



Sustainable Water Management through Indigenous Finance and Technology (SWIFT) Project

SWIFT Phase-III Final Report (March 2019-January 2020)



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Disclaimer

These are the views and expressions of the author, and do not necessarily represent the view of the Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka or the Blue Gold program.

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SWIFT Phase-III Final Report

(March 2019-January 2020)

Project Overview

The Sustainable Water Management through Indigenous Finance and Technology (SWIFT) phase III started its journey in March 2019 after successfully completing phase II. United Purpose Bangladesh and partner NGO, Sheba Manab Kallyan Kendra (SMKK) implementing activities including formal and informal meetings, training, sensitization works, resource mobilization initiatives, possible on-farm trials and small-scale infrastructure. This initiative has already contributed to enhancing the capacity of Water Management Groups (WMGs) to initiate small-scale water management work through mobilizing resources or generating funds from the community, local government and other NGOs. WMGs are taking leadership in resource mobilization, breaking the cycle of aid dependency from external donors which will support them to ensure sustainability of their activities.

Over the period from March 2019 to January 2020, the SWIFT project has successfully implemented 26 selected FCDI schemes. The process of implementing those FCDI included, WMG meeting, resolution book preparation, applying for support by WMGs through formal letter, design preparation and sharing with BGP, preparing estimation of per scheme, segregating contribution, community sensitization meeting, resource collection etc.

SWIFT March 2019-January 2020: At a glance

During the contract duration of SWIFT phase III, project activities have been concentrated on formal and informal meetings with the WMGs and relevant stakeholders, training, sensitisation works and resource mobilisation initiatives which are linked to the on-farm trials and small-scale infrastructure etc. These specific activities included:

- Monthly staff meetings at partner level
- Formal and informal meetings with WMGs
- Staff refreshers training
- Meeting with WMGs for FCDI scheme selection
- Informal meeting with WMGs and Union Parishad Chairman for resource mobilisation
- FCDI Scheme shortlisting
- Implementation of FCDI schemes (Small scale infrastructure)
- Quarterly coordination Meetings with LGIs and Other Service Providing Organizations
- Training to WMG on resource mobilisation, networking and linkage
- Leadership and Communication Training for resource mobilisation and advocacy

- Workshop at Upazila level for other WMGs to engage in the programme for horizontal learning
- Training of FT
- Contribution to FT fees
- On farm trials

Monthly Staff Meeting

Monthly staff meetings have been held at the partner level within the first week of every month. Since March 2019, ten monthly staff meetings have been successfully conducted. These meetings are conducted to share updates about the project including any challenges, to plan activities and implementation accordingly, and to ensure the results of the SWIFT project, specifically the success of the project activities, are achieved ensuring quality of outputs. A common theme of these monthly meetings was around ensuring community and resource mobilization. Each meeting ends with a reflection session and a strong commitment from all project staff to achieve the goal and objectives of SWIFT through dedicating their highest efforts to implement the project.

Outcomes:

- Plan reviewed and staff prepared for implementing activities each month
- Activities have been performed smoothly which resulted in a strong reputation of the SWIFT project in the project area as well as promoted the mindset of the community to mobilize resources and take responsibilities of their water management activities
- The ultimate objectives of SWIFT have been achieved

Formal and Informal Meeting with WMGs

During the reporting periods from March 2019 to January 2020, SWIFT organized 93 formal and informal meetings with WMGs in both 55/2A and 43/2A Polders. During these meetings there was discussion on the progress of WMG action plans, overall progress sharing, discussion on savings collection and its utilization status and discussion on increasing women's active participation in the WMGs. The meetings were also an opportunity to share the lessons learnt from Phase-II, especially the successfully implemented 26 small-scale infrastructure projects which actively engaged WMGs in terms of resource mobilization and taking leadership of implementing FCDI schemes, possible on-farm trials, concept of Field Farmer Trainers (FFTs) etc. All the members of WMG's executive committee appreciated the SWIFT finance models and expressed interest to participate in and contribute to SWIFT Phase-II.

