, and will be provided that is 'needs based', for the AAES providers and farmers in Fiji.

Key SAAS project activities undertaken and successfully achieved by FAAS with the support of PIRAS, APIRAS and GFRAS are outlined below:

- a. Establishment and capacity assessment of country fora to strengthen governance of AAES institutions
  - A country situation analysis of AAES was conducted in August 2017, building on available assessments and supplemental primary information, and wider stakeholder consultations, coordinated by PIRAS/APIRAS, that helped identified gaps and challenges as outlined in Section 4.0 above;
  - Establishment of FAAS and appointment of a Steering Committee, and six Thematic Working Groups.
- b. Established FAAS Governance Framework
  - Development of a FAAS Charter which governs the functions and responsibilities of the Steering Committee, and Thematic Working Groups (TWG).
  - The Charter outlines the policy framework of FAAS, and scope of responsibilities of the Steering Committee and TWG, and FAAS Secretariat.
  - Establishment of a FAAS secretariat supported by PIRAS of the Pacific Community (SPC) under the IFAD funded programme through APIRAS and GFRAS for 2018-2019.
  - Development of a FAAS Business plan for implementation in 2018/2019.
- c. Improve individual capacities of AAES to effectively serve smallholder farmers and respond to their demands
  - Capacity assessment of human resources of various types of AAES providers include institutions in Fiji;
  - FAAS Secretariat in coordination with the Fiji Crop Livestock Council created a database of Private AAES providers, and activities undertaken are outlined in
  - Section 7.0 below;
  - Identified capacity gaps, and developed and conducted 'needs based' trainings for smallholder farmers by engaging Private AAES providers in 2018/2019.
- d. Development of knowledge management strategy
  - Use of ICT to communicate information and raise awareness of the SAAS/AAES activities that led to development of a FAAS Website in August 2018.

- Knowledge products, including GFRAS materials and Good Practice Notes are shared through the existing knowledge hubs and used in the learning events for sub-regional and regional level.
- Elaboration of ‘best fit approach’ through Guidance on process for identification and preparation of Good Agriculture Practice Notes building on GFRAS experience. Three GAP cases were captured and documented by FAAS (Rural Millionaire Farming Programme, Contract Farming, and Restructure of the Smallholder Farmers), which was disseminated at sub-regional and regional for learning and replication purposes.

e. Advocacy and Networking with AAES Providers, and Stakeholders

- Three Consultation Meetings/Workshops were conducted, funded and coordinated by PIRAS/APIRAS in August 2018, September and November 2018.

Regional Meetings/Workshops – APIRAS/PIRAS supported three FAAS members in attending the following meetings that were held in:

- Bangkok, Thailand- August 2018
- Seoul, Republic of Korea-September 2019
- Manila, Philippines- August 2019
- Bangkok, Thailand- August 2019



Picture 1: Multi-stakeholder meeting in Suva



Picture 2: FAAS Steering Committee at Regional Meeting at Nadi (May 2019)



Picture 3: FAAS Members at the Manila Workshop (Aug. 2019)

#### d. Cabinet Memorandum

FAAS, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture had developed a Memorandum for the purpose of informing the Fiji Government through Cabinet, on the establishment of FAAS network to address AAES challenges and gaps in the country. This would facilitate improvements of AAES policies, and AAES providers to implement changes accordingly at all levels. FAAS plays an important catalytic role in the implementation of the policy decision by Cabinet, and monitoring and evaluation on regular basis.

FAAS prioritizes improvement of AAES, looking at the policy environment, the capacity of potential service providers, the type of production systems and market access of farm households and the characteristics of local communities. FAAS takes into consideration the need to clearly demarcate governance structures (Governance-G), capacity, management (Management-M) and advisory methods (Performance-P), using ‘impact chain’ approach to analyze the performance and impact of AAES, and to have better understanding of the different dimensions of GMP. This provides the operational framework for FAAS to facilitate and/or develop right policies for changes such as decentralization, contracting out, using new advisory methods and changing management style in different ways so as to best fit Fiji’s circumstances. This framework will assist FAAS, and policy makers of AAES to move from conceptual approach on change models to an evidence-based ‘best fit’ approach.

#### e. Review of AAES Programme by Fiji National University – College of Agriculture

Participation in the stakeholder consultations and membership in the FAAS Steering Committee, has led to the review of extension programme offered by the Fiji National University – College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry. FAAS has provided the platform for the College to access information in relation to needs of the farmers on AAES, and to commence works from January 2020 on the development of the extension programmes that is needs-based.

## 6. OTHER EVIDENCE OF SAAS INTERVENTIONS

Evidence in terms of cases and/or a short video and audio interview are provided as part of assessing the impacts of the SAAS Project interventions in Fiji.

Through awareness in news media of the need to improve AAES and engagement of Private AAES Providers, retired agricultural extension officers, professionals and farmers have submitted EOI to join FAAS and FCLC, to deliver technical advisory support services to AAES providers and the farmers. Below are the achievements made in terms of engagement of Private AAES providers, and trainings conducted that are 'needs-based'.

### a. Engagement of Private AAES providers

FAAS in coordination with the farmers organisations, has developed a database of Private AAES providers. Based on requests received from the farmers, 'needs-based' trainings have been conducted by the Private AAES providers as outlined below:

- Taro Beetle Eradication - Retired AAES Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and commercial Taro Farmer, Mr Filimoni Kilawekana, has conducted three Taro Beetle Eradication trainings in 2019. Mr Filimoni's audio interview is submitted as part of this Report.
- Mushroom Farming – Ms Susan Pocock, a successful Mushroom farmer and head of a cluster of fifty women in the Province of Naitasiri, and President of the Fiji Mushroom Farmers Association, has been engaged to conduct training on Mushroom Farming. Two trainings were conducted attended by fifty Mushroom farmers in the Central Division, in November/December 2019.
- Value Chain Analysis – Ms Jiu Daunivalu has been engaged to conduct training on Value Chain analysis and completed five trainings in 2019. Trainings include Value Chain model as part of the 4Ps (Public Private Producer Partnership), with more than 200 farmers trained in 2018 and 2019.
- Agri-Food processing and quality control for the export market – Ms Alftina Tawake has conducted two trainings on post-harvest process and quality control requirements of the export markets (NZ, Australia), with fifty farmers trained in 2019.
- Business development – Mr Jone Driu Drugunalevu, Manager of Commercial Unit of iTaukei Affairs Board, and member of FAAS Steering Committee has conducted trainings in rural areas on business development, investment opportunities, financial literacy and captured successful good agriculture practice that are successfully replicated by smallholder farmers in rural communities. A short Video on the replication of a



successful GAP called the ‘Rural Millionaire Programme’ has been produced as evidence of the replication of the GAP in Fiji.

