

USAID Agricultural Extension Support Activity

Study on Gender Impact

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Prepared by: EDGE Consulting Ltd.

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1. ACRONYMS

AESA	Agricultural Extension Support Activity
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DAM	Dhaka Ahsania Mission
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DLS	Department of Livestock (DLS)
FtF	Feed the Future
FPG	Farmer Producer Group
ICT	Information Communication Technology
LSP	Local Service Provider
VC	Value Chain
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WEAI	Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We would like to express our sincerest thanks to the regional and district level staffs who had provided valuable inputs and guidance at field level, whose help ensured that the study implementation was efficient and completed in a timely manner.

Finally, we thank the individuals and families who gave freely of their time and company to be interviewed by our team. Without their generosity and openness in welcoming us into their homes and sharing invaluable information about their lives, this important study would have never happened.



Basudeb Chakrabortty

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3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study had followed a mixed method approach combining qualitative and quantitative methods. While the quantitative survey unfolded the current status of gender awareness in different value chains from a “static” view point, the qualitative part revealed the “dynamics” of those static pictures.

Major Findings

The study found that the project till date have completed several of its planned activities successfully and the result in terms of decision making, access to resources, control over income, leadership and work load were found positive. Female farmer’s participation in the respective value chains was also found noteworthy across the regions.

- **Decision making (production):** The project’s female farmers are taking more active part in making decisions of household activities, agriculture production, purchasing of inputs (for production), managing assets, children’s education and overall welfare amongst others. The study found that decision making in terms of production related issues across the value chains and usage of ICT services for acquiring market information to take informed decisions were evident. Decision is being taken jointly with husbands which is also being valued by the husbands.
- **Access to resources (assets& finance):** Women were found to be able to better access finance i.e. women can avail money if they require and women can manage assets for production. It was found that financial products available from the Micro finance institutions are not that agriculture friendly thus investments in agriculture were found to be low. The group members as per focus group discussion findings further revealed that the accessibility was higher in the sense of increased trust is given to the group members. Also in terms of acquiring assets it was found that female farmers are able to manage the requirement, either directly or indirectly through the help of the group members.
- **Control over use of income:** Female farmers are now more aware of the income and expenditure of the family issues and can use the income for necessary purposes having a discussion with their husbands. Husbands were found to be more comfortable in terms of keeping money with their wives.
- **Leadership:** It was found that in terms of leadership, female farmers have advanced due to the facilitation of the project. It was found that they are now disseminating acquired information to their neighbors and also other women of the community as and when necessary. Female farmer’s dignity in the community has also been increased as some of them have close interaction with local power structure (e.g. Union Parishad). Also women’s communication skill increased and voice has been raised and overall, they seemed to be more confident at the time of conversation.

Female farmers were found to be more comfortable to interact with extension agents and market actors for having knowledge on improved agricultural technology. They now know where, when and how such services are found. They are in a practice to get access to services (Govt & Private). This was evident in the regions as well as across the value chains.

- **Work Load:** Daily time use tool usage activity had led to a greater appreciation of women's (female farmers) involvement in every day work. Men (husbands) had realized the load of work the women undertake on a regular basis, this increased understanding has resulted in sharing of work load amongst the household. Female members of the Farmers Producer Group who had received orientation on the Daily Time Use Tool were found to be have approximately 1-2 hours of leisure time. This leisure time was used mainly for interacting with extension agents and market actors as well as for pursuing productive undertakings such as learning sharing. The female farmers who had not received the orientation were found to not have this additional time. Similarly, the distribution of work load amongst the husband and wife were notably different from the ones who had received such trainings (daily time use tool).

The study also was able to find the increased involvement of women in the respective value chains, the presence and participation was predominantly visible in dairy, chili and beef fattening. Trainings related to the specific value chains were also able to build capacity of the members in terms of better production. In terms of engaging with extension agents it was found that the project beneficiaries were at this stage more interactive in terms of sourcing information. This sourcing of information was done via different mediums such as ICT leaders, FPG leaders, market leaders and even in certain cases directly. Extension agents were also found to be appreciative of the new developments and increased interactions with the project beneficiary base. Women's participation in the value chains were also found to have increased and participants acknowledged greater confidence in terms of technical knowhow of the sectors they were involved in. Comparison between members having received daily time use tool and non-recipients revealed that the work load had reduced for the ones having received the orientation, whilst the non-recipients were still not enjoying increased leisure time to rest or interact socially for linkages and seeking services from the extension service providers.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been sequenced in line with decision making, access to financial services and other assets, access to input and output markets: control over use of income, access to agriculture extension services through developing leadership, recognition of women's role in agriculture: time allocation.

- ✔ In order to further strengthen the decision making aspects of women, the project may arrange for separate sessions with Father and Mother in laws. This is from the perspective that the in-laws tend to influence the family dynamics as well. This can be done within the reminder of the project timeframe as an added activity to test if this yields results.
- ✔ Local government representative awareness about the project activities may be strengthened as step to ensure greater and wider support for the reminder of the project timeframe.
- ✔ DAE (especially Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers), DLS and different market actors should be provided with refreshers and more extensive training on gender awareness for female farmer's greater access to resources.

- ✔ Strengthen the involvement of the Department of the Livestock Department in the project activities. This may be done by following the same model of sharing cost and certain assets such as smart phones and motorcycles.
- ✔ The project may pursue comprehensive training on leadership which will further help the female farmers building their capacities; this should have options for refresher at least twice a year in the remainder of the project timeframe.
- ✔ The daily time use tool clearly identifies the activities undertaken by males and females, however the Economic valuation of the work undertaken by women are not sketched out in practice that clearly. If this component is clarified further the project may benefit further in portraying roles and depth of contribution by women further there by increasing overall gender awareness.
- ✔ In terms of the daily time use session a separate session involving the males to clearly identify the parameters of the time engagement of the females may be undertaken. This is being suggested as this will allow for a more detailed understanding of the males concerned about the work load of the females. A greater understanding by the males is likely to create greater impact of gender awareness. In this session, husbands can be motivated regarding wives' access to and control over income.
- ✔ Greater collaboration with other USAID projects, DAM is also implementing the project Women Empowerment Activity Project in collaboration with Winrock, thus CARE may delve into discussions with the project capitalizing on shared interest and are of work for further strengthening the project gender awareness activities.
- ✔ Given gender awareness creation is a vast undertaking an extension should be pursued to continue and expand the activities benefitting the farmer base.

4. PRELUDE

4.1 Introduction

The USAID Agricultural Extension Support Activity (AESAs) is a five years' project funded by USAID that aims to enhance access to and utilization of agricultural extension services by smallholder farmers – both men and women. It is working for building capacities and creating support to a farmer demand-driven agricultural extension system, synergized by the use of information communication technology (ICT). It also helps improving access to quality agricultural inputs and markets along with access to finance. The project is implemented jointly by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) with CARE Bangladesh & mPower Bangladesh as technical partner. The goal of the project is strengthening the existing agriculture extension system in southwest and central Bangladesh to sustainably improve of food security and nutrition for smallholder farmers with an emphasis on women. To achieve the goal major components are 1: Enhance access to, and utilization of, agricultural extension services by smallholder farmers (both men and women). 2: Expand and strengthen ICT mechanisms to increase access to agricultural market information, knowledge and technologies. 3: Strengthen capacity of agricultural extension service agents (public and private) to proactively respond to the needs of smallholder farmers, with an emphasis on women. Project working with in 12 Districts; 26 Upazilas; 231 unions within USAID's Feed the Future zone in Bangladesh in order to sustainably improve food security and nutrition for 110,000 smallholder farmers.

4.2 Project's Gender focused activity detail

The project's main components are to improve and/or strengthen:

- ✔ access to and utilization of agricultural extension services by smallholder farmers
- ✔ access to agro-market information, knowledge and technologies through expanded and strengthened ICT mechanisms
- ✔ capacity of agricultural extension service agents (public & private) for proactive responses to the needs of small holder farmers

With cross cutting issues like-

- ✔ Gender awareness where women are actively participating in and accessing to information, technologies, resources and markets.
- ✔ Proper nutrition by appropriate and ample calorie intakes.
- ✔ Environmental compliance by safer use of pesticides and similar chemicals

In light of the cross-cutting issue of gender awareness the project undertook Women's empowerment and awareness related interventions. Such interventions were designed and implemented to build the capacity of female farmers. AESA project also collaborated with other projects for addressing female rights, social and gender issues. AESA is working with different stakeholders to ensure a gender friendly environment for project participants. Project worked with the different agricultural public extension departments which are the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock (DLS), the Department

of Fisheries (DoF), different private companies- including local private extension agents and most importantly the farmers and their family members.

The AESA Gender Framework included the following approaches & activities to implement the AESA gender strategy.

<u>Strategy-1: Decision Making</u>
<i>Approach to ensure Strategy-1: Capacity building of women farmers</i>
Activities to Implement Strategy-1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Activity: Facilitate FPG to select female as FPG leader ☑ Activity: Conduct different issue-based training (such as ICT, gender, decision making, value chain etc.) for female farmer leaders ☑ Encourage female to serve as ICT Leader
<u>Strategy-2 Access to financial services and others assets</u>
<i>Approach to ensure Strategy: VSLA formation, Linkage Building with MFIS</i>
Activities to Implement Strategy-2:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Facilitate female's access to financial services ☑ Orient and encourage female farmers to ensure collective savings in a safe place through VSLA
<u>Strategy - 3: Access to input and output market</u>
<i>Approach to ensure Strategy</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Men engagement</i> - <i>Awareness raising for market actors</i> - <i>Capacity building of the female farmer</i>
Activities to Implement Strategy-3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Facilitate collective actions among female group members ☑ Orientation for the female group members before Business meeting with retailers and LSPS ☑ Engaging male group member and family member for the market activities ☑ Encourage FPGs to select the female local service provider (LSP) and capacity building and assistance for developing their business
<u>Strategy- 4: access to agricultural extension services through developing leadership</u>
<i>Approach to ensure Strategy-4</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Capacity building of the female farmer</i> - <i>Gender awareness for extension workers</i> - <i>Encourage female participation through project designing</i>
Activities to Implement Strategy-4

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Emphasize gender balanced (both female and male) participation in project activities like FPG formation, participatory need assessments etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Gender friendly action plan development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Conduct leadership training for female farmers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Ensure female participation in demo plot establishment, Farmers Field Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Capacity building of female farmers on ICT issues to ensure ICT-based extension services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Gender training to the extension agents for ensuring improved advisory extension services to female
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Establish and strengthen AESC for creating a gender friendly environment which will ensure better agriculture extension service
<p><u>Strategy-5 Recognition Women Role in Agriculture</u></p>
<p>Approach to ensure Strategy-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with other like-minded organization, - Awareness initiative - Men engagement.
<p>Activities to Implement Strategy-5</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Conduct interactive sessions and learning sessions on daily time use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Organize farmers gathering in order to observe different special days in recognition of female's contribution to agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Cross visits between FPGs (advanced group with the less advanced group) to highlight female's participation as leaders and in value chain activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Developing (or identify existing) posters, leaflets and other informational materials that are appropriate within the context of SW Bangladesh for promoting female's role in agriculture.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Organize different cultural events like organizing folk song drama etc. through collaboration with another project

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study were to identify and measure -

- ☑ Impact of “Daily time use session”
- ☑ Changes in capacity of women farmers
- ☑ Women participation in six value chain

Table 1 WEAI Indicator

Domains	WEAI Indicators
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input in productive decisions ▪ Autonomy in production
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ownership of assets ▪ Purchase, sale or transfer of assets ▪ Access to and decisions on credit
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control over use of income
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group membership ▪ Speaking in public
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workload ▪ Leisure

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1 Theoretical Approach

The overall study was intended to underpin Rapid Appraisal methods. The gender dynamic part of the assessment was based on Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) where parameters under five domains were considered, namely **Production, Resources, Income, Leadership** and **Time**.

Data was collected from primary sources at farm level, key informant level and was triangulated with secondary project data (baseline and other relevant studies) to draw conclusions.

6.2 WEAI parameters considered under the study

Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected according to below table-

Tools	Applied Approach	Intended Respondents	Nature of Collected Data
Questionnaire	One-to-one session	Farmers	<i>Quantitative</i> focused (with few qualitative)
Interviewer Guidelines	FGD	Farmers (households)	<i>Qualitative</i> focused
Checklist	Key Informants	Traders (private extensions), public extensions, service providers	<i>Qualitative</i> focused; quantitative data for validation

Table 2: Tools used under the study

To capture both “control” and “treatment” scenario, tools were developed under two sets (total 06). It may also be pertinent to mention that control and treatment was defined based on *Daily Time Use Tool* components. That is the FPGs who were developed through all the facilitation including *Daily Time Use Tool/Session* are considered as **treatment** groups and who were developed through the same facilitation except *Daily Time Use Tool/Session* are

considered as **control** groups. (Sixty FPGs in Jessore and Faridpur districts were not facilitated in exercising this tool which is the introduction of gender awareness, which thus comprised of the control group). The tools designed and utilized for this study have been portrayed in Annex A.

6.3 Sampling

For quantitative part. Farmers formed the main group of respondents who were considered for qualitative sampling. To make a balance between representative and reliable sample with reasonable and cost-effective one, population (related to this study) were dissected under multiple clusters and strata to eliminate as much heteroscedasticity as possible.