Outcomes:

- WMGs came forward to take the lead on flood control and drainage infrastructure (FCDI) works which have been implemented through mobilising resources from different community sources by their own initiatives
- Proactive mindset among WMG members has been promoted to a satisfactory level mainly in terms of creating community ownership for initiating FCDI works
- Enhanced networking and linkages of skills between WMGs and Union Parishad Authorities, DAE and BWDB representatives

Staff Refreshers Training

United Purpose organized a 3-day refresher training for all staff of the SWIFT project on May 14 – 16 2019 at the Beach Way Hotel in Cox's Bazar. The training was jointly facilitated by Programme Coordinator, Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response Unit, Assistant Project Manager and Project Officer of United Purpose. From partner NGO Sheba Manab Kallyan Kendra (SMKK), Head of Accounts & Admin, Project Manager, Project Accounts Officer, two Field Facilitators and one Field Facilitator Engineer participated in the training.

Outcomes of the training:

- Training objective, project concept of SWIFT phase III, background, goal, expected objectives and outputs were discussed.
- Experiences, lessons learnt, challenges and overall strategy of SWIFT phase II discussed. This included:
 - Discussion of the community managed approach and its four key elements: risk identification, plan design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation processes.
 - Experience sharing on water management practices and the roles of WMGs
 - Discussion on SWIFT finance models and role of staff in implementation
 - Discussion and review of project plan, targeted activities and implementation methods
 - Orientation on small scale infrastructure design and implementation, monitoring, budget projection, reporting and finance modeling/management.
 - Orientation on communication expectations and guidelines and line management structure
- Participants were informed on key practices for community led participatory water management including:
 - Gender integration into project activities
 - Accountability in resource mobilisation documentation
 - Field Trainers and their importance and role in agriculture extension
 - Discussed way forward for SWIFT phase III.

Meeting with WMGs for Scheme Selection

Aiming to finally select 32 FCDI schemes on a cluster basis, the SWIFT project conducted WMG meetings in polder 53/2A. In total, 29 meetings were organised with executive committee members of WMGs who participated and shared their opinions. In order to improve their agricultural production and minimise risks, Field Trainers (FFT) formed under blue gold programme shared their opinion and rationalities behind proposing each FCDI scheme. During these meetings it was discussed that implementation of the proposed FCDI schemes would help farmers to initiate diversified crop production in areas where they are currently practicing single crop cultivation due to lack of sufficient FCDI infrastructure to manage water.

Outcomes

- 99 FCDI schemes at primary level were proposed by WMGs
- WMGs identified a number of nonfinancial resources, including manpower, bamboo, wood, soil available from their community agreeing to mobilise these resources using their own initiatives
- WMG members committed to participate and contribute to small-scale FCDI works through mobilising resources from every possible source both from their community and other sources including Union Parishad, BWDB, and SWIFT etc.
- Selection of schemes and their willingness to contribute has been written into WMG's resolution books

Informal Meeting with WMGs and Union Parishad for Resource Mobilization

Aiming to mobilise resources from WMGs, Union Parishad and other GO/NGO actors, the project team has conducted 93 informal meetings with WMGs both at 43/2A and 55/2A polder and 26 meetings with Union Parishad Chairman. Through these sensitisation meetings and communication, it was found that WMG members and Union Parishad authorities' were increasingly receptive of the need to find alternative, sustainable solutions to community water management practices. As a result, 8 WMGs have submitted 27 written applications to Chotobighai and Barobighai Union Parishad chairman requesting support/resources of which 11 were approved to effectively implement FCDI schemes jointly based on their action plans. WMGs have also submitted written application to the SWIFT Project Manager of SMKK asking for partial support from the SWIFT project, which is very encouraging sign of resource mobilisation. Therefore, other WMGs of both polder 43/2A and 55/2A have submitted 23 written applications requesting financial/technical support to DAE, BWDB and DoF.

Outcomes:

- Positive mindsets among WMGs and Union Parishad authorities have been promoted in regard to ownership and resource mobilisation.
- Dependency on external support is progressively reduced among WMG leaders as they have successfully implemented 32 FCDI schemes by themselves with a minimum support from SWIFT phase- III and Union Parishad.
- 8 WMGs have submitted 27 written applications to Union Parishad Chairman asking for support/resource of which 11 were approved and supports were extended.
- WMGs of both polder 43/2A and 55/2A have submitted 23 written applications requesting. Financial / technical support to DAE, BWDB and DoF.