## 7. ROLE OF FAAS

SAAS project intervention impact on service improvements for AAES providers and farmers in Fiji. FAAS role is to drive changes/reforms for improvements in AAES, and act as an apex coordinating body to raise awareness and link the advisory services providers in the public and private sectors and the farmers. FAAS has four key principles that governs its operations. The four key principles are:

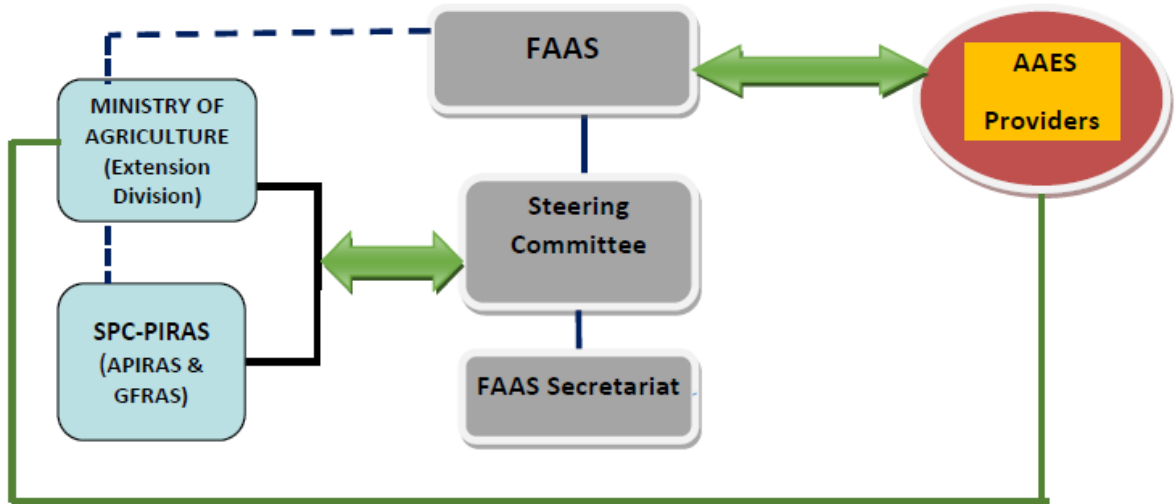
- i) **Leadership in agriculture advisory services.** To promote diverse capacities to diverse scenarios through learning and networking to support scaling of evidence-based practices.
- ii) **Demand oriented service delivery.** To promote accountability and efficient AAS that places farmers and communities’ demands and national development goals at the center of service delivery.
- iii) **Pluralism in the delivery of services.** To promote effective partnerships and information and knowledge sharing mechanisms at systems, organizational and individual levels, in order to address the multi-dimensionality of the problems farmers’ face. Pluralism is essentially the co- existence of a number of AAS providers and approaches from different sectors, and coordination is essential to prevent duplication of efforts and to ensure synergy.
- iv) **Decentralized services.** To promote evidence-based services that are based on equity and knowledge of farmers through efficient ‘talanoa’ mechanisms in Fiji, amongst AAS and with the farming communities and clients.

### 1.1 FAAS Organizational Structure

FAAS Steering Committee oversees the operation of the Secretariat, with direct linkages with the AAES providers both public and private sectors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, and Regional and Sub-Regional levels (PIRAS and APIRAS), as outlined in the organizational framework below.

This formally structured AAES providers is an outcome of SAAS project interventions at regional, sub-regional, and country fora levels, that benefits the rural smallholder farmers including women and youths in Fiji.

## Organisational Framework of FAAS



FAAS Membership is open to national AAES providers and key stakeholders in Fiji including, ministries involved in extension and rural advisory services, farmer organisations, education and training providers, researchers, non-government organisations, and civil society organisations. Other interested individuals, organisations and or networks may also become members of FAAS, subject to the approval of the Steering Body. FAAS members shall be officially appointed by the head of the Ministry to guarantee the appointment and for consistency and provision of replacements should the need arise.

### 1.2 FAAS Strategic Plan Framework

A Strategic Plan Framework of FAAS has been developed under the SAAS project, outlining FAAS Vision and mission statements, strategic objectives and activities to be carried out by FAAS in a ten year period ending 2028. To achieve its Vision, FAAS will pursue the following objectives that also capture policy development at all levels:

- a. Enhance capacities of AAES. FAAS will engage in capacity development of AAES at individual, organisational and systems levels:
  - i. Individual capacities: Strengthen the individual AAES agents' technical and functional knowledge and skills facilitated through education, training, and mentoring programmes.
  - ii. Organisational capacities: Strengthen AAES capacities related to strategic planning, management and policy and advocacy setting.
  - iii. Systems capacities: Strengthen the AAES capacities related to networking, policy development, advocacy and partnerships.
- b. Demand oriented AAES delivery: FAAS will promote:

- i. AAS models, frameworks, and guidelines for demand driven and evidence-based practices that demonstrate impacts from programming to service delivery.
  - ii. Streamline services through public-private partnerships and programmatic approach based on needs, context and building on the traditional structures.
  - iii. Regular consultations, reflection, learning and feedback and networking through face-to-face and other dialogue platforms.
  - iv. Provide advisory functions to its members, farming communities and key agriculture stakeholders related to policy, technical, financial, markets and value chains.
- c. Enhance availability, access and use of information, communications and knowledge. FAAS will jointly support strengthening of information and knowledge management (IKM) and sharing amongst AAES providers and with key stakeholders:
- i. Inventory and documentation: FAAS will inventory information, communications and knowledge products (including practices/activities) and capture, document and synthesize for continuous sharing, dissemination and use.
  - ii. Strengthen information, communications and knowledge management systems: Support the development of robust and functional information knowledge management systems to facilitate availability and access to up-to date information and knowledge by AAS and as well as farmers.
  - iii. Information, communications and knowledge dissemination: FAAS will support on-going information, communications and knowledge sharing/dissemination through various channels/platforms, including but not limited to, social media.
- d. Improve enabling environment for AAES. FAAS will promote the important role of extension and advisory services in contributing to national development goals (livelihoods, food and nutrition security, resilient communities) through:
- i. Advocacy: joint promotion of AAES priority needs through policy dialogues and other advocacy platforms.
  - ii. Policy support: policy strengthening through articulation of AAES priority needs in relevant policies.
  - iii. Resource mobilisation: joint resource mobilization for sustainable funding to address FAAS priority activities.

A Business Plan of FAAS has been prepared in line with its Strategic Plan Framework, to be reviewed on annual basis.

