

Feed the Future Bangladesh Integrated Pest Management Activity Monthly Progress Report for August 2023

Introduction

The major highlights of this month include capacity building of farmers on the production of eggplant and rice by adopting IPM technologies, and organizing workshop on “Green Business Ventures: Commercializing Integrated Pest Management in Bangladesh”. Progresses against different tasks are given below:

Task 2A1: Organize workshops on different aspects of managing with current and emerging threats and IPM packages for different crops for academia, extension agents, entrepreneurs, regulatory officials, NGOs and others to identify and to take up correct path in addressing them.

- *Capacity building of farmers on the production of eggplant by adopting IPM technologies*

Daylong training on the production of eggplant by adopting IPM technologies was organized for 395 eggplant producers at Dakuya and Panpotti unions of Golachipa upazila under Patuakhali district during 6 to 10 August 2023, and Maliat and Niamotpur unions of Kaligonj upazila under Jhenaidah district during 27 to 31 August 2023. Among the participants, 348 were males and remaining 47 were females, while 351 participants were under the age group above 30 and remaining 44 participants were between the age group 15 to 29. The Activity is in the process of establishing a contract with Russell IPM in view to:

- Establish at least 10 dealers (2 dealers in each upazilas near the clusters where IPM Activity will organize capacity building) in the strategic locations of the mentioned upazilas.
- Make available of the products demanded by the dealers so that the farmers can get in a regular manner.
- Establish 40 field trails (20 field trails on each of banana and eggplant) in the intervention areas.
- Ensure that at least 20 farmers adopt IPM products against each of the field trials established.



Figure 1: Practical Demonstration on the Damage Symptom

The whole training session was divided into three major topics i.e., an introductory session, technical session, and cross-cutting issues. Training objectives, training contents, introduction of the Activity was covered in the introductory session, while production technologies of eggplant including management of pests and diseases following IPM technologies were covered in the technical session and cross cutting issues like gender and food loss were covered in the 3rd session. The participants were taken to existing eggplant field for the

collection of insects and diseases sample. During the discussion on technical aspects, collected samples were shown to the participants to make the session enjoyable among the participants.

- *Capacity building of farmers on the production of rice by adopting IPM technologies*

Daylong training on the production of rice by adopting IPM technologies was organized for 102 eggplant producers at Dakuya and Panpotti unions of Golachipa upazila under Patuakhali district during 21 to 22 August 2023. Among the participants, 98 were males and remaining 4 were females, while 91 participants were under the age group above 30 and remaining 11 participants were between the age group 15 to 29.

The whole training session was divided into three major topics i.e., an introductory session, technical session, and cross-cutting issues. Training objectives, training contents, introduction of the Activity was covered in the introductory session, while production technologies of rice including management of insects and diseases following IPM technologies were covered in the technical session and cross cutting issues like gender and food loss were covered in the 3rd session. The participants were taken to existing rice field from where the participants collected insects by sweeping net and diseases sample. During the discussion on technical aspects, collected samples were shown to the participants to make the session enjoyable among the participants. Part of the study on the life cycle of insects, the participants were taught to establish insect zoo. Accordingly, the participants established insect zoo and started learning by doing.

Task 3C2: Prepare a business case study for the IPM tools and products introduced in the IPMA.

- *Workshop on Green Business Ventures: Commercializing Integrated Pest Management in Bangladesh*

The Activity engaged an expert to conduct a study on commercialization of biopesticides, including pheromone lures in Bangladesh, its challenges and way forward in view to:

- Understand the Trichoderma and other identified biopesticides' market, including market size, key players, value chain/economics, and historic and future trends.
- Profile the top players and potential partners.
- Ascertain the key success factors required for broader adoption of Trichoderma and other identified Biopesticides, parasitoids, lures, and traps.
- Develop 2-3 business models for promotion of biopesticides business suitable for Bangladesh with scale-up strategy as per the market life cycle of such products.
- On behalf of Agribusiness Associates Inc., Mr. Gurbinder Singh Gill conducted the study from 21st July to 4th of August 2023.

The Activity organized a seminar on “**Green Business Ventures: Commercializing Integrated Pest Management in Bangladesh**” in view to share market research results with a variety of stakeholders including government, private sector, academia, researchers, development partners, etc. on the 3rd of August 2023 at Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Gulshan, Dhaka. Mr. Rabindra Sri Barua, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Joseph Lessard, Deputy Director, Office of Economic Growth, USAID attended as a Chief Guest and Guest of Honor respectively while Mr. Badal Chandra Biswas, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) presided over the seminar. Dr. Markandeya Gorantala, Founder of ATGC moderated the seminar. Following strategies were proposed by the Expert:



Figure 2: Mr. Joseph Lessard, Deputy Director, Economic Growth Office, USAID delivers as Guest of Honor

- Prepare Business Case to Attract Investment in Trichoderma and other BCAs for Producers in Bangladesh.
- Business training and scale up the success stories.
- Strengthen the Bangladesh Crop Protection Association – by creating a sub chapter for Biologicals) to create awareness, train its members and strengthen the Private Public collaboration. Bio Agri Inputs Association from the Globe are willing to support.
- Work on developing the business case for local interested manufacturers.
- Strengthen the business/quality focus of Tricho - vermin compost at the village level women entrepreneurs resulting in increased sales of Trichoderma products.
- Work out business cases for all the key promoters in the value chain – not only the producers i.e., the traders/cooperatives/govt. organizations.

The Activity has already included relevant tasks in the annual work plan for 2024.

Major plan for September 2023

- Organize workshop on workshop on “**Mating Disruption: An Innovation Towards Making Climate Smart Agriculture**” on 13th of September at Hotel Bengal Blueberry.
- Training on inspection, diagnosis and identification of quarantine pest for the Plant Quarantine Wing of DAE during 12 to 14 September 2023.
- Mass rearing of *Zygotogramma bicolorata* at Patuakhali Science & Technology University.
- Roll out annual survey.
- Capitalization on the impact of coconut IPM.
- Publish pest alert on golden apple snail, red banded caterpillar, and *Mimosa diplotricha*.