



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## Launching Workshop

Missing Middle Initiative - Increasing Access to Finance for Farmers' Organizations in Bangladesh

Chief Guest

**HE Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP**  
Honorable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture

Special Guests

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Chair

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Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

13 May 2018  
ICC Auditorium, Dhaka



# Annual Report 2018-19

**SARA BANGLA KRISHAK SOCIETY (SBKS)**

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## **PREFACE**

I am delighted to present Annual Report for FY 2018-2019 of Sara Bangla Krishak Society (SBKS), which briefly highlights its implementation progress of current project, organizational management, activities and achievements.

SBK is working with 55 member Farmer Organization (FO) working with and for more than 10,000 farmer families living in northern and southern region of Bangladesh. Our main focused areas were supporting in building sustainable livelihoods through institution building, access to finance for smallholder farmers, agri-business development, farmer-led revolving loan fund management, awareness on health and hygiene, good agricultural practice, conservation agriculture, demonstration and adaptation of new technologies etc.

SBKS is gradually achieving capacity to translate its initiatives into reality successfully with cooperation and help from the government and non-government organizations at home and abroad. We especially grateful the MMI project implementing by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for their all-out support to build strong producer organizations.

However, the key to our success lies in the relentless efforts of the members of the FOs and our sincere thanks go to all those who were beside the SBKS for implementing its agricultural development initiatives.

Abdul Jabbar

President

Sara Bangla Krishak Society (SBKS)

## **Highlights in 2018-19**

- Institutional strengthening of Farmer Organization have been done commissioning the Farmer Business Facilitators (FBFs)
- 13 value chains were prioritized and explored, embracing 4 agricultural subsectors: livestock, crop, fisheries and agro-forestry.
- Network established between Sara Bangla Krishak Society (SBKS), farmer business facilitators (FBF) and Asian Farmers Association (AFA) representatives.
- Introduced and adopted Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) among potato farmers.
- Introduced and adopted moringa-based cattle fattening as an ethical and safe livestock rearing practice.
- Completed training on Financial Management and Inclusive leadership development and business planning
- SBKS organized exchange visits to local manufacturers to familiarize the FOs with the machinery required. The project organized exchange visits for horticulture and dairy farmers.
- SBKS with assistance of FAO organized National workshop on financial inclusion for smallholder farmers in Bangladesh

## 1.0 Introduction

The Sara Bangla Krishak Society (SBKS) has emerged as a non-profit, non-political and voluntary organization consisting of representatives from Farmer Organizations of small, marginal and landless farmers in Bangladesh. This annual report describes progress made in 2018-2019 fiscal year. The SBKS is relentlessly supporting smallholder farmers, fishers, pastorals for improving a safe food system and ensure food supply from farm to fork.

SBKS has been sensitizing small farmers groups about the importance of creating strong bonds among members through the provision of need-based services and community businesses. SBKS facilitates bridging between farmers' organizations with the objective to raise voices of the farming community. SBKS believes that through these bonding and bridging processes the network will be in a position to be a voice for the marginalized, and act as conscious and assertive members of their communities; they will also be in a position to provide skill training to undertake gainful economic activities, including social businesses as well as to advocate for the needs of members.

## 1.1 Evolution of SBKS

SBKS was formed in 2014 with the aim to serve the disadvantaged and marginal farmers living in the economically fragile areas of Bangladesh. The network primarily concentrates on organizing and mobilizing the downtrodden people of the farming society into viable socio-economic groups. The organization has received significant support from the FAO-TA for Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP) financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP).

Over the period of 2013-2014, leadership of SBKS has participated in two large federated FOs sharing workshops, one strategic planning workshop for FO strengthening, overseas visit in Philippines to observe national peasants network (PAKISAMA), national FO to FO exchange visit, successful completion of 19 sharing workshops for SAAO/FA/CF with the support from IAPP-TA of FAO-UN, the participating FOs felt the need for a formal network for sharing knowledge, worries and woes of marginal farmers, as well as right based advocacy with government. The flow of activities that has contributed to the formation and strengthening of this network is given below:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014, member farmers' organizations first named the network as: Sara Bangla Krishak Jote (All Bangladesh Farmers Alliance);
- Later they meet regionally (11-12 November 2014 at Rangpur; 19 November 2014 at Barisal) and centrally (22-23 December 2014 and 15 January 2015) several times at their own cost for preparing a declaration on common agenda with a minimum backstopping support from IAPP-TA;
- 19-23 April 2015 at Rangpur & 17-21 May 2015 at Barisal, The endeavor of forming alliance got another momentum when 45 FOs representatives including 13 women leaders participated in two regional study circles in April and May 2015. They learned that government policy and charters are to some extent very friendly to them but they had no access to these information/government services. After meticulous review of relevant government policies and charters, they identified and prioritized some local/regional/national level advocacy agenda to be dialogued with local government and with higher level government officials