### 1.3 Implementation & MEAL

The FAAS Steering Committee will provide oversight and coordination support to ensure timely implementation of the Plan, and ensure collaboration from key stakeholders. The implementation will be carried out through local AAES programs at national, provincial and community level. Lessons learnt through networking will be used to inform and improve AAES at all levels.

On a quarterly basis, results reporting will be conducted to provide sector stakeholders, the status of achievement, work in progress and re-strategizing the way forward.

A robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) tool developed by FAAS will be used. The MEAL will be carried out as an integral component of the framework, to ensure coherence and consistencies in the implementation process. It will provide a tracking tool to ensure planned activities are carried out within the given timeframe and allocated budget. It provides an opportunity to collate, consolidate and disseminate data and information in a systematic and timely manner.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The SAAS Project interventions through the support provided at global, regional and subregional levels (GFRAS, APIRAS & PIRAS), has developed an appropriate platform at country level, with the formation of FAAS to improve the services provided to AAES providers and smallholder farmers in Fiji. SAAS Project indirectly supports the Fiji Government initiatives in improving AAES, through FAAS.

AAES has been prioritized by the Fiji Government in the Fiji Agriculture 2020 Policy Agenda that highlights the need to build modern agricultural development systems through Rural Transformation Centres (RTCs) for timely/demand driven and decentralized integrated service delivery. To achieve this, the Agenda calls for improving AAES delivery in the areas of education and training in agriculture, curriculum alignment, access to finance, agricultural information and technologies (animal, health production, land use, soil health, pests & disease, climate smart agriculture practices), agricultural facilities and infrastructure and strengthening linkages between research extension- farmers. However, AAES remains under-resourced to meet the ever-growing demands for efficient AAES and transformation of the agriculture sector to commercial scale.

The establishment of FAAS provides an effective and coordinated platform of the agriculture advisory extension services (AAES) providers, complementing the extension services provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, and other private sector AAES providers.

## ANNEX 1: AAES - STAKEHOLDERS

The main stakeholders currently involved in AAES in Fiji have been grouped according to their roles and the type of services they currently provide, based on SAAS project interventions, outlined in Table 1 below.

| Service Providers   | Services and Functions  |
|---|---|
| Government extension services:<br>Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Tourism | Technical, extension and advisory, market access, information, training, policy and regulatory, new technologies and educations and training  |
| NGOs:<br>PCDF, ADRA)  | Advisory services, training, mobilising communities into producer groups, specialized areas.  |
| Private Sector Services:<br>Agrifood Processors and Exporters, Nature's Way Cooperatives  | Value chains, agro-inputs, market access, mobile apps, export, training and support to farmers.   |
| Educational Institutions:<br>FNU, MoE, USP  | Research, training, up skilling, mentoring, counselling, curriculum development,  |
| Vocational Institutions: Navuso Training Institution, Nadave, Tutu Training Centre  | Training and up-skilling of youth (succession planning)   |
| Farmer Organisations: Fiji Crop Livestock Council (FCL) - Dalo, Kava, Ginger, Grazing Livestock, Beekeepers, Cocoa, Organics, Rice, Coconut, Spice, Fruits and Vegetables, Piggery                  | Strengthening farmers and farmers' organisations as partners in agribusiness, provide technical advisory support services, advocate and network on behalf of the members/farmers, linking them to government and key stakeholders that provide AAS. |
| Statutory Bodies:<br>Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), ITAB, TLTB, FDB, AMA, NWC   | Finance, compliance, quality assurance, Value chains, agro-inputs, market access, mobile apps, export, training, finance, compliance, quality assurance and support to farmers and rural communities.   |
| Other Stakeholders:<br>DoWA, Church groups  | Information dissemination, brokerage, advocacy, associations and capacity building  |
| International partners (SPC, IFAD, FAO, etc.)   | Technical and advisory services, capacity building and funds  |

## ANNEX 2: EVIDENCE OF SAAS PROJECT INTERVENTION

### 1. Video on replication of 'Rural Millionaire Programme'

[FAAS Naivucini 1.mp4](#)

### 2. Video/Audio Interview – Filimoni Kilawekana

[Dalo Beetle Eradication Trainer.mp4](#)

-End of FAAS Story-

The immediate outcomes of the Supporting Smallholder  
Farmers in Asia Pacific Islands Regions through  
Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS)  
Project

**COMPLEMENTATION  
IN BUILDING CAPACITIES**  
(The Philippines Story)

Arlene L. Flores

December 2019

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## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENT



## I. BACKGROUND

Pluralistic extension has always been viewed as a setback in the delivery of extension service to the farmers. On the contrary, this situation can be taken advantage of; the various extension service providers, with their respective interventions by virtue of their respective mandates as well as their resources, can be harmonized and turned into complementary interventions.

In the Philippines, the pluralistic extension service is being addressed by the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the creation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Network (AFEN) that harmonizes the *agricultural extension services* of the DA operational units and special programs. Other agencies and institutions with agricultural extension service function are invited to join the Network on a voluntary basis. The AFEN is a government-led partnership mechanism initiated by the Department of Agriculture (DA) with its Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) agency taking the leadership legitimized by an Administrative Order from the DA Secretary indicating that the ATI is the apex organization for extension. Membership is open to all agencies under the National Extension System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NESAF), the NGAs, SUCs and LGUs and the private sector (P-ESP, NGO, agri-based cooperatives, rural-based organizations, ATI-certified Learning Sites for Agriculture and School for Practical Agriculture). Mandatory members are the agencies, institutions and operating units under the DA with extension functions and programs, projects and activities, initially 28 then expanded to 30. Also required to be members are the private extension service providers accredited by the ATI. Non-DA membership is voluntary. With one representative per member agency/institution/operating unit/organization, the number of members is limited. Mainly, the responsibility of AFEN is the harmonization of the pluralistic extension. Capability building for members and sharing of good agricultural practices are also undertaken. Funding of activities comes from two sources: the ATI sets aside some amount and cost-sharing with the members.

The Country Forum PhilEASNet is another network organized for all kinds of extension services, not limited to agricultural extension. It is a professional organization of all those doing extension work, not only agricultural extension; they may be the members of the AFEN like the ATI plus private individuals doing extension work/practitioners including the retirees of extension work who are still capable. The members carry with them their agencies/institutions/organizations of affiliation as automatic institution members. In effect, membership is both individual and institutional. The PhilEASNet is a much bigger organization as members per agency/institution/organization is unlimited (unlike the AFEN with one representative per agency/institution/operating unit/organization). Its membership is nationwide and to date, membership nationwide totals 3,116. As a professional organization, PhilEASNet is registered with the Philippines' Securities and Exchange Commission, the body that legitimizes the various organizations for these to have legal personality. It is governed by a 10-member Board of Directors elected by the members who serve as the officers as well. An Executive Director is appointed to support the Board. The PhilEASNet has been in existence for the last eight years. Its funds come from annual dues, registration fees, contribution of institution members and sponsorship from outside sources for activities undertaken.

