

USC CANADA – Narrative Report Format, Annual report 2015-16

Name of Partner: USS Nilphamari

Title of Program: SoS Bangladesh

Reporting Period: May 1 2015 to April 30, 2016

Deadline for submission to USC: June 6, 2016

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.

Udayankur Seba Sangstha (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 Adolescent Livelihood Opportunities (ALO) project from May 2010 to 2015. 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 Nilphamari sadar upazila 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:-

Seed mapping and base line survey has completed within two months' time frame with minimum of staffs (Technical Officer-1, Facilitators-5, Volunteer-1) and 114 groups have been formed through participatory process.

It was very difficult to make understand from the starting stage in members of organic fertilizer rather than chemical. Some said, okay we are understand but they were waited for others initiatives. Some of the members even could not touch compost pit as they were not habituated.

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

The productive vegetables from organic process are not so bright, size is comparatively little so they creates less demand in the market

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

As there is no machines to measure the moisture of seeds in the seeds banks it is quite impossible to check the moisture of seed correctly.

Some of muslim women groups do not want the get with male as facilitator.

Price hiking of Commodity and others.

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		
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		
Households	4200	5500	

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.

3340 right holders are organized in 114 groups and 80% are female members. The members are aware now on organic leaf and vegetable production and 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 developed communication and good relationships among them through participation of project inception meeting, Eco and seed fair, CSB network meeting, 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.

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

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 3 decimal land which is total 30 decimal lands, cultivating winter and summer season vegetables Lafa leaf, Spinach, Coriander, Mara 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 Chilli (Akashmukhi and Bindhu), Tomato (Manik and Raton), Brinjal (Choitali, Khotkotia). Selected every 3 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 Chilli (Akashmukhi), Tomato (Raton) and Brinjal (Khotkotia). 10 farmers are preserving the selected seeds. It will be extended in through CSB network.

Activity:Community Seed Bank Network Formation

Community seed bank network has been formed from every groups of 1/2 members in 2 unions consisting 9 villages 20 members and total 180 members. A CSB network working committee has been formed from 9 community seeds bank networks of 20 representatives. They manage seeds exchange in the different seed bank network on the basis of group demands. The exchanged seeds are Bakla Pea, chanduni, Katua leaf, Kesur, Pulse, Green pea, Ghekin.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Project farmers are preserving different kinds of seeds through proper process such as Red amaranth, Stem amaranth, Indian spinach, Water spinach, Bean, Long yard bean, Cucumber, Snake gourd, Bottle gourd, Sweet gourd, Wax gourd, Lafa leafe, Spinach, Coriander, Babri leafe, Raddish, Chaina leafe, Sponse gourd, Brinjal, Okra, Bitter gourd, Cucurbitaceous, Bakla pea, Chondoni, Katua leafe, Kesur, Pulse, Green pea, Ghekin, Parble, 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 mow a days it is increasing through exchange.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Yield is less in organic cultivation.

Due to less market facility of seeds members are less interested

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

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)

There are huge lands in the project area for vegetable cultivation.

There is demand of local vegetables and also more nutritious and testy

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

Activity: Develop Vermi compost clustert Project members are selected for vermi compost through interest and reality. 60 members established vermi compost in the suitable location of homestead. 281 farmers are cultivating vermi compost and producing vegetables who are 215 from ALO project and 6 are self-initiators.

Activity: Demonstrate Organic Pesticidest 44 farmers are cultivating vegetables at homestead and using bio pesticide among them 20 from project right holders (ALO-15) and 9 are self-initiators selected by demand and interest.

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.

900 family under the project cultivating organic vegetables and consuming safety food. On the other hand 100 family out of the project are also cultivating and consuming safe foods.

294 farmers are making and using vermi compost at their homestead and as a result fertilization of lands are increasing day by day

6 farmers producing vermi compost and 9 farmers are making bio pesticide by their own initiatives who are influenced by the project

Challenges: (one paragraph)

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

At the first stage members did not even like to touch vermin

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

Result sharing on different crops of piloting plot

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

There is available materials in working area for making bio pesticide and liquid manner.

