



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Pathways of scaling agricultural innovations for sustainable intensification in the polders of coastal Bangladesh

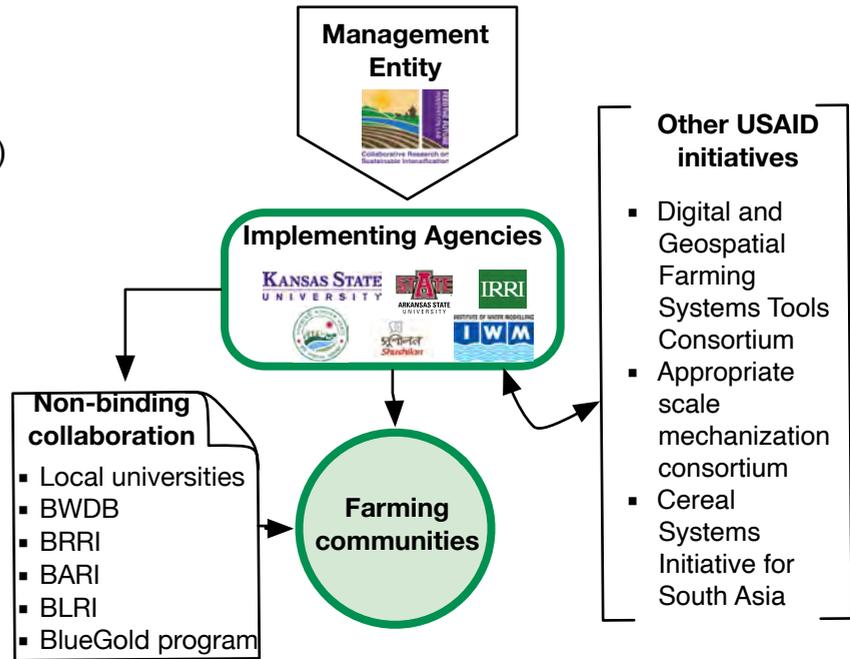


*SIIL-Polder Newsletter
April, 2021*



Partnership for a purpose

The Kansas State University (KSU) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in partnership with Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Institute of Water Modeling (IWM), Shushilan and international organizations is implementing a project entitled “Pathways of scaling agricultural innovations for sustainable intensification in the polders of coastal Bangladesh”. The project is closely working with other USAID initiatives and R4D projects in the region as well as leveraging engaging with local universities and national agencies for their capacity building and exploring pathways of scaling key innovations.



Sustainable intensification in the coastal zone

The aim of the project is to improve food security, human nutrition, and livelihoods of the rural polder communities in southern Bangladesh through scaling and evaluating pragmatic and feasible farming approaches or more efficient utilization of available resources to sustainably intensify the polders. The geographic focus in phase 2 is four polders (Polder 22, 29, 30, 34/2P) having an area coverage of about 22,000 ha of the southwest Bangladesh

Livestock and sustainable intensification

As part of its sustainable intensification strategy, the project is evaluating performance of various forages including barley, triticale, sorghum, foxtail millet and maize along with doing palatability assessment and monitoring behavior of livestock. The team is collaborating with CIMMYT and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) to integrate livestock component to agri-food systems.



Engaging women and youth

To engage youth and women, and to address labor scarcity in agriculture, the project provided training on mechanization. In aman 2020, six service providers, four women and two youth harvested paddy from 11.4 ha and earned USD 525 within 10 days.

The project has also co-designed a mini-tiller with local manufactures for intercultural operation in dry season crops viz. sunflower, maize, etc.

Seeing is believing

The project in collaboration with Department of Agricultural Extension organized a field day in Polder 34/2P to showcase various innovations including early planting of maize and sunflower with residual moisture, mechanized intercultural operations etc. The event was attended by 164 farmers including 43 women. DAE was very pleased to see the response from farmers and replicated the event in Polder 29.



Meet the team

Kansas State Uni



Dr Krishna Jagadish
Prof, Crop Physio



Dr Igancio Ciampati
System Agronomist



Dr Xiaomao Lin
Ag Climatologist

Arkansas State Uni



Dr Aaron M Shew
Economist

Int. Rice Research Institute



Dr Sudhir Yadav
Water management



Ms Mary Ann Batas
Project Manager



Dr Manoranjan Mondal
Country Coordinator

Dept of Ag. Extension



Mst Atikunnaher
Additional Ag Officer



Humayoun Kabir
Upazila Ag Officer

Institute of Water Modeling



Zahirul H. Khan
Director



Farhana A Kamal
Asso Specialist



Asish Sutradhar
Asso Specialist

Shushilan



Shahina Pervin
Assist Director



M. Bakuluzzaman
Deputy Director



R. Parvin
Gender, Nutrition
Ag Mechanization



S. Sarker
Community organizer
Gender & Nutrition



M. Rahman
Community Organizer
Ag Mechanization



Swapan
Field Agronomist



Amal Ray
Community organizer
Water management

CONTACT

Ms. Mary Ann Batas
Project Manager
Email: m.batas@irri.org

Dr Manoranjan Mondal
Country coordinator
Email: m.mondal@irri.org



<https://irri.org/siil-polder>



@siilpolder

Learn more about SIIL
<https://www.k-state.edu/siil/>

This newsletter is made possible by the support of the American People provided to the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. Program activities are funded by USAID under Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-L-14- 00006.