

Making Agriculture Markets Work for Smallholders

Improving technology transfer to rural Bangladesh

Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Project (ANEP) (2012-2014)

Increased Productivity is Essential for Food Security

Poverty and malnutrition remain a pressing problem in Bangladesh, which has some of the highest instances of stunting and wasting in Asia. The economy is highly dependent on agriculture with about two-thirds of the population earning a livelihood from the sector, yet productivity for many important agricultural crops remains low. Increasing **productivity can lead to higher production and consumption of more nutritious foods** for low-income families.



Market Systems deliver Sustainable Results

Yet innovative technology alone is not enough. Increasing smallholders' access to low cost technologies also **depends on sustainable distribution and marketing**. iDE believes that market systems offer the most sustainable means for small-holders to have ongoing access to improved technologies in the long term.

To this end, the **EU Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Project (ANEP) (2012-2014)** was devised to facilitate to the adoption of innovative technologies for 40,000 households in the Barisal Sadar, Hizla, and Mehendigonj upazillas of Bangladesh through a market-systems approach.

Poor nutrition is a major issue in Bangladesh. According to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) for Bangladesh (2011):

- 43% stunting amongst rural children under five and 36% for urban children
- 16% wasting amongst children
- 36% of children underweight

Innovative Technologies can Improve Food Security and Nutrition

Introducing innovative, affordable and environmentally sustainable technologies can increase the productivity of farmers and enhance the nutritional value of produce. This **improves the income** for primary producers and **increases access to more nutritious foods** for low-income rural and urban households. Such technologies include:

- Integrated pest-management (IPM) such as the environmentally friendly pheromone trap;
- Homestead agriculture technologies such as pit cropping, hanging net, raised bed cultivation;
- Conservation Agriculture (CA) through appropriate farm mechanisation;
- Integrated Aquaculture-Agriculture (IAA) based carp poly-culture with nutrient dense small fish; and,
- Micro-irrigation technologies (MIT) such as axial flow pump (AFP) and treadle pump (TP)

The Agriculture and Nutrition Extension (ANEP) is a multi-country programme supported by the European Union (EU) to develop market linkages between rural and urban areas and promote exchange of expertise and technologies between agricultural and research institutions in Nepal and Bangladesh. ANEP is being delivered as a partnership between International Development Enterprises (iDE), Save the Children (SC), the International Centre for Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), The WorldFish Centre (WFC), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the Community Development Centre (CODEC).



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How Can ANEP deliver access to Agricultural Technologies and Improve Urban and Rural Nutrition?

To achieve improved food security and nutrition for the rural and urban low-income groups, ANEP has taken the following strategy:

Increase the productivity of rural smallholders through:

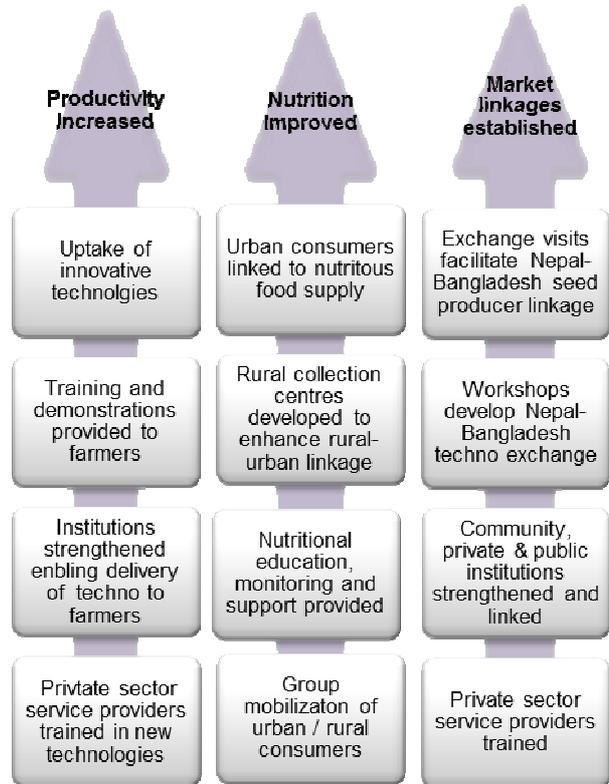
- Building the **knowledge and capacity** of producers to adopt new technologies in the vegetable, stable crops, legumes and aquaculture sectors (led by the private sector);
- Encouraging the adoption of **scale appropriate technologies through commercial actors**, such as improved fingerling and fish food production in pond-based aquaculture; and,
- Promoting **improved resource efficiency** through approaches such as Conservation Agriculture (CA), AWD, and seed storage to reduce post-harvest losses.

What will ANEP deliver in Bangladesh?

- Increased annual income by €75 for 35,000 low-income rural households
- Increased the consumption of promoted nutritious foods for 13,500 households
- Reduce the number of months of food insecurity for 35,000 rural low-income households
- Enhanced linkages between 900 seed producers in Nepal and seed companies in Bangladesh through Nepali traders
- 75% of low-income producers receive quality services and inputs from trained local service providers (SPs)

Improve awareness and access to nutritious foods through:

- Providing **nutritional education**, monitoring and support to low-income rural and urban families to help them make more informed nutrition choices;
- **Increasing the incomes** of rural small-holder farming families to provide greater means to access and consume more nutritious foods; and,



- Developing and **improving rural/ urban market linkages** that utilize existing market infrastructure such as collection points (CP);

Develop and nurture grass roots institutions for ongoing technology transfer through:

- Developing and **training service providers** to increase the competitiveness of their businesses to reach low-income consumers;
- Linking community, public and private institutions for technology transfer and **market chain development**; and,
- Developing **technology exchange linkages between Bangladesh and Nepal** including linkages between Nepal seed producers and Bangladesh seed markets

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