

# Agriculture and Food Security Programme

BRAC's agriculture and food security programme (AFSP) aims to contribute in achieving food security and reduction of hunger and malnutrition through increased environmentally sustainable and economically profitable agricultural production. Research is conducted to develop better crop varieties and improved production technologies for higher agricultural productivity.



Farmers of AFSP, working in a sunflower field

AFSP is operating farmer participatory experiments for technology validation and fast track diffusion of cutting-edge agricultural and aquaculture technologies in ecologically adverse regions of Bangladesh.

## Components

BRAC's agriculture programme works comprehensively with four components:

1. Agricultural research and development
2. Farmer's participatory validation and extension
3. Biodiversity conservation
4. Aquaculture in *gher* and seasonal floodplain

## Objectives and future outlook

- Research and development of crop varieties for stress and non-stress environments with high yield, quality and nutritional attributes
- Applied and adaptive research for developing new and improved cropping systems and management practices
- Genetical identification of crop, fish and livestock through molecular approach
- Biodiversity conservation of rice and indigenous fish species
- Promotion of higher productive, cost-effective and climate resilient agricultural technologies through farmers' participatory demonstration and validation

- Expansion of integrated aquaculture in pond and seasonal floodplains with diffusion of technical knowledge on adaptive and diversified fish culture practices
- Promotion of homestead gardening using organic farming
- Capacity development of the marginal farmer

## Extension approach

1. Survey
2. Site and farmer selection
3. Group formation
4. Suitable cropping pattern selection
5. Farmer's orientation and training
6. Quality input support
7. Refresher's training
8. Regular follow up
9. Crop cut and field day
10. Data analysis and reporting

## At a glance

### Research out-come (Up to June 2015)

- 12 hybrid rice variety
- 03 inbreed rice variety
- 03 hybrid maize variety
- 19 vegetable variety
- 01 pulse and oilseed variety

### Extension out-come (From July 2012 to June 2015)

- 84,988 participants covered
  - 20 per cent women participants
- 60,790 neighboring farmer awareness
- Area coverage
  - 11,523ha of hybrid Rice
  - 14,370ha of HYV Rice
  - 5,762ha of maize
  - 6,514ha of sunflower
  - 1,758ha of vegetables
  - 1,263ha of mustard
  - 150ha of sesame
  - 90ha of *gher*
  - 167ha of open water fishery
- 770 staff orientation
- 4,601 training of extension provider

## Existing projects

- Strengthening agriculture and food security programme
- Green super rice for the resources-poor of Africa and Asia
- Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA)
- Community water management for improved food security, nutrition and livelihoods in the polders of the coastal zone of Bangladesh

## International Expansion

- Liberia
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda