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ABBREVIATION

AAS	=	Agricultural Advisory Society
BADC	=	Bangladesh Agriculture Development Cooperation
BAMWSP	=	Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Sanitation Project
BARC	=	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BARI	=	Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute
BRI	=	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
CARE	=	Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBO	=	Community Based Organization
CS	=	Certified Seed
CSGs	=	Contract Seed Growers
DAE	=	Department of Agricultural Extension
DFID	=	Department for International Development
EC	=	European Commission
FAG	=	Fine, Aromatic and glutinous
FARMSEED	=	Farmer's to Farmer's Seed Exchange System
FS	=	Foundation Seed
HTW	=	Hand Tube-well
IAPS	=	Intensive Agricultural Production system.
IFG	=	Informal Farmer Group
IPNM	=	Integrated Plant Nutrient Management
IT	=	Indigenous Technology
LIFE	=	Locally Intensive Farming Enterprise
LIV	=	Local Improve Variety
MSC	=	Mollika Seed Company
MT	=	Metric Ton
MVs	=	Modern Varieties
NGO	=	Non Government Organization
PETRRA	=	Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Assistance
PNGO	=	Partner NGO
PO	=	Partner Organization
RPF	=	Resource Poor Farmer
RPFG	=	Resource Poor Farmer Group
RPSFs	=	Resource Poor Small Farmers
SRI	=	System for Rice Intensification
TLS	=	Truthfully Labeled Seed

1. VISION AND MISSION OF AAS:

The purpose of AAS is to alleviate rural poverty through introduction of intensive agricultural production system with poor and small farmers in the country.

2. BACKGROUND:

Agricultural Advisory Society (AAS) was formed in 1989 by a multi-national group of Agricultural Professionals. It is registered under the Society Act. 1860 as Reg. No.S-1379 (13/91) and authorized by the NGO Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh for the purpose of receiving foreign grants and donation (Reg.No.1015). AAS is a Dhaka, Bangladesh based non-profit organization. AAS promotes high yield high value crop intensification among resource poor and small farmers. The purpose of AAS is to introduce and popularize its Intensive Agricultural Production System (IAPS). The system was developed by AAS in order to make a substantial and material contribution to increase the productivity of small, marginal and landless farmers, fish farmers and fishermen. The organizers of AAS believe that their IAPS approach is a practical model for mitigating the causes of rural poverty in Bangladesh. IAPS is a mechanism which directly enables landless, small and marginal farmers, fishermen and small fish farmers to systematically generate increased incomes and linking them with productive improved practices, reliable supplies of essential inputs and competitive markets for their increased production.

The mandate of AAS is to work for the poor and distressed within the mainstream development of the community. Bangladesh is an agrarian country and about 80% of its people depend on agriculture. Thus, agricultural activities are the major working area of AAS. Besides agricultural activities, AAS has become involved in several other rural development initiatives and environment development programs. These include rural health care, water and sanitation, non-formal education, road safety, human resource development, human rights. AAS has also been working on wastewater management, community based forest development and ground water arsenic hazard abatement etc.

AAS is the principle sponsor of the AAS NGO Partnership Network; a consortium of 150 rural based NGOs working throughout the country. AAS provides technical assistance to its partner NGOs in agricultural field including crop production, seed production, Nursery establishment, Aquaculture and afforestation. AAS advisors support NGOs throughout Bangladesh; helping them to establish nurseries and to set up effective demonstration plots and fishponds in order to extend new agricultural technology into the hands of the resource poor farmers (RPFs) including small and marginal farmers.

AAS focuses the full weight of its resources in areas where rural women and girl children are able to participate most freely and can become more productive. AAS sharply focuses its programs to maximize impact on the lives of rural families; with special emphasis on the income generation, health and welfare requirements of rural women and girl children

AAS operates sustainable agricultural development programmes with minimum resources through its informal farmers groups (IFGs) in large rural areas. AAS intends to implement projects through its partner organization (POs) as the cost-effective project management strategy.

3. LEGAL STATUS:

Authorized Organization	Registration	Date
i) NGO Affairs Bureau	No. 1015	Date: 4.3.1996
ii) Society Registration	No. 1379 (13) 91	Date: 5.2.1991
iii) Seed Wing, Ministry of Agriculture	SPMI/0432/2000	Date: 3.1.2000

4. WORKING AREAS:

AAS operates its developmental program activities in three working Zones – such as Northeast, Northwest and Southwest. AAS has implemented its developmental activities in 524 villages of 227 unions under 76 upazila of 25 districts through its directly involved about 100 partner organizations (NGOs/CBOs) during this reporting period. Zone-wise AAS's working number of villages and unions of involved upazila and districts are given below:

