

USC CANADA – Narrative Report Format, Annual report 2016-17

Name of Partner: USS Nilphamari

Title of Program: SoS Bangladesh

Reporting Period: May 1 2016 to April 30, 2017

Deadline for submission to USC: June, 2017

1. Introduction

a. Achievements and challenges (2 paragraphs only)

Highlight the major and most significant achievements and challenges of the first year and please explain if any changes or events have led you to change or shift your expectations for the project and foreseen outputs, outcomes and impact.

UdayankurSebaSangstha (USS) is non-profit voluntary organization in Nilphamari district. USS started its development activities in Nilphamari since 2002. With the support of USC Canada USS implemented seeds security and diversity, climate resilience, promotion of village economic and equality of men and women through During this time USS has developed skills as well relationship with government departments and civil society organizations. Based on learning and experiences of previous years USS is implementing **Seeds of Survival (SOS)** project in Luxmichap and Polashbari unions of Nilphamarisadarupazila from May, 015 to improve seeds and nutrition for young women and men. Total right holders of the project is 3340 consisting 19 villages (male-668 and female-2672).

challenges:

Some farmers are habituated with comical fertilizer and pesticide.

Accomplish planned activities/events through different kinds of natural disasters like heavy rain.

Spreading vermi compost by own initiatives.

Women leadership in the practices social structure.

Members are not getting extra prices from the production of organic spinach and vegetable

Ligate manures and Bio pesticide creates different bad smell therefore members does not show more interest.

Proper functioning of collection point. Members are not interested to sale product in collection point by own initiative.

2. Program Reach

a. Data on program reach: Please confirm figures. Note any adjustments

Program reach	2015-16	2016-17	Notes
Number of participating districts	01	01	
Number of participating communities – defined as a Thana as that is the smallest government administrative unit	19 Communities of 02 Union in Sador Nilphamari Upazila	19 Communities of 02 Union in Sador Nilphamari Upazila	
Direct beneficiaries	2015-16	2016-17	
Households	3340	3340	
Adult Female (over 30 years)	-	-	
Adult Male (over 30 years)	-	-	
Youth Female (under 30 years)	2672	2672	
Youth Male (under 30 years)	668	668	
Indirect beneficiaries	2015-16	2016-17	

Households	4200	5500
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3. Major activities for the period (including Table 1)

Describe the **major activities** by providing a summary of the accomplishments under each of the output/thematic areas of the Logic Model. Please consult the logic model to decide in which output area to place activities.

Also please UPDATE **Table 1** from the Semi Annual Accompanying this message

3340 right holders are organized in 114 groups and 80% are female members. The members are aware now on organic leaf and vegetable production, collection and preservation of local seeds and 25% members are practicing their earned skills and knowledge. They are preparing seeds plots separately. Most significant achievement is the members are very much inspired of producing Vermi compost. Even some people out of the groups are influenced for production of Vermi compost and producing. They are selling these products locally and enhancing family income controls by the women. Women participation is increased in family decision making process. Women mobility and dignity increased in the society which is contributing to promote gender equality in the society.

Members of the project have developed communication and good relationships among them through participation of project activity like PVS setting, farmers field day with result sharing green pea plot Eco and seed fair, CSB network meeting, demonstrate local variety seed plot, germplasm conservation, day observation on women rights, workshop and trainings. As a result confident level and capacity has been increased among the members. Communications have been developed with local government, agriculture department and civil society organizations. They are receiving quality services from those departments specially agriculture department extended positive support to the members. Through leadership of USS and support of USC Canada the project facilitators are working with friendly environment which increased their working speeds and thus major achievements are possible.

3.1. Output 1: Seed security and diversity

Activity: **Demonstrate Local Variety Seed Plot:**

To increase seed production, collection and preservation as well in the community level 10 farmers have been selected through group discussion in 10 communities. Every selected farmers established seed plots in every 5 decimal land which is total 50 decimal lands, cultivating winter and summer season vegetables Mara leaf, Napa leaf, Coriander and Baburi leaf. The young farmers meet up family demands and selling the rest seeds in the local market.

