

Concept and Objective of the Baseline Survey at Botibond Village, Bangladesh

1. Rational

With an aim to maximize the effectiveness of designing, implementing and evaluating development projects which focus on poor rural communities for improving their income and livelihoods, it is understood from accumulated experiences that a baseline survey (or baseline study) is an important tool to be implemented prior to a project starts.

It may include fully or partially the methodology of Household Survey, Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Farmer Centered Approach (FCA), Needs Assessment and other relevant information/data gathering and analytical tools, for the collection of data and analysis of the situation of target communities (such as household sizes, household expenditures, occupation, gender, education and other general information) where the project plans to work in.

It would also help in identifying the most vulnerable groups and potential target beneficiaries in the community based on the beneficially selection criteria (poverty status, vulnerability, income, land size, etc.,).

One of the most important benefits of baseline survey for agricultural communities is to identify key indicators (such as household income, agricultural production/ productivity, and crop yields) which would facilitate in evaluating the achievements and the changes between the situation before project starts and after the project ends.

By combining careful survey and interview technique, unbiased expression of opinion (not influenced by the surveyors or others) from villagers would be obtained. This would help in identifying farmer`s constraints, future desires and needs for development efforts. Indeed, this would be an important approach when designing a project in order to ensure that farmers are centered in development process and their opinion and self-help initiatives are fully respected and promoted.

On the other hand, as a part of baseline survey in wider context, data associated with climate and weather information(including frequency of natural disasters), characteristics of natural resource base (such as soil conditions, water availability, and pest and disease situation on plants and animals) and socio-economic data (such as consumption patterns of consumers for agricultural products and their market prices, and availability of reliable markets) are important data for the assessment of the suitability, feasibility and sustainability of future technical interventions which are desired/proposed by the community/individual households.

2. Objectives of the survey

Based on the above considerations, the overall objective of the baseline survey is to design a small-scale pilot agricultural project to support self-help resource poor rural farmers in one of selected rural communities in Bangladesh (Botibond village) with the following specific objectives:

- A) A result-oriented, focused and user-friendly household survey (family size, family income, land size, etc.,) completed, status of the community and individual household analyzed, and key indicators established
- B) Potential target beneficiaries identified based on the key indicators and established selection criteria taking into poverty stats, income, land size, etc.
- C) Environmental characteristics of the target village including climate conditions, natural disasters and natural resource base (such as soil and water conditions) identified, and existing farming practices studied using both questionnaire and secondary information.
- D) Economic and marketing characteristics of on-going agricultural production on each crop/livestock and other products including their processed products (such as name of production inputs and their costs, producer price, market price, and level of net profit) assessed using questionnaire, interview and secondary data as appropriate.
- E) Future needs (or desired future) of village community and the individual household assessed based on the questionnaire (and interview), and potential areas of future assistance identified taking into consideration of economic, social and environmental conditions
- F) Sectoral and multi-sectoral institutional settings of local government and non-governmental organizations surrounding the village (province, district, sub-district, community and farmer groups) studied using secondary information, and their linkages and potential of their support to the project assessed.

3. Methodology

Usually, baseline survey is a time-consuming exercise with a duration, often last for 6-12 months. In view of the time limitation, this baseline survey will be conducted in a simplified and user-friendly manner to complete within 2-3 months with focused data collection for decision making and project designing. It may include fully or partially the methodology of Household Survey, Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Farmer Centered Approach (FCA), Needs Assessment and other relevant information/data gathering and analytical tools, for the collection of data and analysis of the situation of target communities where the project plans to work in. It is expected to be carried out as per below process:

- 3.1. A baseline survey form (result focused and user friendly) is prepared which would enable to gather information/data to contribute to the objectives A), B), C) and D).
- 3.2. Fifteen (15) field workers (data collectors) and 5 field supervisors (quality control and analytical work) are appointed.
- 3.3. Each of 15 data collectors are given specific responsibility for data collection of about 48 households (4 households/day for 12 -15days)
- 3.4. Two-day orientation and training seminar conducted, prior to the survey starts.
- 3.5. Excel format spread sheet are prepared for tabulating collected data and data entry in the spread sheet will be done on daily basis (or every 2-3 days) by 5 field supervisors (each supervisor will take care the data collected by 3 data collectors) which will be put together in one spread sheet once all data entry by individual field supervisor completed.
- 3.6. Selection criteria for potential beneficiaries (village farmers) will be established
- 3.7. Data analysis will be carried out jointly by PAPRI and GIAPSA with a priority on a) identification of potential beneficiaries based on established selection criteria, and b) their needs/desire for new interventions to promote agricultural income which will be validated their feasibility based on the survey/assessment carried out under objective C) and D).
- 3.8. A list of potential beneficiaries (with details) based on above 3.7. will be prepared which will be used for the 2nd survey/interview (January-March 2024) to the selected potential beneficiaries with an aim to verify their seriousness and commitments to self-help and micro-credit interventions, and to the group approaches.
- 3.9. Consultation meetings with local government authorities (both administration and technical staff/extension workers) and non-governmental organizations (if exists) will be carried out to brief them with the project details, identify their roles and ensure their

support.

- 3.10. The analysis of overall baseline survey is to be completed and the survey report will be prepared by January 2024 in line with the outcomes/objectives A), B), C), D), E) and F). The Table of Content of the survey report will be finalized/agreed by the end of November 2023.