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## Last Mile Programme Progress report

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Delivering Extension Services to the Last-Mile: Improving smallholders' access to innovation and pluralistic, demand-driven extension services

IFAD Grant: 2000001996; Recipient: GFRAS-AGRIDEA

**Period: 01 July – December, 2020**

## List of acronyms

Acronym	Full reference	
AESA	Agricultural Extension in South Asia	
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services	
APIRAS	Asia Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network	
AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget	
CF	Country For a	
CRISP	Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy	
GFRAS	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services	
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture	
LMP	Last Mile Programme	
RAS	Rural Advisory Services	
RASP	Rural Advisory Services Providers	
RELEASE R	Red Latinoamericana para Servicios de Extensión Rural	
RN	Regional network	
(S)RN	(Sub-)Regional Network	
USD	United States Dollar	

## Table of Contents

List of acronyms	2
Table of Contents	2
Background	4
Overall implementation progress	6-13
Key aspects touched upon	13
Relevance to IFAD target groups	13
Nutrition focus	14
Youth focus	14
Innovation	14
Scaling up and sustainability	14
Lessons learned and implementation issues	15
Implementation arrangements	15
Monitoring and evaluation	15
Financial and fiduciary management	15
Other information	15
Conclusions and recommendations for follow up	16
Annexes/Appendices : information on Covid -19 and updates on NELK	16-17

## Background

*This section can be maintained as such and does not need any specific inputs from CF or (S)RN*

Name of grant	Delivering Extension Services to the Last-Mile: Improving smallholders' access to innovation and pluralistic, demand-driven extension services														
Name of recipient	GFRAS-AGRIDEA														
Goal, objectives and target group(s)	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>to contribute to the achievement of improved incomes, sustained market linkages and reduction of climate vulnerability for smallholder farmers</p> <p><b>Overall objective</b></p> <p>to enhance the capacity of public and private service providers of agricultural extension and rural advisory services to deliver services to the last mile.</p> <p><b>Specific objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mobilize, organise and build the capacities of public/private RAS providers (RASPs) to deliver effective, innovative services - linked to all actors in agricultural innovation system and to smallholder farmers;</li> <li>• To generate and contribute knowledge needed to promote scaling up of climate resilient good practices to smallholder farmers and for promoting favourable policies and investments in RAS</li> </ul> <p><b>Target groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A direct target group made of public extension service providers (ministries of agriculture and research and relevant policy and regulatory bodies), private service providers (private extension agents, input suppliers, producers, buyers, apex farmer organizations, transporters, etc.) and semi-private (socio-entrepreneurs, NGOs etc.) who offer agricultural-related services. RAS delivery agents (Government agents, private providers and semi-private providers) of IFAD supported projects will be key beneficiaries and will be incentivised to be participants of the RAS Country Fora.</li> <li>• An indirect target group composed of rural smallholder farmers as well as their organizations mediating access to agro-technology services and goods. A major focus will be put on women and youths.</li> </ul>														
Benefitting country(ies)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Reg Network</th> <th>IFAD grant</th> <th>Other funders</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RELASER</td> <td>Colombia, Costa Rica, Grenada</td> <td>One out of: Paraguay, Peru, Honduras and Brazil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APIRAS</td> <td>Bangladesh, Kirgizstan,</td> <td>Laos, Fiji, Philippines</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AFAAS</td> <td>Cameroon, Malawi, Kenya,</td> <td>Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Madagascar, Mali, Uganda</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Reg Network	IFAD grant	Other funders	RELASER	Colombia, Costa Rica, Grenada	One out of: Paraguay, Peru, Honduras and Brazil	APIRAS	Bangladesh, Kirgizstan,	Laos, Fiji, Philippines	AFAAS	Cameroon, Malawi, Kenya,	Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Madagascar, Mali, Uganda		
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Date of grant approval	22.11.2018														
Date of grant effectiveness	30.04.2019														