The AFEN and the PhilEASNet have practically the same concerns about extension but the latter has a wider scope with all extension services included (not only agricultural extension). Agencies/institutions/organizations can be members of both AFEN and PhilEASNet but the latter has a broader membership as it includes both individuals (unlimited) and institutions making it a bigger organization and thereby has a wider reach to the clientele; it is organization-led with its Board Members coming from the various members while AFEN is government-led with ATI on the lead. For these reasons, the PhilEASNet has been recognized as the Philippines' Country Forum.

The PhilEASNet is hosted by the Agricultural Training Institute, a government entity and the country's apex agricultural extension organization, for government support and guidance to ensure alignment with the government's development goals.

**The SAAS Project Implementation.** The Project, *“Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS)”* was implemented by the ATI in partnership with the PhilEASNet, both national and regional levels. The Project was not implemented in isolation. Rather, it was made to reinforce and complement the extension services being implemented for the AAS providers and the farmers or the rural communities as a whole.

## II. FOCUS: CAPACITY BUILDING INTERVENTIONS FROM SAAS PROJECT

The capacity building component of the SAAS Project implemented in CAR consisted of four main categories: enhancement of a training curriculum and modules, capacity building for the farmers, capacity building for the PhilEASNet-CAR/AAS providers and learning events through strengthened Country Forum.

### A. Enhancement of the Farmer Business School (FBS) training modules to become *“Climate-Smart Farmer Business School (CSFBS) for the Highlands: Experiences and Practices”*

Bearing in mind the farmers as the end beneficiaries and indicators of success of extension interventions, one of the capacity building interventions undertaken relative to the SAAS Project implementation was the review of an existing training program for the farmers for enhancement – the Farmer Business School (FBS) – which was one of the more successful interventions of the CHARMP 2. This was successfully implemented the CHARMP 2 in its area of coverage but on review, it was recognized that there is a need to integrate climate change resilience modules as the region CAR is also affected by the climate change.

After a series of meetings on the matter, the training on *Climate Change Resiliency Updates* for PhilEASNet-CAR/AAS providers was then conducted as a preliminary input

to the enhancement envisioned. After this training, a core group was organized to finalize the CSFBS training modules together with the consultant-writer. The core group was composed of representatives from the DA-RFO-CAR, the CHARMP 2, the ATI-CAR, the LGUs, the SUCs, research institutions and farmer groups who were mostly participants to the climate change resiliency updates training. The original Farmer Business School (FBS) was then enhanced and became **“CSFBS for the Highlands: Experiences & Practices”** with the following agreed-upon modules:

Preliminary Activities (10 days)

- Orientation of the CSFBS through General Assembly
- Area Profiling/PRA
- Group Formation and Strengthening of Existing Organization
- Planning Workshops

Module 1: Basics of Climate Change (3 days)

- Session 1. Understanding Climate and Weather
- Session 2. Climate Change & Its Causes and Effects
- Session 3. Impacts of Climate Change on Agri-Fishery
- Session 4. Resource Stewardship (AVP)
- Session 5. Identification of Applicable Adaptation Measures

Module 2: Climate Change-Resilient/Adaptation Practices (1 day)

- The CRA Experiences and Practices
- Other Experiences and Practices  
*(with activities)*

Module 3: Climate Change-Resilient Livelihood Projects (1 day)

- Various Experiences and Practices  
*(with activities)*

Module 4: Introduction of Marketing and Business Concepts (1 day)

- Session 1. Market and Value Chain Perspective
- Session 2. Livelihood and Business Visioning
- Session 3. Entrepreneurship for Small-Scale Producers

Module 5: Identifying and Prioritizing Market Opportunities (2 days)  
*(to include field visits to successful entrepreneurs and Agro-Fairs)*

- Session 1. Planning for Value Chain Assessment
- Session 2. Conducting Value Chain Assessment
- Session 3. Analysis and Discussion of Assessment Results
- Session 4. Sharing and Validating the Results of the Assessment and  
Presentation of Outputs

Module 6: Targeting and Testing Potential Innovations (2 days)

- Session 1. Identifying and Prioritizing Innovations to Address
- Session 2. Designing and Organizing the Testing of Innovations
- Session 3. Conducting the Testing of Innovations

Session 4. Special Topic on Innovation  
Session 5. Analyzing Results and Preparing for Sharing of Innovation  
Session 6. Presenting and Sharing Innovation with Chain Actors

Module 7: Business Planning and Accessing Business Support Services  
(5-10 days with breaks if necessary)  
(to include business plan support)

Session 1. Introduction to Business Planning  
Session 2. Writing the Business Plan  
Session 3. Financial Research and Extension and Legal Support  
Services  
Session 4. Critiquing and Improving the Business Plan  
(with special activities and support)

**Note:** All the modules will be conducted using participatory methods and techniques; with outputs where necessary; on a staggered schedule (not continues).

This shall be reproduced in Manual form for use by facilitators of this training for the farmers in the highland setting. (*Reproduction underway*)

## **B. SAAS Project-Related Interventions for the Farmers**

### **1. “Preparatory Orientation for a Rural-Based Organization: The Gains/Best Extension Practices of CHARMP 2 and the Climate-Smart Farmer Business School (CSFBS)”**

This was conducted for the intended beneficiary rural organization in preparation for the implementation of the season-long CSFBS in the CY 2020. This was implemented by the ATI-CAR together with the PhilEASNet-CAR Chapter and CHARMP 2 staff members for the Organic Farm Family Organization of Lamut, Ifugao. This organization is being developed by the ATI-CAR into a “*Community Learning Site for Agriculture and Local Market Place*” in the future. As such, it shall become a central place for marketing of products and information, a learning venue (training and informal), a venue for determining and addressing issues and problems immediately, for culture showcase and preservation, and a socialization venue where the community can share their thoughts in a convenient atmosphere in the locality. This organization shall be the first beneficiary of the season-long CSFBS for the Highlands in 2020 as another capacity development intervention for the organization.

