

**SAAS Update (BAEN Part) upto June 2019**  
**Society for Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN)**

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The Society for Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) started its journey on 15 December 2015 with legal registration under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The vision of BAEN is "**Extension services for sustainable agricultural productivity**". "Sustainable growth in agricultural productivity through identification, documentation and dissemination of good agricultural practices and extension approaches for environment friendly socio-economic growth in Bangladesh" is the mission of BAEN.

BAEN has conducted IFAD funded “Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific Islands Region through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS)” project with the aims to empower smallholder farmers in Bangladesh through improved, more effective and demand-driven Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS). The project has implemented in Bangladesh, Fiji, and the Philippines through Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) in close collaboration with the Asia Pacific Island Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS). APIRAS and Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) provided technical guidance and support to conduct SAAS activities in Bangladesh.

BAEN is a country-wide network of agricultural extension actors and serves as a national platform for coordination and exchange of knowledge and information in Bangladesh. It aims to promote sustainable growth and agricultural productivity through identification, documentation and dissemination of good agricultural practices and extension approaches for environment-friendly and socio-economic growth in Bangladesh. The network consists of representatives from national government agencies, industry-specific government organizations, universities, local and international NGOs, farmers/traders associations, agricultural media practitioners, registered agricultural professional associations and the private sectors. Currently the number of Members of BAEN is 591.

A National Steering Committee (NSC) was formed to provide oversight of SAAS project activities that supported priorities set by the Country Forum within the context of the Project Scope. It was composed of 14 Members containing representatives from the National, International, Government, Non-Government and Private Extension Providing Organizations like Departments of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Department of Fisheries (DOF), Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU), International Development Enterprise (iDE), Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), Agricultural Information Service (AIS), Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI), YPARD and IFAD in Bangladesh. BAEN has led the implementation of the project activities at the country level in Bangladesh. Activity wise achievements of the project are stated below:

## Activity 1: Undertake establishment and capacity assessment of country fora to strengthen governance of AAS institutions

### Achievements and Status

- BAEN conducted **two-day Learning event as ‘Consultation and Planning Workshop’** during 01-02 April, 2017 at BARD, Cumilla for country situation analysis of AAS based on following two previous assessment reports which was conducted by BAEN in collaboration with AESA:
  - Report on "Capacity Development for Extension and Advisory Services in Bangladesh" which was published as AESA Working Paper 2016 – 003.
  - Workshop report on “Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) for EAS in Bangladesh” conducted during 27-28 February, 2016 at Proshika Human Development Trust, Koitta, Manikganj, Bangladesh
- **Year-end project review** was held on 7 July 2018 at Giasuddin Milky Auditorium Conference Room, Dhaka.
- **BAEN strategic plan (2019-28)** is prepared and uploaded in website.

## Activity 2: Improve individual capacities of AAS to effectively serve smallholder farmers and respond to their demands

### Achievements and Status

- BAEN conducted a Training on “Web Operation and Content Management” at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka during 29-30 July 2017 with 23 Participants of different AAS providing organizations.
- **Synthesis of situation analysis, CNA, and CF priority directions** were packaged and circulated among CF members through the reports of ‘Consultation and Planning Workshop’ (from the 1st CF consultation).
- **Five (5) Working Groups were formed for capacity development strategy formulation and implemented for the CF and AAS providers in Bangladesh** in the ‘Consultation and Planning Workshop’ during 01-02 April 2017. The groups are:
  - Gender and nutrition sensitive agriculture
  - Market and value chain development
  - ICT for monitoring and knowledge management
  - Adaptation to climate change
  - Curricula review
- Each of “Gender and nutrition sensitive agriculture”, “Market and value chain development”, “ICT for monitoring and knowledge management, and “Adaptation to climate change” Working Groups conducted several meetings, **identified learning events (Trainings) and made Training Modules** which were validated after conducting Pilot Trainings by taking Trainees from Advisory Service Providers of IFAD funded "Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE)" project, IFAD funded "National Agricultural Technology Program (NATP)", YPARD, and other Government and Non-government organizations. Completion status of BAEN conducted Pilot Trainings are as follows:
  - Pilot Training on “Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture” was conducted at SOJAG (NGO) Center, Dhamrai, Dhaka during 13-15 May 2018 with 27 Participants