Completion date	30.06.2024
Value of IFAD-funded grant (in US\$)	3,000,000
Amount disbursed to date (in US\$)	USD 1,080,000 (June 2019)
Total financing, including in-kind contribution (in US\$)	USD 3,637,000 (5 year)

## Overall implementation progress

*Explanations to the table:*

- Please report achievements per country, specific for each of the outputs, referring to the activities under the outputs indicated in the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB)*
- Deliverables: describe what concrete deliverables have been obtained up to date, referring to the deliverables specified in the AWPB;*
- Progress is either “partly completed” or “fully completed”; please do not report on activities just started or about to start.*
- Please specify how IFAD programmes and IFAD representation at country or regional level have been linked to the activities*

*Please highlight activities undertaken to respond to Covid-19 restrictions and present them in **green font**.*

*Various activities have been taken by BAEN to address COVID-19 pandemic situation in Bangladesh*

- Awareness raising education programme for the farmers about biosecurity measures such as hand washing, wearing masks, avoid mass gathering, staying home if sick and maintaining social distancing
- Article writing on COVID -19 situation in Bangladesh and published in the social media and print media, etc
- Linked the farmers with Market actors to sell their products in the Covid-19 disrupted market situation
- A series of online meeting has been conducted and participated on various issues like as provide effective extension at farmer’s door step; role of digital platform in agri. extension services; 1<sup>st</sup> International day observance on food loss and waste on 29 September declared by UN; .....
- COV ID -19 situation made a strategic plan to cope up with the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- A number of articles related to covid-19 has been translated and published in the website

### **Posted news in BAEN Website**

Bangladeshi Agriculture and COVID-19 related articles:

- [COVID-19 Impact on Farmers in Bangladesh: Findings from the BAEN Survey](#)
- [Mitigating impact of COVID-19 on Food and Agriculture in Bangladesh](#)
- [Ways to overcome the effects of COVID-19 on Bangladesh agriculture](#)
- [করোনা দুর্যোগ পরবর্তী সময়ে খাদ্য ও পুষ্টি নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে প্রেক্ষিত সম্ভাব্য কৌশল \( Probable strategies to ensure food and nutrition security at post covid 19 situation\)](#)
- [করোনা পরিস্থিতি ও সরকারি উদ্যোগ প্রসঙ্গে \(The Coronavirus Situation and Government Initiatives \)](#)

## Progress per Output

Country (a)	Key activities carried out	Deliverables obtained (b)	Progress (c) [1]	Link to IFAD programmes (d)
<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Building capacities RAS providers through strengthened PPP platforms</b>			
<b>Output 1.1.1</b>	<b>1. Key stakeholders identified</b> <b>2. Awareness and commitment to the project generated</b> <b>3. Roles and responsibilities clarified</b>			
Bangladesh	<p>- Stakeholder Consultation to mobilize service providers into PPP- make sure that multidimensional organizations such as iDE , OXFAM, SDI, BASA, , ABC Start-up Co. Ltd. Practical Actions, ACI, Metal Agro Prvt. Ltd. BRAC, etc attend it.</p> <p>- Organized scheduled different meetings regularly</p>	<p>Primary discussion has been made most of the stakeholders</p>	<p>It has been discussed in the meeting with BAEN EC members that consultation meeting will be Organized considering the covid19 situation assumed in early 2021.</p> <p>Schedule fortnightly Zoom meeting every 2nd and 4th Saturday jointly with AESA Secretariat at 11.00am for brainstorming, regular updates and follow up on LMP and BAEN activities. Steering/EC committee and special meeting conducted as required.,</p>	<p>IFAD-supported programmes invited to participate</p>

