KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

EAST-WEST SEED FOUNDATION

BANGLADESH - Q4
QUARTERLY REPORT

2023 (October - December)

Rabi Season

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

1. EWS-KT Bangladesh continued to implement the Smart Farming, Healthy Food project (2020-2025), which is co-funded by SDG Partnership Facility and implemented in partnership with Solidaridad Netherlands (lead partner), Solidaridad Network Asia Limited, and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

2. EWS-KT Bangladesh started a 2,833-square-meter learning farm in Faridpur. The learning farm will host action research, serve as a training center for different stakeholders, contribute to developing extension materials (crop guides, GrowHow content, and other materials), and showcase improved horticultural technologies and varieties.

3. EWS-KT Bangladesh organized a hybrid training program for government staff in agriculture, with the objective of training and empowering 100 DAE officers, including field staff, in climate-smart agriculture for vegetables. At the end of the quarter, 25 government staff were participating in the online training, and the program is ongoing. After the online training sessions, participants will be able to begin the face-to-face training sessions.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

The period from October to December is a very important time for agriculture in Bangladesh because all farmers can grow vegetables in this season, unlike in the other seasons. During this period, most of our farmers grow bitter gourd, bottle gourd, pumpkin, and hot pepper. There were also 60 home gardens established during this period.

DIGITAL & OTHER

In this quarter, 240 new members joined our country Facebook page, and farmer interaction about vegetable production and KT techniques is increasing day by day.

EWS-KT Bangladesh started a new learning farm in Faridpur to make a sustainable change in vegetable production for smallholder farmers through showcasing EWS-KT techniques and conducting training sessions on climate-smart technologies.

EWS-KT Bangladesh conducted training sessions for agro-input dealers to enhance dealer expertise and strengthen business practices. A total of 98 dealers participated in the training sessions, which were held in 3 states.

The end-of-the-season evaluation in 8 upazilas (subdistricts) was completed, and farmers expressed appreciation for our work.

Section 2
DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

Distribution of Crops

Table 1: Demonstration plots managed by key farmers in this quarter.

Vegetable Crop	No. of Demos	Crop Variety	No. of Demos per Variety	Average Land Size (sq. m.)
Bitter Gourd	45	Palee Plus	44	375
		Dola Plus	1	410
Pumpkin	25	Dorodi	24	407
		Pronoy Super	1	450
Hot Pepper	24	Red Hot	16	384
		Radhikha	4	378
		Magma	4	406
Tomato	14	Shukhi	14	275
Bottle Gourd	14	Dotora Super	13	478
		Sterara	1	550
Watermelon	12	Banglalink	12	343
Okra	9	Shundor	6	466
		Express	3	436
Cucumber	8	Tamim Plus	8	374
Yard Long Bean	5	Green Land	4	379
		Summer Field	1	470
Ridge Gourd	2	Moha Bir	1	480
		Bir Super	1	400
Total	**158**		**158**	

Table 1 Notes

In this quarter, there were 158 demos with 18 varieties. Bitter gourd is the most popular demo choice year-round. There are two new varieties of hot pepper, and this increased the demo numbers for hot pepper in this quarter.

Demos Associated with Projects

Table 2: Details of major projects during this quarter.

Project Name	Project Area	Average Land Size (sq. m.)	No. of Demos			% of Total Project Target Reached
			Ongoing	Completed	Terminated	
Smart Farming, Healthy Food	Bauphal	415	14	7	0	50%
	Bhola Sadar	506	9	3	0	
	Char Fasson	466	7	5	0	
	Galachipa	421	20	3	0	
	Hatiya	489	11	2	0	
	Kalapara	517	15	11	0	
	Noakhali Sadar	429	15	6	0	
	Subarna Char	399	19	11	0	
	Total		**110**	**48**	**0**	

Table 2 Notes

The average land size is 455 square meters, and most of the demos of bitter gourd, bottle gourd, and pumpkin have been completed.

Demo Profits and Productivity

Table 3: Average demo costs and profits. All results are calculated per 250 square meters.

Crop (Variety)	No. of Demos	No. of Plants	Costs (Taka)	Returns (Taka)	Profits (Taka)	Productivity per Plant (kg)	Productivity per Plant (kg)	Plant Population
Bitter Gourd	22	123	4,393	16,657	12,264	2.21	3-5	200-222
Bottle Gourd	10	76	3,837	16,618	12,782	9.40	13-17	111
Pumpkin	7	65	2,723	11,064	8,341	6.54	15-20	61

Table 3 Notes

Among the completed demos, bottle gourd has the highest average ROI, at 333%. Pumpkin has an average ROI above 305%, and the average ROI for bitter gourd is 279%.

Key farmer Md. Abul Kalam learned how to grow vegetables using different EWS-KT techniques on his demo plot. After he finished the demo, he and his son Fakrul Islam started a small-scale nursery business.

Youth key farmer Md. Riyaz Uddin started vegetable production learning with EWS-KT.

Key farmer Md. Yusuf Sikder learning about the crop banner from our Technical Field Officer.

Winners of a Field Day quiz competition celebrate at the event.

Mst. Nupur Begum is growing leafy greens and 5 to 8 different types of vegetables in her home garden.

Vermicompost is an important ingredient to grow vegetables, and EWS-KT Bangladesh is supporting key farmers to produce vermicompost at their houses.

Section 3
FARMER TRAINING

Training Sessions

Table 4: Number of farmers trained by region in this quarter.

