

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT-

The project is to promote Sustainable Agriculture Practice (SAP) with less irrigation water. Its long-term aim is to reduce arsenic in soil and environment while ensuring water-use efficient cropping system. The project has been implementing by the tripartite partnership of NGOs viz, **AID Foundation**, **Share the Planet Association (SPA)** and **Asia Arsenic Network (AAN)** in three sub-districts (Upazilla) i.e., Jhenaidah Sadar, Kaligonj and Kotchandpur under Jhenaidah district, the western part of Bangladesh.

The project follows sustainable approaches to agriculture farming based on modern ecological science combined with indigenous knowledge. The target farmers are expected to follow traditional Rabi crop cultivation including winter vegetables, spices and pulses, oils, sugarcane, wheat and so on by employing diverse practices such as- crop diversification, less water requiring cropping pattern etc., under eco-friendly soil management while overcoming rice monoculture farming.

The major part of the project is to develop skills of at least 1,500 poor and marginal farmers on the diverse practices and approaches that are economically benefitted, socially acceptable and environmentally sound as well to sustain incomes, resources and communities. The project activities are divided into six major parts: 1) farmers' group formation; 2) introducing Rabi crop production with less irrigation water; 3) quality seed production; 4) participatory evaluation; 5) feasibility study of the sustainable and environmentally conscious food production practices; and 6) dissemination of outputs. The project also initiates the process of developing a network of farmers linked with local agencies and NGOs for making its outcomes sustainable.

The project expects to promote sustainable agriculture practice (SAP) that will ultimately lead to many positive impacts such as- recovery of underground water & biodiversity; reducing arsenic in soil and crop; and reducing hunger vis-à-vis poverty gradually.

Research

Networking

The Project is implemented by-



AID Complex, Satbaria, Jhenaidah-7300. Phone: +88-0451-61188-90

AID foundation was founded in 1992 in Jhenaidah as a non-government organization to upgrade living standard of the underprivileged and poverty stricken people through their development and positive change in socially and culturally. It has been implementing 22 programs and projects with a total of 3,021,765 beneficiaries being served by the 465 staff members in 23 districts of two divisions namely Dhaka and Khulna.

In Cooperation with-



ASIA ARSENIC NETWORK, JAPAN

Asia Arsenic Network (AAN) was established in 1994 as a non-government and non-profit voluntary organization with a group of people in Japan who supported the victims of arsenic poisoning. Its headquarter is in Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan. AAN was registered in Bangladesh in 2001 with its offices in Dhaka and Jessore to supply safe drinking water to the communities and provides assistance to arsenicosis patients.

Share the Planet Association, JAPAN

Share the Planet Association (SPA) was established in 2014 in Japan as a non-government voluntary development organization. SPA believes that in the era of globalization, networking and partnership can install the process of decentralized exchange, mutual support and collective empowerment towards achieving many stakeholders' needs.

Financed by-



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JAPAN

Designed and prepared by-
Share the Planet Association, JAPAN

Advised by-
Dr. M Gul Hossain, Former Director (Technology Transfer), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

খনা বলে শোন চাষা।
কার্তিক পূর্ণিমা কর আশা।।
নির্ভল মেঘে যদি দ্রাভ রবে।
রবিশস্য ভার ধরনী না সবে।।



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE GOALS

- Sustain economic viability of farm operations;
- Sustain environmentally sound agriculture production system;
- Sustain quality of life for farmers and society as a whole thereby accepting it socially;
- Sustainably increase productivity that meet food supply;
- Secure food (farmers' adaptive food security system) to meet local and national demand.

SAP SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICE

- benefits crop diversification, improves environment and secures food for quality of life.



Farmers' Capacity Building

Appropriate Technology Transfer

EPILOGUE

With the introduction of ‘Green Revolution’ in the sixties, newer technologies with high input agriculture, though has tripled the food production to feed more than double the populace in the last three more decades, left many residual effects; it pollutes environment and soil health making land gradually unsuitable for its fertility and thereby productivity.