Activity: Participatory Variety Selection (PVS)

Participatory Variety Selection has been completed with 80 experienced farmers from 4 communities through 4 FGD and Four Cell analysis. Among them Green pea (BARI-4 & Local) Chilli (Akasi&Borsali), Tomato (Raton &Pathorkuchi). Selected every 5 decimal lands PVS plots are being implemented by 10 farmers. The seeds which gives more production comparatively and have prevention power which is proved from the PVS plots are decided to preserve as seeds. The selected seeds are Green pea (BARI 4) Chilli (Akasi), Tomato (Raton). 10 farmers are preserving the selected seeds. It will be extended in through CSB network.

Activity: Community Seed Bank Network Meeting

Community seed bank network committee member are actively seed exchange. They manage seeds exchange in the different seed bank network on the basis of group demands. The exchanged seeds are Cown, Sesame, chilli, Cucumber(Khira) Bakla Pea, chanduni, Katua leaf, Kesur, Pulse, Green pea.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Project farmers are preserving different kinds of seeds through proper process such as sesame, Khira, Cown, Indian spinach, Water spinach, Bean, Long yard bean, Cucumber, Snake gourd, Bottle gourd, Sweet gourd, Wax gourd, Lafa leaf, Spinach, Coriander, Babrileafe, Raddish, Chainaleafe, Sponse gourd, Brinjal, Okra, Bitter gourd, Cucurbitaceous, Bakla pea, Chondoni, Katua leaf, Kesur, Pulse, Green pea, Chilli, Tomato. Family income increased of selling quality seeds. Locally different kinds of seeds productions are increased and therefore dependence of market is decreased. There was insufficient verity of seeds in Polashbari union but now a days it is increasing through exchange.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

- # Some farmers are habituated with comical fertilizer and pesticide.
- # yield is less in local variety.
- # Yield is less in organic cultivation.
- # Yield is more in hybrid crops.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

- # Increase seed collection of Ufshi (high yield) verity
- # Farmers are being aware for seeds production, collection and preservation through group discussion, training and home visit of the farmers.
- # Young farmers have developed good relationship with the business man for selling vegetables and seeds through communication.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

- # Vegetables demand has been increased in the local markets
- # There are available lands for vegetables cultivation in the working area.
- # It is easy to get raw material for compost fertilizer and bio pesticide in the working area

3.2. Output 2: Natural Resource Management & Diversifying farming and food systems

- # By using vermi compost, quick compost and different kinds of composts contributing a lot for environment and climate resilience factors.
- # These relevant factors are coordinated with different institutions, GO/NGOs collaboration through observing national/international days, rallies, seminars, seeds and environment fair, which contributing to make climate change resilience environment.
- # Established organic vegetables garden (Seed support) tOrganic vegetable intensive homestead gardening and to increase the variety of seeds.
- # Established Germplasm conservation plot of local crop species t lost crops species and variety preservation and expansion.
- # Linkage meeting between demand side actors (Mobile Vendor, Market Corner, Agro Retailer, etc.) and Supply Side Actor (Farmer)
- # To enhance the relationship between vegetable producers famers, experience farmers, UP members and young farmers daylong meetings have been conducted.

Successes: (one paragraph)

- # Family income increased by selling vermi and vermi compost. As the women are playing vital role so they are empowered. Use of organic fertilizer increasing and keeping role of balanced environment.
- # 1200 family under the project cultivating organic vegetables and consuming safety food. On the other hand 70 family out of the project are also cultivating and consuming safe foods.

- # 480 farmers are making and using vermi compost at their homestead and as a result fertilization of lands are increasing day by day
- # 25 farmers producing vermi compost and 15 farmers are making bio pesticide by their own initiatives who are influenced by the project

Challenges: (one paragraph)

- # Accomplish planned activities/events through different kinds of natural disasters like heavy rain.
- # Spreading vermi compost by own initiatives.
- # As the organic vegetables are not bright and small in size, so it creates less demand in the market
- # Members are less interested because during making Liquid Manner and bio pesticide as it makes bad smell

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

- # Develop awareness among the members for advantages of the method of organic cultivation
- # Giving ideas on preserving and collecting liquid manner and bio pesticide
- # Increase marketing linkage of Vermi compost
- # Prepare contingency plan at starting of every year.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

- #Vermi compost demand created in the working area.
- #It is easy to get raw material for compost fertilizer and bio pesticide in the working area
- #Government agriculture extension department is spreading their helping to make vermi compost
- #Vegetables demand has been increased in the local markets
- # There is demand of quality indigenous seeds in the locally.