FCDI Prioritising

Aiming to implement and maintain flood control and drainage infrastructure for water management in a sustainable way, SWIFT Phase III initially identified 99 schemes proposed by WMGs. Of the 99 identified, 32 schemes have been short listed through the following criteria:

- Proposed FCDI will contribute to establish model/example.
- Greater benefit provided to the community
- It is appreciated to implement FCDI in an integrated way considering hydrological unit rather being scattered in order to bring result.
- Finance model should be addressed and integrated
- Commitment of community/WMG and Union Parishad should be stood in favour of their proposed FCDI schemes mainly in terms of resource mobilisation.
- WMG should take full leadership in implementing and quality controlling of FCDI where SWIFT will partially contribute.
- WMG will have to take full responsibility to maintain and properly manage FCDI so that its benefit could be maximized.
- Consider budget limits of SWIFT phase II for each scheme (at least more than double value of each allocation for scheme is expected)

SWIFT phase III has finally prioritised 32 schemes through assessing the feasibility by engaging UP chairman, BWDB, WMG, United Purpose, SMKK and Blue Gold Programme. All 32 of these schemes have been implemented.

Implementation of FCDI Schemes

SWIFT Phase III aimed to implement 32 FCDI schemes from total 99 that were proposed by WMGs. Through multiple sensitisation works done by the SWIFT team, SWIFT was able to achieve approximately 50% of the budget for these works from contributions from WMGs which has helped to successfully implement 32 schemes with strong community backing and commitment. The total value of all those 32 schemes is BDT 1189,662 where SWIFT has contributed BDT 503,660 and mobilised resource value is BDT 686,002. The process of implementing those FCDI included WMG meetings, resolution book preparation, applying for support by WMGs through formal letters, design preparation and sharing with BGP, preparing estimation of costs per scheme, segregating contribution, community sensitisation meetings, resource collection, etc. In this regard, the short details of those implemented schemes are in the table below:

Summary of 32 FCDI Schemes at 55/2A polder under SWIFT phase III

| SI | Name of FCDI Scheme | Name of WMG | FCDI Spot/Address | Acres of Agricultural land covered | Funding Status | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | | SWIFT | WMG | Union Parishad | Total Value of Scheme |
| 1 | Construction of Small pipe/ring culvert with wooden gate | Modoh Dharandi Chandipur | Chondipur On The East Site Of Pahlon House | 120 | 21680 | 24430 | 0 | 46110 |
| 2 | | Botchor Boliakhati Crokmohol | Boloikathi On The East Site Of Kislo Mir House | 100 | 18095 | 19370 | 0 | 37465 |
| 3 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Nij Botkajol On The East Site Of Amjad Ali Hawlader House | 180 | 21155 | 24090 | 0 | 45245 |
| 4 | | Betagi Chikarbag | Chinguria Betagi On The Front Site Of Bepari Bari | 120 | 21520 | 22900 | 0 | 44420 |
| 5 | | Akhaibaria Bahermouj | Chowuddovuiya On The Front Site Of Gazir Gastola | 150 | 21495 | 23740 | 0 | 45235 |
| 6 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Pashim Naomala On The East Site Of Kader Sarder House | 130 | 21480 | 25290 | 3160 | 49930 |
| 7 | | Betagi Chikarbag | Betagi On The West Site Of Faruk Bishawas House | 210 | 21015 | 24200 | 0 | 45215 |
| 8 | | Betagi Shankipur Radhasitaram | Betagi Shankipur On The East Site Of Raza Bari | 110 | 21255 | 23580 | 0 | 44835 |
| 9 | | Betagi Shankipur Radhasitaram | Betagi Shankipur On The East Site Of Dali Bari | 170 | 21315 | 23830 | 0 | 45145 |
| 10 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Pashim Naomala On The East Site Of Dulu Shikder | 155 | 21510 | 23530 | 0 | 45040 |