Sample Segmentation	Classification basis	Remarks
Clustering	Geographical dispersion (12 districts split into 26 upazilas. ⇒ 26 clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampled respondents were NOT picked from ALL of the clusters, rather from representative clusters ONLY. For example, in case of 3 upazilas under the same district, only 2 upazilas were sampled assuming that two upazilas together can represent the third one as well. Sample were drawn from EACH stratum either proportionately or based on availability.
Stratification	Intended value chains (Aqua, Beef, Chili, Mung, Dairy & Jute) ⇒ 6 VC strata Project components being assessed under the study (Daily time use tool, ICT, Women empowerment, Capacity building and market activation) ⇒ 5 component strata Types and relevance of respondents with project (project beneficiaries or not; control or treatment; male or female) ⇒ 2 strata	

Table 3: Clustering and stratification of the sample

Finally, statistical formulae were used to determine sample size for corresponding clusters and strata. *Treatment population* that was subject to quantitative sampling was 108,223 farmers including male and female both, who are grouped into 3,854 FPGs (Farm Producers' Groups). Considering 10% margin of errors with 95% confidence interval, a total of 290 farmers were sampled using following statistical formula¹. In addition, 29 farmers were sampled as a *control* at 10% of treatment sample. All of these sampled respondents were interviewed through one to-one session.

¹Formula for quantitative sample calculation (treatment), $n = \frac{z^2 \times (1-p)}{z^2 \times \frac{e^2(1-p)}{1 + (\frac{e^2}{e^2N})}}$ Where **N** - Population size, **e** - Margin of Error, **z** - Confidence Level, **p** - Percentage Value (as a decimal) and **n**- Sample Size.

District	Aqua Culture	Beef	Chili Bean	Mung	Fattening	Dairy	Jute	Total
One to one (treatment)								
Barisal	6		4	10				20
Barguna	3			16				19
Bhola			3	17				20
Pirojpur	7		6	6				19
Patuakhali				19				19
Faridpur		5				6	14	25
Rajbari		0				7	12	19
Magura		2	2			5	13	22
Jessore	2	6	3			6	14	31
Khulna	5					35		40
Narail	3	3					22	28
Satkhira	12	2					14	28
Sub-total	38	18	18	68	59	89	290	
One to one (control)								
Faridpur		1				3	7	11
Jessore	1	3	2			4	8	18
Sub-total	1	4	2	0	7	15	29	
Grand Total	39	22	20	68	66	104	319	

Table 4: Sample distribution (Quantitative)

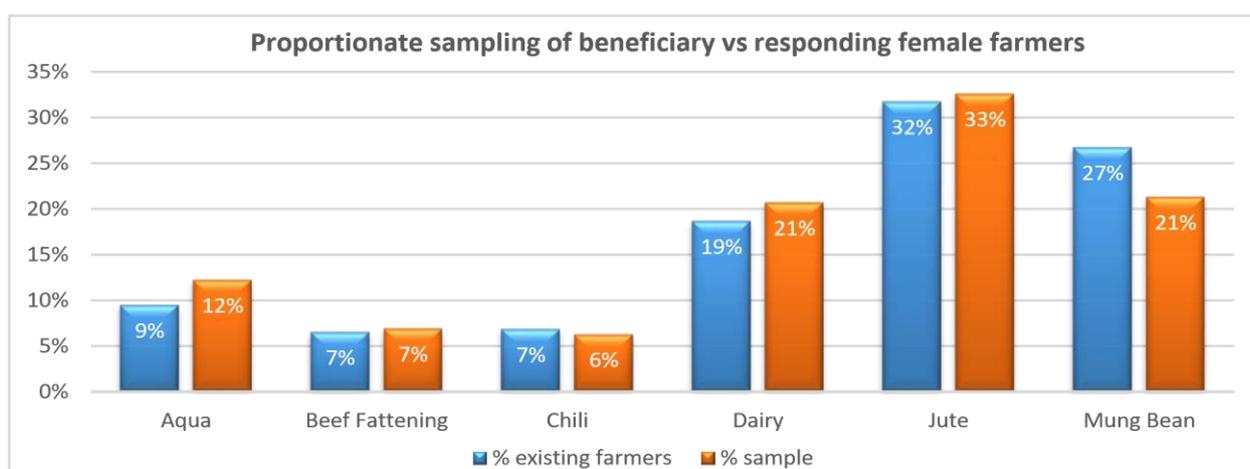


Table 6: Proportionate sampling of beneficiary vs responding female farmers

The following Table 6 portrays the distribution percentage of samples taken per value chain in relation to the number of female beneficiary of the project as per the value chains respectively.

For qualitative part. Since qualitative sampling is often ruled by rationale – not by formulae, this study started qualitative sampling by understanding “*why*” we need it and “*what*” we are expecting out of it. In a nutshell, qualitative component of the study is to capture behavioral changes and in-depth picture of impacts along with respondents’ perception and suggestions. Thus, the study determined the size of qualitative sample based on learnings and information collected from project personnel and secondary sources, as to ensure leverage number and types of respondents thereof. Those respondents were clubbed into FGDs and KI sessions.

A total of 15 FGDs covering 201 respondents (FPG members) were conducted under the study, of which 12 FGDs were for treatment and 3 were for control respondents. FGDs covered all possible varieties of stratum, ranging from male to female, aqua value chain to jute value chains and so forth. 106 female and 95 male respondents were covered under FGDs. Besides, 39 key informants – government officials (agriculture extension), private service providers or extension agents, traders and so forth.

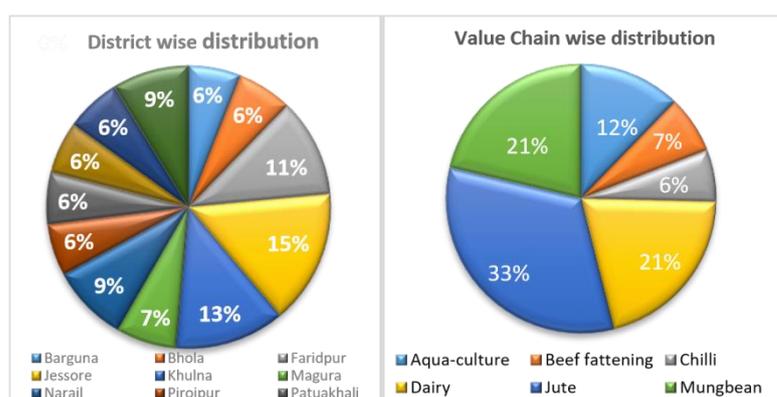
FGD								
District	Treatment				Control			
	VC	Male	Female	Total	VC	Male	Female	Total
Barisal	Chili		12	12				
Barguna	Aqua Culture	5	7	12				
Bhola	Mung bean	3	7	10				
Pirojpur	Chili	12		12				
Patuakhali	Mung bean	12		12				
Faridpur	Jute	19		19	Jute	17		17
Rajbari	Dairy		17	17				
Magura	Jute	10	8	18				
Jessore	Beef Fattening		13	13	Chili	4	8	12
				0	Dairy		11	11
Khulna	Dairy		11	11				
Narail	Jute	6	6	12				
Satkhira	Aqua Culture	7	6	13				
Subtotal		74	87	161		21	19	40
Grand total for FGDs		15 FGDs; 201participants (Female - 106; Male - 95)						

KII									
District	DAE	DLS	DoF	Private Ext.	FPG Leader	Market Leader	Local Gov	ICT	Total KII
Barisal, Barguna, Bhola, Pirojpur,	2	0	1	4	2	1	1	1	12
FGD									
Patuakhali									
Faridpur, Rajbari, Magura, Jessore	2	1	0	4	2	1	0	2	12
Khulna, Narail, Satkhira	2	2	1	5	2	1	1	1	15
Total	6	3	2	13	6	3	2	4	39

Table 5: Sample distribution (qualitative part)

6.4 Data Collection, Validation and Analysis

Data was collected through several tools namely one to one interviews with the male and female beneficiaries of the project, key informant checklist and FGD checklist. Research Associates were engaged to collect data through the one to one interviews, focus group discussions and key informant discussions. The research



coordinator was in field during the entire field investigation phase whilst the team leader also visited the field locations to observe the data collection process. Regular discussions after collection of data was conducted in small groups and the research coordinator was informed of the relevant summary findings. This allowed for any gaps to be identified and if need be recollected from field the next day.

This study has put ample emphasis on data validation before delving into further, as to ensure inferred findings and recommended solutions are justified. Following components were considered and applied to ensure data validation –

- Close ended questions
- Triangulating data collected from different level through different tools

- ☑ Data input template to avoid duplication, inconsistency

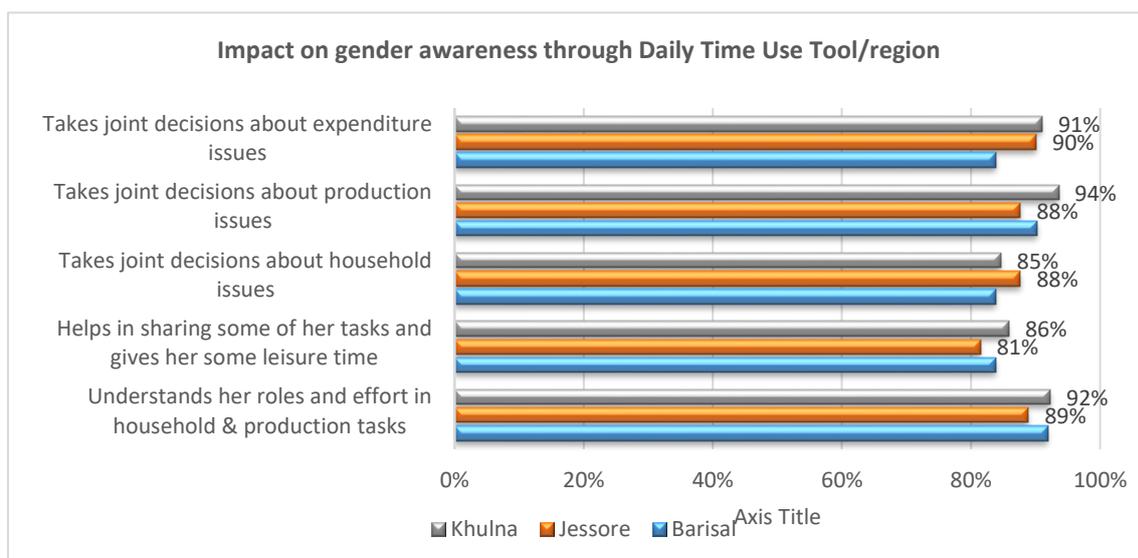
Analysis was undertaken based on the data collected from primary sources, though secondary data were also used to understand dynamics related to the study. For initial data input and mining – under quantitative part – Microsoft Excel was used, followed by analysis with SPSS to summarize data and prepare frequency table, averages etc. Again, for qualitative data analysis, indicative approach was used, which mainly involved Excel templates followed by subjective judgment to observe data convergence and relevant inferences.

Major component for quantitative data analysis involved methods to synthesize data across *control* and *treatment*. To add, quantitative data was first converted into binary or other numeric coding (say 0 for No and 1 for Yes) and then converted into frequency table. Subjective analysis especially for FGD output and key informants' information was also asserted into the process.

7. STUDY FINDINGS

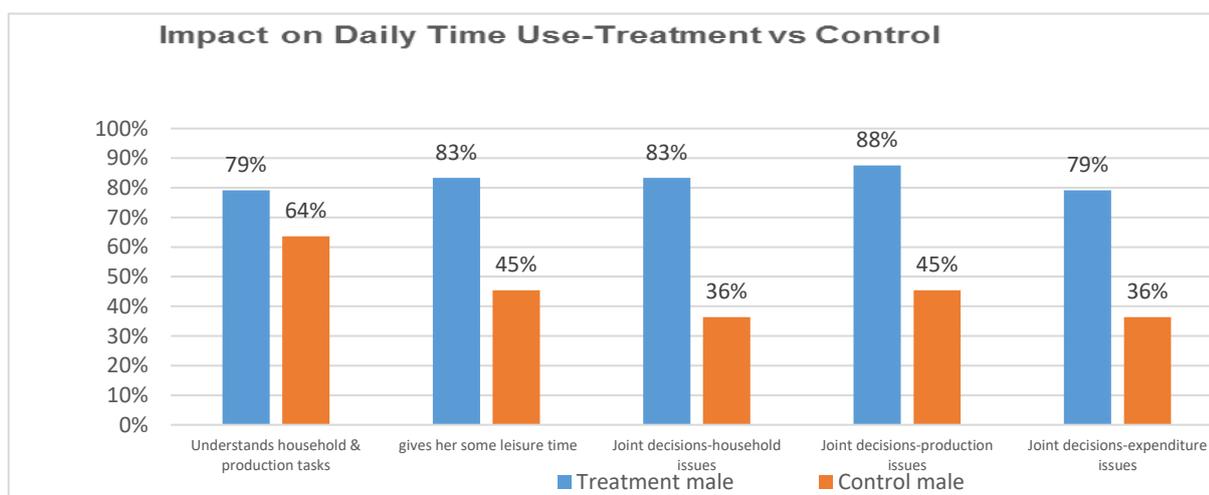
The study in light of the Gender dynamics of Bangladesh and the corresponding project activities were conducted to identify the impact of the project in terms of gender activities. The findings from quantitative interviews are backed by findings from qualitative findings. Qualitative information disclosed the pattern, extent and mode of data found from quantitative analyses. The study team analyzed impact on gender project activities and influences that can be addressable regarding gender impact.. Extracting and analyzing information of impact on gender, a behavior change, was very much intellectual and critical to be applied. Therefore, the study is limited to some particular considerable aspects integrated with five indicators that are directly and indirectly relevant with the assignment. (The indicators being Decision making, Access to Resources, Control over use of Income, Leadership and Time Allocation.) However objective wise findings are described in the following sections-