3.3. Output 3 Strengthened small farm based enterprises and promote marketing of seeds

A day long workshop has been held in Palashbaridhan bank hall room and ARC hall room from 24 members of 14 groups and 7 seed business man, 4 teacher 5 UP members. The topics were in the workshops are seeds marketing, problem identification, planning, and responsibilities. The workshop was facilitated by Sub Assistance agriculture officer, Palashbari and Laxmichap union.

Successes: (one paragraph)

- # 55 of model seed bank houses have been established in the community
- # 50 members of Laxmichap union started seeds business. They sell seeds to the seed businessman in the market. Most of the times farmers come to their house for purchasing seeds. Every seeds farmers earned 2000-6000 Tk. by selling seeds in this year.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

- # There is no certification of seeds tack and packets
- # There is no moisture measure machines
- # Availability of high breed seeds in the market
- # More yield of high breed seed.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

- # Linkage and networking among the young farmers and seeds business holders
- # Arrange training, group meeting and set model seeds plots to encourage quality vegetables
- # Establishing more model seeds bank house in the community

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

There is a positive environment for producing seeds in the communities and already seed banks model houses are established. Awareness is being conducted through different media as well mass gathering on climate change resilience, safe environment and disadvantages of using chemical fertilizers and pesticide. Mass people are aware in the issues. Gradually people are show interest to produce organic productions. As a result quality of local seeds are increasing day by day

3.4. Gender equality

2 batches training on Gender has been conducted in Polashbari and Laxmichap union community Dhan bank hall room and ARC hall room where 50 members participated in 2 batch. The duration of the training was two days long. Gender, discrimination, gender and development, leadership etc. topics were covered in the training.

Successes: (one paragraph)

120 members of SoS project are included and participating actively in community Dhan Bank executive committee, union standing committee, school management committee and local village court committees.

350 women participated and gave their opinions in marriage, selling or purchasing of their own choice

Participation and attended rate has been increased of women in different events such as Eco and agriculture technology fair, rally, social activities, sports competitions or mobility in the markets.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Women leadership in the patriarchal social structure.

Lack of social security specially women.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Initiatives for active participation of women in holistic development

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Government is playing effective and positive role for empowering the women and their rights

3.5. Youth Engagement

Activity: Day observation and women rights and others related activities

350 male and female participated in rally and discussion sessions on the International women day. Most of the participants were female. All the right holders of the project are young. So all the activities participants implemented by the project are young. It is a special traits of the project that all the right holders of the project is young. The right holders are participating to the fair, day observation, social and cultural activities sharing their learning's that are organized by other organizations.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Members is started leafe and vegetable production through using vermi compost.

Youth are playing vital role to preventing child marriage and violence against women

Participation of youth are increasing in decision making process in family and society

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Elders of family and society are not emphasis opinion of young

Most of the youth are involved in education and other profession so some times attendance rate is low in the project activities

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Work increase to awareness build-up of elders and young

To Increase involvement of elders in activity.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

- # Young are more positive to accepting new idea.
- # Demand of organic product increasing day by day in market

3.6. Best Practices Documentation and Spread of SoS

Activities description: 2 case studies have been documented from. best practice during the reporting period. The documentations are consists projectseeds and Agriculture technology fair, Eco and seed fair, germplasm conservation, vegetable cultivation through organic method, PVS plots demonstrations, mustard cultivation by vermi compost, demonstrate local variety seeds plots through organic, using and producing brinjal, green pea, Tomato, sweet potato, sesame, Chilli,vermicompost, seeds collection and preservation through bio pesticide. Pictures are attached with every case study and project staffs collected those documentations.