### **2. Try-out of some of the best extension practices of CHARMP 2**

How is this related to the SAAS Project? Part of the SAAS Project was the identification of the best extension practices of an IFAD-funded project in the area of implementation (the CHARMP 2 in the CAR in the case of the Philippines). In this sense, the SAAS Project **played a vital role in creating full awareness and eventually**

**interest to try-out the best extension practices of CHARMP 2 worthy of emulation or replication.**

The best extension practice declared by the (CHARMP 2) was the *participatory approach* in all its programmed interventions, and this is known as the heart of CHARMP 2. Added to this were: the *Community Livelihood Assistance Funding*, the *School on the Air* and the *Community Monitoring and Evaluation*. Attention was also given to indigenous peoples and the youth in agriculture. The indigenous people are generally neglected in the national programming of interventions. The farm youth are the envisioned replacement farmers in the future, hence they need to prepare them. These best extension practices can be adopted in the implementation of related extension interventions by the Country Forum member agencies and institutions including the ATI-CAR which is also an institution member.

Interventions may not always be totally new. If there are proven extension practices available, why not try to apply? Total replication may not be in total form but at least the basic principles involved can be adopted and applied.

Inspired, the ATI-CAR, acting as both host institution of the Country Forum and member institution of the PhilEASNet-CAR at the same time, opted to try-out the *participatory approach* in implementing an extension project for indigenous people and the *community livelihood assistance funding* strategy although with modifications to suit the situation, particularly, the funding limitations and time constraints had to be considered.

Some CHARMP 2 staff members provided assistance and guidance and also acted as resource persons in some training courses conducted.

The two projects implemented by ATI-CAR for the farmers as an offshoot of the SAAS Project were:

- **Indigenous People Development**

The participatory approach was then considered. It may not be a total replication of the approach but the basic principle of involving as many stakeholders was done from planning to implementation. The stakeholders being the local chief executives (provincial governor, municipal mayors), the provincial veterinarian and provincial agriculturists, all the heads of offices and agencies in the locality including the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), the non-government organizations operating in the area, and the rural-based organizations involved.

- **Livelihood Project Funding**

One of the interventions implemented by ATI-CAR in CY 2017 was the provision of livelihood projects for the nationally identified priority province of CAR needing agricultural development assistance, Mountain Province. The intervention covered two municipalities with 20 barangays (villages) to be the recipients through their rural organizations. Since it was the first time for ATI-CAR, some of its implementation guidelines were patterned after CHARMP 2's community livelihood assistance funding guidelines and strategies. During the planning stage, a staff from CHARMP 2 was invited to share how the livelihood projects were undertaken.

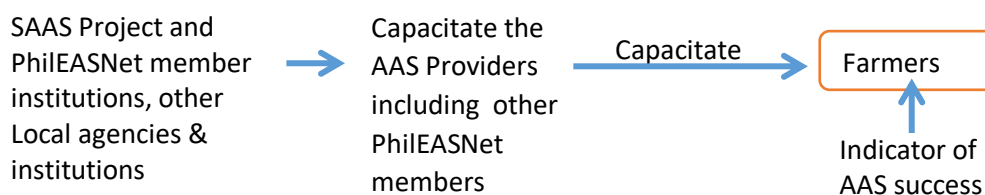
A total of 20 livelihood projects were then identified and funded for implementation by 20 rural organizations with a total of 464 members in 20 villages located in two municipalities of Mountain Province, Natonin and Paracelis municipalities. Of the 20 projects, 9 were on sustainable corn production and marketing (all Paracelis organizations), 5 on swine raising, 2 on table egg production, 2 on broiler chicken production, and 1 each on goat production and coffee production and processing.

In both projects, climate change resiliency and adaption topics were integrated to ensure that climate change-resilient projects are identified.

The interventions implemented by ATI CAR for the farmers were generally acceptable to the farmer beneficiaries. Interviews conducted to some recipients showed some evidences of success. (Annexes A-C)

### C. Capacity Building Interventions for the PhilEASNet-CAR/AAS Providers

By design, the SAAS Project shall strengthen the capacity of AAS providers to enable them to provide quality extension service to the farmers who shall serve as indicator of success for the AAS providers.



Extension service is not a totally new thing in the country. There are existing extension interventions and capability building interventions for both the PhilEASNet-CAR/AAS providers and the farmers being implemented by the DA, LGUs, SUCs, private sector and other entities. However, continuity is necessary for sustainability.

The SAAS Project complemented and reinforced the capability building interventions for the PhilEASNet-CAR/AAS providers in the CAR provided by the local agencies and institutions. The conduct of the community needs assessment under the Project

resulted in the identification of needs that can be addressed by both the SAAS Project and the local agencies given their mandates. So that some of the capability building needs were addressed by the ATI-CAR, the DA-RFO-CAR, the DA-BPI-NSQCS, DENR, DTI, SUCs, the local government unit agriculture offices at the provincial and municipal levels and others.

**The SAAS Project-Funded Training Courses.** Three training courses for PhilEASNet-CAR/AAS Providers were conducted by PhilEASNet-CAR Officers and ATI-CAR funded under the SAAS Project. These were: *Climate Change Resiliency Updates, Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation for Extension and Documentation & Good Practice Notes/Success Story Writing*. These three training courses served as reinforcement to the other training courses conducted by the local agencies and institutions. In short, complementation of capability building interventions was applied.

Given that the training for the PhilEASNet-CAR/AAS providers are still very recent, initial follow-up done indicated that majority of the training graduates are still preparing to apply their learning. Anyhow, there are some immediate feedbacks gathered that are worth noting. Among the feedbacks gathered from the LGU extension workers were the following:

- *Jane de la Rosa, extension workers, LGU-Luna, Apayao province: increased confidence in writing stories, hence submitted write-ups to local provincial newspaper and to the ATI for publication in 2020.*
- *Rony Carlos, extension worker, LGU-Sablan, Benguet province: more confidence in delivering lectures and utilization of learning in personal business; became in demand as resource person on project proposal preparation and was able to coach farmers better; confident in writing GAP stories and reports.*
- *Faith Pec-ao, extension worker, LGU-Mt. Province: realized the importance of accuracy of data and information making it more relevant for the program/project activities planning for succeeding years; partnered with the local provincial information office and the Philippines News Agency on press releases on the programs/projects conducted; greatly influenced skill in monitoring-data collection, conduct of effective interview of clients.*
- *Ares Compala, extension worker, LGU-Sablan, Benguet: important to be thinking ahead with the activities planned; was able to do better planning which considers preparation as crucial aspect in PPA implementation.*
- *Hilda Dampaso, extension worker, LGU-Kapangan, Benguet: helped in planning ahead despite the challenges in monitoring such as time and distance of areas covered; applies well in monitoring projects; conducted quarterly meeting as part of monitoring.*

- *Melody Wacnang, extension worker, LGU-Kapangan, Benguet: appreciation of how constant monitoring changes attitudes of farmers towards the implementation of programs/projects; did constant monitoring which led to the identification of the needs of farmers better; helped farmers to value their projects when staff diligently monitor their progress.*

#### D. Learning Events through Strengthened Country Forum

As the CF PhilEASNet is already established, the focus was expansion by organizing Regional Chapters (Philippine Regions). The expansion to the regional level will make PhilEASNet more visible in the localities and direct intervention for the members and clientele will be achieved.