7.1 Level and impact of “Daily time use session:



Agricultural Extension Support Activities Project (Ag Extension project) facilitated to organize the daily time use session at FPG level. This session conducted at all FPG level (#) except 60 FPGs from Jessore region preserved and not conduct this session for the effectiveness and compare to others of the daily time use session . The daily time use session main objectives are; to sensitize and aware men to take responsibility of household

chores and to balance the workload of women, particularly those who involve in agriculture field; to understand the division of work between men and women; to identify a suitable time for conducting a meeting or learning session in the FPGs; to analysis the control over the



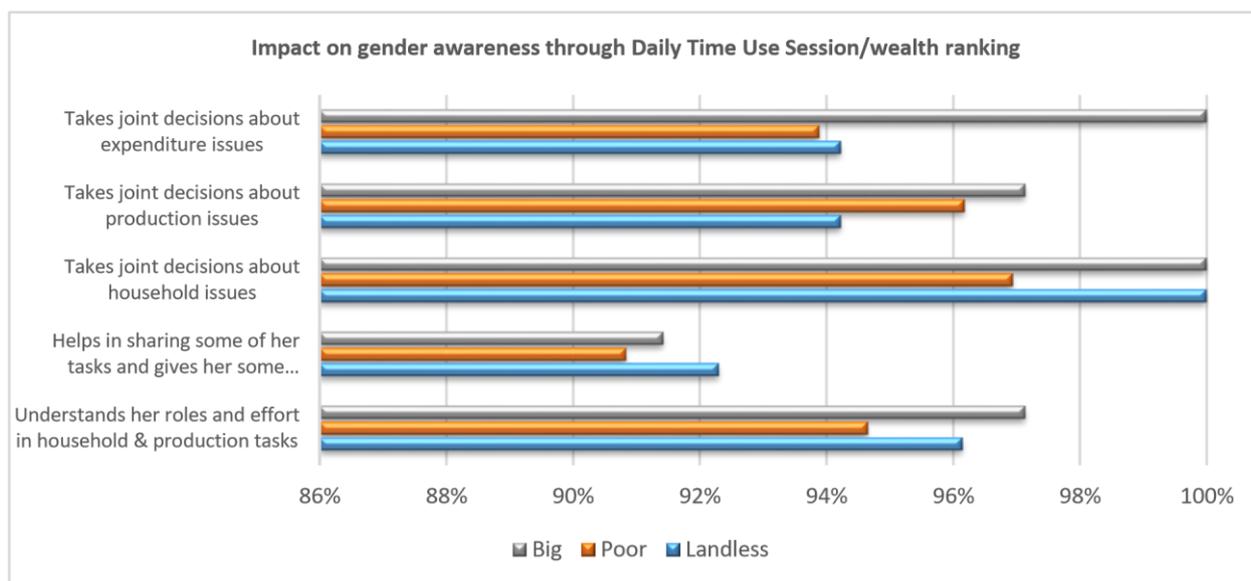
resources of women and men in households to identify a suitable time for women especially collective action and encourage men and women to join decision making.

7.1.1 Effect on redistribution of roles and decisions at household level

The findings indicate that the roles are changing, compares to the control female farmers, female farmers receiving the session on daily time use clearly experienced improved understanding from their husbands in terms of household and production tasks. More prominently they were enjoying more leisure time for productive use. Joint decisions on issues such as household issues, production issues and expenditure issues also showcase notable changes. From this analysis we found that men are always thinking that they always give more leisure time for the women. On the other hand, women are saying after discussing the daily time use, men are realizing and helping them in different household work such as fetch water, take care of child, cow rearing etc. **One women told that If men want to help her wife they can but socially not excepted especially mother in low not allow that is why men felt shy** (Magura FGD). **Regarding family expenditure always men do that but Sometimes I tell where to spend, but he spends money where he thinks is necessary, so what should I say?** (Magura FGD).

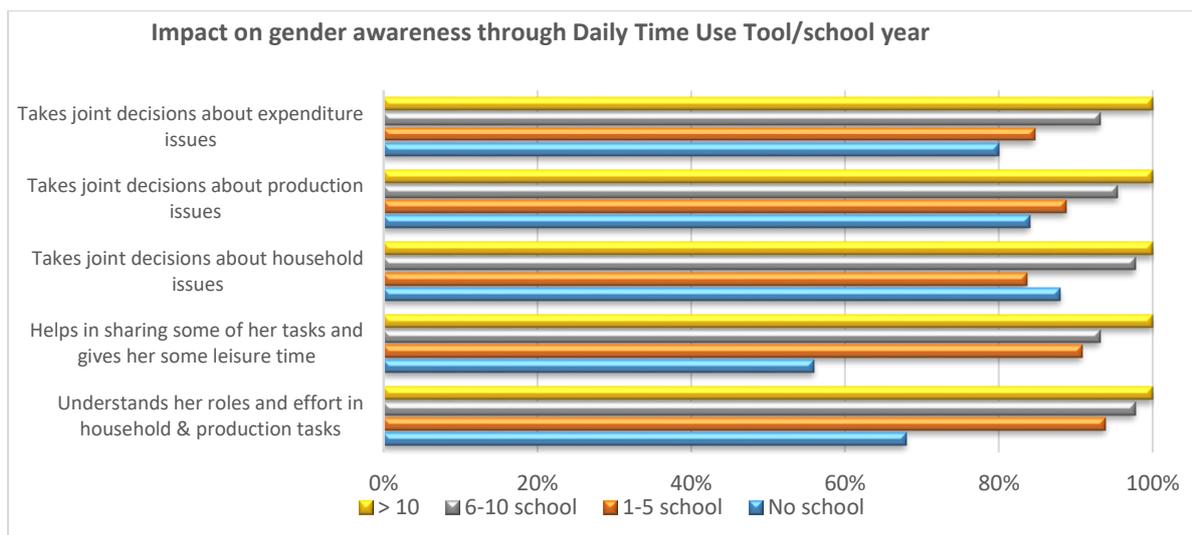
4.1.2 Region wise gender Impact through Daily Time Use session. The study revealed that in Khulna and Barisal region, 82% of the husbands of female respondents understand the role and effort in household & production tasks, help in sharing some of their wives' tasks and give some leisure time, take joint decisions about household, production and expenditure issues. As per the regional impact through Daily Time Use session, Khulna and Barisal regions are highest amongst the three regions due to geographically location, Usually Hindu community women are more advance than Muslim community, socio economic condition are not same.

7.1.2 Gender Impact per wealth ranking



The study revealed that gender impact on every expected category through Daily Time Use session at big farmer's level is the highest. Apart from taking decisions about production issues, impact on all other features at landless female farmer's level is the second. Whilst the poor farmers impact came across as lowest in comparatively. This findings reveals that bigger farmers as better position than landless farmers due to big farmers are more educated, socially and economically solvent.

7.1.3 Gender impact per education level



The study revealed that gender impact on all the expected categories through Daily Time Use session at more than ten school years the highest due to their better awareness level and knowledge. At no school level, impact on gender awareness regarding understanding role and effort in household and production tasks, helping sharing some of their wives' tasks and giving some leisure time and taking joint decision about production issues is the lowest while the highest was in case of taking joint decision about household and expenditure issues.

7.1.4 Summary of Impact of daily time use session

Work load

Field findings revealed that 100% of the interviewed treatment farmers responded had received orientation with the Daily time use tools and are applying the learnings in their daily lives as well. Interactions with project beneficiaries who had not received the daily time use tool (control) revealed that no such services were extended to them via the project. A clear distinction was also observed where the women beneficiary group revealed that their male counter parts now better understood the efforts, roles and contributions to the household. FGDs at male, mixed groups disclosed that males are now not only aware but are also now sharing the workload such as washing clothes, taking care of the children, cooking, cow rearing, production, post-harvest management activities. This re-distribution of work now allows for more leisure time (approximately 1-2 hrs.) for the women of the households (data reveals 88% of the women beneficiary base now get leisure time). Cross comparison with control groups revealed that only 48% of the respondents understand the efforts of the women in the household activity, whilst leisure time made available to them only found in 50% of the cases of the control based interviewed. One of the control respondents replied "We will be able to take rest only at Araisho bed (Regional hospital consists of 250 beds)". The message she meant expressed is that she would not get any chance for taking rest in a day in her family life until she is admitted to hospital.

Decision:

About 90% treatment and 79.3% control respondents replied that they take joint decision about house hold issues. This was also a clear distinction between the recipients and non-recipients of daily time use tool. Similarly, study found that 85% treatment and 50.2% control farmers take joint decision about production issues. In terms of expenditure issues, 74% treatment and 33% control farmers can take joint decision. It was observed that the groups who had received training on daily time use tool they now take decisions upon discussion with their male partners i.e. women farmers are more valued in the family as their role in agriculture is now recognized.

FGD revealed that male and female both are more confident about production issues like cultivation techniques, post-harvest management, safe use of pesticide and use of balanced fertilizer as their knowledge level has been increased due to the project activities. The production of crops is jointly undertaken and the roles of women are better established. In line with this recognition it was observed that 46% of women treatment farmers and 24% of female control farmers survey have full or partially control over use of income from the production, whilst 53% and 76% respectively have partial control over the expenditures. This clearly indicates that the project has been able to generate significant changes at economic empowerment level for the project beneficiaries.

Interactions & leadership:

KII revealed that in terms of communicating with service providers such as DAE and DLS representatives the project beneficiary women have already started to independently contact with extension agents however this is still a new practice. Interviews with the service providers also revealed the same where they are receiving more queries from the women engaged in farming. The service providers thus now count the women as individual producers and give respect to them like their male counter parts. For example, a Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer in Bhola mentioned that women nowadays ask him for more suggestions through mobile phone calls and sometimes requests for an onsite visit.

Market knowledge in terms of where, when and how to get seeds, fertilizer, pesticide and extension services was apparent amongst the project's women beneficiaries, however broadly speaking this aspect still requires further attention. In Magura, women still prefer to remain inside the house and usually do not prefer to go to market and deal with market actors due to social and cultural norms. In certain other cases (in Rajbari & Faridpur) women are more progressive and they were observed go to market for their personal requirement.

All the above factors have thus been able to effectively increase the time for leisure and other social networking activities. As the project tried to address several issues, and the daily time use tool was but one component from the list of activities the project was able to effectively increase the time for women for leisure. It was apparent that the recipients of the daily time use tool training were now enjoying more leisure time generally 1-2 hours. This leisure time was used by the women mostly to interact with extension agents and different market actors and doing agricultural production related activities. This leisure time also allowed for women

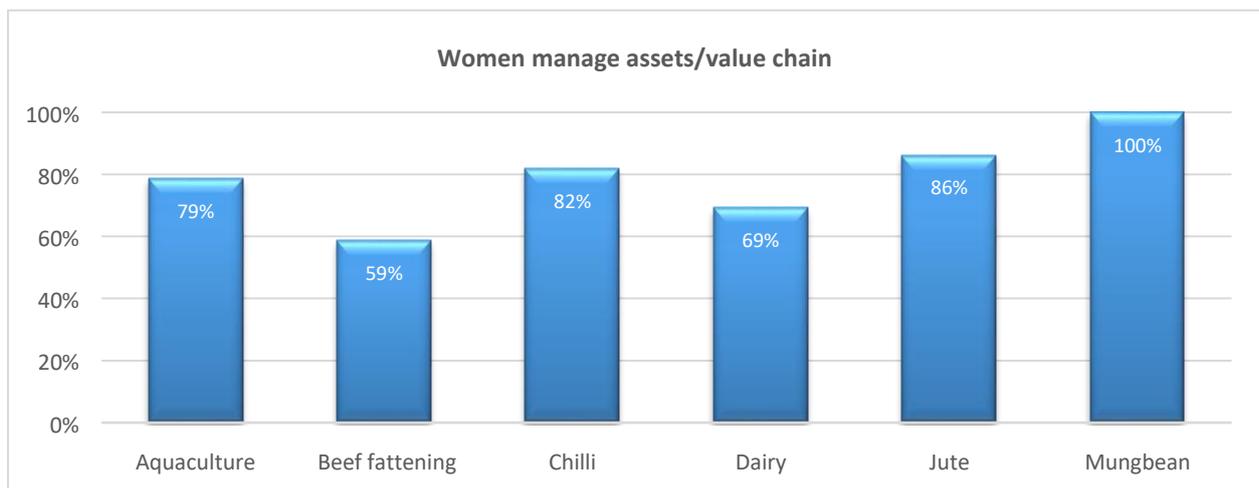
to engage more with the neighbors, which led to sharing of experiences and learning. Men were also found to be more appreciative and give recognition and value of the role of women in agriculture. And also values the inputs of the women of the household were adding to the family unit. The female respondents from the treatment group also acknowledged this change in behavior of the men. Although in control groups it was found that men acknowledge the roles of the women in their households, women form the groups in general did not agree to a behavioral change from the men.