- Pilot Training on "Market and value chain development in Agriculture" was conducted at Farmers' Training Center (FTI), Social Development Initiatives (SDI - NGO) during 01-03 September 2018 with 20 participants.
- Pilot Training on "ICT and Knowledge Management in Agriculture" was conducted at ICT Lab of Agricultural Information Service (AIS), Farmgate, Dhakaduring 08-09 February 2019 with 25 participants.
- Pilot Training on Climate Change Adaptation In Agriculture” was conducted at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka during 12-14June 2019 with 28 participants.
- Modules of the above pilot Trainings are printed (500 copies for each of 4 Module) in June 2019 which is distributed to the different Extension and Advisory Service Providing organizations of Bangladesh.
- Trainees of these pilot trainings are acting as the Trainers of the Trainings organized by their own organizations for their beneficiaries like rural small farmers including women and youth by using Training Modules developed by BAEN. It is expected that Extension service providers of other organizations (GO, NGOs and Private) will use these modules to improve the quality of front and middle level extension workers as well as the farmers of Bangladesh.
- “Curricula review” Group conducted several meetings for reviewing i) Undergraduate Course Curricula of Agriculture Extension & Information System discipline of Different Universities and ii) Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh. After reviewing of these, a policy dialogue on “**Improvement of Agricultural Extension & Information System Curricula of Universities and Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh**”was conducted at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka on 18 June 2019.
- Seven Knowledge Sharing Workshops were conducted at IFMC conference room with the financial help from IFMC. Forty (40) organizations/projects presented their extension approaches/activities in these workshops.
- Out of these 40 organizations, BAEN Team visited the extension approaches/activities of 37 projects/organizations as **Exchange Visit**. Out of these 37, BAEN awarded 12 projects/organizations in the BAEN Bi-annual General Meeting in November 2017. Next award will be given to some selected best projects/organizations in the next BAEN Bi-annual General Meeting to be held in November 2019 based on their performance of extension approaches/activities.
- **BAEN Team Participated** in following **Region-wide AAS Events**:
  - BAEN President Kbd. Md. HamidurRahamanattended in "International Conference on Transforming Agricultural Extension Systems: towards achieving the Relevant Sustainable Development Goals ( SDGs ) for Global Impact" in Sri Lanka during 10-12 May, 2018 jointly organized by Srilanka Agricultural Extension Association(SLAEA) and Participatory Rural Development Initiative Society (PRDIS) of India and supported by FAO and IFAD. Kbd. Rahman chaired its 5th session entitled on "Water and Sanitation Management”. He alsoattended in “Regional Workshop on Knowledge Management and MEALS and APIRAS Steering Committee Meeting” in Singapore during 11-15 March 2019.
  - BAEN Secretary General Attended in “AESAs Governance Meeting” in Nepal during 24-25 July 2017, IFAD Supervision Mission in Philippines during 08-11 October 2017, “APIRAS Governance Meeting” in Indonesia during 22-23 January 2018, and

Regional Learning Event and Experience Sharing for best Practices of AAS” in Thailand 30-31 July 2018.

- Four BAEN Members attended 9<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting in October 2018 in Korea.
- BAEN Vice President Dr. Abu WaliRagibHasan attended in the Policy Dialogue on “Role of EAS in Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture” in Sri Lanka on 05 October 2018.
- Several BAEN Members attended in 2<sup>nd</sup> IFAD Supervision Mission in Bangladesh during 22-29 November 2018.
- BAEN President and Secretary General attended in 3<sup>rd</sup> IFAD Supervision Mission in Fiji during 06-10 May 2019.

### Activity 3: Knowledge Management

#### Achievements and Status

- **KM Assessment and Regional KM Strategy** developed by APIRAS was adopted by BAEN. Two consultants were appointed jointly to develop agricultural KM strategy in Bangladesh. They conducted an online survey on this issue during 31 May to 10 June 2019. Based on this online survey, they prepared a draft report on “Agricultural Knowledge Management Strategy in Bangladesh” on 11 June 2019 which was validated in a workshop held on 22 June 2019. After validation they submitted the final report on “**Agricultural Knowledge Management Strategy in Bangladesh**” on 25 June 2019 which is available in BAEN website now.
- **BAEN website** is developed. An **Agricultural Knowledge Audit** is created and it is available in the BAEN website with available **Agricultural Apps of Bangladesh**. Improvement of this Knowledge Hub will be continued.
- **Workshop on “Using New Extension Learning Kit (NELK) and Writing Good Practice Notes on Extension & Advisory Services (EAS)”** was conducted at Giasuddin Milky Auditorium Conference room during 10-11 March 2018 in presence of AESA Focal Point Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V.
- **As per decision of the above workshop**, following seven (7) Good Practice Notes were written and published in BAEN website:
  - Mini Pond: A way for supplementary irrigation in drought prone areas - Dr. Abu WaliRaghib Hassan and Dwipendra Chandra
  - Increasing Cropping Intensity: was to increase crop productivity - Kbd. Abdul Malek and Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali
  - Second Crop Diversification Project: An Integrated Extension Approach for Rural Development - Dr. Ashoke Kumar Roy
  - Enhancing Hilly Agricultural Marketing Systems in Bangladesh through the Collection Center - Dr. Noor Akter Naher (Reba)
  - Agriculture, Nutrition and Gender linkages (ANGeL) strengthened the Agriculture-Nutrition-Gender Nexus – Masuma Yunus
  - Conservation of urban surroundings of Dhaka city through roof gardening with changing environment – Prof. Dr. M. Mahub Islam
  - Bee keeping: A way of increasing mustard yield – Prof. Dr. Md. Sakhawat Hossain

## Activity 4: Policy Engagement in high level policy dialogue at national level

### Achievements and Status

#### **BAEN organized two policy dialogues as follows:**

A) **BAEN organized** policy dialogue on **“Strengthening Coordinated Advisory Services for Sustainable Agriculture in Bangladesh”** at BARC conference room on 20 April 2019. Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Md. Nasiruzzaman was present as the Chief Guest in the event. Mr. Sanat Kumar Saha, Additional Secretary (Extension) & Project Director, IFAD funded NATP-2 was the Special Guest of the dialogue.

Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali, Focal point of SAAS (Bangladesh), Secretary General of BAEN and Pro-VC of Sher-E-Bangla Agricultural University presented the SAAS and BAEN activities at the beginning of the event. Dr. WaisKabir presented the concept note of the dialogue. Kbd. Md. HamidurRahman, President, BAEN presided over the dialogue.

A total of 66 individuals including Heads of Agricultural Organizations of Bangladesh, BAEN Executive Committee & Advisory Committee Members and National Steering Committee Members of SAAS (Bangladesh) were participated in the event.

After a long dissuasion, several policy issues were identified. “BAEN may lead the coordination for strengthening Agricultural Advisory Services in Bangladesh by empowering National Agricultural Extension System (NAES)” was the main recommendation of the dialogue.

B). BAEN organized policy dialogue on **“Improvement of Agricultural Extension & Information System Curricula of Universities and Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh”** was conducted at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka on 18 June 2019.

Honorable Member, University Grants Commission Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest in the event. Prof. Dr. AbulKashem, Vice Chancellor, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University, Dinajpur; and Prof. Dr. Kamal UddinAhamed, Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU), Dhaka were the Special Guests of the dialogue.

Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali, Focal point of SAAS (Bangladesh), Secretary General of BAEN and Pro-VC of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University presented the SAAS and BAEN activities at the beginning of the event. Dr. Syed Rafiqul Amin, Deputy Director, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) presented the concept note regarding reviewing existing Training Modules of Extension Service providers of Bangladesh and Prof. Dr. AnwarulHaque Beg, Treasurer, SAU and President, Curricula Working Group of BAEN presented the concept note in the dialogue. Kbd. Md. HamidurRahman, President, BAEN presided over the dialogue.

A total of 44 individuals including Heads/representative of Agricultural Extension Providing and Training Organizations of Bangladesh (DAE, DLS, DOF and

NATA), Professors of Agricultural Extension & Information System disciplines, Deans of Respective Faculties and Directors of Institution Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC) of universities of Bangladesh, BAEN Executive Committee & Advisory Committee Members and National Steering Committee Members of SAAS (Bangladesh) were participated in the event.

After a long dissuasion, several policy issues were identified. The most important decisions were: i) Course credit of Agricultural Extension & Information System should be similar for undergraduate level of all the Agricultural Educational Programs of all the Universities of Bangladesh; ii) A course of 3 credit (theory 2 and practical-1) as “Agricultural Information System”, “Livestock Information System” and “Fisheries Information System” should be included in the undergraduate programs of crop, livestock and fisheries respectively. Internship program should be included for all the agricultural undergraduate programs.

### Details of BAEN Learning Events

Sl. No	Event Title	Duration (Date)	Venue	No. of Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
<b>Workshop</b>						
1.	Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) for EAS in Bangladesh in collaboration with AESA	27-28 Feb 2019	Proshika Manikgonj	20	07	27
2.	Interactive workshop with fellow agricultural extension and advisory services stakeholders	04-05 Dec 2016	KIB Complex	42	18	60
3.	Agricultural Extension Approaches and Experience Sharing	19 May 2016	IFMC, DAE	29	04	33
4.	Presentation and Experience Sharing Workshop on Good practices /approaches	10 January 2017	Giasuddin Milky Con. Room	41	04	45
5.	Agricultural Extension Approaches and Experience Sharing	30 march 2017	AIS conference room, DAE	36	05	41
6.	Planning and Consultation Workshop for Capacity Assessment of Country Fora	01-02 April 2017	BARD Cumilla	44	04	48
7.	Extension approach presentation and lesson sharing workshop	09 September 2017	IFMC, DAE	40	06	46
8.	New Extension Learning kit & writing Good practice noted in Extension	10-11 march 2018	GiasuddinMilky Auditorium	30	08	38
<b>Workshop Total</b>				<b>282</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>338</b>
<b>Training</b>						
1.	Web operation & content Management	29-30 July 2017	SAU, Dhaka	17	06	23



2.	Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture	13-15 May 2018	SOJAG Centre, Dhamrai	11	16	27
3.	Market and Value Chain Development in Agriculture	01-03 Septem 2018	FTI, SDI, Dhamrai	16	04	20
4.	ICT and Knowledge Management in Agriculture	08-09 Feb. 2019	ICT Lab Khamarbari, Dhaka	21	04	25
5.	Climate Change Adaptation in agriculture	12-14 June 2019	SAU Dhaka	20	08	28
<b>Total of Trainings</b>				<b>85</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Policy Dialogue</b>						
1.	Strengthening Coordinated Extension Services for Sustainable Agriculture	20 April 2019	BARC Dhaka	60	06	66
2.	Improvement of Agricultural Extension & Information System Curricula of Universities and Training Modules of Extension Service Providers of Bangladesh	18 June 2019	SAU, Dhaka	42	02	44
<b>Total of Policy Dialogue</b>				<b>102</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>469</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>571</b>