

AVAILABILITY OF DELIVERED SERVICES BY RURAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

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ABSTRACT

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A survey was conducted at the North Joypur and Richow belong to North Comilla Upazilla of Comilla District during 2007 to find out the socio-economic status of the people and to know the present status of delivery of the services and supplies the respondents from nation building department at Upazila level. For collection of primary data, a total number of 30 farmers of different categories were selected randomly and equally from the two villages. Data were recorded face to face at the residence of the respondents by using pre-designed and objective oriented interview schedule or questionnaire. Literacy rate in both the villages were about 80%. Agriculture was the main occupation of the villagers with associated of different of farm activities like small cottage, small-scale business, working in foreign country, government jobs etc. from the findings it was observed that only nine respondents out of 30 got few trainings on crop production from DAE and less than 50 percent respondents participated motivational program like field day, field trip etc. at different season on block demonstration of different crops whereas 16 respondents out of 30 got services from Upazil Fisheries office under Department of Fisheries on modern fish culture.

Key words: Service delivery, socio-economic status of farmers, rural agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is primarily an agrarian country where an overwhelmingly large proportion depends on agriculture as their source of livelihood. It provides employment to 62.3% of the labor force and accounts for about 21.7 % of the Gross Domestic product (GDP) and for about 5.10% of total export earning of the country (BBS 2004). Agriculture has grown rather slowly over the long run at 3.29% over the quarter of a century. Of this, the growth of crop sub-sector was 2.88%, forestry sub-sector 4.43%, fisheries sub-sector 2.30% and livestock sub-sector 4.51%. There are many studies, which aimed at analyzing the contribution of this sector to the economy of Bangladesh in general and to the agricultural economy in particular (Roy and Munshi, 2006). In spite of its large contribution to the economy, the agriculture does not present a bright profile. Of the total 14.83 million hectare of land area in the country, only 8.40 million hectare, which is 56.57% of the total land area, are cultivated. Although there has not been any significant change in the net-cropped area over the years, the gross cropped area increased from 13.16 million hectare in 1980-81 to 14.30 million hectare in 2000-01 on account of increase in cropping intensity from 153.69% to 177.00% over this period (BBS 2003). This tendency of increasing cropping intensity as well as crop productivity is not same throughout the Bangladesh and it differs from location to location due to unequal and improper services delivered to farmers from the government department on agricultural activities. Different service providing department, at Upazilla level are directly or indirectly responsible for giving technologies and awareness of modern agricultural technologies. If we want to know the service delivery mechanism of rural agricultural sectors then we have to know the organization those are giving services for villagers. Different government departments have been working for the betterment of the villagers after the independence of the country. Upazilla is one of the important units/tiers of local government system where the entire nation-building departments are located and providing services and supplies to the farmers at union and villages. This survey study was undertaken to find out the socio-economic status of the people and to know the present status of delivery of the services and supplies the respondents from nation building department at Upazila level.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted in two villages North Joypur and Richow during 2007. In collecting information regarding service delivery from the Upazila headquarters to village, different types of secondary and primary data were used. For collection of primary data, a total number of 30 farmers (15 farmers from Richow and 15 farmers from North Joypur) of different categories were selected randomly from the two villages. Data were recorded face to face at the residence of the respondents by using pre-designed and objective oriented interview schedule or questionnaire. They were interviewed to know whether they receive any service and supplies from different service delivery department like - Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and Department of Fisheries (DOF), Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), different Bank of Bangladesh etc.

Before interviewing of farmers, some secondary information on that area was collected from different departments of upazilla administration like- DAE, DOF and DLS regarding their services to the farmers. After collection of data from the study area, data were recorded in a master table sheet. Most of the data were presented in the tabular form, as it is simple in calculation, widely used and easy to understood. Finally all the data were compiled and analyzed systematically for proper interpretation of findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The socio-economic condition of the farmers has a great importance for the present study. That is why, the status of sample farm families to the composition and size of farm family, level of education and resource status has been discussed in the following-

Farmer category

Farmers category presented in Table 1. According to Islam (1998) responded people of these villages were categorized into four groups such as Landless (0-49 deci.), Small (50-150 deci.), Medium (151-499 deci.) and Large (<500 deci.). In case of Richow out of fifteen farmers 6 farmers were found in small category consist of 40% of the total respond followed by medium category (5 out of 15) i.e. 33% of the total respond and large category (3 out of 15) i.e. 20% of the total respond. The lowest number of farmer (1 out of 15) was obtained in landless group and it was consisting of 7% of the total responded. In case of North Joypur out of fifteen farmers 4 farmers were found in small category consist of 27% of the total respond followed by medium category (6 out of 15) i.e. 40% of the total respond and large category (4 out of 15) i.e. 27% of the total respond. The lowest number of farmer (1 out of 15) was obtained in landless group and it was consisting of 7% of the total responded.