7.2 Changes in capacity of women farmers

Region wise asset management capacity



7.2.1 Asset management capacity according to value chain



7.2.2 Asset management capacity according to wealth ranking



7.2.3 Asset management capacity according to education level

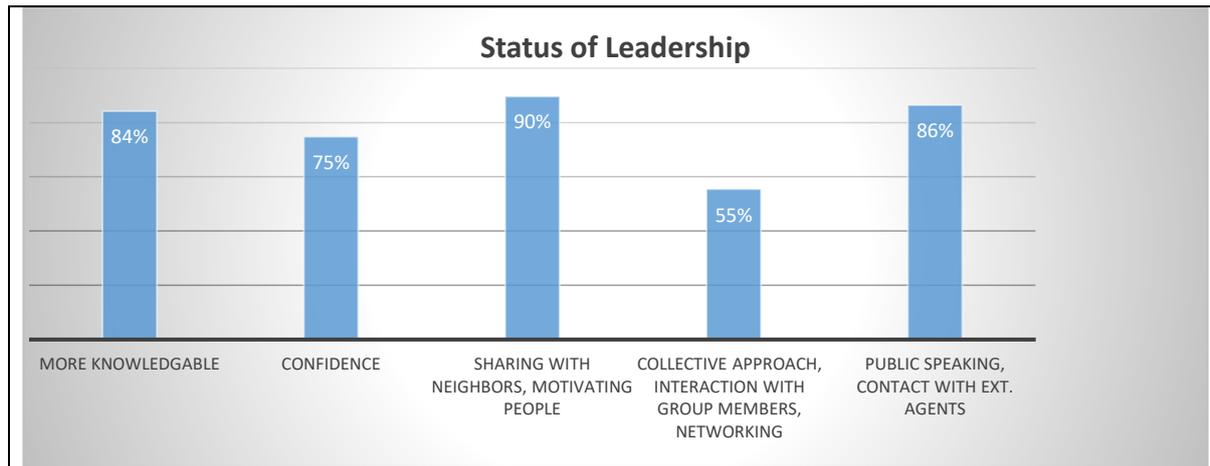


7.2.4 Leadership skill

Access to agriculture extension services for the female farmers highly depends on their leadership quality in terms of effective communication and knowledge of extension service providers. It is also dependent on the socio-cultural norms. The project had provided different trainings to the female farmers as well as extension workers regarding the issue which have significantly contributed to greater interactions. The female farmers are now more confident on the knowledge of production due to the trainings and linkages provided by the project. It was found that 90% women share the information with their neighbors, 55% women internalized the characteristics of collective approach, and interact frequently with other group members. They also maintain relationships and communication with different people and institutions. About 86% of respondents replied that

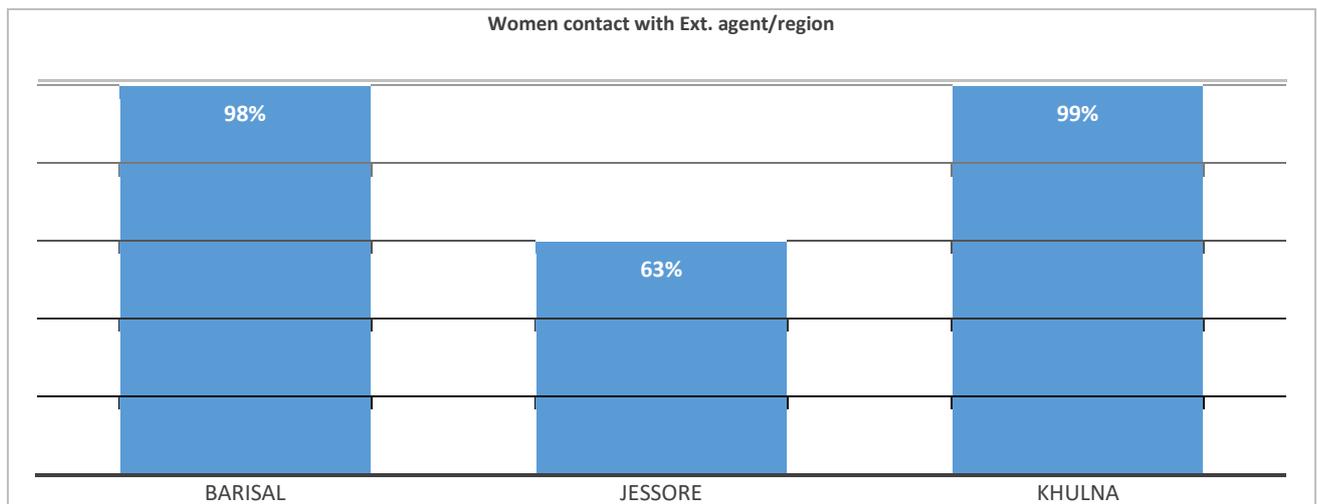
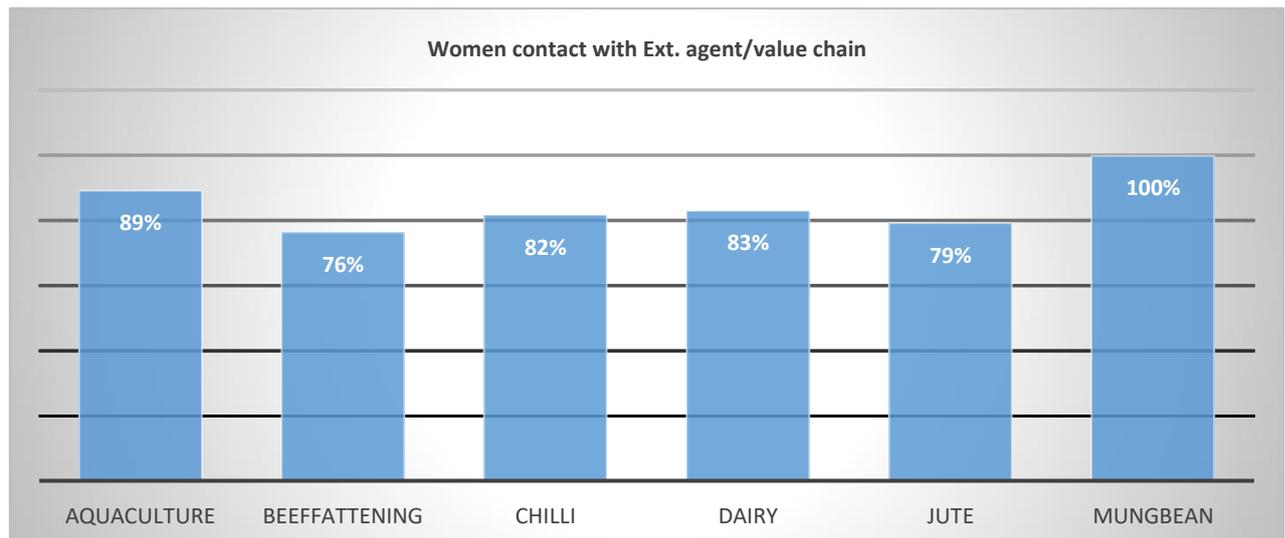


they contact extension agents (via media) if need be without any obligation which indicates that the project



ct activities were able to develop skills of public speaking in relation with leadership skill. Services on demand basis that was tough previously. FPG leaders and members receive equal service from public and private extension agents as required. The service provision focused on women members was not distinguished from the field. According to the statement of the farmers in FGD, it was found that being a group member individual farmer can avail quality services from the extension department since the extension officials treat her representative of a formed group, a collective demand. KII revealed that to serve one member works as to serve a number of members is a motivation for public extension agents. KII also revealed that private extension agents like Input sellers are now more gender sensitive as their gender awareness has been increased through project's facilitation and using this awareness, farmer's group (female) and product knowledge, they (input sellers) gained opportunity to promote their products which resulted in their sales increase as well ensured better linkages to information sources for the women farmers. Thus, the project was able to establish a win-win relationship among the beneficiary group and the private extension agents.

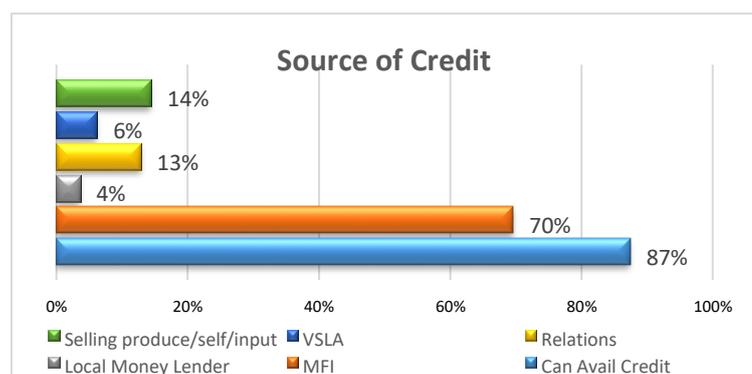
7.2.5 Value chain wise women leadership & regional wise women leadership



7.3 Women participation and capacity in six value chain

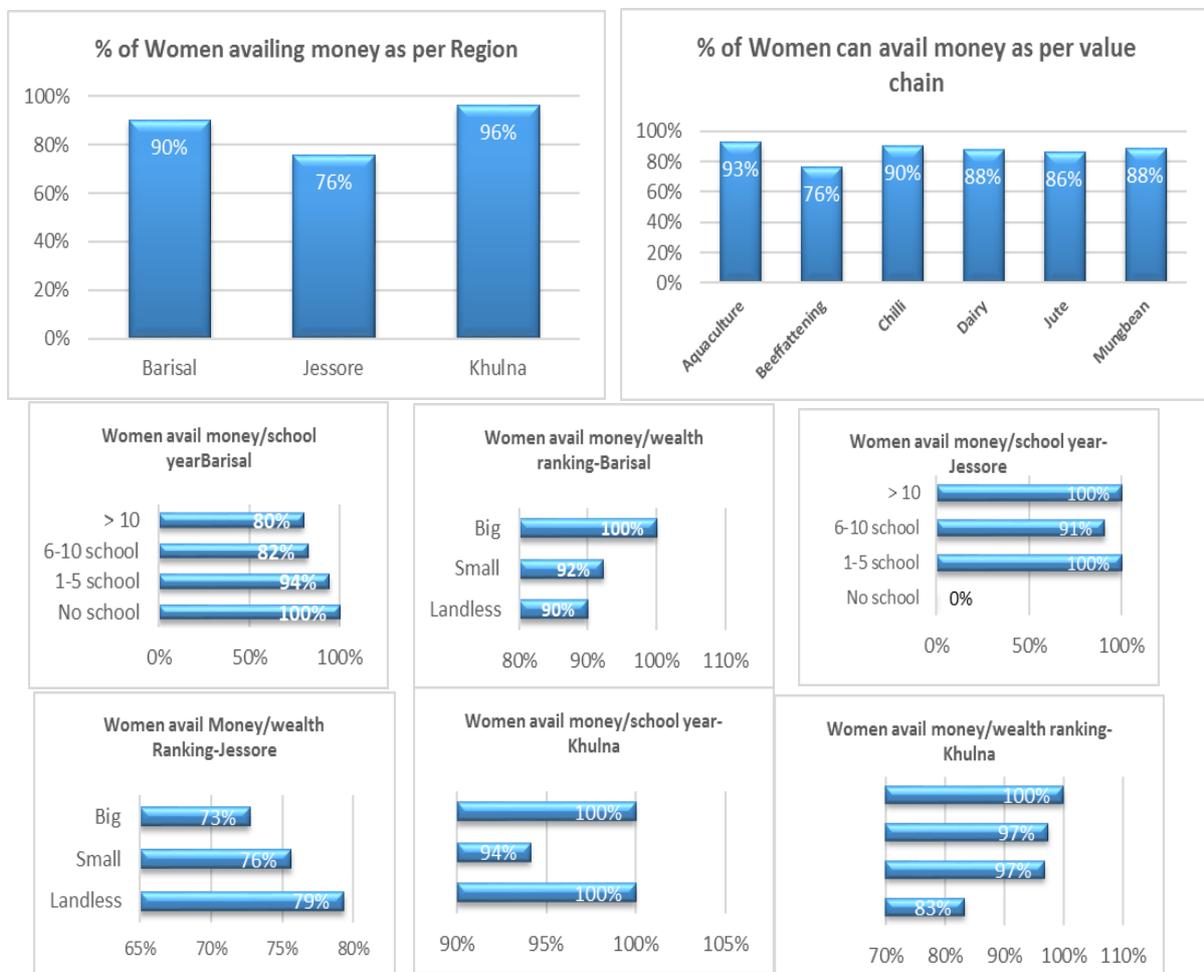
7.3.1 Value chain wise asset management capacity