The CF PhilEASNet was able to expand by establishing Regional Chapters starting with the PhilEASNet-CAR Chapter with funding assistance from the SAAS project. The Project continued on to finance the capacity needs assessment of the PhilEASNet-CAR Chapter members together with AAS providers who are not members. The organization of PhilEASNet-Region IVB and PhilEASNet-Region II followed for a total of three Regional Chapters. With this expansion, the following national learning events were conducted successfully:

1. The “2017 National Extension Governance Forum” which was partly sponsored by the SAAS Project, was conducted by the National PhilEASNet together with PhilEASNet-CAR Chapter.
2. The “2018 National Extension Policy Symposium” which was also partly sponsored by the SAAS Project, was conducted by the National PhilEASNet together with PhilEASNet-Region IVB Chapter.
3. Particularly for PhilEASNet-CAR, with its formation, its officers in partnership with ATI-CAR which is also an institution member of PhilEASNet-CAR (double personality), conducted the **“2019 PhilEASNet-CAR Regional Extension Forum” funded by the SAAS Project.**

There was **full awareness** on the best practices of the various extension service providers and farmer leaders in the region including the best extension practices of the CHARMP 2, which may never be known without this learning event. It is worth noting that the Project Director himself, who now sits as the Regional Executive Director of the DA-RFO-CAR, the Regional Office of the Department of Agriculture in CAR, presented the CHARMP 2 projects and activities including its best practices and recommendations for future implementation. He strongly encouraged everyone to emulate/adopt the good practices especially the



*participatory approach* in the implementation of extension interventions for the farmers and the community in general.

Such awareness led to the PhilEASNet-CAR member institutions'/AAS providers' expressed interest to contribute to the sustainability of the best extension practices by integrating these in their respective programs/projects and other interventions even if only in modified form. It also cultivated interest in undertaking complementary interventions among the AAS providers who are member institutions of PhilEASNet-CAR.

**Another offshoot attributed to the Project** is the coming together of the various PhilEASNet-CAR member institutions/AAS providers in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) who are members of the PhilEASNet-CAR. As the individual members carry with them their agency/organization of affiliation as institution members, some of these agencies/organizations who are capable contributed some amount to help defray expenses during the conduct of the activities programmed. Of particular case is the contribution of the DA-Regional Field Office (the institution affiliation of some individual members) during the conduct of the "2017 Extension Governance Forum" where it contributed a total amount of PhP440,000.00 which is approximately \$8,800.00. Manpower counterpart and materials were contributed by the other members of the Country Forum.

**Also, possible partnerships** among the PhilEASNet-CAR member institutions is now being explored for realization in succeeding years. Discussions have started on possible inter-agency projects for the poorest communities in the provinces of the CAR. It was agreed that these member institutions will commit part of their budget to co-finance extension interventions to be identified through a community needs assessment and planning starting Year 2020. The PhilEASNet-CAR Chapter officers shall initiate this move, to led by DA-RFO-CAR and the ATI-CAR who are the major institution members.

**Other initiatives** came into the picture such as the need to expand partnerships not only within the Country Forum and the ATI but also to outside entities like the business sector who can surely contribute to the enhancement of extension services for the farmers. Included in this realization is the need to get trained on writing winning project proposals.

## Intervention 1. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Beneficiary IP Organization : Fun-I Keepers Organization  
 Location : Barangay Anabel, Sadanga, Mountain Province

Interviewees:

1. Ms. Aurora Filowan - President
2. Isabel Walis- Coordinator/ member
3. Ana Filaen- Member

### The Village, Anabel



Anabel is a small village atop a mountain in the municipality of Sadanga, Mountain Province inhabited by indigenous people. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood with heirloom rice (native rice) as main crop; livestock and poultry raising and vegetable production as supplementary activities but not that intensive. The area can be suitable for more crops but the people are more inclined to produce heirloom rice which is their crop for generations. Generally, the heirloom rice is produced for home consumption. It is produced once a year as it takes about six

months to mature.

### Fun-I Keepers Organization

The group was organized with the help of the SUC in the province, the Mountain Province Science and Polytechnic College (MPSPC) for their project on sweet potato production to diversify their commodity. This was an outreach project of the SUC. All the materials needed were provided so that all the organization members had to do was cultivate. The crop is known as a “God-cared” crop, there is not much technology involved in its production.

Legal Representation. The organization is registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and accredited by DA-RFO-CAR as a viable rural-based organization on September 27, 2017.

Membership. The organization started with 16 members through the project initiated by MPSPC. All members are mothers although membership is open to both sexes and all walks of life. Age bracket, 30-60 years old.

### **The Intervention**

Anabel village was chosen for the intervention being an IP community with limited agricultural production activities. As earlier mentioned, heirloom rice is the main crop. The intervention took off from the SUC project for continuity of development efforts for the community.

Conducted in June and July of 2018, the intervention involved the youth as implementers of the project for the indigenous people. Initially, a group of 10 youth (with four of them IPs themselves) members of the Regional 4-H Club of CAR were trained on cultural sensitivity and community diagnosis then they were made to undergo community immersion in the target IP community for five days. They were hosted by five households in the area at two youth implementers per household. In this activity, the youth implementers interacted with the community folks to familiarize themselves with the culture in the area. They did community mapping to have a complete picture of the place and conducted a needs assessment through interviews and group discussions. The end result was the identification of a project that the IP organization would like to implement.

#### **Project Identified: Technology Demonstration on Potato Production**

The project was identified because the organization members finally recognized that there is a need to diversify their commodity and not concentrate only on heirloom rice which they produce mainly for home consumption. They want to intensify their vegetable production as alternate and additional crop but they are not knowledgeable and skilled enough to do so. They have not experienced producing potatoes. As an initial step, a technology demonstration was requested by them to be undertaken.

Prior to the implementation of the technology demonstration project, the organization members were trained on semi-temperate vegetables production with topics on pests and diseases management, farm records keeping, good agricultural practices and vermiculture. The resource persons were the local experts.