District	Name of Upazila	Nr. of Union	Nr. of Village
Zone: Northeast			
Moulvibazar	Sadar, Srimangal, Kamalganj, Kulaura	22	54
Habiganj	Madhobpur, Chunarughat, sadar, Bahubol, Baniachaung, Lakhai	25	49
Sylhet	Sadar, Companiganj, Jaintapur, Fenchuganj	6	14
Sunamganj	Sadar, Bishwamvarpur, Tahirpur, Jamalpur, Derai	6	12
Kishoregonj	Pakundia, Sadar, Hossainpur, Karimgonj, Kotiadi, Bajitpur, Kuliarchar	37	71
Mymensingh	Nandail, Gofargoan, Sadar, Muktagacha	12	21
Narsingdi	Sadar, Polas,	6	11
Jamalpur	Sadar, Melandoha	8	14
Zone: Northwest			
Gaibandha	Sadar, Polashbari	8	18
Rangpur	Pirgonj, Taragonj	6	10
Nilphamari	Saidpur	2	6
Dinajpur	Sadar, Kaharol, Setabgonj	6	17
Sirajgonj	Tarash, Shahzadpur, Ullapara, Raiganj	16	32
Natore	Sadar, Gurudashpur, Boraigram, Singra	15	28
Pabna	Sadar, Atgharia, Santhia, Sujaganar, Bera	12	23
Rajshahi	Charghat, Sadar	8	21
Chapai Nawabganj	Sadar, Shibganj	10	25
Bogra	Sariakandi	2	5
Naogaon	Atrai	1	2
Zone: Southwest			
Faridpur	Sadar, Nagarkandi, Madhukhali	9	19
Jhenaidah	Sadar, Kaligonj	6	12
Jessore	Sadar, Monirampur, Sharsha, Jhekorogacha	7	15
Magura	Sadar, Salikha	6	14
Kushtia	Sadar, Kumarkhali	6	16
Rajbari	Sadar, Baliakandi	5	15
25	76	247	524

5. FARMERS GROUP FORMATION:

A total of 250 groups have been formed with 5868 partner farmers in its 51 upazilas and 18 districts in 3 working zones up to December 2002. These are all informal agricultural production/seed production groups and committed to create their own wealth using AAS's strategies throughout the year. The zone-wise total number of farmer groups formed during the reporting period is given below:

Zone	# of farmers group	# of Partner farmers
North	71	1530
South	34	708
East	145	3630
Total	250	5868

Each farmer group has received training on the various issues of the following aspects:

- (a) Group formation, activation and implementing strategies on commercialized intensive agricultural production and its revolving fund management;
- (b) Sustainable Intensive agricultural production management system and its strategy;
- (c) Seed production technology and distribution strategy (FARMSEED)
- (d) Environmental hazard and its management strategy;
- (e) Sustainable intensive aquaculture management strategy.
- (f) Gender issues and their development strategy.

6. HIGH VALUE CASH CROP DEMONSTRATION

AAS has been continuing to introduce new varieties of high value cash crops with appropriate production packages in all of its project areas. AAS has demonstrated more than 110 different new cash crop varieties during the reporting period in 3 working zones. The varieties are presented in the following list:

Crop	Varieties
Bitter gourd	Tia (F ₁) Manik, Mukta & Bhashani
Chilli	Agnikana (F ₁), Jamuna (F ₁),
Okra	BARI-1, Siraj-ud-dolla (F ₁), Golam Hossain (F ₁), Alia (F ₁)
Banana	AAS Sagar – 1
Rice	Hybrids: 5 Cultivars, Modern Varieties (Inbreed): 18 cultivars, Fine & Aromatic (Traditional): 14 Cultivars, Glutinous (Traditional): 10 cultivars
Elephant Food	Madras, LIV
Snake Gourd	Bornali (F ₁), AAS Snake-1
Mukhi Kachu	LIV, Meherpuri (IRRI Kachu)
Ash Gourd	Bashanti (F ₁)
Cucumber	Titumir (F ₁), Shahra (F ₁), Hemeel (F ₁), Sheetal (F ₁)
Ridge Gourd	Isha kha (F ₁) & Musha Kha (F ₁).
Potato	Cardinal & Diamant,
Radish	Rocky-45, Tasakisun, Mukti (F ₁), Early 45 days, Everest (F ₁)
Cabbage	Bulbul (F ₁), Doel (F ₁), Baromashi (F ₁),
Tomato	Ratan, Uddayan (F ₁), Delta (F ₁), Shurakha(F ₁), Annanta(F ₁), Hightom(F ₁), Maradona(F ₁), Romario(F ₁), Dynamo (F ₁) & Epec (F ₁)
Brinjal	Bijoy (F ₁), Annando(F ₁), Utshab(F ₁), Hashi(F ₁) & Khushi(F ₁)
Danta Shak	Ruposhi, Peroshi and Red Force
Cauliflower	White Beauty (F ₁), Super Magic (F ₁), Snow Master (F ₁), White Contessa (F ₁), Snow Queen (F ₁), white Corona (F ₁), Magic ball (F ₁), Magic Snow (F ₁), Haymanti(F ₁), Magic boy (F ₁) & Snow crown.
Squash	Blum House
Onion	Taherpuri (Improved)
Water melon	Victory (F ₁), Beauty sweet (F ₁), Bistop (F ₁) World Queen (F ₁) , Field Master (F ₁).