Successes: (one paragraph)

- # Documentations are uses in the meeting, workshop, training as learning materials in field.
- # Field facilitators are more encouraged as they think it is the recognition of their efforts.
- # Helping the documentations to develop networking and communication with GO/NGOs
- # Organizational reputation increased

Challenges: (one paragraph)

- # insufficient budget.
- #Lack of skills of field facilitators

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

- # to arrange skill training for staffs
- # Collective efforts and support from organizational management

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

- #Committed staffs and other staffs of the organizations extended their supporting hand
- # Right holders are very cooperative and they have many success stories for documentation

Success on producing seed of Mara leaf

Kanika Rani Roy (26) is a women farmer of village Arajiltakhola in Polashbari Union. Her family consists of husband Shushen Roy (32), one son and one daughter. Her husband is disabled. He earns a little by doing grocery. They have 45 decimal cultivable land. She says that she cultivates different types of vegetables in 10 decimal land all around the year. We eat those produced vegetables ourselves as well as sell those to local market. But we were not being financially benefited by cultivating vegetables because the price of seeds, chemical fertilizer and pesticides were higher. That's why my husband told me that we would not cultivate vegetables anymore. By this time in 2015, I became a member of SOS project under USS supported by USC-Canada.

I came to know about food, nutrition, organic agriculture, adaptation for climate change and production and use of organic vitamin and organic pesticides, seed production. Collection and preservation, preparation and use of different organic fertilizer etc. and I discussed these with my husband. Then he said that we would produce seeds by cultivating organic vegetables. I got some support from the project to implement seed plot. I sowed seeds of Mara Leaf in 3 decimal land. I used only varmi compost and cow dung to produce seeds. We got 12 kg seeds from the Mara leaf seed plot. After supporting of family demand, we sold those seeds to market and earned 550 taka. Now I can keep seeds of all vegetables in my house. After supporting of family demand of seeds at the right time, I am now increasing my family income by selling excess seeds. Many other neighbors have decided to produce and collect seeds in their own house after seeing my success.

Reporter

Noni Gopal Roy

Community Facilitator, SOS project
USS, Nilphamari.

Success of PVS plot of Dipty Rani

Dipty Rani Roy (29) lives in KhalishapochaSarkar Para in Polashbari union. Her family consists of husband Dinesh Roy (36) and one daughter. She cultivates different vegetables in 20 decimal lands beside her dwelling house all around the year. She sells produced vegetables in the market after meeting family demand. But the profit was very small because of use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides. That's why she doesn't cultivate regularly in all season. After she became member of SOS project under USS, she came to know about organic process of cultivating vegetables, production and use of different organic vitamin and pesticides, seed production, collection and preservation, production and use of vrmi compost, food, nutrition etc. After discussing with her husband, she produced and preserved organic vegetables and seeds. This year Dipty Rani implemented PVS by sowing seeds of pea in 3 decimal land by the support of the project. Dipty Rani got bumper production of pea. She earned 2000 taka by selling 50 kg pea. Besides, she kept necessary amount of seeds for the use of her own family.

Reporter
Protima Rani Roy
Community Facilitator, SOS project
USS

3.7. Program Innovations adapted seed varieties and best practices disseminated

Group members are collecting new seeds from the other areas combination of their running seeds and keeping them in the community seeds banks and this is how the new and seeds are spreading in the working areas as well other areas. As a result are, Green pea, cown, sesame, Khira, Mathi, Tomato, Brinjal, Katua leaf, Bakla Pea,, newly added seeds in the community seeds bank.

Successes: (one paragraph)

- # Seed exchange increasing inter community.
- # Members are now capable to swing seed timely
- # Family income of right holders is increasing.
- # Different kinds verities and species of seeds are increasing and spreading
- # Dependence of market seeds are decreasing

Challenges: (one paragraph)

- # Some members cannot following proper process conservation of seed
- # Some of the seeds collected from out sides are affected by disease.
- # Outside seeds from working area takes time to adapt with the soil and environment

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

- # To extension of high yield (Ufshi) seed of leafe and vegetable
- # To develop skill of proper seed conservation.

4. Organizational development

Describe any key strategies and/or activities undertaken to increase the capacity of **your** organization to implement the new program. This pertains only to you as an organization, and not to the communities you are supporting. Please also highlight challenges encountered or to be addressed.

