

# Federated Farmers' Organizations Sharing Workshop

March 12-13  
2013



At Proshika  
HRDC Trust

Empowering farmers' organizations to  
engage in project design, implementation  
and evaluation...

*... because when development is more inclusive  
it is more impactful.*

The FAO-implemented Technical Assistance Component of the IAPP aims to **develop capacities of farmers' organizations (FOs) in Bangladesh to be more involved in investment programming** in agriculture and food and nutrition security.

As a first step towards this aim, FAO conducted a mapping and capacity assessment exercise in 2012, to **understand the landscape of FOs** in the country, with a focus on Rangpur and Barisal regions.

One of the main findings was a **lack of autonomous, federated FOs** able to participate in the investment programming cycle.

The sharing workshop brought together organizations that have made progress towards sustainability, federation and autonomy, with the **goal to facilitate linkages and further development.**

## Who Participated?

Adarsha Chashi Unnayan Samity

Bodorganj Upazila Service Provider  
Association

Burirchar Sammonito Matshya Chashi  
Samobay Samity Ltd.

Common Interest Groups of the  
National Agriculture Technology  
Project

Gram Samitys of the Social  
Development Foundation

Idilpur Anarosh Chashi Unnayan Samity

Kendrio Krishok Moitree

Livelihood Field Schools of the  
Integrated Agricultural Productivity  
Project

For more information please visit [iapptafo.org](http://iapptafo.org) or contact FAO  
Team Leader Mahmud Hossain at [mahmud.hossain@fao.org](mailto:mahmud.hossain@fao.org)



## Workshop Outcomes

As a result of the workshop participants have:

Started to build relationships with other FO leaders;

Understood the basic concepts, principles and processes of developing effective and sustainable FOs, as well as the value of networking and federating;

Analyzed the strengths and weakness of their organization;

Developed a vision for strengthening their organization;

Developed action plans to implement that vision, based on their new knowledge.



### Workshop Approach

To make the workshop fun, engaging and participatory.

Participants interacted 1-on-1, in small groups, large groups and even as teams during an evening of competitive teambuilding activities, the 'FO Olympics!' There were Q&A sessions on different FO structures and presentations on action plans developed during the workshop.

## Immediate Impact

After returning home, FO leaders discussed with other members around restructuring, developing their constitutions and memoranda of articles, and applying for registration.

Further, they reached out to fellow workshop participants for support on registration processes, savings and loan management and business services. This shows that networking is indeed taking place.



## Feedback from Participants

"We need a platform. In our country everybody is associated, even rickshaw pullers have their association, but not the farmers. This type of event can facilitate linkages among the farmers' organization all over the country. We hope to do something great in future by sharing our experience (in this event) and utilizing them,"  
- Jalal Uddin, President, Krishak Bandhu Society, Bakerganj, Barisal

Participants rated the workshop as **useful to their role as a member of their FO** (average score 4.11 out of 5). They stated that they were **likely to contact other FO leaders** in the future (4.11 out of 5). They **understood the project cycle** (4.33 out of 5) and the **benefits of being organized** (4.52 out of 5), as well as the **key principles for sustainable FOs** (4.18 out of 5) and the **key services** FOs can provide their members to ensure sustainability (4.22 out of 5).