Family Size

It was observed in the Table 2 that the family size was decreased with the increase of farm size. Considering all farm categories, average family size of the study area was found 5.05 which is less than national average (5.75) both male and female of Bangladesh (BBS, 1996)

Level of Education

From the following Table 3, it was revealed that in all farm categories about 26.96% were illiterate, 40.41% were up to class five, 23.66% were up to class ten, 2.43% were SSC, 1.74% were HSC and finally 1.32% were Bachelor Degree holder in the study area, Village Richow and North Joypur.

Types of Occupation and Annual Income Distribution Pattern

From the following Table 4 it was observed that about 60% of the farmers are engaged in sole agriculture. 23% of the farmers were involved in both agriculture and small and medium business and the rest 17% were involved in agriculture as well as in service. It was also observed from that the highest 46% farmers were found under medium income level followed by low income level farmer 36%, (<20000 TK). Only 18% farmer were found as large farmers (40001 +).

Involvement with Co-operatives

Observing both the villages it was seen that all the sample farmers were members with Cooperative society (Table 5) named "Richow Sarbik Gram Unnayan Samiti" and "North Joypur Sarbik Gram Unnayan Samiti"

Farm Size

Considering all farm categories, the average farm size was 325.34 decimal, where 230.18 decimal was under own cultivable land, 8.40 decimal was under homestead area, 6.75 decimal was pond, 42.08 decimal was rented in and 37.94 decimal was under rented out (Table 6)

Credit Use

Farmers used credit from Bank, relatives, moneylenders and some NGOs. Considering all farm categories of farm, most of the farmers were borrowed money from Co-operative society as because the farmers opined that the co-operative societies maintained easy process for getting credits. In case of richow it was found that few large farmers used to borrow loan from Sonali Bank whereas in Joypur more or less all the farmers take loan from their co-operative society. In both the village it was found that farmers used average Tk.7000 from Bank Tk. 4000 from relatives and Tk. 1663 from NGOs and Tk. 750 moneylenders from for meeting their agricultural activities, business and buying food, cloth and medicine (Table 7). Considering all sources of credits, the large farmer used maximum credit and minimum was used by landless.

Crop Production

As the area was low lying, single irrigated Boro rice was the major crop in this village and other crops were different types of gourd, potato, mustard and different vegetables were grown in rabi and Kharif season. Considering all farm categories T. Aus were cultivated in Kharif-I season and T.Aman was grown in Kharif-II season of this area. Landless farmers were not interest of growing high cost involved crops like- potato, Boro rice etc. and vegetables were grown by all categories of farmers in all seasons (Table 8).

Source of Seed

Seed is important input for producing crops and vegetables. A good quality of seed can ensure good production. The farmers in the study area used seeds from their pre-reserved seeds i.e. own stock. Considering all farm categories the responded were used 73%, 67% 70%, 27% and 67% seeds from their own source for Boro rice, T.aman, Aus, potato and vegetables cultivation respectively. Second largest source of seed was BADC followed by local market and only a little amount of seeds they collect from other market. Table 9.

Fisheries activities

Among the respondent from both the villages from thirty farmers only fourteen farmers were involved in fisheries activities and out of fourteen, eleven farmers were engaged in improve fish culture and rest three culture fish in traditional system. Considering all farm categories Silver carp, grass carp, thai sharputi, telapia, mrigel, rui, katol, koi, singh, magoor, sowl etc. fish variety were used by the respondent of the village (Table 10).

Livestock Activities

Livestock play a determinate role by supplying the entire draft, fuel, manure and part of cash in the village. Cattle, goat and poultry usually rose for generating cash and consumption but there was no improve breed in the study area and they used local breed of cattle goats and poultry. Among the respondent more or less every respondents were involved in livestock activity. Considering all farm categories, in richow, the farmers under livestock program rear 16 cattle and 15 goats and in poultry program they reared 81 hens and 16 ducks (Table 11a). Then in Joypur, the farmers under livestock program rear 17 cattle and 16 goats and in poultry program they reared 79 hens and 16 ducks (Table 11b).