7. DEMONSTRATING COMMERCIAL INTENSIVE CROP PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

The central activity of AAS is the establishment and operation of its commercial intensive crop production management demonstrations. The demonstrations provide practical way of linking small plot cultivators with private sector partners for both input and output of commercial production. The primary indicator of progress during the period is the willingness of participating farmers to borrow and repay their revolving funds. This confirms the growing sense of confidence in the newly established partnership linkages between participating farmers and other private and public sector players.

For commercial purpose, during the reporting period, AAS has established intensive crop production partnership with 1501 resource poor farmers (small, medium and marginal farmers), input suppliers, middlemen, POs and DAE representatives.

Zone	# Farmers
Northeast	680
Northwest	372
Southwest	449
Total	1501

AAS mobilizes its own resources and the resources of its partner farmers (POs) for commercialized production of the following high value cash crops:

Potato (Both seed and table varieties), Garlic, Pointed Gourd, Onion, Tomato, Brinjal, Banana, Chilli, Okra, Bitter Gourd, Snake Gourd, Teasel Gourd, Danta, Elephant Foot, Mukhi Kachu, Rice (hybrid, inbreed and FAG), Ginger, Cucumber, Radish, Cabbage and Cauliflower.

Success of the Commercialized Intensive Crop Production Management is determined by the amount of harvests/yields, the available markets and the collection of revolving fund. The performance of AAS's commercialized crop production management system is found mixed in its different working areas. AAS and its network staffs are now fully able to administer the commercialized crop production management features of the revolving fund scheme. They do this on behalf of the participating farmers, the input and revolving credit suppliers and the middlemen who purchase the crops. Presently AAS has been working with more than 30 partner NGOs to replicate the findings of the demonstrating commercial intensive crop production, those who have well established credit programmers in three working zones. These linkages with network partner/NGOs will make rapid extension of the commercial intensive cropping strategy among the resource poor and small farm families across the country.

8. PILOT REVOLVING FUND MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The principle cause of rural poverty in Bangladesh is the lack of access to the practical means of poverty alleviation. AAS's demonstration and crop management system demonstrate those means. AAS's revolving fund provides the participating small plot cultivators, access to the demonstrated means. AAS has shown that small plot cultivators, given systematic access to essential crop production inputs, are successful in alleviating their poverty. AAS's crop production financing capacity enables small plot cultivators to purchase necessary inputs gradually and use appropriate practices for higher yields and incomes.

AAS's working capitals are mobilized at non-subsidized rates. Agricultural advances are disbursed to individual participants who form themselves into AAS supervised production/marketing groups within the command area of each demonstration cluster. The loan sanctioning/collection authority rests with the concern AAS crop production supervisor. The crop production supervisor manages advances and collections within the command area of each cluster.

For different crops, presently a total of Tk. 48,79,75 revolving fund from AAS and its network partners has been mobilized among the 1501 participating farmers. The collections of those funds are being progressed, farmer accounts are being balanced and prospective borrowers have been identified. However, AAS's experience with managing the revolving fund resources has been found mixed with the involved partner resource poor and small farmers.

The twin challenges of disbursing and collecting revolving fund advances to partner farmers are a major factor in measuring the effectiveness of the revolving fund management scheme.

9. SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Potato:

A total of 18 acres seed potato (tuber) plots was established and produced 149 MT of different generations of potato seed in Chuadanga district during 2001/2002 Rabi season. Variety wise potato seed production detail is given below:

Variety	Generation	Area	Seed Production
Diamant	E to A	2 Acres	19 MT.
Diamant	A to B	5 Acres	47 MT.
Diamant	B to C	7 Acres	50 MT.
Cardinal	B to C	4 Acres	33 MT
Total		18	149 MT

Total of 149 MT of Diamant & Cardinal potato Seed of different generations were produced and stored (Jessore) with the contractual understanding with private seed Co. (Agro-concern Ltd). Total quantity of stored seed potato (B & C) has been distributed among AAS partner resource poor farmers and small farmers on cost basis in three working zones during 2002/2003 Rabi season.

