



Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture Bangladesh

(SFSA Bangladesh)

BACKGROUND

Created in 2001, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) is an independent non-profit organization established by the agribusiness Syngenta under Swiss law. SFSA develops its own strategy and activities to improve the livelihoods of smallholders in developing countries. It does so by promoting technologies and activating value chains that help farmers increase food production, get better access to markets, and mitigate risks. SFSA runs projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and contributes to the agricultural policy debate worldwide. It works with a wide range of partners operationally and in thought leadership. The Foundation engages, for example, the public sector, international organizations, think tanks, the private sector, other foundations, social entrepreneurs and NGOs.

Since 2011, the Syngenta Foundation has been working in Bangladesh with official government registration, implementing several agricultural development initiatives with northwestern smallholders. SFSA Bangladesh works through a wide range of implementing and technical partners, including private sector representatives.

GOAL

SFSA Bangladesh aims to create value for resource-poor small farmers through innovation in sustainable agriculture and the activation of value chains.

OBJECTIVES

- 1: Improve primary producers' market access through a market-led production system
- 2: Enhance smallholders' productivity and profitability through technologies

TARGET GROUP AND AREA

SFSA Bangladesh mainly works for small and marginal farm families with 0.05 to 2.49 acres of cultivable land. It also implements a special project to improve the livelihoods of resource-poor, underprivileged Santal ethnic communities through economic activities both on and off farms.

SFSA Bangladesh selected the northwest region as one of the country's poorest, and prone to natural disasters. At present, it works in Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Natore and Bogra districts.

FUNDING PARTNER

SFSA receives its core funding from Syngenta, and allocates funds to the various country teams including Bangladesh. For implementation of joint projects, SFSA Bangladesh also receives funds from other organizations such as [SDC](#), [SCBF](#) and [CIMMYT](#).

STRATEGY AND APPROACH

The operational strategy of the SFSA focuses on smallholders, productivity and markets. Our aim is to help small farmers become more professional growers. We do this by extending science-based know-how, facilitating access to quality inputs, and linking smallholders to markets in profitable ways. This adds value for rural communities, and sustainably improves food security.

SFSA Bangladesh has developed and tested an innovative business model called *Farmers' Hubs*. The hubs provide essential services to local farmers on a commercial basis. Business principles were incorporated into the Farmers' Hub model from the beginning and tested in different market settings. The concept has achieved critical mass to move to the next stage of scale. Since 2015, the Farmers' Hub concept is also being replicated in Myanmar and Kenya.

ONGOING PROJECTS

SFSA Bangladesh has been implementing four smallholder projects:

- Integrated Agri-Support Project (IASP)
- Sustainable Agriculture for Santal Community (SASC)
- Commercialization of Small-scale Mechanization (CoSMec)
- Agricultural Insurance Solution (AIS)

MAJOR INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

- Planning supports
- Training and capacity-building
- Technical backstopping
- Technology transfer
- Market linkage facilitation
- ICT inclusion

PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS

- **30** Farmers' Hubs established and run commercially, providing five essential services to local farmers (agri-input sales, farm machinery rental, post-harvest handling, buying & selling, and agri & market info).
- **15,000** small and marginal farmers engaged with Farmers' Hubs, enjoying extra income from better yield and market prices.
- **130** regional and national traders linked with Farmers' Hubs and sourcing produce from farmers.
- **5** large companies are sourcing raw materials from smallholders through contract farming.
- **30%** (3.34 MTs/acre) productivity growth through adoption of new technologies and skills.
- **34%** (\$ 488) increase of average household income compared to baseline.



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