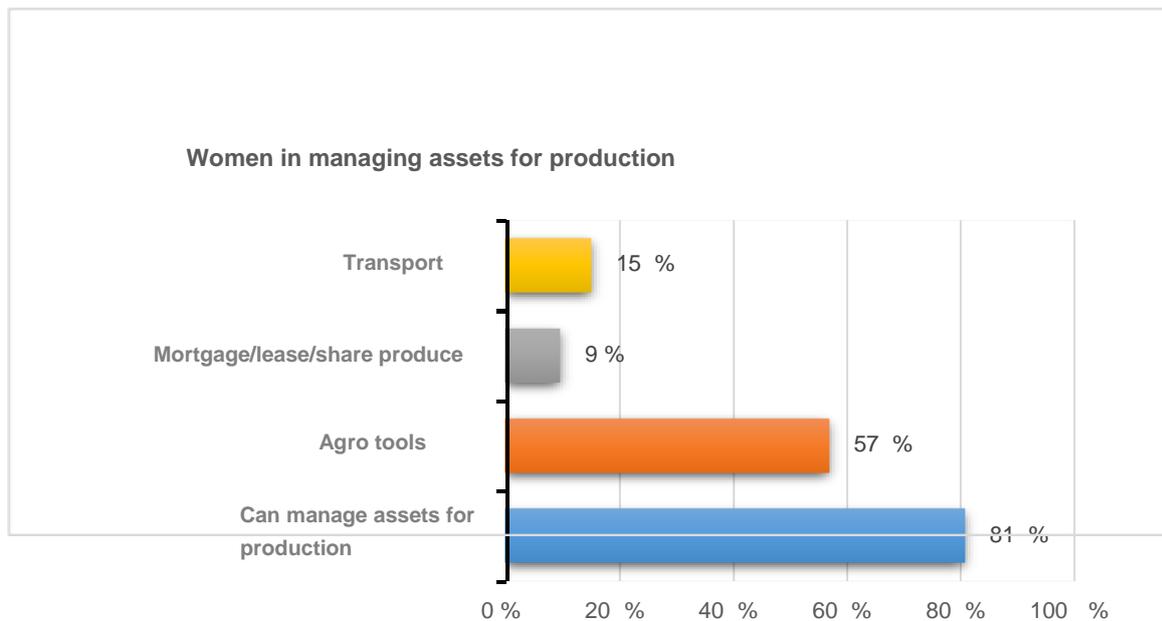
Financing from convenient sources is a regular demand at small farmers' level. The study found that 87% respondents (females) replied they themselves can avail money at this point in time. The baseline report had looked into just the agriculture related loans available from government approved MFI's. The study looked into a wider perspective i.e. if money was available and accessible from any source if needed. About 70% respondents are sourcing finance from MFIs, 4% from local money lenders, 13% from relatives, 14%



from selling produce/self-investment/as input and 6% from VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Associations).

Thus, the female farmers are investing money not only in agricultural production issues, purchasing productive assets but also for other family needs. This clearly indicates that MFIs play a critical role in terms of access to finance (loans in this case). Members attributed this change to being recognized as a member of a structurally formed group (project facilitated target group). MFIs now readily approach female FPG member to avail credit. Thus, when and if credit is required, a female member can get very easily from MFIs due to her new identity as FPG members. FGD discussions however identified that the link to access to credits versus investments in agriculture was weak. The credit was generally used for various purposes but the use of this credit in agriculture usually gets low preference. In fact, the available loan via MFIs is not agriculture friendly as per the core consensus from the focus group discussions. The installment for repayment is unable to attract farmers to use the credit in production purposes. Thus, despite availability of loans/credit its' unsuitability to agriculture investments does not always translate into benefits for farmers.





The data and FGD discussions indicate that if need be credits can be managed. Jessore had a lower ranking as per the quantitative and qualitative data acquired via the different tools. This is also reflected in the beef fattening value chain as Jessore is the primary belt for beef fattening activities of the value chain. Similarly, Jessore area's female farmers in the landless category found it easier to access credits unlike the bigger and small farmers.

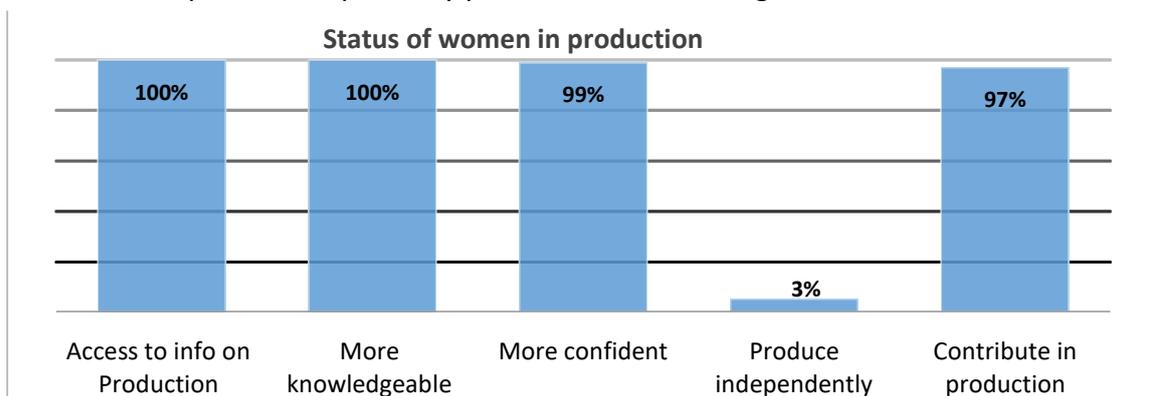
The intervention areas of the project for accessing financial services were to form VSLA and build linkage between beneficiaries and MFIs. VSLA is a self-help based cooperation where FPG female members own the initiative and are inspired to make it sustainable. This cooperation is a form of safety net and a component of resilience as well. Finance itself creates power and thereby hierarchy amongst the social institutions like family relationships. On that note, female farmers of the project are now privileged to be empowered within the families and all relationship due to the assurance of access to finance.

Study also found that 81% interviewed female farmers are able to manage required assets directly or indirectly. Indirectly means in this case they ask help from husbands, neighbors, group members and group leaders to source the assets. The assets mostly required are all the tools required for production, land management i.e. mortgage, lease, product sharing and transport of them, 57% are for agro tools, 9% mortgage/leasing/product sharing and 15% are for transport. This is a part of collective benefits. All the respondents can manage their necessary assets due to their reciprocal relationship within the group and competence developed since being engaged with the project.

7.3.2 Decision Making: Decision making on production

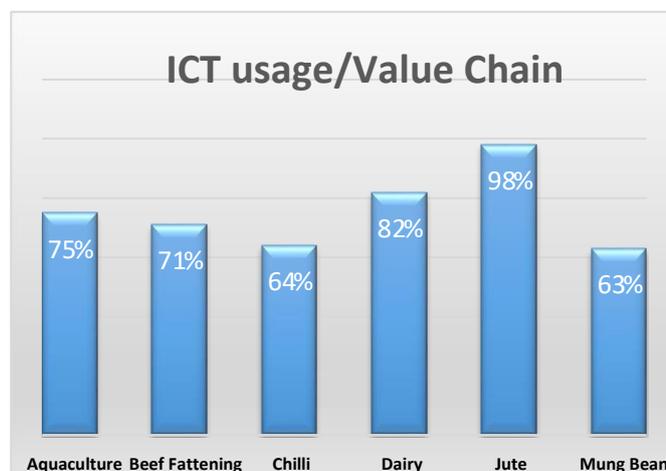


One of the expected result was an impact on the decision-making process of the household, where the project activity would lead to a more prominent and vocal role of women in decision making in terms of increased inputs in productive decisions and increased access to use of ICT services. In light of this, the study sought to identify if the desired changes were taking place or showed signs of changes. The study found that all the respondents received training/courtyard sessions relevant to production issues. It was also found that being members of FPG, 100% of both treatment and control FPG female farmers now know more about production techniques of the 6 value chains in concern. Subsequently, level of confidence of 99% female respondents increased in production issues like cultivation techniques, post-harvest management, safe use of pesticide and use of balanced fertilizer. The study thus found that the project activities that were designed to enhance the decision-making power were effective and also all the participants were satisfied with the project activities they were part of thus far. Participants were primarily pleased for the trainings received on the value chains.



Queries related to roles in production revealed that 3% of female farmers are involved in their nominated value chains independently¹, as in they engage without the involvement of their husbands and whilst the percentage stand at 97% for the ones who contribute in production decisions. Discussions in the focus groups also revealed that the degree of involvement has increased as respondents (both male and female) reported that they were now more aware of the gender roles and thus were dividing the tasks amongst themselves accordingly.

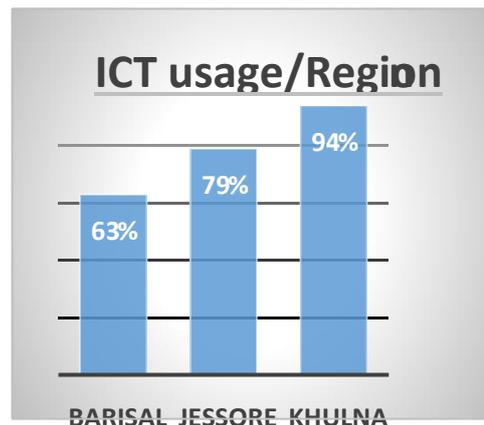
Female FPG members were found to have additional motivation, which resulted in greater interactions between the members which lead to a more



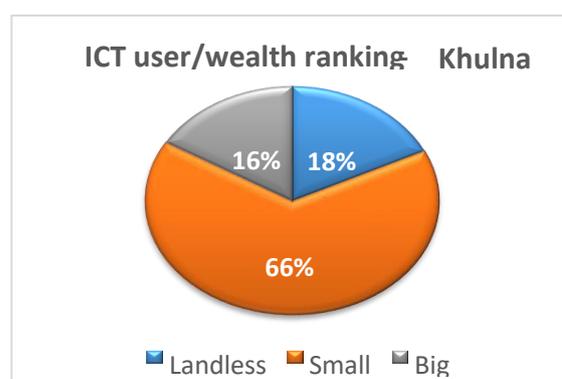
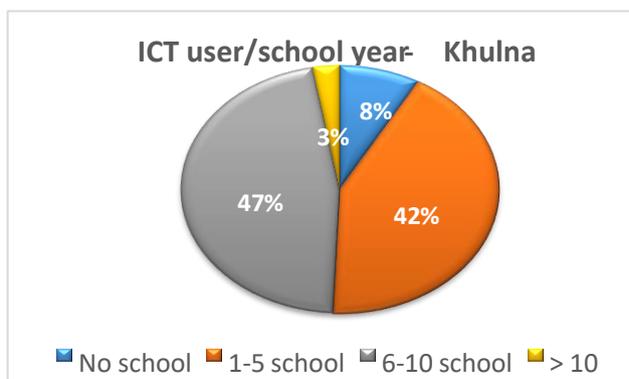
¹ Under takes activities on her own accord

favorable environment for their capacity building process. This was contributed to the project having focused on promoting and thereby setting females as the preferred FPG leaders in the mixed groups (females were expected to head the female groups as part of the design as well).

FGD and One on One interviews revealed that 67% treatment female farmers can use ICT services similarly 67% control farmers can use ICT services, which indicates that the daily time use tool had little effect on the use of ICT services due to ICT issues not enough discussed in daily time uses. Farmers use ICT through various channels as per respective accessibility, ease and requirements. Among the farmers who had received daily time use tool orientations (treatment) and were using ICT mediums, 5% use ICT services directly,

