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Information needs of Smallholder Sesame Farmers in Bangladesh

Abstract

Behind every decision lies a need for information. In this paper, the decisions of smallholder sesame farmers, related to their individual value chains, were identified. The specific information needs behind each decision were derived and analyzed, based on the level of awareness of the relevance of that information. Furthermore some information dissemination systems were studied to see what role they play or could play in the information networks of the farmers. It was found that from all the information needs, information on fertilizer use and post harvest activities were ranked the highest information needs. Furthermore, the gaps in information between the information available and the information used and accessed by the farmers differed per stage of the value chain. Regarding the sources, it was evident that the majority of the farmers used their own experience and knowledge to fulfil their information needs during the value chain. The other sources were utilized significantly less often. Finally, the studied information dissemination systems did not play a (large) role in the lives of the farmers. Some systems, such as the Trainer in the Pocket concepts and the AICC's, show much potential to fulfil the role of information provider or disseminator.

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Acknowledgements

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One of the reasons why I wanted to do this internship abroad was to obtain some practical experience and develop my knowledge of the field of work. This has been a tremendous help for me, academically and personally over time and I have the entire Blue Gold team to thank for that.

Thank you all!

Titus van Boekel

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Information Needs of Smallholder Sesame Farmers in Bangladesh

Strengthened Value Chain

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Blue Gold Program Wiki

The wiki version of the Lessons Learnt Report of the Blue Gold program, documents the experiences of a technical assistance (TA) team working in a development project implemented by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) over an eight+ year period from March 2013 to December 2021. The wiki lessons learnt report (LLR) is intended to complement the BWDB and DAE project completion reports (PCRs), with the aim of recording lessons learnt for use in the design and implementation of future interventions in the coastal zone.

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