The members of the organization implemented and managed the technology demonstration project with the supervision of the ATI-CAR, assistance and monitoring by the provincial and municipal agriculture offices. The members took turns in undertaking the maintenance tasks until harvest time – watering, control of pests and diseases, weeding, security of the farm among others. Field Day was undertaken when it was time to harvest to showcase the result of the demonstration project. The activity was attended by the community folks and staff of the municipal agriculture office and other offices in the municipality. The volume of potato harvest as well as the amount generated is shown below.

| Size         | No. of Kg   | Price/kg | Amount                       |
|--------------|-------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Extra Large  | 10          | 60.00    | 600.00                       |
| Large        | 16          | 50.00    | 800.00                       |
| Medium       | 16          | 45.00    | 720.00                       |
| Small        | 28          | 40.00    | 1,120.00                     |
| Extra Small  | 10          |          | (not sold, home consumption) |
| Marble       | 6 ¼         |          | (disposed)                   |
| Reject       | 3 ¼         |          | (disposed)                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>89.5</b> |          | <b>P3,290.00</b>             |



The training before the demonstration project

### The Benefits

The amount generated from the technology demonstration project was deposited as additional fund of the organization. The first being their income from the sweet potato

project implemented by MPSPC.

The project was able to demonstrate that potato production can be an added source of income for the farmers in Anabel. Adoption of this technology was readily accepted as expressed by the organization members.

The membership increased to from 16 to 30 with the inclusion of their family members when the project was implemented.



A total of 12 members expressed willingness

Technology demonstration project land preparation and planting

to plant potatoes in their respective farms applying their learning from the technology demonstration project.

### Reflection/Testimony from the Organization Members

The organization members recognized the value of training in improving their agricultural practices. That with proper knowledge input coupled with practice/demonstration, farming skill

and mastery will be developed. According to them, the training they received on the technologies were very informative.

### **Challenges Encountered**

Among the challenges met during the implementation of the techno demonstration project were the following:

- Some members did not actively participate in the daily maintenance tasks of the techno demo which burdened the other members who had to render overtime work.
- The member who has some experience in potato production elsewhere where he used to farm and serving as guide of the group died in the process which was a great loss.
- The area for the demo did not undergo conversion period hence not fit for organic agriculture production which they intended to do.

### **Recommendations**

The members recommended that

- continuous training should be provided for the organization to reinforce and sustain their learning
- More frequent monitoring should be done by the municipal agriculture office and the ATI-CAR to ensure accuracy and timeliness of farm activities, address problems immediately and to keep the organization members alert all the time
- For poor communities, it will be appreciated if all inputs and tools will be provided as much as possible

### **Ways Forward for Sustainability**

The organization will conduct a Phase 2 of the technology demonstration for mastery and for additional knowledge and skills. This time, they will apply both conventional and organic agriculture practice for comparison and thereby come up with good produce.

Members will have individual potato seed bank to ensure source of planting materials when they will plant in their own individual farms.

Conversion of their organization into a rural-based organization for women, the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) supported by the Department of Agriculture, will be done. This way, they can access more assistance from the DA. The organization will maintain its established partnerships and continue to expand partnerships with more entities.

## Intervention 2. LIVELIHOOD PROJECT FUNDING

(Presented below is a **representative case** on sustainable corn production and marketing)

### Livelihood Project 1. Sustainable Corn Production and Marketing

Organization : Lower Bunot Ullalim Integrated Development Association  
Incorporated (LBUIDAI)  
Location : Barangay Lower Bunot, Paracelis, Mountain Province

The Interviewees:

1. Geliza Apayao – Auditor
2. Hermie Wandagan – Secretary
3. Phoebe Allig – Treasurer
4. Susana Apayao – Member
5. Agnida Belowan – Member

### The Organization

The organization is an existing group organized in 2016 at the members' own initiative after their FFS training on Corn production, a training conducted by the DA through the Municipal Agriculture Office. They organized themselves with 24 initial members and expanded to 28 as of 2019, consisting of 11 males and 17 females who belong to 13 households.

Legal Personality. The organization is registered with the country's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Organization Fund. Organization fund comes from the membership fee of P100.00 and annual dues of P100.00 but this is not sufficient. To accumulate more funds, the members employ themselves as farm laborers during planting, cleaning of farms, harvesting and other farm tasks and portion of their wages go to the organization. This is to have funds for their meetings and fares when attending seminars and training.

Social Responsibility. The organization is committed to help their community; they initiated activities like road cleaning, planting trees around irrigation areas and school areas and road leveling all done for free. They also provide technical support to the other organizations in their community, e.g. their president guiding other organizations in registering with the SEC in Baguio City.

### Prior Situation

The farmer members depend on the input suppliers and money lenders to finance their corn production. These input suppliers provide the fertilizers, seeds and other inputs needed on credit with as much as 25% interest if unable to pay on time. Their corn produce is also committed to these input suppliers who dictate the buying price. Often, their harvest is just enough to pay off their credit with interest. Sometimes it is not even enough. This cycle goes on and on so that the farmers do not realize substantial income from their corn farming.

This situation is common to all the corn farmers in the municipality of Paracelis, not only to the members of LBUIDAI.

### **The Intervention**

Given the above situation, the ATI-CAR came up with the concept of “capital in kind” instead of cash. That is, to purchase all the needed inputs in the production of corn for a given area so that the farmers will not have to draw these on credit with interest from the suppliers. The production inputs purchased shall be managed by the organization. The organization shall release the inputs to the farmer members on credit with minimal 5% interest to become fund of the organization and shall collect payments during harvest. The collection shall be used to purchase the inputs for the next production cycle. This way, the farmers will realize some income.

LBUIDAI was one of the organization beneficiaries of this project. To ensure success, the organization members underwent a series of training on the proper technologies that they should apply and organization strengthening. They completed the training on GAP-Mycotoxin, GAP-ICS Phases 1-4, Food Safety and Food Processing.

After the training courses, the organization received the inputs purchased by the ATI-CAR (seeds, fertilizers, herbicides) covering one cropping season. The farmer-members drew their supplies from the organization.



Some of the members who received the inputs

### **Support Received/Being Provided**

The provincial and municipal local government units are constantly monitoring their implementation stages and activities. The Municipal Agriculture Office and the Provincial Agriculture Office provide relevant trainings to their organization from time to time. The Department of Agriculture provided the organization the machineries.

### Benefits

After the first cycle of production, the members were able to pay their capital share amounting to P20,400.00 (total for all). A total of P48,960.00 was deposited in the organization's bank account which was the 5% accumulated interest.

Having established credibility as a viable organization, the Department of Agriculture entrusted them a farm tractor and a water pump. These farm machineries are being rented out to the community with minimal charge for maintenance.

### Testimonies

#### ▪ Mrs. Geliza Apayao



“We don't have to loan anymore from private individuals who charge high interest rates just to cover expenses for each cropping. The farm inputs initially provided as “capital in kind” broke the cycle of farm debt. I can now realize that I can use to supplement the family's needs, especially in the education of my children who are in their Senior High.” She also shares happily how through the trainings she was able to make use of corn husks as decorations which she sells.