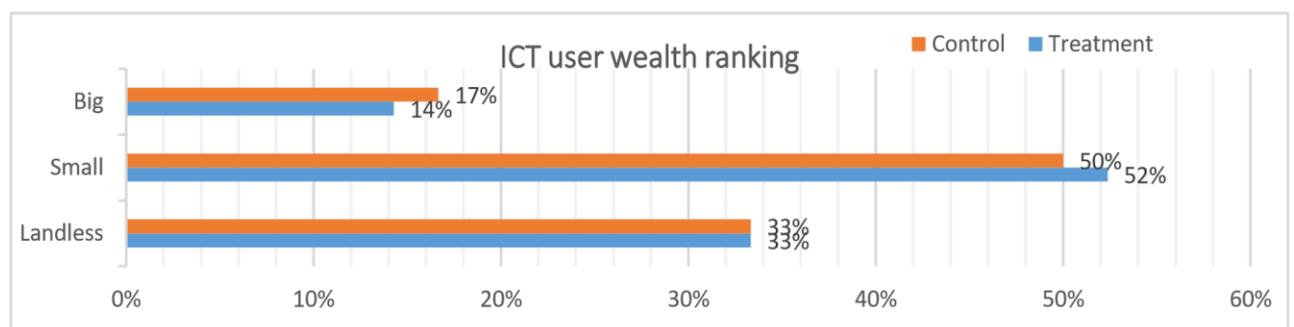
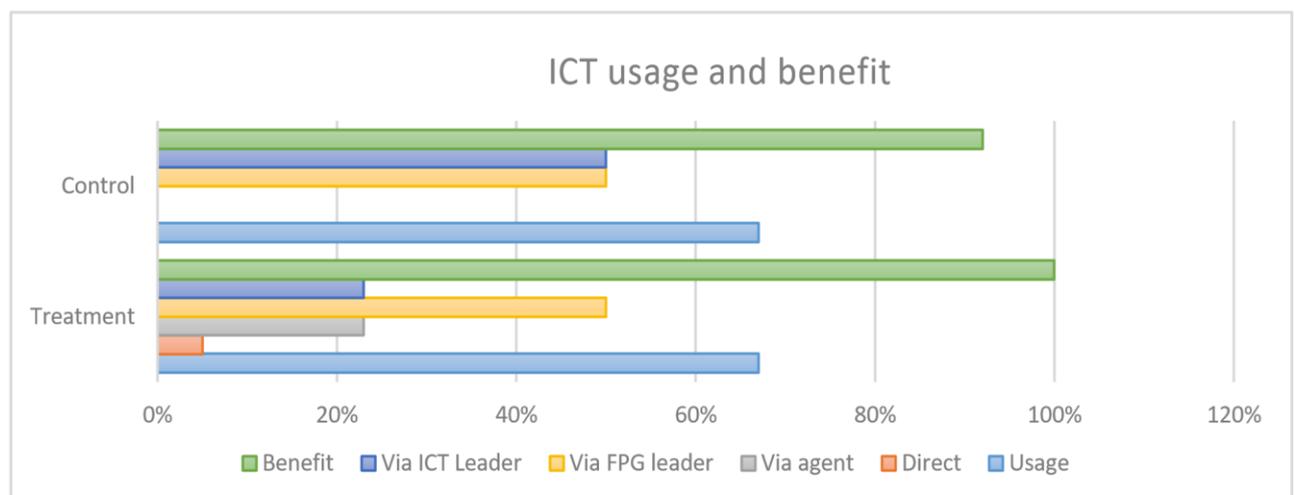
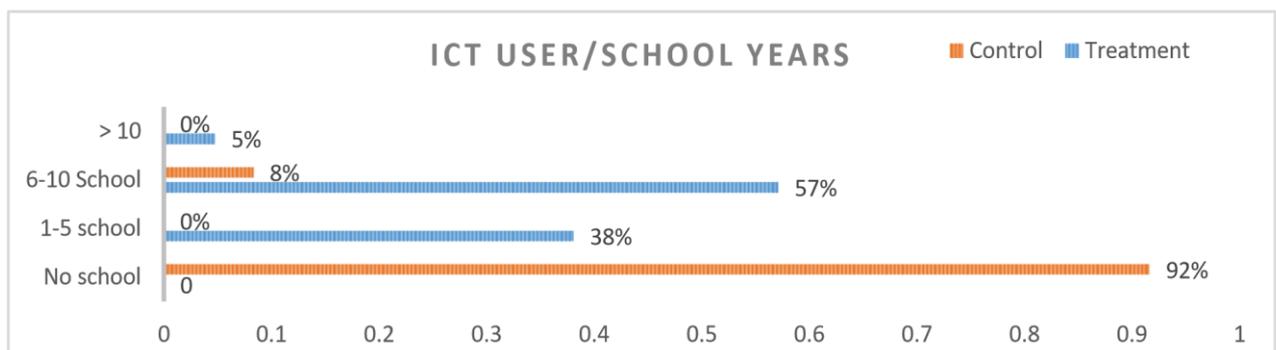


23% through agents, 50% through FPG leaders and 23% via ICT leaders² (each group has three leaders FPG, ICT and Marketing). On the other hand, farmers not having received daily time use tool orientation were found to be not using ICT services directly and/or via agents. About 50% (of the control groups) were accessing ICT through FPG leaders. The study found that the FPG members were not only accessing information through ICT mediums but were also using the acquired information. About 100% of treatment female farmers are benefitting whilst 92% for the control group were benefitting from using the information acquired. Data indicates that the use of ICT services were more prominent at small and landless female farmers level whilst usage of ICT services were lower at higher levels of schooling. Thus, it was found that women can now use ICT tools through FPG leader, ICT Leader, public extension agents and were benefitting in terms of collection of market information for selling their products at better price, detection of crop & cattle diseases and gaining suggestions and treatment accordingly. Khulna region showcased greater usage of ICT, followed by Jessore and Barisal regions. There was also high usage of ICT service for jute followed by dairy, aqua culture, beef fattening, chili and mung bean by the female farmers.



² ICT leaders are not same as the ICT champions, but field findings were indicative FPG members preferred to communicate with FPG leader overall group leader and ICT leader the one within the group who plays the role of the ICT focal.

As indicated in the graphs it can be seen that the most of the ICT service users irrespective of the regions belonged to the small farmers' category and had schooling years of 1-5. Jessore and Khulna regions had good ICT usage from the schooling year 6-10 as well due to these regions are more aware than Barishal region. All the trainings were given in groups where maximum participation was from female members who were observed to be (now) more knowledgeable and correspondingly more vocal in production issues. The activities had involved female members being informed about the use of ICT tools to get information and services from govt. officials through FPG leaders and ICT leaders. This was very well adapted by the members as evident in the findings previously discussed. They are also linked with the marketing leaders who played vital roles in ensuring access to market information as well as different markets and thereby was able to contribute to increased income. The study found that 86% female farmers use cell phones to communicate with different market actors for updated information, govt. extension agents for production issues.



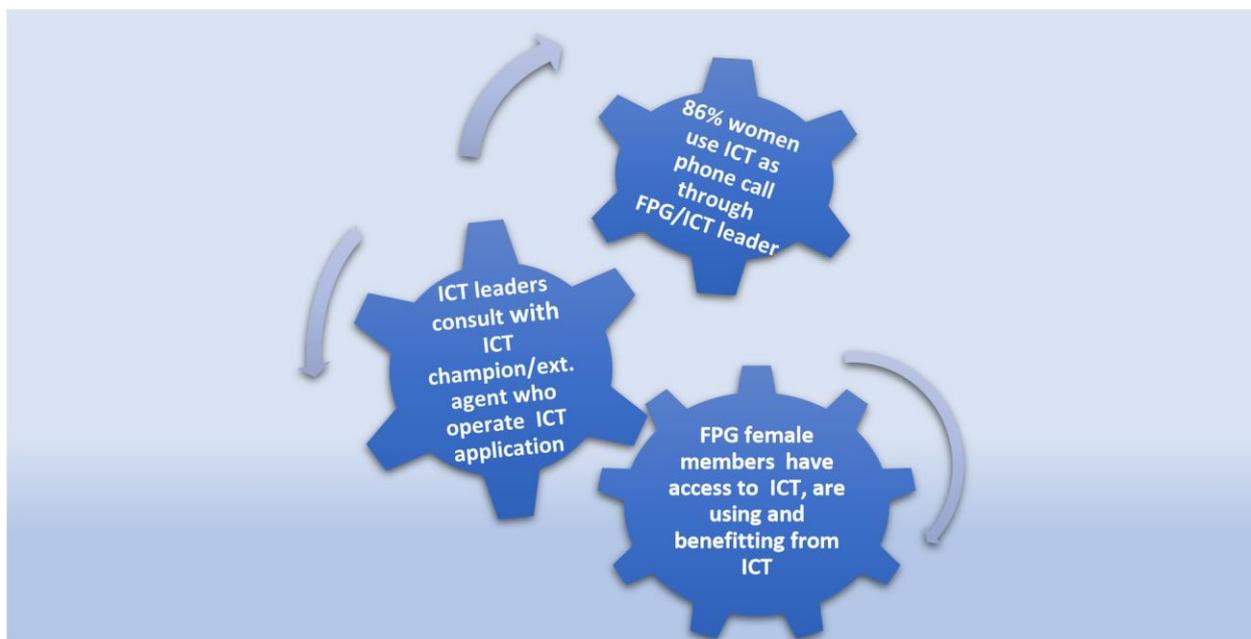


Figure 1: Systemic change through ICT services

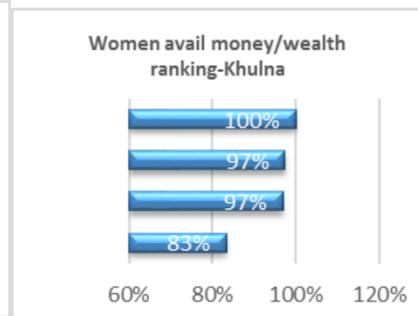
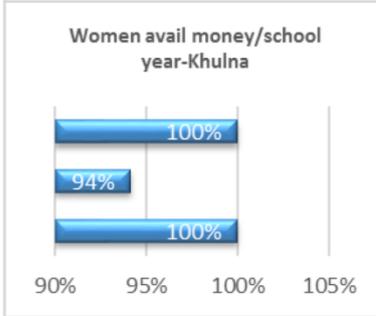
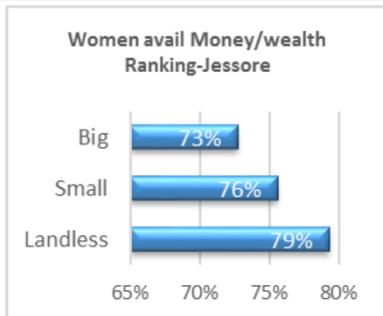
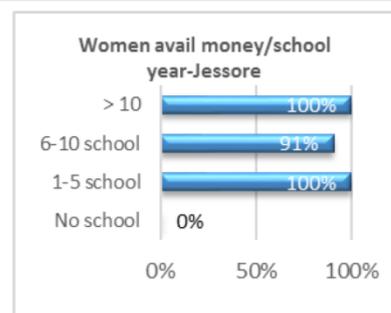
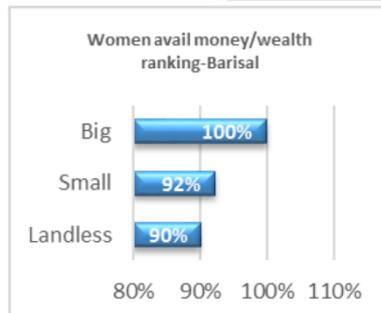
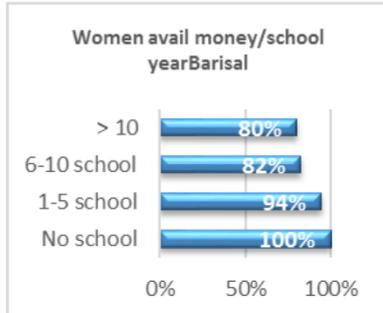
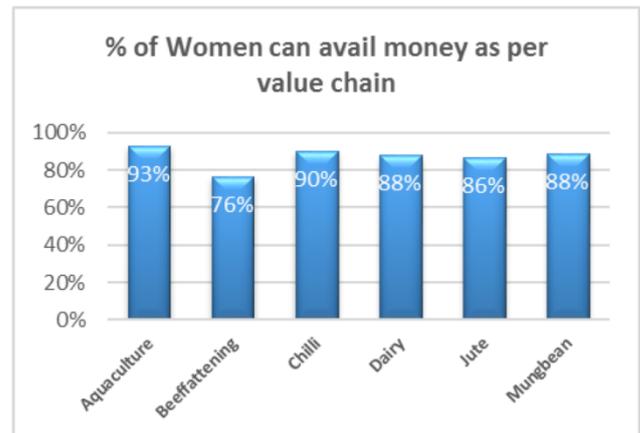
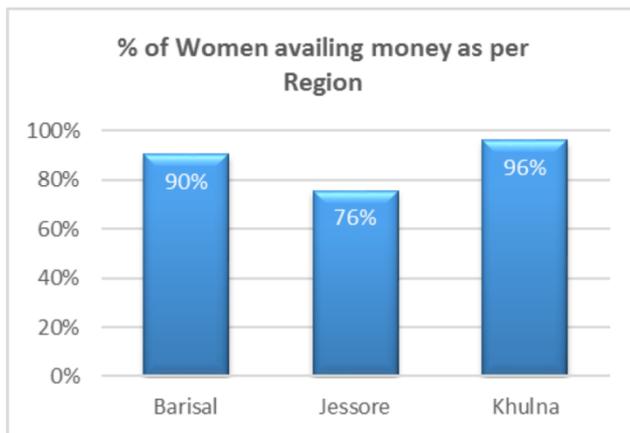
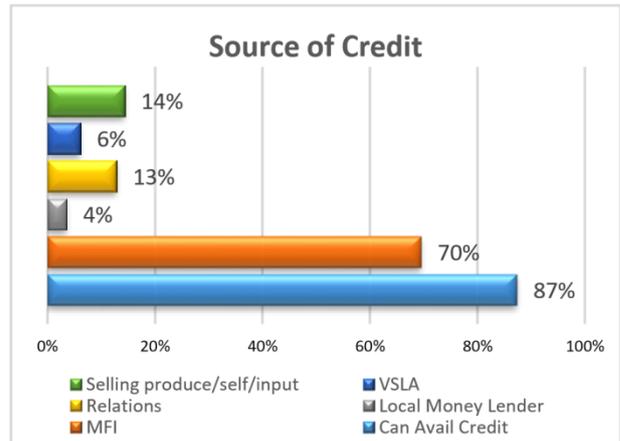
Among them who use ICT as mobile phone call, 95 % treatment female farmers had educational background of 1-5 school years passed and 92% control female farmers never gone to school (though educated in agriculture, household management, various skill development sessions etc.). It was also found that wealth ranking among the mobile callers were 33% landless, 51% small and 16% are large farmers.

Midterm Evaluation Report and Annual Report (project year 3) portrayed similar findings for ICT, where numbers of special thrusts for ICT implementation were suggested. This study additionally found that one of the ICT components i.e. mobile calling is prominent at this stage of the project.