- On mid April, 2015 Adarsha Chashi Unnayan Sangstha (ACUS), member FO of SBKJ working at Charfasson, one of the most remote coastal island, awarded a project from Agricultural Value Chain (AVC) component of USAID for value chain development on Summer basket (cucumber, brinjal and bitter gourd), tomato, Mung bean, Ground Nut as well as promoting bio-pesticides. ACUS shared its process of getting project from AVC with SBKJ and introduce other FO members with USAID-AVC for value chain project. Negotiation is ongoing with IAPP Livelihood Field School at Ujirpur, Barisal for future AVC grant on pulse and rice seed value chain.
- 23 April 2015 at Rangpur & 21 May 2015 at Barisal, After the study circle the participating FOs conducted two pilot dialogues with Upazila Parishad focusing on increasing their participation in local level decision making process and getting better services from government extension and relevant agencies
- 19 May 2015, Sara Bangla Krishak Jote (North) leaders independently organized a local level dialogue with upazila parishad on land rights and farmers' access to government services with the cooperation of *Radio Chilmar* – a popular community radio in northern region.
- 07 June 2015, is also a memorable day of Sara Bangla. They held a human chain in Rangpur and Kurigram for Teesta river fair water flow deal during two days stays of Indian premier in Bangladesh.
- 23 June 2015, Sara Bangla Krishak Jote leaders held consultation meeting with two FO representatives of steering committee of the GAFSP-funded Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP) to raise two agendas: Firstly, seed producers license to be provided to FOs (existing rule is to provide license to individual entrepreneurs not to a group. But Sara Bangla Krishak Jote claim that farmers organizations can contribute in producing better quality seed than an individual entrepreneurs) and Secondly, a circular from Bangladesh Bank to all commercial banks to facilitate Tk.10 account to be used for all regular transaction. The steering committee at MoA positively endorsed these two issues and finally it was approved (circular in Bengali)
- 30 June 2015, Sara Bangla Krishak Jote formally declared their name, agenda, central and regional committee at press club in two regions.
- Along with above efforts, alliance leaders have been organizing specialized services for their members, such as vaccination and de-worming campaign for large and small ruminants, early vegetables and orchard nursery establishment, fodder nursery, rental services of agricultural machineries, seed village development, seed bank, grain bank, linkage with private companies for ensuring fair price, fingerlings production, and processing.
- Mature FOs of the alliance extended their cooperation to the FOs in nascent stage on developing their constitution and legal papers for registration. Also for stronger bonding among members, mature FOs shared about the importance of establishing group savings, and further investment of savings fund on agribusiness services for members.
- 21 September 2015, alliance leaders stood in solidarity with flood marooned farming community of Teesta chars. They distributed seeds to around 230 farmers (100 for Mustard, 50 for vegetables and 80 for Kalai).
- 10 October 2015, Sara Bangla Krishak Jote, Mithaukur unit organized a felicitation event to Mr. Parimol Chandra, government SAAO, Mithapukur for achieving national award for Rodent control



initiatives. Every year grain loss by rodent is about 90 million US\$ in Bangladesh. Mr. Porimol invented a Rodent Trap which is effective for rodent control. Mr. Porimal becomes friend of Sara Bangla Krishak Jote leaders since after CF sharing workshop which was facilitated by Sara Bangla Jote leaders.

