

BANGLADESH



FARMERS' HUBS PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Syngenta Foundation Bangladesh (SFB) currently runs four projects for the improvement of livelihoods among resource-poor and smallholder farming communities in northwestern Bangladesh. One of these is the Farmers' Hubs Project (FHP).

PROJECT

FHP has the overall objective “to create tangible income and livelihood opportunities for small and marginal farm families through sustainable agriculture and activation of value chains.” FHP is being implemented in four districts: Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari and Natore, in partnership with local NGOs and several agribusiness companies. The project has been running since July 2011.

OBJECTIVES

The major aim is to improve yields and the income of farmers through market-led production and better market access. SFB and its partners intend to do this through a number of different approaches. They are working to:

- educate smallholders about modern farming techniques through training, workshops, meetings, demonstrations, and exposure visits
- link farmers with better-priced markets through promoting "Farmers' Hubs" and contract farming
- link smallholders with suitable agricultural credits and quality inputs, develop "lead farmers" and group-based cultivation.

PROGRESS

FHP is currently working with 12,500 Farmers through 25 Farmers' Hubs. The Farmers' Hub is a commercial service platform that sustainably links smallholders to both input and output markets. Average productivity has been raised by 25 per cent and post-harvest loss has been reduced by 3–8 per cent in the last four years. The annual household income of farm families has increased by 34 per cent through this project.

In the 2015-16 potato production season, 450 contract farmers supplied 1,720 MTs of quality potatoes and 12 MTs of baby corn at a guaranteed price to four large agro-processing and export companies (QFPL, GARI, TFPL and Kellogg's).

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