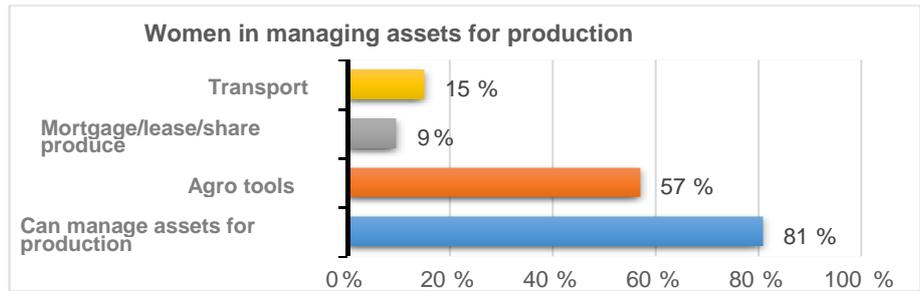
The Figure 1: Systemic change through ICT services shows that how the usage of mobile calling is being undertaken in the system created and supported by the project. The study found that 86% among the users (the ones who use ICT and through such services through the FPG and ICT leaders) are communicating via mobile calls to the extension agents, market actors this was a prominent impact that the study found at farm level.

🔗 Access to financial services and other assets: Access to productive resources (assets)
 Financing from convenient sources is a regular demand at small farmers' level. The study found that 87% respondents (females) replied they

themselves can avail money at this point in time. The baseline report had looked into just the agriculture related loans available from government approved MFI's. The study looked into a wider perspective i.e. if money was available and accessible from any source if needed. 70% respondents are sourcing finance from MFIs, 4% from local money lenders, 13% from relatives, 14% from selling produce/self-investment/as input and 6% from VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Associations).



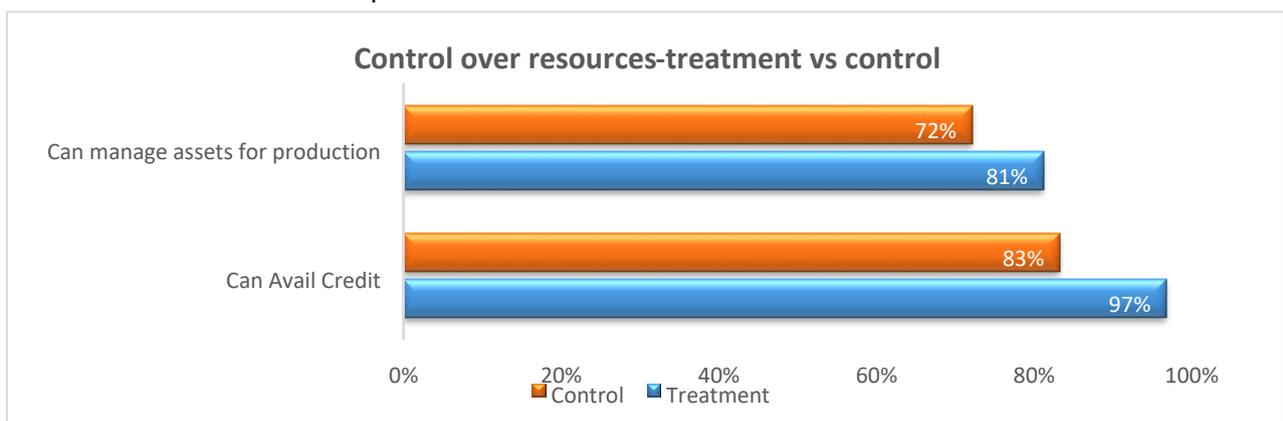
Thus the female farmers are investing money not only in agricultural production issues, purchasing productive assets but also for other family needs. This clearly



indicates that MFIs play a critical role in terms of access to finance (loans in this case). Members attributed this change to being recognized as a member of a structurally formed group (project facilitated target group). MFIs now readily approach female FPG member to avail credit. Thus when and if credit is required, a female member can get very easily from MFIs due to her new identity as FPG members. FGD discussions however identified that the link to access to credits versus investments in agriculture was weak. The credit was generally used for various purposes but the use of this credit in agriculture usually gets low preference. In fact, the available loan via MFIs is not agriculture friendly as per the core consensus from the focus group discussions. The instalment for repayment is unable to attract farmers to use the credit in production purposes. Thus, despite availability of loans/credit its' unsuitability to agriculture investments does not always translate into benefits for farmers.

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The intervention areas of the project for accessing financial services were to form VSLA and build linkage between beneficiaries and MFIs. VSLA is a self-help based cooperation where FPG female members own the initiative and are inspired to make it sustainable. This cooperation is a form of safety net and a component of resilience as well. Finance itself creates power and thereby hierarchy amongst the social institutions like family, relationships. On that note, female farmers of the project are now privileged to be empowered within the families and all relationship due to the assurance of access to finance.



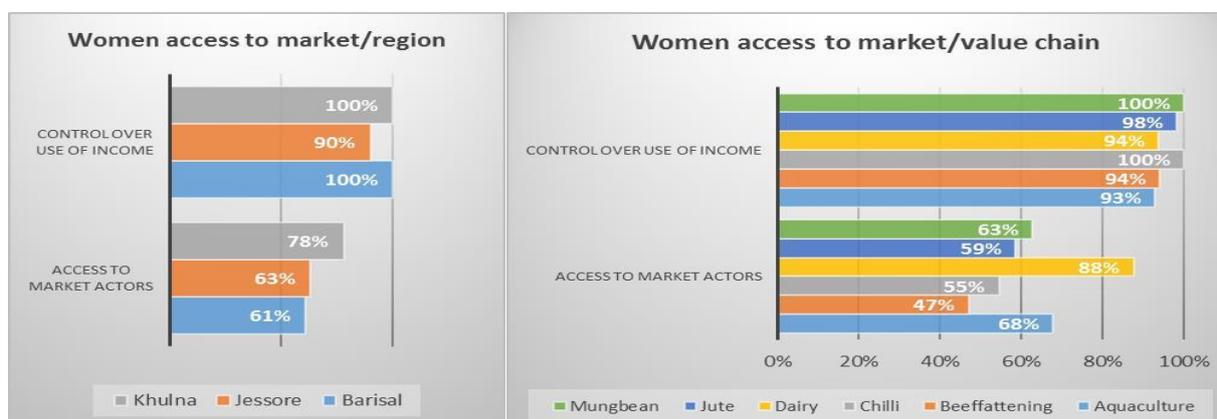
Study also found that 81% interviewed female farmers are able to manage required assets directly or indirectly. Indirectly means in this case they ask help from husbands, neighbors, group members and group leaders to source the assets. The assets mostly required are all the tools required for production, land management i.e. mortgage, lease, product sharing and transport of them, 57% are for agro tools, 9% mortgage/leasing/product sharing and 15% are for transport. This is a part of collective benefits. All the respondents can manage their necessary assets due to their reciprocal relationship within the group and competence developed since being engaged with the project.

Data and discussions in the focus groups indicate that the wealth ranking and the school year did not have much influence on the management of assets or finance. This was also evident in the discussion in the group and key informants as well, as many of the attributions were related to individual characteristics.

Access to input and output markets: Control over use of income

The indicators used for accessing control over use of income, facilitating access to market are an important component of the project. The study found that the female farmer’s access to input and output market is still limited since males are taking the main role for this purpose. The reason behind is the general tradition of the country.

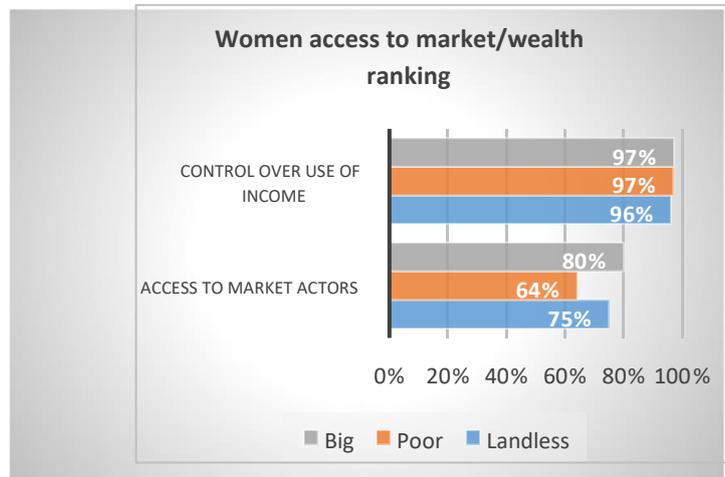
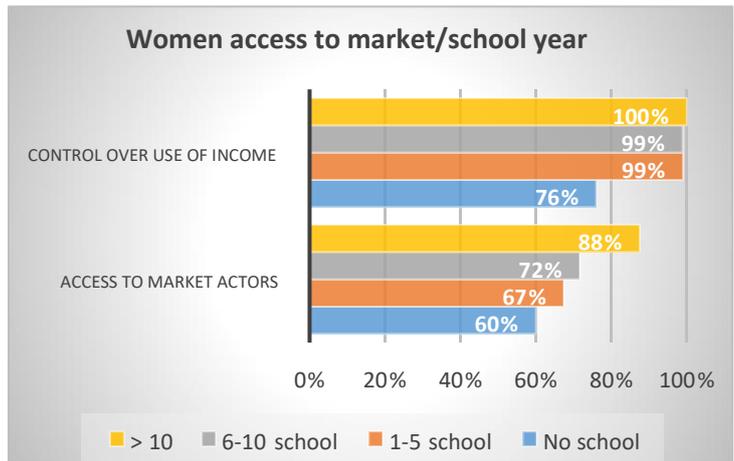
At present 68% female farmers are interacting with market actors. FGD discussions identified as the task of market related activities were grouped to the males’ task. In the context of Bangladesh, there is different norms and religious dogma and people especially illiterate or Semi-literate think of women’s going into the market (in front of unknown male) is beyond our local culture and sometimes considered as a taboo. Sometimes there is different interpretation of religion by the people involved with. Therefore, the rest 32% women are still behind.



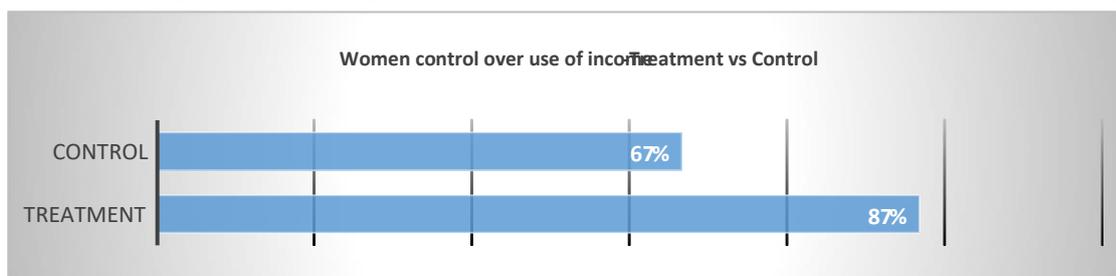
Though the issue is very contextual and varies greatly across the areas even form villages to village, discussions with the various actors revealed that in order to accelerate the issue of market access, emphasis should be given to raising awareness involving men, strengthening the linkage between female farmers and market actors. It is also important to upgrade the awareness of the market actors and to change the traditional attitude towards the access to market for women. Beside this, capacity of the female farmers in terms of effective

communication with market actors should be further strengthened through different trainings. The project has been working towards raising awareness through various trainings and it needs to be strengthened, and the results have been positive so far.

About 96% female FPG members have control over use of income (completely or partially) from the production. Participation in decision on household expenditure at female FPG members level is 93% and participation in selection and purchase of input is 54%. From FGD discussion it is found that women come to know the latest market price discussing with other neighboring female FPG members whose husbands just returned from market selling their produce. Traders frequently approach them to procure products at their homes as well. From KI interviews with input sellers it is found that retailers also offer them with a reduced price as the members are a cluster of customers to them. It was also found that for dairy value chain, milk collectors compete to attain the group that leads to better price. The same was found for aqua culture value chain. For the other value chains, female members are able to buy and sell taking cooperation from male group members.



Discussion at focus groups shows that female members use mobile phone call to communicate with both the backward and forward market actors as and when necessary.



Dealing with market actors does not necessarily require physical presence at market place. Moreover, social context is constructed through multilinear evolution of social and cultural components and thereby reproductive solidarity and stability is in order within the society. Deconstructing any part of the society threatens it to be reconstructed as per expectation.

Dignity of women is to be regained in line with the tradition. Most of the female farmers themselves do not like to be present at market place in Bangladesh, which was also reflected in the areas visited (found from FGD). However as previously discussed access to market has increased via varied mechanisms ensuring that the project beneficiaries can reap better benefits.

7.3.3 Case Study

Farida paving her way to a better future

Farida Begum is a middle-aged woman, living with her son and husband in Abdulpur village of Jessore Sadar Upazila. Her son is in class 6. Her husband is a small trader of vegetables. The family income is depended on the low income of her husband as well as the contribution of her through cultivating vegetables, selling labor in chili picking and most importantly through *beef fattening* activities.

Farida along with her family are now doing well and their condition is gradually improving. However, the situation was not so sound previously when the only income source was the small trading business of her husband. She worked outside the household to earn. She eventually took a loan. Adding her savings to the loan amount, she started a beef fattening business with the money.

However, earnings from the beef fattening business did not have a significant contribution to the family since she had limited technical knowledge on beef fattening practices as well as weak forward market linkage.