- The Sara Bangla Krishak Jote Leaders now in a consultation process with two FO representatives in the Steering Committee of IAPP for raising agenda on participation of FO members in all local agricultural committees (Upazila Agriculture Committee, Credit Committee, Irrigation Committee) as well as steering committee of future all projects of MoA and MoFL. They already developed a memorandum for finalizing draft National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP-2015) to incorporate agricultural committees involving FO representatives. Draft NAEP-2015 now in the process of finalization.
- The advanced leaders of Sara Bangla Krishak Jote together with two IAPP FO PSC members submitted comments on the draft National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP-2015) to the Secretary, MoA at IAPP PSC meeting held on 25 Oct 2015 regarding following five issues:
  - Participation of FOs (in all local committees) in decision making process of investment projects
  - Agricultural land loss reduction and farmers rights on natural resources
  - Recognition of women farmers
  - Registration of FOs
  - Access to agricultural credit
- On 5 November 2015, Sara Bangla Krishak Jote Leaders decided to establish a mother plant nursery for medicinal plants in Madhupur and Baghaichari, Rangamati. Publicity Secretary of SBKJ made a reconnaissance visit to Madhupur and CHT for survey on feasibility of medicinal plant cultivation. They met with someone who has 30 acres fallow land at Madhupur forest and he agreed to provide them this land for medicinal plant cultivation. Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) FO leaders also invited SBKJ leaders to visit and assess feasibility of medicinal plant garden. CHT leaders also requested SBKJ leaders for hands-on training on vermi-compost preparation as they are very much concerned about top soil replenishment in CHT.
- Obaidul Hoque, Secretary of Sara Bangla Krishak Jote (North) was invited to the National Platform of Agricultural Extension Workers in Bangladesh on 23 November 2015.
- 30 November 2015, 28 FOs of IAPP at Kundupukur union of Nilphamari sadar mobilized Sara Bangla Krishak Jote, Kundupukur Branch. This union level alliance declared a 29-member committee where Golam Robbani was selected as President and Shyamapodo Roy as secretary.
- On December 28, the National Platform of Agricultural Extension Workers in Bangladesh was formalized and renamed the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN). Sara Bangla Krishak Jote was invited to join as a member of the BAEN Executive Committee.
- On December 29, SBKJ participated in the corporate baseline survey of FAO-Bangladesh and responded to the questionnaire of FAO Strategic Objective-3 as a civil society representative.
- First week of January 2016 SBKJ President, Secretary and Treasurer visited vermi-compost factory at Mithapukur and Pirganj for a feasibility study to establish the same at Jatrapur union of Kurigram sadar as social enterprise for SBKJ.

- Rafiqul Islam, Executive Member of SBKJ facilitated vermin-compost preparation and medicinal plant cultivation training at Baghaichari upazila of Rangamati Hill District, one of the most remote upazilas in Bangladesh, as a collaboration agreement between Jum Foundation and SBKJ. SBKJ supplied vermicompost seed, Kalomegh seed and sapling for poor indigenous farmers of Jum foundation.
- On January 24, 2016 SBKJ participated in the second EC meeting of BAEN
- January 28, 2016, Rafiqul Islam was invited by CCDB and Helvetas assisted project SEPO in Manda upazila of Noagaon district. In a meeting Rafiqul through Sara Bangla Krishak Jote agreed to provide a 5 days training on vermin-compost and medicinal plant production for SEPO project farmers.
- February 07, Ohidul Islam joined as a farmer representative in his District Marketing Committee. He was also selected to be a member of his Upazila Marketing Committee.
- February 13, 2016, SBKJ held another Human Chain for fair deal of Teesta river water to save around 7.5 lakh ha agricultural land under Teesta basin. The news was covered by most of the print and electronic media. On that day, SBKJ also formed four sub-committees for Teesta River Basin Campaign, Haor Campaign, Coastal Zone Campaign and Hill Campaign to collect data of these economically fragile area, identify agendas to be dialogued with government.
- February 16, 2016, SBKJ Pirganj unit organized demonstration (live perching) for farmers for natural plant protection.
- February 17, 2016 SBKJ held dialogue with Jatrapur Union Parishad for signing deed for using an abandoned food storage site of DAE at Jatrapur Union for producing vermi-compost as a social venture of SBKJ.
- February 17-18, SBKJ leaders were invited for a second time by Jum Foundation of CHT to assist farmers in processing vermi-compost and plantation for Kalomegh in Baghaichari of Rangamati district.
- From 21 February 2016, Sara Bangla Krishak Jote (SBKJ) is working for establishment of a common facility center and prioritized vermin-compost production and marketing as a social business for its members. Organic matter content is depleting in northern and hilly regions and through this endeavor soil health will be replenished by applying vermin-compost instead of chemical fertilizers. SBKJ dialogued with Deputy Director, DAE and Chairman, Jatrapur Union for sanction of abandoned food storage site of government for use as a vermi-compost plant. The innovative proposal of SBKJ was cordially accepted by all concerned and Jatrapur Union Parishad and SBKJ entered into a bi-party agreement to utilize the food storage site for vermin-compost. Jatrapur Union Parishad also entered agreement with SBKJ for using all cowdung and solid wastes of Jatrapur Cattle Market and General Market for vermin-compost plant.
- First round FO to FO mentoring started from mid-February and ended on March/2016. A workshop took place on 15 March with 8 mentors to share the ground realities of FOs on their readiness to adopt study circle and FO strengthening training learning.
- 20 March 2016, Two southern SBKJ members (ACUS & Mundopasha LFS) of SBKJ were invited to participate in a 2-day inception workshop of Appropriate Scale Mechanization Innovation Hub (ASMIH) of USAID at Bangladesh Agricultural University, University of Illinois, USA and Bangladesh