Demand of vermi compost is increasing day by day.

There is high demand of organic vegetable and leafe at district and sub district level.

It expense less money to buy bio pesticide and liquid manur materials.

Awareness are being creating through verities media and other sources on organic farming.

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

Activity: Market Analysis & Feasibility studies Workshop

A day long workshop has been held in ARC hall room from 30 members of 14 groups and 7 seed business man. The topics were in the workshops are seeds marketing, problem identification, planning, and responsibilities. The workshop was facilitated by Sub Assistance agriculture officer, luxmichap union.

Successes: (one paragraph)

35 of model seed bank houses have been established in the community

15 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 1500-5000 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 conducting 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

Activity: Orientation on gender to the youth and women in the community, Leadership development training to the selective members.

2 batches training on Gender and leadership has been conducted in Polashbari community Dhan bank hall room where 25 members participated in each 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)

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

272 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 fair, social activities, sports competitions or mobility in the markets.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Superstitions and religious fundamentalism outlooks is still dominating the society.

Lack of social security specially women.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Arrange workshop, seminar, rally, street drama to build awareness

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

If responsibilities are given to the women they are accomplishing more successfully. They are more aware of their rights.

3.5. Youth Engagement

Activity: Day observation and women rights and others related activities

300 male and female participated in rally and discussion sessions on the International women day. 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 are making compost fertilizer, using and extension by their own initiatives

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

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

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Old aged people show less interest for the importance of youth in family and society

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)

Initiatives to build awareness for the youth

Arrange training Skills develop of the youth through demand basis

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Youth are taking initiatives easily

Youth shows more interest if it is innovative

3.6. Best Practices Documentation and Spread of SoS

Activities description: 18 case studies have been documented from 9 subjects in Bengali language as best practice during the reporting period. The documentations consist of project inception, seeds and environment fair, vegetable cultivation through organic method, PVS plots demonstrations, mustard cultivation by vermi compost, local seeds plots demonstration through organic, using and producing brinjal, vermin compost, seeds collection and preservation through bio pesticide. Pictures are attached with every case study and project staffs collected those documentations.

4 Case studies-

Coriander Seeds production of Ruma Begum through Organic process

Ruma Begum (27) is a farmer of Polashbari union under Nilphamari Sadar upazila. Husband Ramjan Ali is 33 years aged. They have one son (10) and a daughter (6) in their family. Ruma Begum says that I have been cultivating different kinds of vegetables like Coriander, Lafa leaf, Red amaranth, Jute leaf, Indian spinach, Okra, Snake gourd, Stem amaranth, Spinach in 45 decimal lands for last few years which I fulfill my family demands and sell rest of the vegetables. Thus we were maintaining our family expenses. Before I used to produce vegetables by chemical fertilizer. In such way I have been benefited very little amount after calculating expenditures. It expense more purchasing seeds from the markets. Some time I could not purchase the seeds timely due to money. On the other hand sometimes quality of seeds from the market is not good. So sometimes I was bound to do that. That time I did not have any ideas or knowledge about organic productions.

Last year I involved with Seeds of Survival (SOS) project and selected Treasurer. I attended regularly in the group meetings and learned on nutrition, climate change and resilience, organic vitamin, make and use of bio pesticide, seeds production and preservation and so on. I have received training on production on plot and bed method, how to make bio pesticide, seeds production, collection and preservation. I discussed my learning and knowledge with my husband. As he agreed and showed interest of my opinions we started Coriander seeds as bed and plot method with 3 decimal lands and some Mari gold flowers seeds planted on the side of the bed. I came to know that harmful insects do not come to affect seeds if there is smell of Mari gold flower. I used 18 kg of Vermicompost fertilizer in the 3 decimal lands. I maintained proper cow dung fertilizer and seeds on the bed plot. After producing Coriander we consumed and sold rest of the Coriander in the market. I shared with my neighbors for testing. All of my neighbors appreciated and said that this Coriander is very tasty. There is no cost in production, only watering in the bed. I also came to know that some local villagers of seeds farmers who cultivated Coriander were affected by diseases but my seeds were very smart and out of diseases. I got 7 kg Coriander seeds from 500 gram seeds in 3 decimal lands. First time I could not believe even my own eyes. But after the production I felt that I was wrong. At the same time my villagers also felt that they were also wrong. After that we discussed in the groups that from now on wards collectively we will produce vegetables through organic method, so that we may keep our selves free from disease and keep the environment balanced and safe.