Management committee of USS has taken initiatives to implement the project smoothly. Management committee supervises the project activities regular basis. Government and civil society organizations have taken positive steps to preach safety food. As a result societies are standing for to preach to cultivate organic productions. USS reputation has been increased due to implementing SOS project. Coordination and effective relationship has been developed with government departments and civil society organizations. Some activities was needed for develop communication and advocacy but minimum was limitation.

- Recruitment of new staff

None

- Capacity building/training of existing staff

Staff capacity has been developed through continue sharing knowledge and practicing

- Improvement of financial or administrative procedures

Additional responsibilities of Accounts and Admin performed by a staff who is fully assigned for head office. Mostly he performs official activities by desk work. If a staff is recruit (if possible) he can perform field based support as well official works.

- Strengthening of your organizations' infrastructure, materials and equipment

#

- Organizational assessment

Organizational assessment is needed to develop organization and sustainable.

- New alliances and relationships with other organizations and institutions

USS is the member national committee of World Rural forum. USS wants to keep effective contribution to the committee. USS is developing effective coordination and relationship with agriculture extension department and Seed production department of Bangladesh government BADC. As a result project is keeping effecting contribution and on the other hand organizational ability developed.

- Monitoring and Evaluation activities

USS monitoring cell is working efficiently to monitor and evaluate the project activities. To develop more capacity of monitoring cell, capacity and skills (Human resource, training, equipment) partial support is needed from the project.

5.Outputs Please Update Table 1 from the Semi Annual Attached to this message

		Activities	Target	Achievement	Male	Female	Total
Output 1: Farmer-driven research and innovations developed to strengthen seed security and promote the sustainable use and conservation of resources (PGRs)							
1.1 Assess specific needs in local seed systems through USC's Seed Security Assessment Methodology ⁱ	01	Staff Training PVS Implementation (0	0	0	0	0

		TTC)					
1.2 Increase access to seed diversity through participatory varietal selection (PVS) and diversity kits, to address local seed system needs	02	PVS Workshop	04	04	22	78	100
	03	PVS Seeting	10	10	0	10	10
	04	Farmers Field day	02	02	120	180	300
1.3 Establish new community seed banks (CSBs) and promote the organization of CSB networks to enhance seed security and diversity	05	Community Seed Bank Network Meeting	02	02	02	18	20
1.4 Multiply and disseminate adapted seed varieties to strengthen climate resilience and productivity through CSBs, community-based seed production, networking of seed producers, seed fairs and diversity kits.	06	Demonstrate Organic Seed Plot	10	10	1	9	10
	07	Strengthening ARC seed bank	4	4	0	0	0
1.5 Provide training on seed production for vegetable or other crops for which dependence on external seed sources is high	08	Training on Seed Production and Conservation to the Farmer	02	02	03	47	50
	09	Strategy review workshop for CSB Association	0	0	0	0	0
1.6 Support CSB associations and farmer groups to develop strategies to enhance their sustainability	10	Assist to registries the CSB Network	0	0	0	0	0
Output 2. Practices implemented to improve natural resource management and diversify farming and food systems diversifying systems							
2.1 Provide training, material and support to apply soil conservation and compost management	01	Training on soil mgt. to Group leaders & Model farmer/s elective farmers	0	0	0	0	
	02	Develop Vermi	0	0	0	0	

		compost cluster				
	03	Demonstrate Organic Pesticides	0	0	0	
2.2 Support the diversification of agricultural production systems, through women and youth-managed market and home gardens	04			0	0	0
	05	Established organic vegetable s garden (Seed support)	500	500	44	466
	06	Established Organic Market Corner	1	1	01	0
	07	Established Germplasm conservat ion plot of indigenou s crop species	10	10	01	9
	08	Demonstrate Organic Field Crop	0	0	0	0
	09	Linkage meeting between demand side actors (Mobile Vendor, Market Corner, Agro Retailer, etc.) and Supply Side Actor (Farmer)	02	02	18	22
	10	ToT on harvest	0	0	0	0
2.3 Support farmer-driven research and innovation to reduce field and						

post-harvest losses		and post harvest management to the young farmers group leaders				
	11	Study/research on post harvest losses by the farmers of vegetables crop	0	0	0	0
Output 3. Developed/ strengthened small farm based enterprises and promote marketing of seeds and other high value agro biodiversity products						
3.1 Carry out value chain, market analyses and feasibility studies for seeds and other high value agrobiodiversity products from home and group gardens	01	Market analyses and feasibility studies workshop	0	0	0	0
	02	Trg. on high value crop production of selective farmers	0	0	0	0
	03	High Value crop Linkage to marketing	0	0	0	0
3.3 Provide training to community-based women's and youth groups in financial management, book-keeping, and organizational development	04	Provide training & Materials support to on record keeping & financial management the group leader	0	0	0	0
Output 4. Gender equality and youth engagement strategies developed implemented to promote women and youth's leadership, and						

6. Outcomes

Please work with your team (management and field staff) to reflect on and respond to the following questions

Please provide specific examples as much as possible. The more detailed the better!

You may also attach other documents (workshops reports, memoranda of understanding, newspaper articles, e-mail communications) that provide further evidence related to your answers.

1. Please describe any **external factors that occurred between May 2016 and April 2017 that affected the food and farming systems of farmers in SoS program regions**. *We are particularly interested in whether there have significant climate events such as extreme weather, drought, or flooding. We would also be interested in any other social, economic, political or other types of pressures that have affected the farming communities you are working with.*

During project time in winter season dated on 20 March, 2016 a huge area about 50% vegetables gardens damaged for suddenly heavy rainfall.

During the last of November and first week of January it was very drought therefore 30% vegetable and seed bad damaged.
2. In general, **how did the young women farmers respond to the external factors** described in #1 above? Did you observe any **differences** in how **men, women, youth**, or other specific groups **responded**? *Here we are interested to farmers' responses in areas affected (including but not limited to program participants). Give specific examples (e.g., describe a situation you observed, quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).*

Most of the farmers cultivated vegetables seeds second time. 144 farmers took support from community seed bank because they could not purchased seeds from market. Near about 12% farmers could not cultivate vegetables at the drought time. Some of the farmers again repaired the seed land and this is how they could manage their damaged seeds partially.

30% victim farmers cultivated vegetables through purchasing seeds from the nearest market. Rest of the farmers could not cultivate vegetables during the season.
3. **How did participants' ability to respond** to external factors described in #1 **compare** to farmers who have not participated in the program or compared to other similar situations you have witnessed? Did the **program contribute** to participants' ability to respond? How? *Give specific examples (e.g., describe a situation you observed, provide specific quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).*

The project right holder farmers could stand second time to cultivate vegetables due to sudden heavy rainfall. But other farmers out of the project could cultivate only 40% in second time.

75% farmers of the project could cultivate vegetables for the second time due to drought. Because they have knowledge on climate resilience. But 60% of farmers who are out of the project could not cultivate vegetables for second time due to drought.

4. Are there any **other factors (beyond the program) that have either facilitated or limited** participants' ability to respond to external factors described in #1? *Give specific examples (e.g., describe a situation you observed, provide specific quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).*
5. Are there **strategies that the program needs to develop in the future to better support participants' ability to respond to external factors?** Is there specific support that USC can offer to help you do this?
To increase awareness among the group members workshop/training can be arranged.

Adoption of Practices and Policies

6. Between May 2016 and April 2017, have you observed any **actions which demonstrate that actors in your country are adopting practices or policies** that support farmers rights, agro-biodiversity, seed security or other principles promoted by the SoS program? *Please give specific examples describing the changes you have observed. Note that these changes do not need to be directly related to your program.*

Yes. 5 days long Agriculture & Technology Fair has been held from 18th -22nd January 2017 at district level which was arranged by Agriculture Extension Department, Nilphamari. In that fair right holders of SoS project organize a stall based on all them of project with the support of USS, Nilphamari and USC-Canada. Organic vegetable production, Vermi compost production and marketing show was so attractive for the people and guest including cultural minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Nurand officers of all level. All they were expressed their opinion in favour of organic production and process. Minister said, he will be raised this issue in parliament. Through a competition USS achieved glory by getting reward and certificate.