Output : 1.1.2	<b>1. Project baselines established</b> <b>2. Monitoring indicators identified</b> <b>3. M&amp;E mechanism put in place</b>			
	<p>1. Identifying and applying suitable indicators based on GFRAS LMP Results framework to the context of BAEN.</p>	<p>M&amp;E framework is finalized based on the context of BAEN.</p>	<p>During the reporting period, significant progress has been made. BAEN selected consultant following professional competitive hiring process and signed a contract with an individual Consultant to conduct the assignment <b>LMP Baseline Survey</b>; on September 01,2020.</p> <p><b>LMP Baseline Survey:</b> A kick-off meeting with the LMP regional team organize to clarify the study objective and technical details of the LMP result indicators and M&amp;E framework. The LMP regional and country team also guides the Consultant on the study methodology and stakeholder interview to be considered for the assignment. The main objective of this study was to collect and analyze the existing situation of the LMP indicators so that it guides the LMP team to measure its' achievements and outputs throughout implementation and will also help devise appropriate monitoring tools for M&amp;E of the program's interventions.</p> <p>The Consultant presented an initial understanding after the literature review with the regional and BAEN team. Consultant completed the data collection from BAEN executive committee members as well as different RASPs who are active members of BAEN (CF) including the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Department of Fishery DoF), Department of Livestock (DLS), BADC, PKSF, Hortex. Foundation, Private companies and several NGOs partners. Both management and field level RASPs were interviewed for this study. An initial finding has been shared with the LMP regional and Country team and also the baseline findings have been validated by the BAEN's executive committee in a virtual workshop. The Consultant has already completed and shared the</p>	<p>M&amp;E framework from other country, funded by IFAD used to develop M&amp;E system in Bangladesh.</p> <p>Have a Verbal and written communication with IFAD Reps. In Bangladesh.</p>

			<p>draft report which is currently being reviewed by the regional and Country team. Final report will be submitted by this month. Consultant has incorporated all the feedback provided by reviewer accurately and baseline report is finalized by the consultant and submitted to LMP. On behalf of AESA Dr. Rasheede Solaiman V and Mrs. Nimisha Mittal were provided lots of insightful feedback which made the baseline report very informative and attractive.</p>	
<b>Output.1.1.3</b>	<p><b>1. Road map to strengthening CF laid out</b>  <b>2. Budget requirement to implement Strategic Plan estimated</b>  <b>3. Required capacities to achieve maturity identified</b></p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing short- and medium-term priorities/capacity assessment of BAEN for PPP platform for last mile delivery</li> <li>Review of the strategic plan and development of guidelines formats and operationalizing mechanisms for strengthening organisational capacity of BAEN.</li> <li>Meeting of the Interim Steering committee and executive body and approving the legal framework and formation of new committee (BAEN to raise additional resources/support from CF for conducting this meeting)</li> </ul>	<p>A maturity index is drafted, endorsed and finalized by the BAEN EC</p> <p>Finalized the activity plan as part of PPP platform</p>	<p>BAEN EC has undertaken activities as part of PPP platform</p> <p>IFAD representative has well connected with the BAEN Executive Committee to participate in the decision making and policy development process.</p> <p>Gaps identified by the consultant to reach maturity stage is recognized by the BAEN executive committee and has taken actions to address those gaps properly. Several zoom meeting is organized by the assigned consultants and shared findings detailed with the Executive committee members and finally the report is endorsed by the BAEN Executive Committee.</p>	<p>IFAD representative is informed about the BAEN Executive Committee to buy-in in the decision making process</p>



