



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

SIIL-POLDER NEWSLETTER



Fodder experiment for more food options in the polders

Livestock is an important source of nutrition for the community in the polder zone. The SIIL project assesses the feasibility of growing fodder in the dry season in polder 22 and 30 of southwest Bangladesh. Five fodder crops were evaluated viz. barley, triticale, foxtail millet, maize and sorghum.

Maize has the highest biomass production followed by Foxtail Millet . The palatability test showed that the local cows liked all the fodder crops but the cross-breed (local x Holstein Friesian) preferred Foxtail Millet, Maize and Sorghum more. Initial results indicate the feasibility of growing forages in the dry season in the coastal zone of Bangladesh.

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- **CONTINUAL TESTING OF SUNFLOWER PRODUCTIVITY IN THE DRY SEASON**
- **NUTRITION AWARENESS TRAINING WITH THE WOMEN OF THE POLDERS**
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Continual testing of sunflower productivity in the dry season



The project expanded the introduction of sunflower, a potential oilseed crop in the dry season, to four polders (polder 22, 29, 30 and 34/2part). For optimizing sowing time, the community was introduced to a dibbling method that involves making small holes about the size of the seed using a pole or stick (wood or bamboo made), drop the seeds in the hole and close the hole by fingertips to aid germination.

Adjusting the crop calendar about one and a half months earlier than traditional farmers' practice allowed them to utilize the residual moisture left after the rainy season and also harvest the sunflower before the onset of cyclone season in May/June.

Nutrition awareness training with the women of the polders

The SIIL-Polder team organized three awareness training in June 2021 in polders 22, 30 and 34/2part participated by 87 women, mostly mothers and school teachers. The training primarily involves women because the team observed this as a good strategy in communicating the knowledge to other household members, especially to male members who often do most of the decision-making in the farm. Along with field days that demonstrate feasible cropping systems in the polders, the nutrition awareness training is done every season to communicate the nutritional benefits of diverse crops in the farm, and food on the plate.





BINA and BRRI's support to SIIL-Polder continues

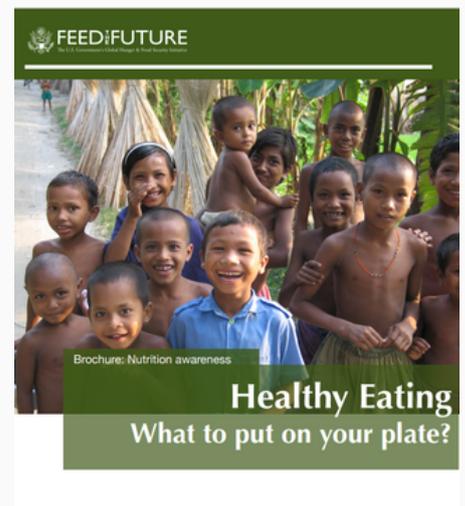
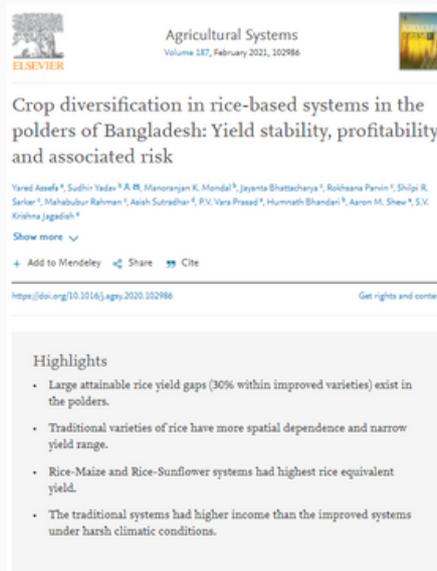
The Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) continue to collaborate with the SIIL-Polder project to improve rice productivity in the coastal region. The two agencies provided good quality seeds for the large-scale

demonstration of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of rice in polder 34/2part in the 2021 aman season. BINA provided seeds of Binadhan-17 and BRRI provided seeds of three rice varieties (BRRI dhan52, 72 and 79). In addition, these large scale demonstrations will be leveraged for organizing Cluster Farmer Field School (CFFS) in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). This initiative of CFFS is targeted to inform the farmers of the benefits of systematic operation of the sluice gate and synchronize intercultural operations in HYV rice cultivation.

Recent Publications



Access the Polder Tidings here:
<http://bit.ly/siil-polder-apr2021>





Featured photo: Mohona, a four-year old girl, and her mother, Ratna during one of the Nutrition Awareness Training.

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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.