| SI | Name of FCDI Scheme | Name of WMG | FCDI Spot/Address | Acres of Agricultural land covered | Funding Status | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | | SWIFT | WMG | Union Parishad | Total Value of Scheme |
| | | | House | | | | | |
| 11 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Pashim Naomal On The West Site Of Kalam Khan House | 95 | 21195 | 22750 | 0 | 43945 |
| 12 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Vangra On The East Site Of Aziz Mridha House | 80 | 21695 | 19650 | 3800 | 45145 |
| 13 | | Pashim Matibanga | Matibanga On The East Site Sha Alam House | 200 | 7500 | 14430 | 0 | 21930 |
| 14 | | Botchor Boliakhati | Krokmahol On The East Site Of Ismail Mollah House | 180 | 25000 | 34087.5 | 0 | 59087.5 |
| 15 | | Botchor Boloikathi | Botboloikathi On The East Site Of Kislo Mir House | 200 | 20000 | 25095 | 0 | 45095 |
| 16 | | Betagi Chikarbag | Chinguria Betagi On The Fron Site Of Bepari Bari | 120 | 8750 | 12180 | 0 | 20930 |
| 17 | | Betagi Chikerbag | Chinguria Betagi On the Front Site Of Sarder Bari | 120 | 4000 | 8940 | 0 | 12940 |
| 18 | Construction of concrete drain for irrigation/Micro dam construction for water preservation | Betagi Shankipur Radhasitaram | Betagi Shankipur On The West Of Vaborongon Shikder House | 120 | 10500 | 14487.5 | 0 | 24987.5 |
| 19 | | Botchor Boloikathi | Krokmahol On The Front Site Of Hafij Mollah House | 110 | 11000 | 18300 | 0 | 29300 |
| 20 | | Hortokibaria | Hortokibaria On The Front Site Of Hawlader House | 75 | 4500 | 9181 | 0 | 13681 |
| 21 | | Hortokibaria | Hortokibaria On The Front Site Of Jahangir Khan House | 155 | 10000 | 17262 | 0 | 27262 |
| 22 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Pashim Naomala On The East Site Of Kader Sarder House | 110 | 16000 | 33660 | 0 | 49660 |
| 23 | | Betagi Shankipur Radhasitaram | Betagi Shankipur On The East Site Of Dali Bari | 95 | 12000 | 14412.5 | 0 | 26412.5 |
| 24 | | | Maddho Dharandi Chondipur | Chondipur On The East Site Of Pahlon House | 100 | 5500 | 12450 | 0 |
| 25 | Excavation/re-excavation of drainage channel | Pashim Matibanga | Matibanga On the Fornt Site Of Abbas Shikder House | 90 | 18000 | 42570 | 1250 | 61820 |
| 26 | | Pashim Matibanga | Matibanga On the Fornt Site Of Joynal Fakir House | 140 | 8000 | 13440 | 0 | 21440 |
| 27 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Nij Botkajol On The Front Site Of Echahak Fakir | 180 | 13000 | 15635 | 0 | 28635 |

| SI | Name of FCDI Scheme | Name of WMG | FCDI Spot/Address | Acres of Agricultural land covered | Funding Status | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | | SWIFT | WMG | Union Parishad | Total Value of Scheme |
| | | | House | | | | | |
| 28 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Nij Botkajol On The West Site Motaleb Doctor House | 90 | 8500 | 12774 | 0 | 21274 |
| 29 | | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Nij Botkajol On the Back Site Of Kajem Ali Hawlader House | 130 | 28000 | 18973 | 0 | 46973 |
| 30 | | Botchor Boloikathi | Botboloikathi On The Front Faraji House | 75 | 10000 | 20330 | 0 | 30330 |
| 31 | | Botchor Boloikathi | Botboloikathi On The East Site Of Kislo Mir House | 50 | 12500 | 15585 | 0 | 28085 |
| 32 | Communal water bodies (ponds/canal) re-excavation for irrigation | Nij Botkajol Vangra | Natun Vangra On The Fornt Site Of Forkania Kaoyami Hafijiya Madrasha | 35 | 17500 | 46640 | 0 | 64140 |
| Total | | | | 3995 | 503660 | 677792 | 8210 | 118966 |

Outcomes:

- 32 FCDI schemes implemented successfully through matching funds.
- Enhanced capacity of WMGs to implement FCDI schemes taking full leadership.
- Farmers and WMG members jointly paid for ring culvert construction.
- WMGs under 55/2A have committed future funds to their responsibilities in terms of FCDI implementation.
- Multi-purpose of agricultural land adjacent with implemented FCDI schemes are expecting to be ensured.

Organised Quarterly Coordination Meeting

Aiming to ensure accountability and transparency in regular practice as well as continuous support from actors, 2 coordination meeting separately organised on 17.07.2019 at Hazirhat government primary school under 55/2A polder and on 19.12.2019 at Nayerhat Government Primary School under 55/2A polder. In those meetings, total 68 participants (Male-58 & female-10) from WMGs, BWDB, DAE, Union Parishad and FFTs attended and shared their opinion. SWIFT has presented its regular activities, learning, challenges and achievements as well as shared the plan. Therefore, the project initiated advocacy within the relevant institution to mobilise their own resources and include the agreed actions

in their internal budget cycle as well as in their plan. At the end, everyone expressed their appreciation of SWIFT initiatives, its approach and achievements.

Outcomes:

- Participants are oriented about SWIFT activities, learning, challenges and achievements.
- Union Parishad increased contribution amount for FCDI works initiated by WMGs.
- Chairman of Hazirhat Union Parishad contributed for the FCDI works.
- WMGs and other stakeholders like DAE and BWDB provided many forms of technical support for 32 small scale water management infrastructure projects initiated by WMGs under SWIFT project.
- Farmers of 08 communities of 08 WMGs at 55/2A polder provided cash, in kind and physical labor to implement their schemes.
- WMGs looked inspired with their indigenous knowledge and power to take the lead of implementing FCDI schemes.
- Technical supports provided by BWDB & DAE have been appreciated in different platform.

Refreshers training to WMGs on Resource Mobilisation, Networking and Linkages

SWIFT has separately organised two days of training on resource mobilisation, networking and linkages from 9-10 October 2019 at Hazirhar Government Primary School under 55/2A polder of Baufol Upazila in Patuakhali District. 36 executive committee members (women - 7 and men - 29) participated. The training was jointly facilitated by SWIFT Project Manager of SMKK and Project Officer of United Purpose. The training sessions were dynamically facilitated through PowerPoint presentations, group work, presentations, open discussion and sharing and games. The training contents have focused real context of SWIFT project area during its facilitation, group works and discussion.

Outcomes:

- Training objectives, project concept, background, expected objectives and outputs were briefly discussed
- Participants were oriented on resource type and classification
- Importance of resource mobilisation for water management was discussed
- Discussed existing practice of resource mobilisation by WMGs and gaps identified
- Identified local resources sources and proper techniques and documentation for resource mobilisation

- Discussed challenges of resource mobilisation, preservation and manufacturing
- Participants were oriented on importance of information sharing and their rights to information
- Advocacy, its importance, technique and benefits of effective advocacy for resource mobilisation were discussed
- Participants were oriented on networking, its importance and effectiveness for establishing formal and informal linkage with service providers
- Formal letter writing asking for support was demonstrated and practiced in the training session
- Enhanced confidence level of participants in terms of mobilising resource and initiating FCDI works under their own leadership

Leadership and Communication Training for Resource Mobilization and Advocacy

The SWIFT project has successfully completed one and half day-long training on leadership development and communication in two separate batches. The training was held on 10th and 11th December 2019 at the venue of Kamalapur Union Parishad of Sadar Upazila in Patuakhali District under 55/2A polder where 30 members (Men – 28 and Women-2) from executive committee of WMGs participated. The leadership role of WMGs in terms of sustainable water management, formal communication and resource mobilisation in the training was discussed.

The training was jointly facilitated by Programme Coordinator of SMKK and Project Officer of United Purpose. The training sessions were facilitated through PowerPoint presentations, group work, presentations, open discussion and sharing and games with participation from both men and women. The training contents have focused on the real context of SWIFT project area during its facilitation, group works and discussion.

Outcomes:

- Training objectives, project concept, background, expected objectives and outputs were discussed
- Participants were oriented on their leadership role for initiating water management works by themselves through mobilising resources from different sources.
- Discussion about the characteristics of a good leader.
- Leadership gap identified and way forward laid out.
- Participants were oriented on importance of effective communication for resource mobilisation.
- Advocacy, its importance, technique and benefits of effective advocacy for resource mobilisation were largely discussed
- Participants were oriented on networking, its importance and effectiveness for establishing formal and informal linkage with service providers

- Identified the scope of leadership role for independently initiating small scale FCDI initiatives by WMGs.
- Enhanced confidence level of participants in terms of mobilising resource and initiating FCDI works under their own leadership.

Workshop at Upazila level for other WMGs to engage in the programme for horizontal learning

In order to ensure participation, contribution and creating ownership among WMGs as well as establishing wide network, SWIFT organised learning sharing workshop on 26th of February 2019 at Upazila auditorium of Sadar Upazila in Patuakhali. In the meeting, total 30 participants (Male-23 & Female-07) from WMGs, BWDB, DAE, DoF, Union Parishad and FFTs participated where SWIFT presented its regular activities, learning, challenges and achievements as well as shared future plan. In the workshop, it was discussed to find the way of scaling up existing approach beyond the immediate reach of the project. Finally, the workshop came up with common understanding and way forward to deal with future challenges might be encountered.

Outcomes:

- Participants are oriented about SWIFT activities, learning, challenges and achievements.
- DAE agreed to continue existing technical support to initiating on farm trials under SWIFT.
- Chairman of Chotobighai Union Parishad agreed to include FCDI works into official budget line if it is formally proposed by WMGs.
- Technical support provided by BWDB & DAE will be continued in future.
- SWIFT has been recognized as an example of true joint venture through constructing FCDIs with resources mobilized by WMGs.

Training to Farmers Field Trainer

Aiming to enhance the capacity of field trainer FT, SWIFT has separately provided two two-day trainings from 23-24 October 2019 at the venue of Upazila Resource Center and 20 & 21 November at Codec training center in Patuakhali. In total, 12 FT (Male-8, Female-4) separately participated in the training and shared their experiences, existing challenges as well as scope of works. The training was jointly facilitated by District Fisheries Officer & Upazila Assistant Fisheries Officer, Upazila Agriculture Officer & Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer and District Marketing Officer. The training session specially included improved/advanced technologies on fish, vegetable, rice & horticulture, resilient varieties of agriculture, innovations, feasible variety of agriculture with high market value product etc. Blue gold programme officials Mr. Tanvir Islam, Value chain expert and Joint

Manager of Innovation fund, Mr. Sahidul Islam, Advisor and group leader of strengthening value chain and Mr. Nazrul Islam Jewel, Polder Coordinator of 43/2A and 55/2A polder visited the training session and expressed their satisfaction.

Outcomes:

- Enhanced knowledge level of WMGs and FTs in terms of initiating high market value cropping.
- FTs are equipped with training on logistics to facilitate training session to farmers group.
- Prepared plan of FTs training session to farmers groups.
- Enhanced knowledge level of FTs on improved/advanced technologies on fish, vegetable, rice & horticulture.
- FTs are oriented on resilient varieties of agriculture
- Enhanced capacity of FT on synchronizing agriculture and co-planting.

Training to Farmers group by FT

Aiming to enhance the capacity of farmers to initiate improved and innovative technologies on fish, vegetable, rice & horticulture, SWIFT has finally strengthened the 14 existing/active FTs of Blue gold programme under 43/2A and 55/2A polder. Each of these 14 FTs formed 3 groups of farmers consisting of 15 farmers in each group i.e. total 45 farmers are led by one FT. In this connection, total 630 farmers are separately listed in 42 groups those are receiving training on improved technologies of fish, vegetable, rice & horticulture. In November 2019, total 12 FTs facilitated training session to 24 farmer groups where each group separately received 03 training sessions. Therefore, total 72 training sessions have covered 360 farmers (225 Female and 135 male) those have been trained on improved rice, vegetables, fish and horticulture. Besides this training session, FTs are providing another supports includes procurement of quality agro inputs, regular nursing of existing agriculture in consultation with DAE and market linkage. This support from SWIFT is expected to be withdrawn once farmers are able to see the benefits of their won agro production.

Outcomes:

- Enhanced knowledge level of 360 farmers on improved and innovative technologies on fish, vegetable, rice & horticulture.
- Farmers are equipped with training knowledge and networking with DAE through FTs.
- Enhanced knowledge on quality agro inputs and marketing.
- Farmers are oriented on resilient varieties of agriculture.

Initiating on farm trials

During reporting period March 2019 to January 2020, SWIFT phase III has initiated total 05 on-farm trials of vegetable includes dyke cropping, 05 fish trials includes Anabus (Kai) And Carp Fish Mixed Farming, Barbel And Carp Fish Mixed Farming and Carp Fish Mixed Farming. 05 Horticulture trial (Malta) and 06 rice trail (BRR1 76 and BRR1 52). Therefore the project has communicated with farmers, DAE and DOF for regular nursing of previously initiated rice, Malta and vegetable trials. All these trials have been introduced in consultation with DAE, DoF and BGP. In this regard, farmers have already started getting vegetables. Huge production of vegetables especially bottle gourd is found and farmers are being benefitted.