#### Mrs. Phoebe Allig

“With my cropping funds assured, I can now avoid loaning and my income is used for her other projects like swine raising.”

She now employs workers in her farm paying for their wages. She also now has extra funds to improve their house (extension of their house).





Both Ms. Apayao and Ms. Allig attest that the common benefit of the members from the project is their not being dependent on loans with high interest rates anymore. The passive attitude of some of the members and even the community as a whole has also become positive with the influence of the organization. They now embody the organization's purpose and have become proactive.

### **Challenges Encountered**

Despite the stability of the organization, challenges were still encountered such as the following: damages brought about by two typhoons, rat attack and blight attack.

### **Recommendation**

The group recommended more frequent visits to their project be undertaken and more training interventions on the needed technologies especially on disease prevention and control by their LGU extension workers and the ATI-CAR.

### **Way Forward for Sustainability**

Continue the project operation; commodities produced/raised may change but the seed money of the organization established through the "capital in kind" scheme shall be maintained. Plan to put up a multi-purpose building to serve as storage, training hall and safe place for equipment and machineries.

### Intervention 3. LIVELIHOOD PROJECT FUNDING

(Presented below is a **representative case** on swine raising.)

#### Livelihood Project 2. Swine Raising

Organization : **BANAO RURAL IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

Location : Barangay Banao, Natonin, Mountain Province

Interviewees:

1. Ligaya Layyag – President
2. Romelia Atiwon – Treasurer
3. Marilou Panitiw – Member
4. Julalen Mamag – Member

#### The Organization

The group was organized when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) implemented a project, “ginger-based products production and processing” with them. From then the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) recognized their potential and assisted them in formally creating them as the “Banao Rural Improvement Club.”

Legal Registration. The organization is accredited by the Department of Agriculture as a viable rural-based organization but they plan to register also with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Membership. Originally they were 28 but some left the village so membership decreased to 15.

#### The Intervention

The ATI-CAR partnered with the remaining 15 members of the organization for a swine raising project which they themselves proposed to implement. Various technologies on swine raising including biogas operation were taught through training and coaching right in the field by the LGU extension workers with assistance from the ATI-CAR.

#### Support Received/Being Received

In support to the project, the group sought additional training from the TESDA on meat processing. They are now able to process meat products like sausages, although for household consumption meantime.

## Benefits

For the first cycle, the 15 members of the organization produced a total of 60 pigs at four heads each, generating a gross income of P585,500.00 and net income of P114,000 or an average income of P7,600.00 per organization member. This income generated was used to purchase piglets for the next cycle.

Some family members were enticed to start their own swine raising project with guidance from their parents who are organization members.

The ginger-based product is also being continued by some members. Ms. Ligaya continuously still processes ginger tea.

## Testimonies

### ▪ Ms. Marilou Panitiw



Ms. Panitiw shared that the income she received from the sales of swine in the first cycle has been used to expand her pig pen, now she is taking care of 13 piglets. Her whole family is hands-on with the project. She taught her children to raise pigs.

### ▪ Rick Denver Lamaton (4-H Club member)

Son of the organization member, also raised swine and now has become an expanded family endeavor. Being a member of 4-H Club, is continuing with the project and has started on the potential expansion to tilapia production. As of writing, the site is being prepared for the expansion on tilapia and swine production.



### ▪ Romelia Atiwon

“I used my income to finance the education of her daughter who is a graduating student in the Mt. Province local college. I have two disposable pigs and I bought another piglet for her next cycle.”

### **Challenges Encountered**

The common challenges encountered by the swine raisers were swine diseases that occur especially during the changing climatic condition and market for their produce.

### **Way Forward for Sustainability**

One of the mechanisms that the group is looking into is market for their produce. The other option is to expand to community meat processing to solve their marketing problem. Currently, their meat processing is limited to home consumption.

The organization also plans to register their organization with DOLE or SEC for legal personality.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Given the results of the capacity building interventions, the following are recommended:

1. Continuous conduct of the learning events for updates, the capacity building interventions for the PhilEASNet/AAS providers for a dynamic extension service as well as the farmers who are the end users. Continuity, complementation and reinforcement of interventions should be dictum.
2. Continued complementation among PhilEASNet-CAR member institutions/AAS providers in providing extension service for the farmers. Resources consolidated and pooled through complementation will lead to a more focused service and interventions that will eventually redound to tangible impact.
3. With the results of the interventions for farmers, it can be concluded that the CHARMP 2 best extension practices are worth emulating and sustaining. Therefore, these should be sustained by the PhilEASNet-CAR institution members/AAS providers in any way possible.
4. The gains of all special projects, especially those with expensive funding, conducted in the country should be sustained as a matter of policy, otherwise these will only become waste of effort and resources.
5. The Livelihood Project Assistance to focus more on organizational strengthening to ensure sustainability.
6. Ensure the conduct of the CSFBS for the Highlands for the intended first beneficiary organization.
7. The development of the “Community Learning Site and Local Market Place” should be pursued by the ATI-CAR and PhilEASNet-CAR Chapter to serve as pilot project that can be replicated in other places.

#### **Concluding Statement:**

Overall, the results and outcomes under capacity building is satisfying. It can be concluded that the SAAS Project contributed to the capacity development of the Country Forum, the PhilEASNet/AAS providers and the beneficiary farmers. What the SAAS Project started should be continued by the local development agencies/offices.

-End of PhilEASNet Story-

## Closing Statement

In the overall scheme of things, the SAAS project may be nothing but a speck in the field of agricultural advisory and extension services. With three years of project life and only two years of on-the-ground implementation, it may be difficult to really observe the effects or the consequences of its interventions. Implementers hustled to complete the deliverables demanded by the project's results framework and then busied themselves in writing and submitting reports. Completing the correspondence between activities and budget was the primary consideration.

The beauty of a project like SAAS, however, is that it worked with Country Fora which in turn connected to the very people who needed the project outputs: the extension workers and eventually the smallholder farmers. Despite the seemingly fleeting time for SAAS, Jahanara from Bangladesh now cultivates vegetables and fruits for her family. Romelia from the Cordillera Region, Philippines earned additional income to help support her daughter's schooling. In Fiji, extension workers and other stakeholders now have a venue to come together and collectively chart their future.

The SAAAS project went through a lot of challenges. But despite everything, it has measurable outputs deployed in the field. Slowly maybe but these outputs are now being used as jumping boards for better lives, better collaboration, and perhaps, better way of doing things in the field of agricultural advisory and extension services.

The seeds were planted. Florescence begins.

-End of Outcome Documentation Report-