GLOBAL LEARNING AND EVIDENCE EXCHANGE
CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
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EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES FOR CSA

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USAID/Bangladesh supports strengthening extension and advisory services through the Feed the Future Agricultural Extension Support Activity, a 5-year program implemented by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and sub-partners CARE and mPower. It is designed to:

- Enhance access to and use of agricultural extension services by smallholder farmers (men and women)
- Expand and strengthen ICT mechanisms to increase access to agricultural market information, knowledge and technologies
- Strengthen capacity of extension agents (public and private) to proactively respond to the needs of smallholder farmers, with an emphasis on women
EXTENSION AND ADVISORY *SYSTEM*

Bangladesh has a pluralistic agricultural extension system that includes three providers:

- **Public**: Delivered through 14,000 frontline extension officers (SAAOs) employed by the Department of Agricultural Extension. Traditional top-down approach to providing extension and advisory services.

- **Private**: Input suppliers acting through intermediaries, e.g. input retailers. Mostly product-based, sometimes requires public oversight.

- **Project**: Civil society organizations (e.g. BRAC, USAID IPs) and agricultural research organizations. Limited to specific target areas and commodities, often time-bound.
EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Creating a ICT-based, youth-led private extension model
  • Farmer query system
  • Crop diagnostics application

Improving access to ag input finance
  • A-card

Strengthening GOB extension services
  • SAAO digital diary & web dashboard
  • SAAO scheduling
  • Ag knowledge bank portal
EXTENSION AND ADVISORY CHALLENGES FOR CSA

- Transition from providing “packages” of technological and management advice to supporting farmers with the skills and information they need to make informed decisions
- Insufficient capacity of public and private extension providers - reach and information
- Low public investment in secondary crops
- Limited research-extension linkages
- Large-scale farm subsidies that don’t incentivize farmers to adopt CSA practices and integrated landscape management
EXTENSION AND ADVISORY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CSA

- Political commitment to assist smallholder farmers and farming systems adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate, e.g. the GOB’s Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020) with a goal to accelerate the transformation process from semi subsistence to commercial agriculture
- Increasing government awareness and recognition of the value of climate services that can be linked to extension and advisory services
- Rapid growth of ICT services coupled with declining costs of access
CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- Leverage ICTs to communicate information to reduce and prevent climate risk

- Build individual, organizational and system capacity to deal with climate risk and change.

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