<b>Output 1.1.4</b>	<b>Training module developed and tested on 'Strengthening pluralism in RAS delivery and the role of PPP' for senior managers in RAS organisations</b>			
	<p><b>CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR PPP in RAS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing Training module on 'Strengthening pluralism in RAS delivery and the role of PPP' for senior managers in RAS organisations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training module developed and shared with concern stakeholders</b></p>	<p>During the reporting period, BAEN selected consultant following professional competitive hiring process and signed a contract with an individual Consultant to conduct the assignment</p>	<p>PPP strategy papers will be shared and taken suggestions and expected to be endorsed by the IFAD.</p>
<b>Output 1.1.5</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status paper on PPP in RAS in Bangladesh developed as a guidance document.</li> <li>Guideline paper on RAS-PPP printed and disseminated</li> <li>Key stakeholders trained on PPP development and its processes</li> </ol>			
	<p><b>POLICY DIALOGUE FOR PPP in RAS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a status paper on PPP in RAS in Bangladesh</li> <li>Develop a 4-6-page bilingual policy brief (layout, editing, translational, printing of 1000 copies of policy brief)</li> <li>ToR drafted, approved and published in Website and communicated with the potential consultants</li> </ul>	<p>Status paper on PPP developed, Policy paper developed, printed and distributed and published in website</p>	<p>BAEN selected a potential consultant following professional competitive hiring process and signed a contract to conduct the assignment.</p> <p><b>PPP Status Paper:</b> The objectives of this assignment is to develop a status paper on the present condition of PPP in RAS in Bangladesh. The paper will identify the present PPP status in Bangladesh, and how different models have been designed and rolled out. The paper will identify problems, constraints, and challenges in different PPP models, especially the ones that deal with extension service provision. Secondly; Based on the PPP status paper, developing a 4-6-page bilingual policy brief. The third objective is to develop a training module on 'Strengthening pluralism in RAS delivery and the role of PPP' for senior managers in RAS organizations.</p> <p>A kick-off meeting between the Consultant and LMP regional and</p>	<p>PPP Status papers will be shared and expected to be endorsed by the IFAD.</p>

			<p>country team has been completed to clarify the PPP assignment and also guide the Consultant on the process/method that can be followed for the assignment. The Consultant presented their understanding and findings of the PPP model after the kick-off meeting and the literature review.</p> <p>As part of the assignment, the Consultant is currently interviewing the BAEN partner member's organizations has been work with a PPP model in Bangladesh and completed interview including PKSF, BADC, BRAC Hortex-foundation, Solidaridad Network ASIA INGOS, iDE and other local NGOS, Private companies ACI etc. PPP status paper and other deliverables to be completed soon.</p> <p>Several times PPP status paper has been reviewed and finally consultant has completed and submitted the documents to LMP authority. Both BAEN and consultants received lots of information, articles and guidance from Dr. Rasheede Solaiman V and Mrs. Nimisha Mittal and accordingly PPP status paper has been improved. Important to say that several time consultants shared findings through zoom meetings where BAEN and AESA representatives actively participated and given valuable feedback and accordingly consultant developed PPP status paper.</p>	
<p>2. Covid-19 Response</p>	<p>10 Good practice notes written and finalized"</p> <p>Develop a new section within the BAEN website and develop 10 bi lingual knowledge products available to local users (best practices, blogs, press release, analysis of existing programmes that have to be modified, what different organizations within the network can deliver)</p>			