In 2014 AESA's project field facilitator (FF) came to their village and as part of the project went on to hold a meeting and correspondingly form a group for the farmers involved in beef fattening in the area. Farida was one of the members of this group. Farida not only became a member of that group but was also selected as the *ICT leader* of that group based on the opinion of the other group members. While in attachment with the Project, Farida, along with her husband, participated in a session on Daily Time Use Tool which changed her life a lot. Now Farida's husband realizes her workload and helps her household and other day to day work spontaneously. Because of her husband's realization and assistance, Farida now gets leisure which she utilizes interacting with the Extension Agents and different Market Actors. They now take joint decision regarding household, agriculture production and expenditure issues. Farida has control over the income of the family i.e. she can expense individually for family needs having a discussion with her husband. She now provides advice to the neighbors regarding different production issues and getting dignity from the community. Farida has also developed very good relation with the local power structure especially Union Parishad which is helping her having necessary services.

This marked a new journey for Farida. She along with other members got different trainings on relevant issues involved in beef fattening like feed management, medicine, preparing



cattle house etc. Furthermore, they received training on ICT, health and sanitation, savings and gender aspects. Such interactions lead her to be more confident and knowledgeable regarding beef fattening. The technical trainings were conducted by the experts from DLS, members of the group were also linked with private extension officers. This made them aware about who to contact if they face any major problem in their beef fattening practices. She had bought 2 calves which costs around BDT 45,000 and she looked after them for 8 months to 12 months. She spent approximately BDT 20,000 for food and medicine purpose. She went on to sell them for around BDT 120,000 to 150,000. She is now contributing significantly in the family, now her importance in the household affairs as well as in the society has increased. People now honor her for hard work. Besides, her neighbors also ask her for suggestions regarding different issues regarding beef fattening.

Farida is very happy with the current situation, and is venturing into new avenues of dignity and empowerment. She is now solvent and believes the project was a great help for to accomplish such a task and hopes that project will continue to benefit others like her.

8. Sustainability Aspect

The project has been able to benefit the FPG members greatly, in line with the project core objective there were clear indications that the extension services were being strengthened and supported comprehensively. However, the study team did not find specific strategy for ensuring the sustainability of the awareness raised by the use of daily time use session which is a critical component for gender awareness. Currently the project intends to handover many of its activities including the daily time use session to other FTF projects. The project thus may revise certain activities to ensure that the tool and its corresponding benefits sustain beyond the project period, and without any such project support.

9. Recommendations

The project may within the remainder of the project implementation time frame or even for future activities in the form of collaboration with other projects or even a phase extension may consider to undertake to ensure greater impact. The following recommendations have been sequenced in line with decision making, access to financial services and other assets, access to input and output markets: control over use of income, access to agriculture extension services through developing leadership, recognition of women's role in agriculture: time allocation.

- ✔ In order to further strengthen the decision making aspects of women, the project may arrange for separate sessions with Father and Mother in laws. This is from the perspective that the in-laws tend to influence the family dynamics as well. This can be done within the reminder of the project timeframe as an added activity to test if this yields results.
- ✔ Local government representative awareness about the project activities may be strengthened as step to ensure greater and wider support for the reminder of the project timeframe.
- ✔ DAE (especially Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers), DLS and different market actors should be provided with refreshers and more extensive training on gender awareness for female farmer's greater access to resources.
- ✔ Strengthen the involvement of the Department of the Livestock Department in the project activities. This may be done by following the same model of sharing cost and certain assets such as smart phones and motorcycles.
- ✔ The project may pursue comprehensive training on leadership which will further help the female farmers building their capacity, this should have options for refresher at least twice a year in the reminder of the project timeframe.
- ✔ The daily time use tool clearly identifies the activities undertaken by males and females, however the Economic valuation of the work undertaken by women are not sketched out in practice that clearly. If this component is clarified further the project may benefit further in portraying roles and depth of contribution by women further there by increasing overall gender awareness.

- ✔ In terms of the daily time use session a separate session involving the males to clearly identify the parameters of the time engagement of the females may be undertaken. This is being suggested as this will allow for a more detailed understanding of the males concerned about the work load of the females. A greater understanding by the males is likely to create greater impact of gender awareness. In this session, husbands can be motivated regarding wives' access to and control over income.
- ✔ Greater collaboration with other USAID projects, DAM is also implementing the project Women Empowerment Activity Project in collaboration with Winrock, thus CARE may delve into discussions with the project capitalizing on shared interest and are of work for further strengthening the project gender awareness activities.
- ✔ Given gender awareness creation is a vast undertaking an extension should be pursued to continue and expand the activities benefitting the farmer base.

10. Conclusion

The study could identify and document signs of impact even at the pre-ending stage of the project at farmers' level. The intensive support and guidance that was extended by the project made this attainable. Efforts of the project were found to have been well translated into realities at field level. Daily time use session was effective in terms of enlightening both the female and male farmers of the roles and responsibilities. The project activities were also found to be effectively building capacities of the women farmers across the value chains. The study had identified recommendations which if considered and implemented is likely to add more value to the project.

11. Annex A: Tools

FGD Checklist (Treatment/Control farmers)

Introduction: We are from a firm known as EDGE Consulting Limited, we are here to know more about the project in certain aspects specially in terms of the benefits the participants of the group are experiencing due to the project activities. Thus, we would like to thank you for giving us your valuable time in this FGD. We are going to have a discussion to acquire your perspective and comments in regard to the group activities and how it has helped you in your lives.

[Please collect the names, number and address of the participants of the FGD]

[The idea is to capture the information in a story manner and come to a common consensus, if an interesting case is found among the respondents please note and refer to Research

Coordinator to see if a case study is viable for this respondent]

Circle the response in terms of closed responses

Address/location of the FPG: [please fill it up prior to the discussion]		
1. Region	2. Division:	3. District
4. Upazila:	5. Village:	6. Landmark (if any)
7. Name of the FPG (if applicable):		
8. Name of the FPG representative:		
9. Type- a) Female only b) Male only c) Mixed:		
10. # of Members:		
11. When was it formed: [dd/mm/yyyy]		
12. What are the relevant value chains for this group:		

a) Aquaculture b) Jute c) Mung Bean d) Dairy e) Beef fattening f)

Chili 13. What kind of trainings did you receive? [get an overview then delve into details]

1. Did you receive training on 'Daily Time Use'?

i) Yes ii) No

1.a) If yes, how did you apply the learnings in your daily life?

2. Please draw a day time chart for the group via discussion (preferably before and after to observe the changes)

3. What are the improvements/ changes in your daily life?

For Males	For Females	
I understand the roles and effort of my wife in household and production tasks (Please Describe in detail)	My husband now better understands my role in household and production tasks (Please Describe in detail)	I am more confident and knowledgeable about production issues. (Please Describe in detail)
I help out by sharing some of her task thus giving her some leisure time (Please Describe in detail)	My husband is more helpful in household tasks allowing for leisure time (Please Describe in detail)	I now contact the extension agents (Please Describe in detail)

We now take joint decisions about household issues (Please Describe in detail)	We now take joint decisions about household issues (Please Describe in detail)	I get equal service from the extension agents (Please Describe in detail)
We now take joint decisions about production issues (Please Describe in detail)	We now take joint decisions about production issues (Please Describe in detail)	I share the learnings with neighbors thus are happier (Please Describe in detail)
We now take joint decisions about expenditure issues (Please Describe in detail)	We now take joint decisions about expenditure issues (Please Describe in detail)	Leadership skills have improved (note examples Describe in detail)
		I have more exposure to markets (increased access to markets) (Please Describe in detail)
		I can use ICT better (directly or via agents/FPG leaders etc.)
		I benefit through ICT (pattern of usages and benefit)
		I have participated various project activities (FFD, Trainings, introduction to SAAOs and other market actors, collective actions) (Please Describe in detail)
		I can participate in taking decisions on family production and marketing as I know more about production (Please Describe in detail)

<p>I have control over the income from the production as I produced independently.</p> <p>(Please Describe in detail)</p>
<p>Any other improvements: [probe and note accordingly]</p>

Questionnaire: One to One interview (Treatment Farmer/Control Farmer)

Respondent types: Individual farmer (including FPG leaders, ICT champion etc.)

(start off with an introduction to the research, and the organization you are from, please refer to the FGD guideline for this is need be)

Introduction: We are from a firm known as EDGE Consulting Limited; we are here to know more about the project in certain aspects especially in terms of the benefits the participant of the group are experiencing due to the project activities. Thus, we would like to thank you for giving us your valuable time in this session. We are going to have an interview to acquire your perspective and comments in regard to the activities and how it has helped you in your lives. **[If an interesting case is found, please note and refer to Research Coordinator to see if a case study is viable for this respondent]**

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name of the Respondent: 2. Father /Husband 3. Division: 4. Upazilla: 5. Union: 6. Village: 7. Landmark (if any) 8. Name of the FPG (if applicable): 9. Contact Number: |
|---|

10. What are the relevant value chains for this you:

a) Aquaculture b) Jute c) Mung Bean d) Dairy e) Beef fattening f) Chili

11.. What kind of trainings did you receive? [get an overview then delve into details]

12. Did you receive training on 'Daily Time Use'?

ii) Yes ii) No

12.1. If yes, did you apply the learning's in your daily life?

i) Yes ii) No

13. Can you please mention the changes in your daily life (preferably before and after to observe the changes)?

Male	Female
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you now understand the roles and effort of your wife in household and production tasks? i) Yes ii) No	<input type="checkbox"/> Does your husband now better understand your role in household and production tasks? i) Yes ii) No

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you help out by sharing some of her task thus giving her some leisure time? I) Yes ii) No • Do you now take joint decisions about household issues? I. Yes ii) No • Do you now take joint decisions about production issues? i) Yes ii) No 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Is your husband more helpful in household tasks allowing for leisure time? i) Yes ii) No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you now take joint decisions about household issues? Yes ii) No • Do you now take joint decisions about production issues? i) Yes ii) No
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Do you now take joint decisions about expenditure issues? i)Yes ii) No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Do you now take joint decisions about expenditure issues? i) Yes ii) No</p>
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14. Are you more confident and knowledgeable about production issues?

i. Yes ii) No

15. Do you contact the extension agents now?

i. Yes ii) No

16. Do you get equal service from the extension agents?

i. Yes ii) No

17. Do you share the learning with your neighbors?

i. Yes ii) No

18. Have your Leadership skills improved? Any example?

i. Yes ii) No

19. Do you deal with the market actors like input seller, buyer or any intermediaries {increased access to markets i.e. backward market, forward market and service market}?

i. Yes ii) No

If yes,

- a. Input seller
- b. Buyer
- c. Intermediaries
- d. Others (if others please mention the name)

20. Can you use ICT applications better?

i) Yes ii) No

if yes, mention directly or via agents/FPG leaders/others

21. Do you benefit through ICT (pattern of usages and benefit)?

i) Yes ii) No

If yes, what kind of usage and benefit?

22. Are you satisfied about the various project

activities? i) Yes ii) No

if yes, mention the activity (FFD, Trainings, introduction to SAAAOs and other market actors, collective actions)

23. Do you know more about production?

i) Yes ii) No

if yes, can you now participate in taking decisions on family production and marketing? i)

Yes ii) No

24. What kind of role do you have in your production?

i) Independent

ii) Collaborating /distributing responsibilities with husband iii) other form (if other form please mention)

25. Can you avail money if needed?

i) Yes ii) No

If yes, what is the source of your credit?

- a. MFI
- b. Local money lender
- c. Relative
- d. Others (if others please mention)

26. Are you able to manage the required assets related to production?

If yes,

- a. Pump/spray machine, tiller, thrasher, equipment
- b. Mortgaging or leasing land
- c. Transportation
- d. Other (if other please mention)

27. Do you have control over use of income from the production?

i) Yes, ii) No iii) Partially

Checklist for KII

Respondent types: Public ext. agents (DAE, DLS, DOF), Private extension agents & care centers, FPG leaders, ICT Champions and Local governance representative

(start off with an introduction to the research, and the organization you are from, please refer to the FGD guideline for this is need be)

1. Name:	
2. Organization:	3.Position:
4. District	5.Upazila;
6. Union	7.Village
8. Contact Number:	

A. What do you know about the project AESA?

B. Are you involved in the project?

- i) Yes**
- ii) No**

If yes, how were you involved in the project?

C. What were the trainings and support you received from the project?

D. What are your observations about the activities of the project focused on gender awareness? How could the activities address gender issues like daily time use session, use of ICT and women participation in value chains?

E. How do you see the role, activities, and involvement of the women changing amongst the project beneficiaries?

- F. How do you see the role, activities, and involvement of the men changing amongst the project beneficiaries?
- G. How do you see the mode/approach of activities of the extension agents changing for addressing gender awareness?
- H. Are you able to provide the extension services better now for the women beneficiaries? If so how? What are the things you are being able to do differently (especially for women)?
- I. What is the most useful activity/activities to you for gender awareness? Why?
- J. What additional support or follow up is required for improving women's status regarding daily time use, use of ICT and level of women participation?
- K. How has the women reach increased due to the project support? Do you observe changes in the practices of the project beneficiaries specially women? If so how have they changed?
- L. What can be done to improve (or to follow-up) adoption of practices by the women beneficiaries?
- M. Do you think women members are also being benefitted financially? If so how? And by how much?
- N. What can be done to support (or to follow-up) the extension agents better so that they can serve women beneficiaries?
- O. *(Only for women service providers)* Is there any problem you face/faced to deliver your services? Is there any change/s due to any project initiatives like AESA?
- P. *(For only FPG leaders, ICT Champion and Women extension agents)* How can ICT help you in providing services to the women? Are the women benefitting through ICT?