On-Farm Trials at a glance

| Trials Name | Specification/Type of Trials | No. Of Trials | Location Of The Trials | Total Value Of The Trail (BDT) | Contributions | | Stakeholders Involved |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | | Farmers | Project | |
| On Farm Trials Horticulture | Exhibition On Bari-1 Malta Farming | 05 | Betagi Sankipur On the Front Of Thakurer hat Bazar In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 40,444.5 | 24,544.5 | 15,900 | DAE, WMG, BGP, Farmer, SWIFT Project |
| | | | South Mahasradi On The Front Site Of Jahangir Alaom House In Baufol Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 40,694.5 | 24,294.5 | 16,400 | |
| | | | Dharandi On the North Site Moddho Dharandi Bazar In Patuakhali Sadar Upazila 55/2A polder Area | 37,228.5 | 22,628.5 | 14,600 | |
| | | | Mahasradi On the South Site Of Al Amin House In Baufol Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 38,854 | 23,954 | 14,900 | |
| | | | North Chonkhola On The South Site Of Alam Bridge In Galachipa Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 28,895 | 18,945 | 9,950 | |
| | Exhibition On Different Vegetables Farming | 05 | Mahasradi In The South Site Of Shabuddin Shabu House In Baufol Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 14,717.5 | 10,050 | 4,668 | DAE, WMG, BGP, Farmer, SWIFT Project |
| | | | Pashim Matibanga In The Back Site Of Aslam Mridha House In Patuakhali Sadar Upazila 43/2A Polder Area | 24,892.5 | 17,200 | 7,693 | |
| | | | Pashim Matibanga In The Front Site Basir Hawlader House In Patuakhali Sadar Upazila 43/2A Polder Area | 15,822 | 10,900 | 4,923 | |
| | | | Betagi On The South Site of Kadom Ali Shikder House In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 19,435 | 15,165 | 4,270 | |
| | | | Betagi Shankipur In The East Site Of Dali Bari In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 17,635 | 11,750 | 5,885 | |
| On Farm Trials Fisheries | Carp Fish Mixed Farming | 05 | Mahasradi In The South Site Of Abu Bakkor Mridha House In Baufol Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 61,930 | 49,830 | 12,100 | DoF, WMG, Farmer, SWIFT Project |
| | Carp Fish Mixed Farming | | Betagi Shankipur In The East Site Of Dali Bari In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 71,055 | 55,135 | 15,920 | |
| | Carp Fish Mixed Farming | | Chonkhola In The East Site Of Dhalu Kha Bridge In Galachipa Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 67,850 | 53,100 | 14,750 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Anabus (Kai) And Carp Fish Mixed Farming | | Betagi On The South Site of Kadom Ali Shikder House In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 75,095 | 56,095 | 19,000 | |
| | Barbel And Carp Fish Mixed Farming | | Pashim Matibanga In The Front Site of Basir Hawlader House In Patuakhali Sadar Upazila 43/2A Polder Area | 82,565 | 57,665 | 24,900 | |
| On Farm Trials Rice | High yield rice BR-52 | 06 | Betagi In The South Site Of Fakir Bari House In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 23,717.5 | 18,895 | 4,822 | DAE, WMG, BGP, Farmer, SWIFT Project |
| | High yield rice BR-52 | | Betgi Shankipur In The Front Site Of Gourov Vokto House In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 21,185 | 16,650 | 4,535 | |
| | High yield rice BR-52 | | Mahasradi On The Front Site Of Abu Bakkar House | 21,185 | 16,450 | 4,735 | |
| | High yield rice BR-52 | | Mahasradi In The South Site Of Hatem Mridha House | 18,752 | 14,125 | 4,627 | |
| | Cyclone or high speed wind tolerant variety BR-76 | | Pashim Matibanga In The North Site Of Osman Shikder House In Patuakhali Sadar Upazila 43/2A Polder Area | 25,570 | 20,075 | 5,495 | |
| | High yield rice BR-52 | | Thakurerhat In The East Site Thakurerhat Bridge In Dashmina Upazila 55/2A Polder Area | 21,535 | 17,000 | 4,535 | |
| Total | | 21 | | 7,69,059 | 5,54,451.5 | 2,14,607.5 | |

Outcome

- 21 farmers are able to get additional benefits from this trail.
- Integrated cropping (Fish in the pond, Malta on the field and vegetables on the dike) impressed the nearby farmers to replicate these cropping systems by their own initiatives.
- Dike cropping (Vegetable on the dike), Malta plot and fish trails is successful, Rice trails exists in a satisfactory level but not up to the mark in terms of profit making due to unstable market or value chain systems.
- Farmers have earned around 20, 000 BDT as additional income from the dike in last 03 months at Mativanga WMG. (they are expecting to earn minimum 80,000 BDT from the dike in next 09 months)
- DAE and DoF is taking care with all necessary technical support of all trials on regular basis.
- All those trials are closely supervised and observed by DAE, DoF, farmers, SWIFT and WMG.
- Farmers have started producing huge bottle gourd, pumpkin, yard long bean and okra by cultivating their dike and other unutilized land.