Prepared by:

Noni Gopal Roy, CF, (SOS), USS, Nilphamari

Success of Minoti Rani cultivating brinjal through Bio pesticide

Minoti Rani lives in Dhanggapara village of Luxmichap union under Nilphamari Sadar upazila. Her husband is a vegetable seller. They have one son and a daughter and they are studying. They have 20 decimal lands and 30 decimal lands have been borrowed from other person. They cultivate brinjal, Jinger and other vegetables in 20 decimal lands. They maintains their family expenses by selling these vegetables.

One day Minoti Rani came to know about USS has formed groups to cultivate organic vegetables. She involved in the group of Dhanggapara youth group. She attended in the regular meeting and received training on seeds production, conservation and preservation. She also received a dram from USS after training to make bio pesticide. She cultivated brinjal in 15 decimal lands. After some days those brinjal plants were about to die. She communicated with the SOS project staffs and used bio pesticide in the planted land and got good result within few days. Her husband used the bio pesticide in the paddy land and he also got good result. The other farmers are influenced by the success of Minoti Rani and her husband. They have planned to make bio pesticide and sell it to the nearby market.

Prepared by: Asia Begum, CF, SOS,USS, Nilphamari

Innovative technic for vermi Pit

Minoti Rani Roy (29) is a farmer of Kacharipara village of Luxmichap union. Her husband Amol Roy (43) has one son and two daughters' total 6 family members including her mother in-law. Minoty Rani is a house wife and her husband day labor farmer. They lead very hard life working into other houses and field. Last year she involved with SOS project implementing by USS with the support of USC Canada. She received training on vermi compost and got support to establish vermi compost pit. From that time she is producing vermi compost.

She attended regular group meetings and learnt on nutrition, climate change and resilience, organic vitamin, use of bio pesticide and so on. She also received training on seed production, collection and preservation, homestead gardening, vermi compost. As a piloting she started vegetable cultivation using only vermi compost. She was surprised to see the result of using vermi compost. She shared the success with her husband and together they innovated new idea to extend vermi Pit. They made ring with Bamboo and started vermi compost. Her new idea spread to the villagers very soon. 3 farmers are influenced by the success of Minoti Rani and started vermi compost production regularly. She is using the vermi compost in her productions and besides that selling to the other farmers. Last two month she earned 3100/- by selling vermin compost. " If we could extend our vermi compost there will be no sorrow in my family" said Minoti Rani Roy.

Prepared by: Nioty Rani Roy, CF, SOS, USS, Nilphamari

Sabitri, Queen of vegetable seeds

Sabitri Roy (32) a farmer of kacharipara of Laxmichap union, lives along with his husband Ranjan Roy (48), their 2 sons and 2 daughters. They cultivate vegetables in their 30 decimals land with Varmi compost fertilizer and after meeting her family's demand she sells those in local market. Sabitri Roy was a

regular member of ALO project of USS. Later she took the membership of SOS group. Through discussion in regular meeting, she became aware of organic cultivation, Vermi compost and its use, different compost fertilizer and their uses, food nutrition, adaptation for climate change, organic vitamin, organic pesticide and their uses, seed production, collection, preservation, gender equality etc. She took a 2-days long training on seed production, collection & preservation and created separate seed plot for different vegetables. She collects seeds maintaining their quality and preserves them in colored bottles according to the right process.