	<p><b>CONTENT GENERATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responding to challenges faced by farmers and leveraging the country fora platform for resolving many of these issues</li> </ul>	<p>Articles, change stories written and published.</p>	<p>**September 10, 2020 A blog write up(in Bangla) has been shared at BAEN website on Credible strategies to ensure food and nutrition at post covid-19( situation( করোনা দুর্যোগ পরবর্তী সময়ে খাদ্য ও পুষ্টি নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে প্রকেষতি সম্ভাব্য কৌশল ) by Dr Md Abdus Salam, URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>**August 28, 2020 A blog write up(in Bangla) has been shared at BAEN website on (Covid19 situation in Bangladesh and Government initiatives by Kbd. Hamidur Rahman ,president BAEN) করোনা পরিস্থিতি ও সরকারি উদ্যোগ প্রসঙ্গে by কৃষিবিদ হামিদুর রহমান, সভাপতি, বাংলাদেশে কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ নটেওয়ার্ক, URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>**July 2, 2020 A research data survey form has been shared at BAEN website on Online Survey to Determine the effects of COVID-19 on Bangladesh Agriculture led by Prof Md Sekender Ali General Secretary, BAEN; URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>** Covid19 related Bengali articles translated into English and posted in website</p> <p>** BAEN reps. participated many workshop/webinar on COVID 19 impact and way forward.</p>	<p>LMP taken measures as IFAD focused on addressing Covid-19 pandemic situation</p>
2.1	BAEN website and portal operational and maintained			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation for ICT Tools and platforms for the last mile</li> <li>• Upgrading, maintaining the BAEN web portal two times in the period Dec19-20</li> <li>• Conducted several meeting with the website designer</li> <li>• Conducted meeting within BAEN EC and LMP steering committee</li> <li>• Shared and took valuable suggestions from AESA</li> </ul>	<p>Agreement with vendor , attractive website developed, content /stories/ upload</p>	<p>Redesign a new well acceptable website of BAEN to serve the current demand of various stakeholders.</p> <p>BAEN authority formed a website redesign committee who gathered information and feedback from different partners, CRISP and other experts. At the end BAEN designed a new website (<a href="http://www.baenbd.org/">http://www.baenbd.org/</a>) having attractive content visualization, dynamic content search option and easy to administrate.</p> <p>Currently the new website has been completely developed and running publicly under testing phases to leverage its usability index by incorporating user's feedback. Already most of the contents were shifted from old to new website and hopefully the entire transferring task will be completed within this month. As a new one, this website has been designed differently rather than the old one. It was developed using PHP Laravel Framework for ensuring its dynamism and security.</p> <p>The website development team also works on content transformation form Bangle to English and vice versa for serving the demand of both national and international stakeholders.</p> <p>Website development is completed and information has been shifted from old to new website. Updating is continuing. A part time skill person is working on it.</p> <p>Assigned consultant conducted zoom meeting within BAEN EC and LMP steering committee and accordingly articulated the website. Shared and took valuable suggestions from Rasheed E Solaiman and Nimisha Mittal</p>	<p>NA</p>
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2.2	BAEN's website regularly updated and knowledge shared with RAS providers through social media			
	<p><b>ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>Using BAEN website to continuously update relevant content and communicate through social media with policy makers, professionals engaged in PPP in RAS and the last mile delivery through RAS stakeholders through a social media facilitator -social media updates, website updates</p>	<p>Contents and articles uploaded, Change stories developed and uploaded</p>	<p>Covid-19 response published in the social media/news papers. Change stories, content developed and uploaded in the BAEN website.</p> <p>*September 10, 2020 A blog write up has been shared at BAEN website on করোনা দুর্ঘটনা পরবর্তী সময়ে খাদ্য ও পুষ্টিকর নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে প্রকৃষ্টি সম্ভাব্য কৌশল by Dr Md Abdus Salam, URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>*August 28, 2020 A blog write up has been shared at BAEN website on করোনা পরিস্থিতি ও সরকারি উদ্যোগ প্রসঙ্গে by কৃষবিদ হামদুর রহমান, সভাপতি, বাংলাদেশে কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ নটেওয়ার্ক, URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>*July 30, 2020 A recruitment circular has been shared at BAEN website on Consultancy Support on developing PPP Status Paper, Policy Brief and Training Module for GFRAS Last Mile Programme (LMP) (2019 to 2024) URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>*July 23, 2020 A recruitment circular has been shared at BAEN website on Consultancy Support for Baseline Assessment of GFRAS Last Mile</p>	<p><b>Shared with IFAD Reps.</b></p>

			<p>Programme (LMP) (2019 to 2024) URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>*July 12, 2020 A general notice has been shared at BAEN website on Terms of Reference (ToR) for Consultant for Customization of a NELK Module in Bangladesh; URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>*July 2, 2020 A research data survey form has been shared at BAEN website on Online Survey to Determine the effects of COVID-19 on Bangladesh Agriculture led by Prof Md Sekender Ali General Secretary, BAEN; URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>*July 1, 2020 The agricultural knowledge repository has been updated at BAEN website on Agricultural Knowledge provided office at Bangladesh; URL: <a href="#">Link</a></p>	
2.3	BAEN network members updated and engaged on a regular basis			
	Operationalizing the network, coordination and general coordination: Salaries/Consultancy support	Conducted several Zoom meeting on LMP progress, BAEN operational issues, NELK shared covid-19 response strategy etc.	<p>Conducted meetings with partner organizations to share project activities and their role in implementation of the GFRAS LMP project. The meeting was organized virtually using Zoom in participation with CF and regional level AES member; discussed with partners about Baseline survey and PPP status paper development</p> <p>19 New members added and updated BAEN general member list.</p>	<b>NA</b>

### Key aspects touched upon

*For each of the aspects indicated below, please provide as much as possible specific information (referring to concrete examples). Consider how these aspects have been touched upon through the choice of topics of activities or the way activities have been implemented, in strategies or methodologies developed etc.*

## Relevance to IFAD target groups (smallholder farmers, poor)

LMP follows IFAD guidelines and has been working with the organization's that are engaged with IFAD granted funds and working with the smallholder and poor farmers. **Shared ideas and discussed about collaboration with SACP project funded by IFAD under ministry of Agriculture.**

## Gender focus

BAEN members are working with a number of women farmers' groups established by the NGOs supported by IFAD and non-IFAD funded projects. The approach of farmers groups especially with women make them skill and knowledgeable on agriculture and farm management activity. Also, it brings both women and men to learn together useful for their farm activity and livelihood as well. Both women and men can act as a supporting hand for each other due to jointly participating in the meeting. BAEN would build in a gender lens for all its activities and promote equal opportunities for training and capacity strengthening of extension agents whether they are men or women and try to be more inclusive for women farmers in its interventions. LMP has planned to work IFAD funded different projects with youth both men and women. SACP project showed interest to work jointly.

## Environment and climate focus

BAEN as a CF has a focus on sustainability and helping farmers adapt to climate change. During the IFAD funded SAAS project (2016-2019) BAEN developed module on 'Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture' to train extensionists help farmers cope and adapt to climate change. This was pilot tested in 2019. Partner NGOs who are part of the BAEN platform are promoting sustainable agriculture practices (Organic farming, IPM, Sac bag, tower garden.) both in the input and output market by engaging private sector partners. BAEN partners also support to ensure the product and service at consumers' doorstep which helps them to buy and use this for their agricultural farm. This approach also helps in reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection for the producers. In the mean time developed training module has been distributed to the concern BAEN members and partner's organizations. LMP is fully concerned on Environment and climate issues.

## Nutrition focus

Gender and nutrition is a priority for BAEN programmes and during the LMP would be keeping this in its focus. BAEN Story of Change (1), prepared on the case of Prity 16 years' young girls who was capacitated by iDE (BAEN partner) under the Suchana project funded by DFID and EU. The story shows how she contributed and enhanced the nutritional security due to the PPP for 150 families which is work in progress. BAEN would be publishing knowledge products to highlight this dimension. Because of COVID-19 nutrition sensitive issues has been discussed as priority activities using online platform and partners and stakeholders has been adopted as key activities.

## Youth focus

BAEN Executive committee has a youth member from YPARD has been actively working. BAEN has focus on youth and mobilizing frontline extension workers to connect youth with the agricultural work to reduce their employment risk. Different member organizations of BAEN are also taking intervention to build youth as an entrepreneur across the Country. BAEN Story of Change (1) prepared on the case of Prity who is an adolescent girl, became an entrepreneur by BAEN partner as part of youth engagement in agriculture. The project will be promoting youth as an entrepreneur and change maker in the agriculture of Bangladesh in collaboration with BAEN and its partner organizations. BAEN has been working with the young innovative farmers group and promoting and linked them value chain actors.

BAEN is contributed and working for SSTC proposal and maintaining a linkage with Ministry of agriculture and other organization working for youth.

## Innovation

BAEN is a platform to boost up innovation through its activities in the EAS in the country. BAEN partnered with a number of public-private, NGOs, private companies, civil society partner organizations. BAEN arranges field visit to capture innovative idea, approach, technology which are assessed by the expert to award the best one. BAEN also disseminate those best practices across the partners as part of replication strategy.

