

# Empowerment of Women through Family Based Integrated Aquaculture Project

Reporting Period: July 2008 - April 2009



**Donor:** Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF)  
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## **INTRODUCTION:**

Empowerment of Women through Family Based Integrated Aquaculture Project (EWFAP) has been planned to help the rural poor women organized under the DEEDS program of Caritas Bangladesh. The other sources of livelihood for the people in the area are handloom, poultry, goat rearing, horticulture, etc. The objectives of the project were to create awareness on the potentials of integrated aquaculture to improve their income and family nutrition. Particularly, family approach was used to implement the integrated aquaculture activities with focus on women. For empowerment and capacity building, it is necessary to educate women about the effective use of the available space and resources. In this Through this project, by providing informal technical education on integrated aquaculture, the women have become capable to create additional income through aquaculture.

Dr. M. C. Nandeesh, an AwF volunteer assisted CARITAS in its program evaluation during 2005-06 and the amount paid by CARITAS for the work done by him was donated back by to the Fisheries program to experiment on the potential of promoting aquaculture by helping farmers with interest free loan. Fourteen farmers have been assisted with this money by giving them interest free credit to carry out the activity.

## **Implementation Strategy:**

The beneficiaries of the project were selected through conducting a field survey in eight villages of two unions Dawodpur and Bholabo under Rupgonj upazila in 2006. From that survey 14 women farmers involved in aquaculture activity were selected. Initially the project participants were given foundation training on a package of polyculture technology (Indian major carps and Chinese carps) where the stocking density of 40 fingerlings /decimal (one decimal = forty square meter) was recommended. A soft loan facility (interest free) was provided to each farmer for necessary investment to manage fish pond. A record keeping book was also provided to them for keeping management data. A field staff was appointed for two years 2006-2007 and 2007-08 giving the farmers continuous technical supports on pond management and monitoring of water quality. He also provided support to them to apply lime, prepare ponds for stocking, stocking of fingerlings of different species, fertilizing, feeding and record keeping. After two years, graduated farmers have been phased out and a new group of farmers have been selected. This report (July 2008-April 2009) has been prepared on the basis of production, management, positive and negative impacts of the implemented activities received from the farmers.

## **Project duration:**

First phase: April 2006 – March 2007.

Second phase: July 2007 – June 2008.

Third phase: July 2008 – April 2009.

## **Working Area:**

Village: 7 (Bholabo, Paika, Charitaluk, Putina, Deboi, Kuliadi, Kalni).

Union: 2 (Dawodpur and Bholabo)

Upazila: 1 (Rupgonj).

District: 1 (Narayangonj).

## **Project goal:**

Women empowerment and improvement of livelihood through aquaculture.

## **Project Objectives:**

- To utilize the unused and under used water and land resources
- To develop aquaculture technology and increase consumption of fish
- To improve economic condition of poor people through fish farming
- Capacity building of women in aquaculture practices.

### Results:

After total harvesting of fishes, the production and income have been calculated. Actual cost of fish, fertilizers and feed have been taken to estimate the profit/loss. The valuation of fish price was made considering local market price.

Net profit (Tk.) = Total sale - Total investment.



Mrs. Rousonara: Preparing Fish Feed



Netting for removal of excess duckweeds

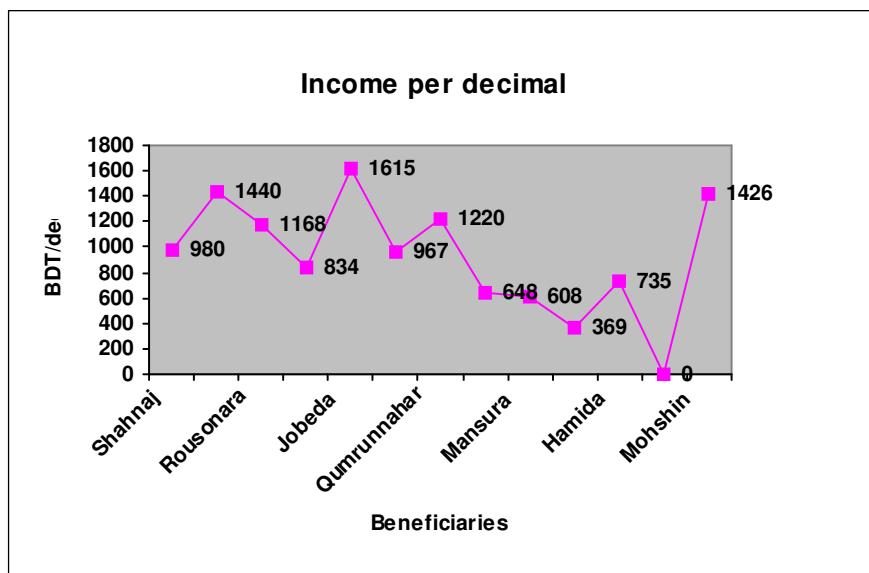
The details on stoking, harvesting, expenditure and income were stated below:

**Table 1: Stocking and harvesting.**

Sl	Farmer	water area (Acre)	Stocking		Harvest		Production Kg/Dec	Survival Rate (%)	Remarks
			Nos.	Wt. (Kg)	Nos.	Wt. (Kg)			
1	Shahnaj Begum	.08	441	16.81	388	104	13	88	
2	Nurunnahar	.10	470	11.90	406	119	11.9	86	
3	Rousonara	.12	295	5.50	235	164.3	13.66	80	
4	Gulrahen	.08	282	9.90	244	98	12.25	87	
5	Jobeda Begum	.16	395	44.30	351	259	16.19	89	
6	Mukta	.14	996	34.90	856	204	14.57	86	
7	Qumrunnahar	.09	420	12.95	357	118	13.11	85	
8	Nasima Hossain	.16	370	19.55	292	183	11.44	79	
9	Mansura Begum	.22	1050	12.20	861	227	10.32	82	
10	Marjia	.20	480	19.00	379	188	9.40	79	
11	Hamida Begum	.13	340	11.93	278	108	8.31	82	
12	Afia Begum	.06							Land acquisition by Gov.
13	Mohshin	.11	398	13.12	362	162	14.72	91	
	Total/average	1.65	5937	212.06	5009	1934.3	12.40	84.5	

**Table 2: Expenditure and income:**

Sl.	Farmer	Water Area (Acre)	Total Expenses (Tk.)	Income			Net Profit	Income/Dec	Remarks
				Fish	Vegetables	Total			
1	Shahnaj Begum	.08	3655	7840	821	8661	5006	980	
2	Nurunnahar	.10	5760	12353	2050	14403	6593	1440	
3	Rousonara	.12	5200	14000	-	14000	8800	1168	
4	Gulrehan	.08	3150	8820	1000	9820	6670	834	
5	Jobeda Begum	.16	7440	17700	8150	25850	18410	1615	
6	Mukta	.14	6100	12444	1096	13540	7440	967	
7	Qumrunnahar	.09	6400	10976	2800	13776	7376	1220	
8	Nasima Hosain	.16	6140	16500	-	16500	10360	648	
9	Mansura Begum	.22	7055	16076	4350	20426	13371	608	
10	Marjia	.20	8100	14900	580	15480	7380	369	
11	Hamida Begum	.13	4953	9560	1800	11360	6407	735	
12	Afia Begum	.06							Land acquitted by Gov.
13	Mohshin	.11	6511	13284	2400	15684	9173	1426	
	Total/average	1.65	70464	154453	25047	179500	90401	924	



(Fig.2: Beneficiary wise income Tk/decimal)

An average of 12.4 kg/dec fish was obtained by the farmers. The average survival rate was 84.5% with an average expenditure of Tk.427/dec and income Tk.924/dec. The net profit earned was Tk. 497/dec were observed.

**Impact of the project:**

- The small scale fish farming activity has been accepted socially as a source of income generating and women have demonstrated the ability to carry out the activity and add additional income to the family.
- Built capacity among women to manage fish culture. Women only need help from the male members to harvest fish and bring inputs from market (feed, fertilizers and fingerlings)
- Increased intake of fish protein and vegetable consuming by the family from their own production
- Improved social status of women with an additional income generating skill being acquired and demonstrated its use,

#### Problems:

- Required size and species of fish fries were not available .
- High price of feeds
- Women cannot go for inputs collection from the market and dependent on the male member of her family
- Record keeping was difficult – with illiteracy being high (80%)
- Poaching of fish was another problem encountered
- Multi ownership of ponds and making it difficult for leasing
- Project area being close to Dhaka , the land with pond are acquired for house building purpose and this as created new tension

#### Conclusion

The project has made good contribution to empower the women with additional skill. However , the land acquisition and building houses would result in loss of pond area available for fish culture. The activity is planned to be continued with those women with ponds. As the project has only limited resources , it is proposed to combine the activity other ongoing projects.

### Case Study Jobeda's Family Financially Up Growing

Jobeda Begum (43) is a member of the Paiska Rajony Gandha Mahila samity of paiska village under Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj district. Her husband Jahangir Hosain (50) is day labourer with very low level literacy. The family had 93 decimal of cultivable land but she lost maximum part of the land due to illegal acquisition by the influential people. The daily income was not sufficient to meet the needs of seven children for food and school expenses and hence four of them had to engage in daily labour activity. After five years of struggle , in 2006 they got back the lost land with pond with the help from the court. In the past , this pond though stocked with carps, but the productivity being too low , family never considered pond as an income source. Hence , care was taken to educate the family on pond preparation and stocking the 16 decimal pond with quality seed. Jobeda received two training on fish-vegetables integrated farming from AwF project and she cultured fish and vegetables/banana receiving first and second loan of Tk.4000 and Tk. 5000 , respectively from Caritas. She implemented her pond project following the suggestions and knowledge received from the training. Her project period for the first year was July 2007 to June 2008 and for second year from July 2008 to April 2009. She along with her family members worked hard and achieved a satisfactory production from their integrated pond project.



The family obtained a gross income from the project Tk. 48,216.00. In May 2009 they have taken another income generating initiative and established a small grocery shop adjacent to their house with the profit gained from fish and banana garden.

Their income and expenditure of the project as below:

Year	Area (Acre)	Expense s (Tk.)	Income (Tk)	Net profit (Tk.)	Productio ctio (kg)	Production/ Decimal (Kg)		Survival rate(%)	
Yr 1	0.16	6,491	22,366	15,875	194	12.13		77	
Yr 2	0.16	7,440	25,850	18,410	259	16.19		89	
<b>Total</b>	0.16	13,931	48,216	34,285	453	Average	14.16	Average	82

From this income they maintaining the sceducation, Fooding, reinvesment in the project and loan refunding. family expenses like as



Jobeda's husband helping in applying compost to the Fish pond and banana garden)



Jobeda's banana garden , adjacent to pond.

Jobeda Begum and her family are grateful to CARITAS and AwF for the support provided that has changed her life by engaging them selves in good activity.