Project	Demonstration Location		No. of Trainings	Total Farmers	Male	Female	Youth %
	District						
Smart Farmimg, Healthy Food	Bauphal		56	534	135	399	22%
	Bhola Sadar		39	243	106	137	33%
	Char Fasson		27	357	82	275	46%
	Galachipa		41	416	114	302	30%
	Hatiya		30	356	145	211	37%
	Kalapara		34	252	130	122	24%
	Noakhali Sadar		28	142	86	56	22%
	Subarna Char		39	220	208	12	23%
Total			294	2,520	1,006	1,514	30%

Table 4 Notes

During this quarter, 60% of the participants in the training sessions were female and 40% were male.

Field Days

Table 5-1: Field Day location and attendance.

Project Name	Demonstration Location		No. of Field Days	Total Farmers	Male	Female	Youth %
	District						
Smart Farmimg, Healthy Food	Bhola Sadar		9	358	111	247	40%
	Char Fasson		9	455	123	332	39%
	Galachipa		8	384	186	198	54%
	Hatiya		4	127	39	88	34%
	Kalapara		2	52	30	22	48%
	Noakhali Sadar		15	570	219	351	40%
	Subarna Char		5	201	127	74	32%
Total			52	2,147	835	1,312	41%

Training of Trainers

Table 5-3: Distribution of stakeholders who are trained as trainers by EWS-KT.

Project	Location	Extension Party Trained	Modules or Activity	Total People Trained (All Male)
Smart Farming, Healthy Food	Bhola	Agro-input dealers	Creating a business plan; seeds; dealer market development; seed handling and storage; demand estimation and forecasting; record keeping; commercial product knowledge; choosing a crop and a variety to plant with the farmer	27
	Patuakhali	Agro-input dealers		30
	Noakhali	Agro-input dealers		41
Total				98

Advice at Agro-Input Dealer Shops

Table 5-5: Advice provided at agro-input dealer shops by EWS-KT Technical Field Officers (TFOs) or supervised agro-input dealers.

Project	Location	Trainer	Party Trained	Modules or Activity	Total People Trained	Male	Female	Youth %
EWS-KT	Bhola Sadar	EWS-KT TFO	Farmers	Advice	7	3	4	29%
	Char Fasson	EWS-KT TFO	Farmers	Advice	93	87	6	29%
	Galachipa	EWS-KT TFO	Farmers	Advice	61	24	37	44%
	Hatiya	EWS-KT TFO	Farmers	Advice	67	58	9	31%
	Kalapara	EWS-KT TFO	Farmers	Advice	5	1	4	40%
Total					233	173	60	34%

Other Value Chain Highlights

Our partner Solidaridad Network Asia arranged a loan disbursement program for farmers in Noakhali, and the EWS-KT Bangladesh team participated in the program with a stall showcasing different EWS-KT techniques. 350 farmers attended the program.

Section 4

DIGITAL MEDIA

Digital Platform Members or Followers

Table 6: Number of members/followers at the end of each quarter.

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
EWS-KT Facebook Main Page (Followers)	-	746	898	927
Country Facebook Group (Members)	4,780	4,823	4,960	5,189
WhatsApp Group (Members)	91	114	107	103

Country Facebook Content and Engagement

Table 7: Content creation and indicators of viewer engagement.

Posts Created	Total Views	Comments	Reactions
121	33,293	663	3,254

Digital Outreach

Table 8-1: Number of digital platform users, viewers, or views.

Digital Platform	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Country Facebook Group (Viewers)	19,407	18,807	24,120	33,293
EWS-KT YouTube (Views)	225	330	1,774	3,592
EWS-KT GrowHow (Users)	131	123	167	241

Non-Digital Indirect Outreach

Table 8-2: Outreach through printed guides, radio, and other non-digital means.

Type of Outreach	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Guides Distributed (Guides)	-	-	-	10,000

Top 3 Facebook Posts

Facebook posts with the most engagement.

A Field Day in the field of Md. Mohin Uddin, who got a 276% ROI

Reach
8,349

Comments
49

Shares
45

Likes
66

Reactions
48

VIEW POST

A Field Day at a yard long bean demo

Reach
14,143

Comments
14

Shares
7

Likes
28

Reactions
15

VIEW POST

A demo plot of yard long bean

Reach
3,274

Comments
12

Shares
8

Likes
22

Reactions
9

VIEW POST

Fresh Vegetable Market Prices

Table 9: Retail vegetable prices during the quarter. This data was collected weekly from local markets.

Crop	Vegetable Price Fluctuation, October to December 2023 (average price per kilo, in BDT)											
	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48
Bitter Gourd	55	73	71	75	64	50	42	45	41	51	54	50
Cucumber	39	51	54	52	48	46	41	34	43	46	43	41
Bottle Gourd	38	48	43	44	39	33	33	33	36	42	41	40
Yard Long Bean	62	77	78	75	67	64	58	50	58	63	64	58
Hot Pepper	199	215	208	199	167	130	124	113	96	103	93	84
Onion	69	70	71	82	113	108	100	102	109	119	126	106
Tomato	115	143	97	122	127	106	110	100	92	72	61	49
Pumpkin	35	40	39	42	38	37	34	30	29	32	34	28
Ridge Gourd	36	51	57	60	48	45	26	24	21	31	28	22
Snake Gourd	33	48	49	55	47	43	26	21	17	24	23	19
Okra	49	65	67	63	59	45	50	45	53	58	54	52

Home Garden Demos Associated with Projects

Table 10: Details of major projects involving home gardens during this quarter.

Project	Location	Average Land Size (sq. m.)	No. of Demos			% of Total Project Target Reached
			Ongoing	Completed	Terminated	
Smart Farming, Healthy Food	Bauphal	100	8	7	0	85%
	Bhola Sadar	87	10	5	0	
	Char Fasson	80	8	18	0	
	Galachipa	98	10	5	0	
	Hatiya	120	8	5	0	
	Kalapara	100	11	4	0	
	Noakhali Sadar	110	4	8	0	
	Subarna Char	107	13	4	0	
	Total		72	56	0	