Sabitri Roy turned her house into a seed bank mode house by collecting and preserving seeds of different varieties and species from community seed bank and other communities, relatives and project members. Now there are 41 species of seeds preserved in the seed bank with 49 varieties such as Lafa leaf, Babri leaf, Coriander, Red amaranth, Water spinach, Bottle gourd, Sweet gourd, Wax gourd, Bitter gourd, Seem amaranth, Sponse gourd, Satputi, Jute leaf, Indian spinach, Okra, French, Green pea, Saluk, Chondoni, Aniseed, Chilli, Katali alu, China leaf, Big potato, Fish potato, Kholrabi, Bean, Cucumber, Brinjal, Goose foot, Sesame, Snake gourd, Papaya, Kesur, Mara leaf, Janggi potato, Cawon, Ghekin etc. Sabitri Roy sells vegetable seeds of worth 3 to 4 thousands taka every year. She has created Vermi compost plot on the courtyard of her house by her own initiative. She herself cultivates vegetables by using Vermi compost fertilizer and earns by selling excess fertilizer. She doesn't need to buy chemical seeds and fertilizers anymore. Sabitri Roy thinks if all other villagers build this type of seed bank model house and learn organic cultivation, then they will not be that much affected by climate change. Quality of soil will remain good and we will be able to eat poison free vegetables and our health will remain good.

Reported by: Niyoti Rani Roy, CF, SoS

20 photo has been attached with this report.

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)

- # Lack of skills of field facilitators
- # There is no camera for documentation.
- # insufficient budget.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

- # 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.

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, Katua leaf, Ghekin, Bakla Pea, Green pea, Kesur, chanduni newly added seeds in the community seeds bank.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Different kinds varieties and species of seeds are increasing and spreading

Dependence of market seeds are decreasing

Family income of right holders is increasing.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

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)

Seeds of new varieties and species collected and expended through long selection processing

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Community seed bank existing in the working areas

There is an opportunity to collection and adaptation new varieties and species of seeds through exposure visit

Community people have interest get seeds.

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
It is essential to recruit two facilitators to work intensively as the project area increased.
- Capacity building/training of existing staff
It is necessary to support training for present staffs for develop capacity.
- 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
Camera for documentation and Bicycle for Facilitators was needed but couldn't manage due to fund limitation
- 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	Remarks
Output 1: Farmer-driven research and innovations developed to strengthen seed security and promote the sustainable use and conservation of plant genetic resources (PGRs)								
1.1 Assess specific needs in local seed systems through USC's Seed Security Assessment Methodology ⁱ	01	Staff Training PVS Implementation (TTC)	-	01	02	05	07	With Pratap in October
1.2 Increase access to seed diversity through participatory	02	PVS Workshop	04	04	27	73	100	

varietal selection (PVS) and diversity kits, to address local seed system needs	03	PVS Seeting	10	10	04	06	10	
	04	Farmers Field day	01	01	20	80	100	
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	0	10	10	
	07	Estabilished Seed Model Farmer	15	15	01	14	15	
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	03	03	05	50	55	
	09	Strategy review workshop for CSB Association	01	01	02	18	20	
1.6 Support CSB associations and farmer groups to develop strategies to enhance their sustainability	10	Assist to registries the CSB Network	09	09	07	173	180	
Output 2. Practices implemented to improve natural resource management and diversify farming and food systems diversifying farming and food 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/selective farmers	02	02	05	50	55	
	02	Develop Vermi compost cluster	01	01	03	57	60	
	03	Demonstrate Organic Pesticides	20	20	06	14	20	
2.2 Support the diversification of agricultural production systems, through women and youth-managed market and home gardens	04							
	05	Established organic vegetables garden (Seed support)	200	200	25	175	200	
	06	Established Organic Market Corner	02	02	02	0	02	
	07	Established Germplasm conservation plot of indigenous crop species	10	10	02	08	10	
	08	Demonstrate Organic Field Crop	19	19	06	13	19	
	09	Linkage meeting between demand side actors (Mobile Vendor, Market Corner, Agro Retailer, etc.) and Supply Side Actor (Farmer)	02	02	18	17	35	

