



Feed the Future Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity

Background

The Feed the Future Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity is a five-year award made by USAID to WorldFish in February 2018. Its aim is to sustain positive aquaculture sector growth through an inclusive market system approach in the Zone of Influence (ZOI) and the Zone of Resilience (ZOR) of Southern Bangladesh.

It builds on the achievements of the six-year USAID Aquaculture for Income and Nutrition (AIN) project which saw livelihoods of small-scale fish farmers improve through increased production and quality of tilapia, carp, shrimp and prawn in the Feed the Future ZOI.

The Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity takes a market systems approach where the emphasis is on facilitation rather than direct implementation. Activity staff will identify critical underlying issues constraining the sector and encourage co-investment by private sector companies and NGOs through grants to address these issues. A key principle is to encourage capacity building in existing value chain actors rather than establishing unsustainable capacity that will disappear at the end of the Activity.



A happy smallholder fish farming family

Goal & Objectives

The goal is to achieve inclusive aquaculture sector growth through a market system approach.

The specific objectives are:

- Increased productivity of aquaculture production systems.
- Strengthened aquaculture market systems, with particular attention to expanding opportunities for women and youth.
- Increased awareness and adoption of nutrition-related behaviors, with a particular focus on women and youth.

Key Activities

Objective 1: Increased productivity of aquaculture production systems

Aquaculture development in Bangladesh is constrained by a lack of high-quality seed and feed as well as poor management practices. To address these constraints, the Activity, in collaboration with private sector actors, will

- increase the availability of improved fish seed;
- increase the availability of affordable, high-quality fish feed;
- increase adoption of best pond management practices.

Objective 2: Strengthened aquaculture market systems, with particular attention to expanding opportunities for women and youth

Aquaculture market growth has been driven by increased production. However, despite clearly expressed consumer concerns over the safety and quality of farmed fish, post harvest handling and market supply chains are poorly managed. The result is reduced profitability across many key aquaculture value chains, threatening

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Activity Working Area

Call for Proposals

The Activity is announcing a call for proposals from registered private sector companies and organizations.

For detailed guidelines, please visit the WorldFish website: <https://bit.ly/2C3A9Bu>

sustainable growth of the sector. Meanwhile, despite the growing importance of farmed fish in the national economy, the sector has little representation in policy-making bodies or ability to ensure consumer concerns. To address these issues, the Activity, in collaboration with private sector actors, will

- increase market linkages;
- increase engagement of the private sector in aquaculture markets;
- improve the enabling environment for inclusive aquaculture sector growth.

Objective 3: Increased awareness and adoption of nutrition-related behaviors, with a particular focus on women and youth

Despite considerable progress, undernutrition rates remain high among the poor and vulnerable. Poor dietary quality leads to inadequate consumption of key vitamins and minerals, contributing to childhood stunting, cognitive impairment, reduced productivity and lowered earning potential, thereby undermining national development. Hence, the Activity will, in a gender-equitable manner

- increase nutrition awareness and practices;
- improve access to diverse and nutritious food, including fish.

Target

1. 400,000 men, women and youth have access to improved access to better quality aquaculture inputs, services, and/or market channels
2. 30 percent expansion of investment by the private sector in aquaculture production and market related to inputs and services (seed, feed, production/ market related information, technology, etc.)
3. 30 percent increase in productivity from ponds and ghers

Contact us

WorldFish

Jon Thiele, Chief of Party, Feed the Future Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity

Tel:+880-2 58813250 and 5887300

4. 20 percent increase in the number of households adopting improved nutritional practices (consumption of nutritious food, dietary diversity and hygiene practices)

Approach

The Activity will apply an inclusive market systems approach to implement interventions through the private sector to reach smallholder farmers. It will facilitate rather than directly deliver aquaculture interventions, hence transferring ownership to the private sector. The approach will analyze the present context, identify the problems and underlying root causes of poorly functioning markets and seek solutions with and by the private sector. These problems and solutions will be jointly ascertained through a series of consultation events. The Activity will identify rationales for investment and use partnerships and grants to leverage co-investments by the private sector. It will focus on seeking sustainability from the start by building capacity and resilience of local systems, so that the interventions continue beyond the project lifecycle. It will adapt to dynamic contexts through collaboration, review, learning and reflection, thereby stimulating innovations, competitiveness and transformative change.

Cross cutting

The Activity will also ensure gender equitable participations in the overall programming. It will address environmental concerns and climate change adaptations while continuing to pursue innovations. The Activity will also collaborate with Government of Bangladesh for policy/regulatory hindrances to aquaculture sector growth.