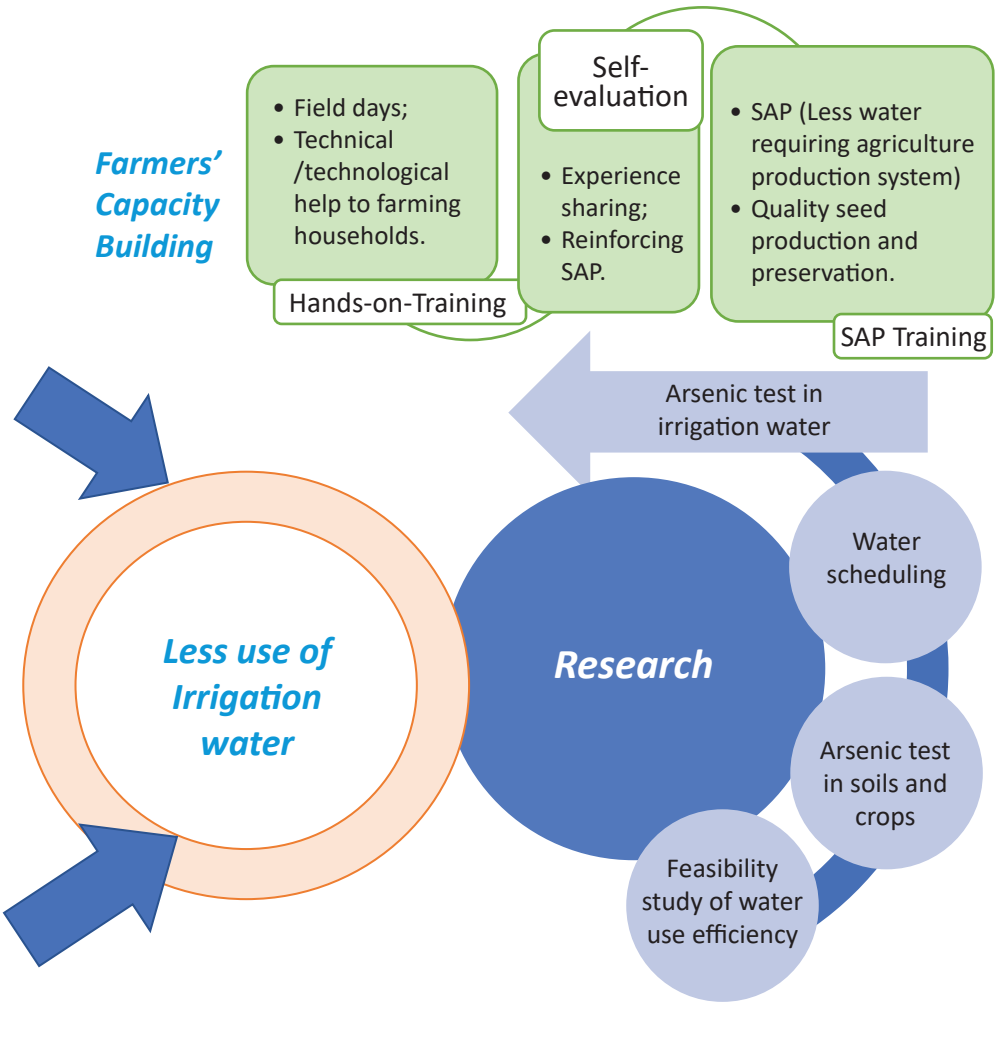
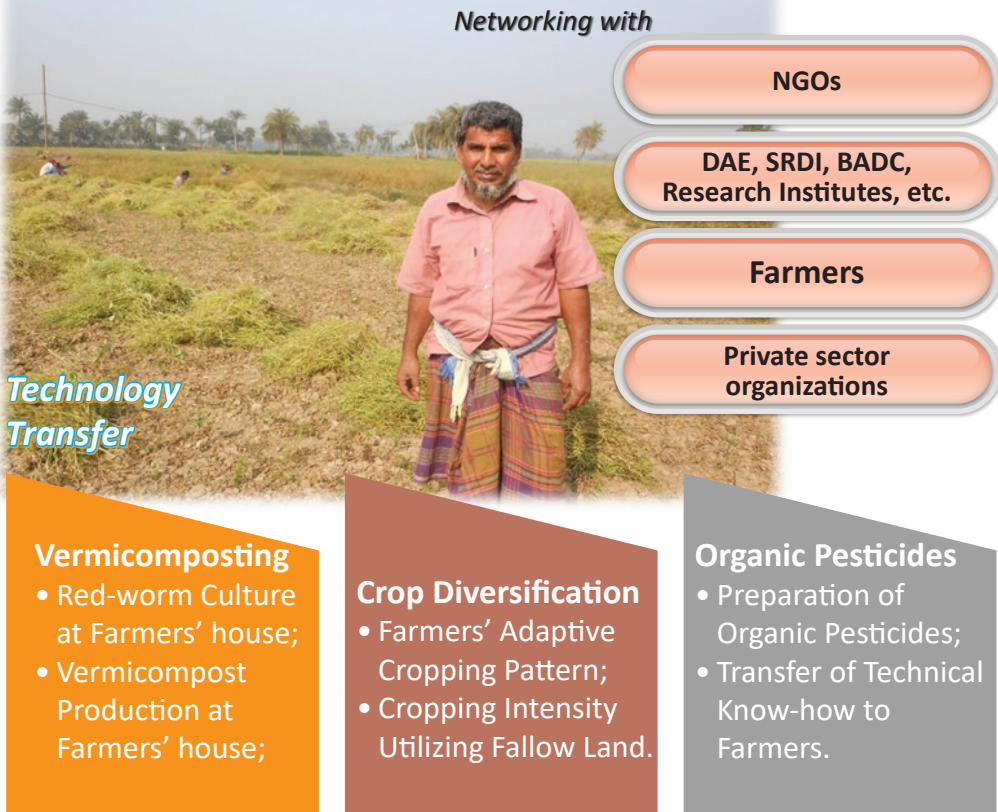
Among the challenges, promotion of monoculture, depletion of ground water, increasing cost of production, exposure to arsenic toxicity, NCDs etc., deserve mention. The Department for International Development (DFID) and World Health Organization (WHO) survey samples in the late nineties have also sufficiently proved arsenic (As) contamination at high concentration in drinking water in Bangladesh, a serious threat to public health and food crops; it is as high as in the Ganges Delta of Asian region due to unscrupulous use of deep tube wells for irrigation.