## Knowledge management and Communication

A case study on the COVID cope up strategy developed in support of CF members and published in the website and other social media as a best practice.

- BAEN developed KM and Communication strategy and uploaded in BAEN website.
- BAEN has taken initiatives to collect KM and communication materials and repository at BAEN website.
- Covid-19 related several articles has been published in BAEN website and newspapers
- Contributed to knowledge products to AESA-BAEN joint blogs on response to COVID-19
- Many other knowledge products work are in progress
- Stories of change written and coming up
- Covid 19 related articles translated from Bangali to English and published in BAEN website

## Scaling up and sustainability

BAEN is committed to scaling up through sharing good practices and experiences for learning from each other in EAS and principles of sustainability. BAEN is trying to explore scaling up projects of the well accepted popular approach and practices across the country in collaboration with various partners.

## Lessons learned and implementation issues

*Please indicate here lessons learned regarding topics dealt with, regarding approaches to implement activities or foster collaboration (e.g. with IFAD). Indicate areas of project management needing specific attention. In particular, indicate here or in the following section the restrictions and issues around implementation due to Covid-19 and the arrangements made to assure proper implementation.*

Fortnightly zoom meeting is very effective to review the progress and improvements of ongoing strategy. It creates a lot of scopes sharing ideas with in country and region level and generates new opportunities.

Relevant documents sharing which enhanced knowledge and improved quality of work.

Virtual meetings using online apps like Zoom, Skype, Google meet can be an important way of arranging meetings timely with optimum number of participants. This does not require travelling, delayed start etc. cause time saving. The participant who has an appropriate device i.e. laptop or android phone can be easily connected for a meeting. A meeting can be organized with short notice. Little bit faced challenges to communicate at wider level including donor organizations and discontinuation due to disruption of internet facilities.

## Implementation arrangements

*Please indicate here whether specific measures have been taken to optimise implementation of the activities, to foster collaboration and synergies with other programmes. In particular, indicate the arrangements made to assure implementation under the restrictions and issues due to Covid-19*

Number of virtual meetings using Zoom link completed with the CF and regional level to exchange ideas, views and learning on COVID impact in the extension work and review of progress of ongoing activities. The meeting helps get into a practical scenario which had been faced by farmers during COVID pandemic as well as improve implementation strategies. The CF members are currently familiar with the online link for participating in the virtual meeting to be undertaken in future to boost up the project activity implementation. Conducted zoom meeting among steering committee members, EC members of BAEN as required and taken decision for implementation. Regular intensive guidance from regional level network specially from Nimisha and Rasheed Sulaimon has given energy to run in a right track which is highly appreciated. Need base Virtual zoom meeting has been continuing and taking decisions as required for smooth operation of BAEN/LMP activities. .

## Monitoring and evaluation

*Indicate here activities carried out with regard to M&E by (S)RN and CF during the reporting period and mention key results of these activities. For instance, CF organised a virtual meeting to familiarise its Board with the M&E methodology.*

Several meeting completed within Executive Committee (EC) members of BAEN and steering committee for LMP to share GFRAS LMP project M&E framework i.e. indicators in order to make them clear about the



project's expected results to be achieved. Also shared baseline survey findings among the members and got suggestions. Findings also validated with the BAEN EC members and actions taken accordingly. Fortnightly meeting is a well platform present the current status and to get excellent suggestion to run the activities in the right direction.

## Financial and fiduciary management

*This section will be filled out by GFRAS Secretariat*

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>Budget reporting period (USD)</i>	<i>Expenses reporting period (USD)</i>	<i>Variance</i>
1 Sub-grants			
2 Salaries and allowances			
3 Travel and allowances			
4 Consultancies			
5 Workshops			
6 Training			
7 Operational			
<b>Total use IFAD funds</b>			

## Other information

*Please list any other information within or outside the programme considered important for the implementation of LMP.*