Service delivery by the respondents

From the present study it was observed that the service delivery by different Government departments and Non-Government Organization (NGO) for the villagers was very frustrating. Although there were many departments like DAE, DLS, DOF, BADC etc. in Upazilla headquarter to deliver services for the farmers but most of the respondent said they never met with such officials. Services from different government department and NGOs were presented in the Table 12(a) and (b). In Richow, two farmers of small and large category out of fifteen said that they get services from block supervisor for the conduction of block demonstration of different crops. Only four farmer of total respondent got few training on crop production from DAE. Eight farmers of landless, small, Medium and large category participated motivational program like field day, field trip etc. at different season on block demonstration of different crops. Among the fifteen respondent only 2 and 3 get services on vaccination and training on livestock rearing respectively from ULO office under DLS, which was not sufficient. Only seven farmers of different categories out of fifteen respondents of the village get service from UFO office under DOF on modern fish culture. However, one small, 1 Medium and 2 large farmers make agricultural loan from Krishi and Sonali Bank. In North Joypur, three farmers of small and large category out of fifteen said that they get services from block supervisor for the conduction of block demonstration of different crops. Only five farmer of total respondent got few training on crop production from DAE. Six farmers of landless, small, Medium and large category participated motivational program like field day, field trip etc. at different season on block demonstration of different crops. Among the fifteen respondent only 3 and 4 get services on vaccination and training on livestock rearing respectively from ULO office under DLS, which was not sufficient. 9 out of fifteen respondents of the village get service from UFO office under DOF on modern fish culture. However, one small and 1 medium farmer make agricultural loan from Krishi and Sonali Bank.

Table 1. Farmer's categories of the responded at the village, Richow and North Joypur

Farmer's Category	Status			
	Richow		North Joypur	
	No.	%	No.	%
i) Landless	01	7	01	7
ii) Small	06	40	04	27
iii) Medium	05	33	06	40
iv) Large	03	20	04	27
Total Responded	15	100	15	100

Landless= 0-49 deci, Small= 50-150 deci, Medium= 151-499 deci and Large < 500 deci (M.A.Islam, 1998)

Table 2. Average Family size by farm category at the village, Richow and North Joypur

Farm Category	Male	Female	Total
Landless	2.50	3.00	5.50
Small	3.60	2.25	5.25
Medium	2.45	2.50	4.95
Large	2.50	2.00	4.50
Average	2.76	2.44	5.05

Table 3. Number of farm population according to the level of Education by farm category at the village, Richow and North Joypur

Farm Category	Illiterate	Up to V	VI to X	SSC	HSC	Degree
Landless	50.00	50.00	-	-	-	-
Small	21.60	38.10	25.70	8.20	4.10	1.06
Medium	25.80	45.60	19.80	1.52	1.02	-
Large	10.45	27.94	49.14	-	7.82	4.25
Average	26.96	40.41	23.66	2.43	3.24	1.32

Table 4. Percentage distribution of respondents according to their occupation and Annual Income distribution Pattern at the village, Richow and North Joypur

Categories of Farmers	Frequency	(%)	Categories of Farmers	Frequency	(%)
Agriculture	18	60	Low income (< 20000Tk)	11	36
Agriculture + Service	5	17	Medium Income (20001 - 40000)	14	46
Agriculture + business	7	23	High income (40001 +)	05	18
Total	30	100	Total	30	100

Table 5. Farmers Involvement with Cooperatives at both the villages Richow and North Joypur

Categories of Farmers	Frequency	(%)
No Involvement	0	0
Involvement with Co-operative	30	100
Total	30	100

Table 6. Farm size (decimal) of the farmers by farm category at the village Richow and North Joypur

Farm Category	Farm Size (decimal)					Total
	Cultivable land	Homestead	Pond	Rented in	Rented out	
Landless	21.06	4.25	-	33.00	-	58.31
Small	104.20	7.25	8.00	90.00	1.75	211.20
Medium	145.15	8.50	3.50	45.30	-	202.45
Large	650.30	13.58	15.50	-	150.00	829.38
Average	230.18	8.40	6.75	42.08	37.94	325.34

Table 7. Credit use by the respondent by farm category at the village Richow and North Joypur

Farm Category	Bank	NGOs	Moneylender	Relatives	Total
Landless	-	650	-	-	650
Small	3000	2000	500	1000	7500
Medium	5000	1000	2500	7000	15500
Large	20000	3000	-	-	23000
Average	7000	1663	750	4000	11663