7. Between May 2016 and April 2017, have you observed any **actions which demonstrate that actors in your country are showing increased interest, awareness, or recognition of practices or policies** that support farmers rights, agro-biodiversity, seed security or other principles promoted by the SoS program? (i.e. signs that actors could be moving toward adoption?). *Please give specific examples describing the changes you have observed. Note that these changes do not need to be directly related to your program.*

District agriculture department working on vermi compost for extension. Department purchasing the vermi compost from SoS project farmers and supplying to the selected farmers. They are taking technical support from SoS project staffs to establish vermi compost pit. On the other hand some of the NGOs and other institutions are purchasing vermi compost from the project farmers. As a result project farmers are getting financial benefit as well vermi are being extension and farmers are showing interest to produce.

Another Eco-fare fair was organized by SoS in Laxmichap union on 29 January'17. District and sub district govt. officers were participated in this fair and highly appreciated the event.

Newspaper publication as below-

Link: <http://www.bssnews.net/>

- Head: [Environment-friendly farming stressed](#)

Dhaka, Monday, **January 30,**

- Innovation

LATEST NEWS



RANGPUR: Agriculture experts visiting a stall set up in the 'Environment and Seed Fair- 2017' displaying production and application of vermi-compost in crop fields on Aluganj Bazar ground under Sadar upazila in Nilphamari on Sunday. — Photo: BSS

Environment-friendly farming stressed

RANGPUR, Jan 30, 2017 (BSS) - Agriculture experts have stressed the need for switching over to environment-friendly farming to produce pure food stuffs free from hazardous chemical pesticides and insecticides.

They made the opinion at the concluding ceremony of 'Environment and Seed Fair-2017' organised by UdaykurSebaSangstha (USS) on Aluganj Bazar ground under Laksmichap union of Sadarupazila in Nilphamari on Sunday.

USC Canada, a non-profit international development organisation, extended cooperation in arranging the fair.

Ten ecological agriculture stalls on the fair displayed the ways of producing food that respects nature and biodiversity and blends eco-friendly practices of small scale family farms.

With Chairman of Laksmichap union AminurRahman in the chair, NilphamariSadarUpazila Agriculture Officer of the Department of Agriculture Extension Mazedul Islam attended the concluding ceremony as the chief guest.

Executive Director of USS Alauddin Ali, Sub-assistant Agriculture Officers RakibAbedin and AbulKalam Azad, Education Coordinator of USS Abdul KuddusSarker and Member of Laksmichap union BirendraNath Roy addressed, among others.

The speakers laid emphasis on enhancing integrated approaches with public-private partnership to promote and popularise the environment-friendly ecological agriculture in the country.

Terming the ecological agriculture as pro-people, cost-effective and environment-friendly, they suggested the farmers for using quality seed and organic fertilisers to produce food stuffs beneficial to human health.

Executive Director of USS Alauddin Ali urged to formulate a sustainable and integrated agricultural system taking into account the environmental and human health security aspects to exploit the full potential of the agricultural sector.

The chief guest said ecological agriculture with application of bio-fertilisers, manure spreaders, crop residues, green manure, bone meals and compost had potential to reduce some negative impacts of conventional agriculture on the environment.

8. **Has the program contributed (directly or indirectly) to any of the changes described in #6 or #7 above?** If so, explain how the program contributed, as well as any other factors you think were important in influencing other actors. Are there **strategies** that the program needs to develop in the future to better support external stakeholders adopting policies or practices that represent the values and approaches used by this program? Is there specific support that USC can offer to help you do this?

Under the SOS project 1200 families are producing organic vegetables and 250 families are influenced out of the project who are also producing organic vegetables. 300 families are producing vermi compost. but they are not getting the actual market price. Marketing facilitation is very much needed to get the actual price of vermi compost.

7. Lessons learned and other comments

Please describe any lessons learned during this reporting period and any other useful information or observations regarding your program. Please explain whether changes in the context or re-evaluation of activities call for a revision or change of project plans or targets.

Youth are very easily accepting the innovations and implementing accordingly.

The project right holders are now aware on information of service providing department. So they are communicating with service providing institutions and getting service easily.

Women are participating in the family decision making process as they developed leadership.

Comments:

If project right holders and areas are extended it will be very easier to marketing the productions of farmers