2.3 Support farmer-driven research and innovation to reduce field and post-harvest losses	10	ToT on harvest and post harvest management to the young farmers group leaders	02	02	03	52	55	
		Study/research on post harvest loses by the farmers of vegetables crop	01	01	14	46	60	
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	01	01	05	15	20	
	02	Trg. on high value crop production of selective farmers	01	01	05	25	30	
	03	High Value crop Linkage to marketing	01	01	10	10	20	
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	02	02	02	48	50	
Output 4. Gender equality and youth engagement strategies developed implemented to promote women and youth's leadership, economic empowerment and access to resources								
4.1 Provide opportunities for youth to engage in collective initiatives and to develop leadership skills	01	Leadership Development Training to the selective Members	02	02	02	48	50	
	02	Day observation on women rights	01	01	80	170	250	
Output 5. Best practices and evidence based knowledge on program results analyzed and documented								
5.1. Organize events such as seed fairs and produce user friendly materials for knowledge sharing and dissemination	01	Arrange Seed Fair	01	01	800	1250	2050	
	02	Develop Local Seed Album	01	01	Species 47	Variety 67		
5.1.3 Annual publication on field base farmers success, PVS, PGR, CSB etc	03	Annual publication on field base farmers success	01	01	02	10	12	
5.2 Coordinate exchanges among farmers (including women and youth) and local partners to reflect on innovations and best practices	04	Quarterly Coordination meeting with USC partners	04	04	07	03	10	

Output 6. Program innovations, adapted seed varieties and best practices disseminated through knowledge sharing, training and policy outreach and influenceⁱⁱ								
6.1 Provide hands-on training to other key actors (NGOs, government agencies,) to integrate Seeds of Survival practices such as CSBs, PVS, etc into their programs								
Other Activities								
	01	Staff Develop Training	02	02	06	05	11	
	02	Group Formation	114	114	668	2672	3340	
	03	Baseline Survey	334	334	34	300	334	
	04	Inception Meeting with all stake holders	01	01	40	110	150	

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 2015 and April 2016 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 15 September, 2015 a huge area about 70% vegetables gardens damaged for suddenly heavy rainfall.

During the last of November and first week of December it was very drought therefore 60% 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. 85 farmers took support from community seed bank because they could not purchased seeds from market. Near about 15% 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.

40% 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 famers out of the project could cultivate only 50% in second time.

80% farmers of the project could cultivate vegetables for the second time due to drought. Because they have knowledge on climate resilience. But 70% 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).*

In Luxmichap union some of the Muslim right holders are facing problem coming out from home or attending in training/ workshop facilitate by male members. The male staffs do not communicate or attend in the meeting in those groups. It has been discussed with the other group's as well local elites. Now those groups' members are attending regular meeting/workshop with the facilitation of female staffs.

Awareness show by drama can be arranged for those villages and the members so that they may come out from the Superstitions and be aware.

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 2015 and April 2016, 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.*

National TV Channel I arranged " Agriculture budget, farmers budget" in Moshiur Rahman Degree college field with the support of Nilphamari district Administration and Agriculture department dated on 27 March, 2016. Honorable Fiancé minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhit was present as chief guest in the budget session. Special guest was honorable minister culture and affairs Asaduzzaman Noor. It is emphasized that budget has to be increased for organic production in the agriculture sector and chief guest as well special guest agreed the importance of the organic agriculture sector and budget.

7. Between May 2015 and April 2016, 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.*

Nilphamari agriculture department working on vermi compost for extension. Department purchasing the vermin 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.

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 900 families are producing organic vegetables and 100 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.

Ownership has been developed among the all stakeholders as it was shared in the project inception workshop. As a result project implementations are going very smoothly.

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.

some are influenced through observing individual success of project right holders and it is gradually extending.

It is very much important to publish and advocay the success of farmers to influence as whole.

Comments:

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

If exposure visit can be arranged for the right holders and staffs they will be more influenced and work confidently.

Hamidul Islam

PC, SoS, USS

6 June 2016

Photo Gallery