Table 8. Crops grown by the respondent by farm category at the village Richow and North Joypur

Farm Category	Crops Grown		
	Rabi	Kharif-I	Kharif-II
Landless	Mustard, winter vegetables etc.	Transplanted aus rice, Kharif vegetables etc.	T.aman rice and Kharif vegetables
Small	Boro rice, potato, mustard, late and early winter vegetables etc.	T. aus rice, Kharif - I vegetables etc.	T.aman rice and Kharif vegetables
Medium	Boro rice, potato, mustard, Early and late winter vegetables etc.	Jute, T and B.aus rice, Kharif-I vegetables etc.	T.aman rice and Kharif vegetables
Large	Boro rice, potato, early and late winter vegetables etc.	T and B.aus rice, Kharif-I vegetables etc.	T.aman rice and Kharif vegetables

Table 9. Source of seeds of major crop used among the respondent at the village Richow and North Joypur

Sources	Boro rice	T.aman	Aus	Potato	Vegetables
Own source	73	67	70	27	67
BADC	7	13	12	53	3
NGO	-	-	-	-	-
Market	14	10	20	10	10
Other farmer	6	10	8	10	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 10. Fisheries activities by the respondent by farm category at the village Richow and North Joypur

Farm Category	No. of Respondent			Fish variety
	Traditional method	Improved method	Total	
Landless	1	-	1	Silver carp, grass carp, thai sharputi, telapia, mrigel, rui, katol, koi, singh, magoor, sowl etc.
Small	1	3	4	
Medium	1	2	3	
Large	-	6	6	
Total	3	11	14	

Table 11a. Total number of livestock and poultry birds by the respondent by farm category at the village Richow

Farm Category	No. of Respondent	Livestock		Poultry	
		No. of Cattle	No. of goat	No. of hen	No. of duck
Landless	01	1	1	4	-
Small	06	4	5	25	3
Medium	05	3	7	34	8
Large	03	8	2	18	5
Total	15	16	15	81	16

Table 11b. Total number of livestock and poultry birds by the respondent by farm category at the village North Joypur.

Farm Category	No. of Respondent	Livestock		Poultry	
		No. of Cattle	No. of goat	No. of hen	No. of duck
Landless	1	1	1	4	-
Small	4	5	6	23	3
Medium	6	3	7	35	8
Large	4	8	2	17	5
Total	15	17	16	79	16

Table 12a. Organization name and types of services received by the farmers of the village, Richow.

Government Department	Types of Service	No. of Beneficiary Farmers	
		Category Wise	Total
DAE	i) Demonstration	1 Small and 1 Large farmer	02
	ii) Training	Medium 1 and 3 Large farmer	04
	iii) Motivation	1 Landless, 3 Small, 2 Medium and 2 Large farmer	08
DLS	i) Treatment/ Vaccination	1 Small, 1 medium and 1 Large farmer	03
	ii) Training	medium 1 and 1 Large farmer	02
	iii) Fodder production technology & seeds	----	---
DOF	i) Training	1 Small, 2 Medium and 1 Large farmer	04
	ii) Motivation	1 Medium and 2 Large farmer	03
BADC	Seed	1 Small and 2 medium and 1 large farmer	04
Bank	Loan	1 Small, 1 medium and 2 Large farmer	04

DAE= Department of Agricultural Extension, DLS= Department of Livestock Services, DOF = Department of Fisheries, BADC= Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation

Table 12b. Organization name and types of services received by the farmers of the village, North Joypur

Government Department	Types of Service	No. of Beneficiary Farmers	
		Category Wise	Total
DAE	i) Demonstration	1 Small and 2 Large farmer	03
	ii) Training	1 Small, 1 Medium and 3 Large farmer	05
	i) Motivation	2 Small, 2 Medium and 2 Large farmer	06
DLS	i) Treatment/ Vaccination	1 Small, 1 medium and 2 Large farmer	03
	ii) Training	Medium 1 and 3 Large farmer	04
	iii) Fodder production technology & seeds	----	---
DOF	i) Training	1 Medium and 2 Large farmer	04
	ii) Motivation	1 Small, 2 Medium and 2 Large farmer	05
BADC	Seed	1 Small and 2 medium and 3 large farmer	06
Bank	Loan	1 Small and 1 Medium farmer	02

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