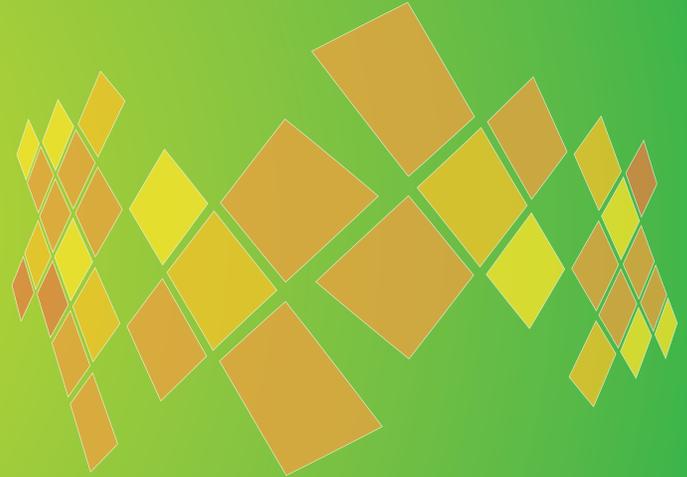




VISION

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MAIN STORY

TARGETING TRICHODERMA

RDA promotes Tricho-compost for better yield and fertile field



Winter is approaching. While farmers are getting prepared for production of vegetable and other winter crops, Rural Development Academy (RDA) at the same time starts promotional activities at a full throttle to amplify the selling of Trichoderma targeting the upcoming season. Trichoderma, a soil-borne beneficial fungus, enhances the de-composition of organic materials within 4-5 weeks whereas the traditional method takes 15-18 weeks. The Tricho-compost significantly increases soil fertility and gives better crop yield. It also acts as bio-pesticides. Usage of Trichoderma in balanced fertilization can reduce up to 30% of the cost of chemical fertilizers.

To reach the farmers with benefit of Tricho-compost, RDA is arranging series of activities like courtyard meetings, demonstration plots and field days in different upazilas of Bogra. Meanwhile, a pool of market promoters has been formed to ensure the maximum reach of the promotional efforts at farmers' level. RDA also came up with an attractive brochure mentioning details of the benefits of using Trichoderma in compost making, the process of making the pit to produce compost and the usage ratio of compost in

different crops. Through these campaigns RDA already reached 1200 farmers, among which about 170 were female.

Alongside the promotional campaign at farmers' end, RDA is also working to strengthen institutional linkages. So far RDA has started working with World Vision, Food for Hungry (FH) and local NGOs like Moushumi, and APROKASHI. Two new demonstration pits have been established through group members of Food for Hungry (FH). Further, training for farmers' group leaders was jointly organized by RDA and World Vision - Bogra ADP, while a field day took place organized by Moushumi in a demonstration vegetable crop field.

Innovision, being a co-facilitator of Katalyst, partnered with Rural Development Academy (RDA) in 2011 to promote the composting technology at the household level as an effort to promote balanced fertilizer application under 'National Fertilizer Market Development Project'. A state of the art lab to culture Trichoderma was established in RDA campus and RDA was facilitated to produce Trichoderma suspension and market it to the rural households.

Kinetic Koi

Culture of Koi fish brings enormous return of investment



Saidul Islam, a small-scale fish farmer from Netrokona, made a huge profit by farming Vietnamese Koi in a single cycle spanning just four months. In his poly-culture stock, Saidul released 14,000 Vietnamese Koi with some other 4500 fish fries in July 2012. He spent a total of BDT 220,000 for the whole culture operation, while his harvest from the same stock brought home BDT 596,000 out of which the Koi alone earned BDT 520,000. The harvested Koi weighed 250 gm each in average, which eventually attracted other farmers of the locality and the interested ones purchased the produces right away to rear in their own brood stock and excel the respective production.

This success story actually began in the other part of country in the month of March this year, when Saidul paid a visit to Bogra to deliver some Pangus seeds ordered by Mr. Badal Maitra, owner of Mahalakhsmi Matshyo Projanan Kendra. There he came to know about the high quality Koi seeds of Vietnamese origin, which were imported from Vietnam during an exposure visit facilitated by Innovision. Along with Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) and five other hatchery owners, Mr. Badal Maitra also took part in that visit in March 2011 to acquire in-depth knowledge on hatchery management and sourcing brood of Koi, Pangus and Tilapia.

Innovision Consulting Private Limited has been implementing 'Stimulating Growth in Culture of Tilapia, Pangus and Koi and Promoting Their Forward Market Access', a project funded by Katalyst, to strengthen capacity of private hatcheries (Tilapia, Pangus and Koi) through developing their knowledge on hatchery operations and brood management as well as improving their brood stock by importing broods from proven foreign sources.

IGA Profile for 'Enhancing Food Security'

A guideline designed for better livelihood of ultra poor women

Launched in 2012 by World Food Programme (WFP), the AusAID funded project 'Enhancing Food Security (EFS)' aims to contribute to reduce hunger and malnutrition in Teknaf and Ukhiya, two upazilas with higher poverty and lower literacy among all the upazilas of Bangladesh. The purpose of the project is to enhance food security for vulnerable households through safety nets/livelihood supports targeting mostly pregnant and lactating women.

Set on this project objective, Innovision conducted an assessment in the targeted upazilas to assess the existing and potential income generating activities (IGA) in which the ultra poor females in the study area have the highest potential to engage in and improve their livelihood. Four unions under the project area - Raja Palong and Ratna Palong of Ukhia upazila and Whykong and Sabrang of Teknaf upazila - were set as the geographical scope of the assessment. Throughout the study, Innovision developed a profile

addressing 10 suitable IGAs and provided a general implementation guideline so that the project staffs can manage the asset transfer and IGA selection successfully. Simultaneously, another set of recommendations were suggested to ensure sustainability of the IGA impacts.

