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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

GLOBAL LEARNING AND EVIDENCE EXCHANGE  
**CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE**

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**EXTENSION AND ADVISORY  
SERVICES FOR CSA**

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## OVERVIEW

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



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## 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





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## 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



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## 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





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## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

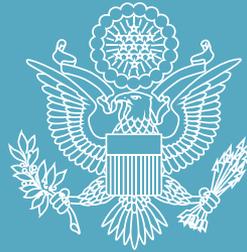
- Leverage ICTs to communicate information to reduce and prevent climate risk
- Build individual, organizational and system capacity to deal with climate risk and change.

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