Agricultural University (BAU) very much appreciated the platform of SBKJ and they requested for a partnership for field research at FOs villages with their members with ASMIH activities.

- Negotiation started with CHT FOs from 6 March 2016 for leasing land for medicinal plant cultivation, primary processing and marketing jointly with SBKJ. Main agendas are SBKJ will provide master trainer on medicinal plant production and marketing and invest 50% and rest 50% will be borne by Hill FOs. Four leaders of SBKJ having expertise on medicinal plant conducted twenty batches training in three hill upazilas from June 17, 2016 to March 30, 2017
- SBKJ leaders identified prioritized community businesses in a participatory training workshop for developing proposal under the call of Missing Middle Initiatives (MMI) of GAFSP. FAO- Bangladesh in association with SBKJ jointly submitted proposal in “Increasing Access to Finance for smallholders FOs” to the GAFSP on August 8, 2016.
- Sold 2 mt of vermi-compost to a private company on September 03, 2016. Construct nine chambers for vermi-compost production.
- Two SBKJ leaders visited Madhupur from 28 September to 03 October 2016 for exploring a khas land for medicinal plant cultivation and to support farmers for linkage with markets.
- September 2016: Second round mentoring covered 44 FOs. Most of the FOs has completed their committed works during first round mentoring. Following are some improvement made so far:
  - All organizations have completed membership profile following standard format
  - All organizations has been practicing GAAP (Governance Accountability Action Plan)
  - Internal savings
  - 11 organizations continuing seed village
  - 10 organizations have credit program among their members
  - All organizations have their own Bank account
  - 43 organizations are registered. Of them two were from Social Services and rests were from Coop.
- December 19-22, 2016: 20 SBKJ leaders participated Seed Village and FO Mapping Workshops in Rangpur. BADC Chairman was attended as Chief Guest and declared that seed village farmers can link with BADC as contract growers and sells their seed. Chairman BADC also emphasized on seed village concept as informal sector contributes 80% of the seed. Seed Village farmers of Rangpur
- From November – December 2016: Jote leaders were engaged with their own organizations for preparing strategies for providing more services to members.
- On January 03, 2017 – SBKJ leaders met with Registrar of the Joint Stock and Exchange and requested for speedy process of their registration. Registrar Joint Stock advised SBKJ leaders to rename the alliance name as “Sara Bangla Krishak Society” owing to remove confusion with the word ‘Jote’ which sounds like a political word. The SBKJ leader then called a general meeting with presence of 30% leaders to change its name. Upon acceptance of the members new name was confirmed as **“Sara Bangla Krishak Society (SBKS)”**.
- On January 11, 2017, Registrar, RJSC issued a letter to DG, National Security Intelligence (NSI) as a normal protocol of getting registration.

- On October 24, 2017: It is registered as per the provisions of Society Registration Act 1860 and its registration number is S12749/2017. It has member organizations in 32 upazilas of 16 districts of Bangladesh.
- On March 27, 2018: Economic Relations Division (ERD) has signed the MMI financed 'Increasing Access to Finance for Farmers Organizations in Bangladesh'. The project has been jointly implemented by the FAO and SBKS with its 55 member FOs.
- From July 1, 2018 to June 2019: SBKS has started activities with FAO for building capacity of member FOs in the area of financial, business and digital literacy.

## 1.2 Vision, Mission, Goal, Strategy and Principles

### Vision

Be the leading voice of smallholder farmers for sustainable agricultural development.

### Mission

Empower small, marginal and landless farmers' organizations from economically fragile areas of Bangladesh so that they can become equal, active and supportive partners in the government's investment program and decision-making process for agricultural development.

### Goal

- Assist farmers in production, marketing, value chain connectivity and rights-based advocacy through the formation of member organizations.
- Regular liaison with all stakeholders, including the government, and capacity building through collaboration with local and international farmers' forums and agencies.

### Strategies

- ❖ **Bridging:** Bringing small and marginal farmers into a larger network and combining their skills and experience.
- ❖ **Connecting:** Establish effective liaison with government and non-government departments to solve the existing problems of small and marginal farmers and ensure necessary services.
- ❖ **Increase organizational capacity:** Increase the organization's capacity in fund management, financial accounting, good governance, leadership, confidence building, bargaining skills, general service center and joint business management.
- ❖ **Adoption of rights based programs:** Farmers should be vocal to realize their rights.
- ❖ **Extension of technology:** Extension of good agricultural practices, organic farming technologies and farm mechanization activities for safe food production.

### Principles

- **Integrity:** Perform all activities regarding agriculture, farmers and organization development honestly.
- **Equality:** All works should be done on the basis of equality.

- **Transparency:** Taking all decisions transparently and showing them to everyone.
- **Accountability:** Everyone is obliged to be accountable to those concerned for their work.
- **Fairness:** Giving benefits and priority based on fairness.
- **Participation:** Follow participatory approach in all activities and decision making.
- **Inclusion:** Ensuring the inclusion of all members in all activities.

## 2.0 Organizational management

SBKS provide efforts to ensure that the member FOs themselves are strong and inclusive institutions. That is, all members are able to access rural resources, services and markets. They ensure economies of scale of farmer production, create common assets and establish a strong negotiating position in the market. It is working to develop leadership, good governance, accountability, networking, negotiation skills and confidence. SBKS empowers FOs to successfully manage funds. All activities of SBKS are guided by the Executive Committee consists of 7 members. A cohort of Business Facilitators were responsible for developing FOs' capacity to access value chains, markets, technical knowledge, information and financing. This takes place through training and collective pilot activities with the guidance of the MMI team.

## 3.0 Institution building

With the benefit of the learning grant, most of the FOs have improved their organization management capacity in the areas of documentation, accounts record keeping, and savings and credit management. The following table shows that the surveyed FOs obtained a score of 28 out of 40 on general institutional maturity (e.g. members' recognition, leadership, members' meeting attendance and governance) a 46% increase from December 2018 score. Overall performance increased by 68% in comparison with the baseline.

Table 1: Average score by institutional maturity ratings

Indicator	December 2018			June 2019			% increase
	Rangpur	Barishal	Avg	Rangpur	Barishal	Avg	
A.1 Institutional maturity rating: General (Max-40)	17.7	20.8	19.0	28.60	26.57	27.72	46%
A.2 Institutional maturity rating: Accounts keeping (Max: 20)	5.9	8.5	7.0	13.20	10.22	11.91	70%
B. Value chain project rating (Max: 20)	3.6	4.1	3.8	12.03	8.91	10.68	181%
Final score: Total	27.3	33.4	29.9	53.83	45.70	50.30	68%

### 3.1 Terms of reference of FBFs and service agreement between FOs and FBFs

Terms of Reference of Business Facilitators was revised through a participatory discussion with the FO leaders of Sara Bangla Krishak Society. Altogether 53 service agreements were signed between 53 FOs and 20 FBFs. Each FBF has been contracted by 2 or 3 FOs to strengthen their performance. FBFs are responsible for developing FOs' capacity to access value chains, markets, technical knowledge, information and financing. This takes place through training and collective pilot activities with the guidance of the MMI team. The service agreement defines the necessary qualifications to be recruited as an FBF, as well as the process of recruitment. It also defines the objectives, scope of work, working days and contract period, training calendar, monthly fee and payment system, as well as procedures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.



### 3.2 FO feedback system developed to monitor the performance of FBFs

The FO President or General Secretary evaluates the monthly performance of their FBF using a 50-point scorecard before paying a monthly fee of BDT 3,750 to the FBF. The scorecard measures 10 different areas (with up to 5 points possible for each area) including facilitation skills, quality of work, timeliness, degree of participation, supportive role, attitude and ability to create a learning environment, rapport with FO members, and innovation skill of FBF. The scorecard is signed by the President of the FO. In addition, FO leaders verbally share their feedback with SBKS Executive Committee. So far, the performance of FBFs is satisfactory, with the average score being 38 out of 50, as of 30 June 2019.

### 3.4 Training of Trainers (ToT) on Financial Management

A five days ToT was conducted during 3-7 March 2019 for 20 BFs. After the ToT, all BFs prepared an individual action plan (training calendar) to train FO leaders/members as well as provide regular support to FOs. Module was developed with example of day to day practical cases of FOs on financial management. The module broadly covers the organization and savings management, credit/Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) management, portfolio quality ratios and productivity and efficiency ratios, book keeping and accounts management, risk management and procedures to prevent misuse and social auditing. Participatory training methods including group discussion, case analysis, demonstration, practical exercise on financial forms and formats were applied to conduct this training for the best internalization of the learning topics.





### 3.3 Training of trainers for FBFs on inclusive leadership and governance of FOs

As part of organizational strengthening, SBKS and MMI Implementation Support Unit organized a second ToT for FBFs on inclusive leadership and governance of FOs. This residential ToT for 20 FBFs was conducted in Rangpur from the 23rd to the 24th of June 2019. There were two modules:

**Module 1:** Development of inclusive leadership in FOs covered values and principles of organization, the process of developing a common vision, the role of a leader, myths and realities of leadership, leadership styles, and opportunities for women and youth leadership in FOs.

**Module 2:** Governance, accountability and transparency emphasized the importance of governance within an FO, as well as participatory preparation of Governance and Accountability Action Plans (GAAPs).



## 4.0 Business planning and value chain linkage

### 4.1 ToT on participatory business planning using the RuralInvest toolkit for the FBFs of FOs

SBKS with the support of MMI project organized a third ToT for FBFs on Participatory Business Planning using the RuralInvest (RIV) toolkit. This ToT took place from 25 to 27 June 2019 in Rangpur. The RIV toolkit contains methods and techniques for reaching a consensus on the most viable business idea using revolving credit. The ToT covered the different RIV checklists as well as a field test. Participatory training methods were used, including group discussion, role-play, demonstration and a practical exercise using the RuralInvest toolkit. After the ToT, all FBFs prepared an individual action plan to train FO leaders and members on participatory business planning.

### 4.2 Preparation of business plans for individual FOs

Following the ToT, the FBFs used the RuralInvest toolkit to prepare 55 business proposals including one for Sara Bangla Krishak Society. The checklist for preparing business proposals was prepared in Bengali and the FBFs put these together with the active participation of the FO members associated with potential business activities. After receiving all business proposals in checklist format, the regional coordinators entered the data into the RIV software and generated the relevant report. Investment, general and operating cost tables were again translated into Bengali and FBFs again validated the data with each FO. The 55 proposals were categorized into 13 value chains. The Region and FO-wise value chains that have been identified for investment using MMI pilot and final grants are shown in Table 2.



**Table 2: List of value chains and region/FO-wise distribution**

Sl.	Value Chain	Category/Pattern	No of FOs		Total
			North	South	
1	Paddy Seed	Paddy (Boro-Aus-Aman) Seed Village	3	3	6
2	Oil seed	Oil Seed – Pulse (Mustard-Mungbean-Aman) Seed Village		1	1
3	Pulse seed	Pulse-Paddy Seed (Mungbean-Aus-Aman) Seed Village		3	3
4	Potato (exportable)	Potato-Maize-Aman	3		3
5	Cattle fattening	Moringa-based safe cattle fattening	13	6	19
6	Dairy	Milk chilling and bio-digester	1		1
7	Dairy	Processing (ghee, butter/cream/chana)	1		1
8	Sonali	Meat, egg, day-old chicks		2	2
9	Duck	Meat and Egg		1	1
10	Fish	Pond fisheries	2	4	6
		Pen Fisheries	3		3
11	Medicinal Plants	Bashak, Tulshi and Kalomegh	2		2
12	Vegetables	Summer and winter basket	2	2	4
13	Horticulture	Intercropping (pineapple, ginger, turmeric and banana)	1		1
14	Maize	Maize-Jute- <i>Parija</i> Paddy	1		1
15	Chili	Chili - Fallow – Aman		1	1
TOTAL			32	23	55

### 4.3 Exchange visit for seed village farmers of MMI on BAU-STR dryer

An exchange visit, along with a two-day ToT, was organized for 14 lead farmers (8 Male, 6 Female) of 7 seed villages on the BAU-STR dryer at the Post Harvest Loss Reduction Innovation Lab, at the Department of Farm Power and Machinery at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh on 3 May 2019. The objectives were to train lead famers of MMI-seed village groups on how to use the BAU-STR dryer as well as how to reduce post-harvest loss during the seed drying process.

### 4.4 Training on BAU-STR dryer for seed growers

The lead farmers who participated in the exchange visit and received ToT, organized seven batches of training on how to use the BAU-STR dryer in their own seed villages. This took place in both regions from 20 to 28 May 2019. A total of 124 seed growers (84 Male, 40 Female) attended the training in the southern region, while 165 participants (111 Female, 54 Male) attended in the northern region. The training participants showed interest in this technology and recognized that it would be useful during the rainy and winter season to reduce huge post-harvest losses.





## 5.0 Social enterprise of SBKS

One of the main objectives of SBKS is developing social enterprises so that dividend goes to all smallholders and profit does not siphoned to non-agricultural activities. Keeping in mind this view SBKS has undertaken following enterprises. SBKS has run a large vermi-compost plant ‘Mahilata’ at its own cost in northern region with an aim to improve soil health as organic matter depleting gradually in northern drought-prone Barind region. It is producing high quality vermicompost which have high demand to the farmers, research centers, and extension agencies as well as it earns revenue for the apex.

## 7.0 Advocacy initiatives

### 7.1 National workshop on financial inclusion for smallholder farmers in Bangladesh

SBKS and MMI project organized a national workshop on 30 April 2019 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Auditorium in Dhaka. The objectives were to: (i) ‘meet the bankers’; (ii) disseminate baseline information among the stakeholders, and; (iii) share the experiences of Farmer Business Facilitators on how they have been supporting their FOs on organizational management and access to finance. The event was appreciated by all involved, including representatives from 45 banks, the private sector, 55 FOs and the head of division of each government extension agency. All participated and exchanged their experiences and innovative ideas on future ‘Bank–FO linkages’. The Honourable Secretary to the MoA, Mr. Md. Nasiruzzaman graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Senior Economist of the GAFSP–Coordination Unit, Dr Iftikhar Mostafa and General Manager of Agricultural Credit Division of Bangladesh Bank, Mr. Habibur Rahman were the special guests at the inaugural session. During his inaugural speech, the Honourable Secretary urged all bank representatives present to develop a solution for the effective implementation of the ‘Agricultural and Rural Credit’ policy so that the government-declared ‘agricultural credit with single digit interest and flat rate’ would directly reach smallholders. As a way forward, the Honourable Secretary mentioned that banks may consider sustainable farmers’ organizations as a vehicle and collateral for ensuring efficient distribution of agricultural credit among smallholders. Following the inaugural session, a ‘knowledge market’ took place. It was decorated with informative displays from FOs, highlighting their member business services and organizational management techniques. All 50 FOs had their own booth, and bank representatives visited each FO. At least 10 FOs received some commitment from bankers that they will receive agricultural credit from them.



## **7.2 Inclusive finance for smallholders**

Under the Bank-FO pilot finance scheme, two new FOs were included during this reporting period. So, a total of 388 (female-219 & male 169) farmers received a loan from a bank or government agency amounting to BDT 21,745,000. One new FO (Badargonj Upazilla Sebadankari Krishi Coop Ltd.) from the northern region was included in the bank-FO pilot finance scheme during this reporting year. The main purpose of the loans was crop cultivation and dairy farming. It is notable that 50 members of Kaliganjpara IAPP Farmers' Coop have already repaid their loan and borrowed again from the National Bank Ltd.

## 8.0 Audited financial statement



**Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants



### Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of

**Sara Bangla Krishak Society**

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Sara Bangla Krishak Society (The entity)**, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at June 30, 2019, Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Changes in Fund Account for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information disclosed in notes 01 to 11 and Annexure-1.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly in all material respect the financial position of the entity as at June 30, 2019 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs), the Societies Registration Act 1860 and other applicable rules and regulations.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirement that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Bangladesh, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Executive committee and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Executive committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

#### Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.  
Chartered Accountants



As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Dated: Dhaka  
October 10, 2019

  
Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.  
Chartered Accountants





**Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants

**Sara Bangla Krishak Society**  
Statement of Financial position  
As at June 30, 2019

Particulars	Notes	Amount in taka	
		June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
<b>Assets:</b>			
<b>Non- Current Assets:</b>			
<b>Investments:</b>		<b>62,284</b>	<b>39,225</b>
Investments in Biological Assets	3.00	62,284	39,225
<b>Current assets:</b>		<b>55,230</b>	<b>20,955</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	4.00	55,230	20,955
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>117,514</b>	<b>60,180</b>
<b>Fund and liabilities:</b>			
<b>Fund</b>		<b>107,514</b>	<b>55,180</b>
Cumulative surplus	5.00	107,514	55,180
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		<b>10,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Provision for audit fees	6.00	5,000	5,000
Other Liabilities		5,000	-
<b>Total fund and liabilities</b>		<b>117,514</b>	<b>60,180</b>

The accompanying policies and explanatory notes 1-11 and Annexure -1 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

**Treasurer**

**General Secretary**

**President**

Signed in terms of our separate report of same date.

মোঃ আজিজুল করিম  
চেয়ারম্যান  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
রাজশাহী

মোঃ ওবায়দুল হক  
সাধারণ সম্পাদক  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
রাজশাহী

আই জব্বার  
সচিব  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
রাজশাহী

**Dated: Dhaka**  
October 10, 2019



**Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants



**Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants

**Sara Bangla Krishak Society**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
For the year ended on June 30, 2019

Particulars	Notes	Amount in taka	
		July 01, 2018 to June 30, 2019	October 24, 2017 to June 30, 2018
<b>Income:</b>			
Sale of Agriculture Goods	7.00	42,400	52,100
Subscription from Farmers' Organization	8.00	68,650	-
Local donation		-	42,000
<b>Total income</b>		<b>111,050</b>	<b>94,100</b>
<b>Payments:</b>			
Production cost on Vermi compost plant	9.00	20,761	13,075
General operating expenses	10.00	22,335	1,300
Other expenses	11.00	10,620	-
Audit fees		5,000	5,000
Registration		-	42,000
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>58,716</b>	<b>61,375</b>
<b>Surplus/ (deficit)</b>		<b>52,334</b>	<b>32,725</b>

The accompanying policies and explanatory notes 1-11 and Annexure -1 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

**Treasurer**

**General Secretary**

**President**

Signed in terms of our separate report of same date.

মোঃ আজিজুর রহমান  
কোষাধ্যক্ষ  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
বাংলাদেশ।

মোঃ ডাবায়দুল হক  
সাধারণ সম্পাদক  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
বাংলাদেশ।

আঃ জব্বার  
কোষাধ্যক্ষ  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
বাংলাদেশ।

**Dated: Dhaka**  
October 10, 2019

**Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants







Rahman Mostafa Alam & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

**Sara Bangla Krishak Society**  
**Statement of Receipts and Payments Account**  
For the year ended on June 30, 2019

Particulars	Notes	Amount in taka	
		July 01, 2018 to June 30, 2019	October 24, 2017 to June 30, 2018
<b>Opening balance</b>		<b>20,955</b>	<b>22,455</b>
Cash in hand		350	550
Cash at bank		20,605	21,905
<b>Receipts:</b>		<b>116,050</b>	<b>94,100</b>
Sale of Agriculture Goods	7.00	42,400	52,100
Subscription from Farmers' Organization	8.00	68,650	-
Local donation		-	42,000
Other Liabilities		5,000	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>137,005</b>	<b>116,555</b>
<b>Payments:</b>		<b>81,775</b>	<b>95,600</b>
Investments in Biological Assets	3.00	43,820	52,300
Audit Fees	6.00	5,000	-
General operating expenses	10.00	22,335	1,300
Other expenses	11.00	10,620	-
Registration		-	42,000
<b>Opening balance</b>		<b>55,230</b>	<b>20,955</b>
Cash in hand		35,200	350
Cash at bank		20,030	20,605
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>137,005</b>	<b>116,555</b>

The accompanying policies and explanatory notes 1-11 and Annexure -1 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

**Treasurer**

মোঃ আজিজুল করিম  
কোম্পানি  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
বাংলাদেশ।

**General Secretary**

মোঃ গুন্ডারদুল হক  
সাধারণ সম্পাদক  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
বাংলাদেশ।



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**President**

আঃ জাকার  
সকল  
সারা বাংলা কৃষক সোসাইটি  
বাংলাদেশ।