Major achievements

- Reduced dependency on external support among 36 WMGs of 43/2A & 55/2A polders in Patuakhali through mobilisation of community and Union Parishad inputs

- 32 FCDI schemes have been implemented through matching grants from SWIFT
- 3,995 acres of agricultural field were improved to multi-cropping land through managing irrigation and flooding
- 2,241 farmers have directly benefitted from increased income due to reduced agricultural loss due to flooding and increased crop diversity
- High-nutrient agricultural products (citrus, fisheries, eggplant, etc.) have been introduced through on-farm trials
- Networking and sharing platforms have been established among WMGs, Field Trainers, LGIs, BWDB, DAE and DoF.
- 14 field trainers have been trained to continue the expansion of target practices

Key Learnings

SWIFT has found that motivation and sensitization works are critical to ensuring engagement and contribution. This includes building networking and linkages with local government and leaders, whose support can be the difference between simply meeting targets and ensuring lasting change. Involving Union Parishad leaders to make financial donations was unique and had a large impact on their involvement. Throughout, continuous community engagement has been critical to building local ownership for sustainable implementation beyond the project. Therefore, some specific learning from SWIFT are as follows:

- Real reflection of voice and choice of the community/WMGs into the action plan both at community and Union level can create ownership of interventions that are sustainable.
- Appropriate motivation and mobilisation is a key instrument for community financing
- Proper selection based on the actual needs and implementation of small scale FCDI for inland water management can maximize the benefits of larger scale water management initiative/infrastructure
- Active involvement of WMGs through identifying and mobilising local resources can reduce dependency of external support
- Active involvement of Union Parishad into water management intervention can minimise local conflict in terms of FCDI implementation
- Formal communication initiated by WMGs with govt. line agencies and LGIs like- Union Parishad, DAE, DoF and BWDB can achieve technical assistance in implementing water management infrastructure.

Major Challenges

- The mindset of the communities is often centered around external dependency and there is often initially some reluctance to invest their own resources for water management and FCDI implementation.
- The main challenge that was faced by the project were staff dropout from partner organisation, SMKK, during July. This staff dropout hampered the ability for activities to run efficiently and smoothly. Low retention rates are common in Patuakhali due to the environmental conditions.
- During August, heavy rainfall hampered efforts to organize meetings at the community level.
- The venue at the District level for residential trainings was booked this month for other events which hampered planned activities including training to FFT and leadership training to WMGs to be implemented this month.

Mitigation Measures

- SWIFT ensured participation of WMG members in resource mobilization techniques training as well as sensitized the WMG general members and Union Parisad through conducting regular meeting for tapping resources. WMG members also visited general members' households for collecting resources. All the process of implementation of FCDI schemes including selection, design, budgeting and resource providers' confirmation decided by WMGs in their meeting and application submitting to Union Parisad, BWDB, DAE.
- In order to mitigate the negative impacts of staff dropout, committed and experienced staff members have been appointed. The Project Manager in particular has over three years' experience working in Patuakhali and is familiar with the climate, environment and living conditions. This has avoided further drop-out due to a strong commitment to the area and project.
- In order to ensure that meetings and sessions were conducted according to the project's plan and timeframe, public infrastructure including schools and Union Parishad auditoriums were used to hold meetings providing a safe, sheltered and accessible gathering space.
- Union Parisad venues were utilized for residential training and district level venues will be ensured by SWIFT in advance considering the activity mode.

Annex: Photo Journal:



Photo 1: Chairman of Upazila Parishad, Sadar Upazila of Patuakhali appreciating SWIFT achievement in the Upazila workshop



Photo 2: WMG meeting between community and Chairman of Chotobighai Union Parishad



Photo 3: WMG meeting



Photo 4: Training of field trainer



Photo 5: Excavation of drainage channel at 55/2A polder



Community members contributing to WMG infrastructure project

Implementation of FCDI schemes:





Informal meeting with BGP Officials



FT training session to Farmers group

Training to Farmers Trainer FT:

