



## **Food Security and Sustainability of Family Farmers' Livelihoods in Context of the North-Eastern Bangladesh**

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Bangladesh is an agro-based country of South Asia. Agriculture in Asia is characterized by small holders of farmland having average size of less than 2 hectares (80% of total farms). Like other Asian smallholders farmers Bangladeshi farmers is also facing several challenges arising from a range of economic, demographic, structural, technological and institutional factors including industrialization and urbanization. At present 95% of farmers of Bangladesh are belongs to small-scale group. The smallholder farmers in major cases depend on sharecropping and struggling of capital investment. After green revolution, the country has developed a lot in case of technology development. Though having success in technology generation the country has not succeeded enough to transfer these technologies to the end-users and a huge gap of crop production has exists between the research station and farmers field. Family farming cultivation is vital to the day to day food security of small-scale rural households. But such practices are not yet based on an integrated and holistic approach. Farmers cannot increase profit margins due to their lack of knowledge and understanding about how to cultivate their land more effectively in a planned and sustainable way. In Sylhet division, north-eastern Bangladesh, we are mostly working with small-scale farm households in our livelihood enhancement programs and found some innovative technologies has been increased the productivity of small-scale farmers. In recent years we introduced some organic and sustainable agricultural technologies to the small-scale farm households such as integrated rice–duck farming practices, Landcare approach, vegetable production in sack, ducklings' hatchery, aquaculture, compost (kitchen waste, vermin-compost, pile & basket compost etc.) production to enterprise and found effectiveness and accepted by the farmers. It was observed that farmers' are very much interested to know and follow the new and innovative approaches. For the extension new technologies it is necessary to ensure the community participation, identify proper households, ensuring farmer's initial capital, and premium price. These innovations are a crud example for poverty elimination and prove that poverty is more than a lack of resources; it is also a lack of opportunities.

**Key Words:** economic empowerment, family farming, food security and safety, livelihood enhancement, sustainable agriculture