*Submitted LMP progress and financial report July to October 2020*

*Participated LMP virtual supervision meeting*

*Presented BAEN/LMP achievements in the supervision meeting*

*Contributed and working on SSTC proposal*

## Conclusions and recommendations for follow up

*Conclusions reflect your general appreciation of programme implementation during the reporting period, it may contain multiple statements (e.g.: irregular communication between (S)RN and GFRAS has delayed implementation; agreements between (S)RN and CF satisfactorily followed)*

*Recommendations refer to suggestion on how to further optimize the implementation, they can stem from lessons learned or other observations and experiences made during implementation (e.g.: reporting process needs to be better adapted to specific conditions)*

During the reporting period, COVID-19 has impacted significantly on the implementation of project activities. The virtual meeting using the Zoom link helps in overcoming those challenges to some extent. More virtual meeting to be organized to address longer term COVID pandemic through necessary capacity building of the CF members based on the requirement. Best story on Covid, KM products and best approaches must share among the stakeholders using social media, online platform and other media.

## Annexes/Appendices

**Annex: Covid-19 related articles published print media and website and NELK Updates**

1. September 10, 2020 A blog write up has been shared at BAEN website on করোনা দুর্যোগ পরবর্তী সময়ে খাদ্য ও পুষ্টিনিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে প্রকেষতি সম্ভাব্য কৌশল by Dr Md Abdus Salam, URL: [Link](#)
2. August 28, 2020 A blog write up has been shared at BAEN website on করোনা পরিস্থিতি ও সরকারি উদ্যোগ প্রসঙ্গে by কৃষবিদ হামদুর রহমান, সভাপতি, বাংলাদেশে কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ নটেওয়ার্ক, URL: [Link](#)
3. July 30, 2020 A recruitment circular has been shared at BAEN website on Consultancy Support on developing PPP Status Paper, Policy Brief and Training Module for GFRAS Last Mile Programme (LMP) (2019 to 2024) URL: [Link](#)
4. July 2, 2020 A research data survey form has been shared at BAEN website on Online Survey to Determine the effects of COVID-19 on Bangladesh Agriculture led by Prof Md Sekender Ali General Secretary, BAEN; URL: [Link](#)
5. July 1, 2020 The agricultural knowledge repository has been updated at BAEN website on Agricultural Knowledge provided office at Bangladesh; URL: [Link](#)

## **Progress of activities on Customization of NELK Module on Facilitation for Development**

\*Negotiation meeting and contract signing was made between BAEN and the consultant: 27<sup>th</sup> Aug, 20.

\* Virtual meetings: Four virtual meetings were held on 06, 12 and 19 Sept and 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 between AESA, BAEN and the consultant to discuss and finalize work plan for customization of the module for F4D and organizing the workshop-1 and discussions on the progress of customization of the module.

GFRAS-AESA-BAEN Training Workshop on “Customization of NELK Module on Facilitation for Development” held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. Altogether 15 participants from government organizations (Agricultural extension, training and research etc.), NGOs and donor supported projects attended the workshop. After opening session, a power point presentation was made on the “Customization of NELK Module” by Dr. Rasheed Soulaïman of CRISP. After presentation, group exercise was done by dividing the participants into four groups and each group was assigned for each unit to discuss among group members and to prepare a group report and for presentation.

Before one week ahead of the workshop the GFRAS NELK Modules including the module on Facilitation for Development along with a feedback form was shared to all the participants by email with a request to go through the modules particularly, the Module on Facilitation for Development and fill up the feedback form and to send back the filled in forms.

The consultant hired for Customization of NELK Module for Facilitation for Development made a presentation on the proposed outline on the module. After open discussions and based on comments received from group exercises and feedbacks from the workshop, the consultant developed a draft outline of the module for Customization and shared it the CRISP and BAEN. Now the customization of the module in Bangladesh context is continuing by the consultation. In

the last virtual meeting held on 05<sup>th</sup> November,20, it is planned to share the customized module to all the participants on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov,2020 for their comments/suggestions and accordingly the Consultant will finalize the Module which will be presented in workshop-2 scheduled to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov,2020.