খরা বলে চাষাব পো,
সবচেঁর শেষে সবিসা রো ॥

টেকসই কৃষি অনুশীলন

টেকসই কৃষি অনুশীলনের অগ্রগতির ফলে প্রকল্পের প্রত্যাশিত ফলাফল অনুযায়ী অভীষ্ট কৃষকগণ ভূ-গর্ভস্থ পানির যৌক্তিক ব্যবহারে সক্ষম হবেন। পরিবেশ বান্ধব কৃষি অনুশীলন - রাসায়নিক সার ও ক্ষতিকারক কীটনাশকের ব্যবহার ক্রমান্বয়ে কমিয়ে জৈব সার (কেঁচো কম্পোস্ট) এবং জৈব বালাইনাশকের ব্যবহার কৃষকদের স্বাস্থ্য ঝুঁকি হ্রাসে কার্যকরী ভূমিকা রাখবে। দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন, মানসম্মত বীজ উৎপাদন ও সংরক্ষণে প্রযুক্তিগত সহযোগিতা ও অন্যান্য তথ্য-উপাত্ত টেকসই কৃষি অনুশীলনে অভীষ্ট কৃষকগণকে সহায়তা করবে।



Water Scheduling & Crop Diversification	Vermicomposting	Quality Seed production
Farmers would maintain water scheduling in Boro paddy. It helps water use efficiency as well as optimal crop growth, thereby reduce ground water depletion. Crop diversification, utilization of fallow land; farmers' adaptive cropping pattern would enhance cropping intensity. It would save cost of production and improve farmers' economics.	improves soil structure; soil fertility; and increases water holding capacity of soil thereby improves soil health, ultimately helps reduce water requirements for crop growth. Utilizing organic fertilizer saves the environment & reduces cost of production vis-à-vis improve farmers' economics.	Availability of quality seeds of different crop varieties at farmers' reach matters in terms of production, multiplication, early marketing and farmers' economics. Availability of diverse quality seeds enhances crop diversity both in Rabi and Kharif seasons.