Onion:

A total of 7 acres as demonstration Onion Seed (Var. Taherpuri) plots were established with partner contract farmers of Agro-Concern Ltd in Chuadanga district during 2001/2002 Rabi season. A total of 2085 kg quality seed was produced from 7 acres onion seed plots. Total quantity of produced seed was procured and stored in Chuadanga. AAS seed Agronomists /Specialists monitored the quality of seed during storing period. Seed packaging was done under the supervision of AAS assigned seed Agronomists/Specialists for marketing/distribution among the partner resource poor farmers and small farmers of AAS network POs during 2002/2003 Robi Season.

Rice:

AAS has distributed a total of 32710 kg of 5 hybrids, 18 MVs, 14 fine & aromatic and 10 glutinous rice seeds among partner resource poor farmers during 2001-2 Boro, 2002 T. Aus, 2002 T. Aman and 2002/3 Boro seasons in 3 working zones. Season wise quantity of rice seed distributed among the resource poor farmers on cost basis in three working zones is given below.

Season	Variety (Type)	Seed (Type)	Quantity (Kg)	Seed Source
2001-2 Boro	Modern Varieties (MVs)	Foundation Seed (FS) Truth fully labeled seed (TLS)	9000	BADC, BIRRI
	Hybrid	TLS/Certified seed (CS)	850	MSC, BIRRI
2002 T. Aus	MVs	Certified Seed (CS)	800	BADC
2002 T. Aman	MVs	FS/CS	6000	BADC, BIRRI
	Hybrid	TLS/CS	450	MSC
	Fine, Aromatic & glutinous (FAG)	TLS/Farmers seed	1550	BIRRI, Farmers
2002-3 Boro	MVs	FS/CS/TLS	10960	BADC, BIRRI
	Hybrid	TLS	2850	MSC, BRAC, BIRRI etc
	FAG	Farmers Seed	250	Farmers

AAS intends to use the paddy produced from the supplied seeds of 28 MVs and FAG rice as seed under its farmer to farmer seed exchange programme (FARMSEED) in AAS working areas. The rice MVs uptake and farmer to farmer seed exchange system (FARMSEED) have been strengthened in Kishoregonj, greater Sylhet, Pabna, Rajshahi, Natore and Sirajganj districts under PETRRA project support along with 55 POs (NGOs & CBOs), BIRRI and DAE.

Banana Suckers:

More than thirty thousand suckers of AAS Sagar-1 of Banana have been distributed among the partner resource poor farmers during the reporting period in 3 working zones of AAS. AAS has been introducing AAS Sagar-1 banana through field demonstration since 1996 in 3 working zones. These suckers have been collected from AAS trained banana growers in Jhekorgacha upazila of Jessore district, Pirgonj upazila of Rangpur district, Polasbari upazila of Gaibandha district and Pakundia upazila of Kishoregonj district.

10. ESTABLISHING HOMESTEAD GARDEN PLOTS

AAS has established 16 organized and protected Homestead Garden plots within its three working zones. This compares with a target projection of 60 protected homestead garden plots. The reasons for this indifferent response to AAS's homestead garden initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Client farmers in the working areas tend to be highly efficient in the production of high value cash crops.
- 2) Plots adjacent to the homestead are already being used for the production of high value crops on commercial scale.
- 3) Diversified vegetable consumption requirements are easily met from available commercialized crop production sources.
- 4) Women members of the participating farm families confess that they are too busy with other essential activities to engage themselves in a duplication of work already being carried out.
- 5) Some families resent the top down efforts of AAS and others to impose homestead gardening practices within the project areas where other priorities and bottom up agendas in place.

As a result, farm families are reluctant to invest the time and resources necessary to sustain AAS's homestead gardening demonstrations. AAS will continue to make efforts to meet its homestead gardening commitments by concentrating its efforts on extremely high value crops of short duration on a year-round basis.

11. NURSERY ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT

AAS has established 11 commercialized nurseries in all three of its working zones during the reporting period. Revolving fund has been disbursed for this purpose among the involved nursery owners trained by AAS.

AAS trained staff of 25 members of AAS partner NGO network has been establishing new nurseries with their partner resource poor farmers within their working areas.

12. PROMOTING MICRONUTRIENTS IN CROP PRODUCTION

AAS has been promoting both boron and zinc as micronutrients in crop production through field demonstration and linking with suppliers in the deficient areas since it's founding. During this reporting period, AAS has distributed 3 MT of Zinc Sulfate (Monohydrate) and 550 kg of borax among its partner farmers in the working districts.

13. TRAINING, MOTIVATION AND WORKSHOP

A. Farmers Training

AAS provided practical training and orientation on several issues including the following areas to 6892 partner resource poor farmers of which 32% is the resource poor female farmers in three working zones during this reporting period:

- ☞ Methods of modern rice production
- ☞ Farmers Participatory Training (FAMPT) on BRR1 dhan 33 based high value Cropping Pattern (Kishoreganj & greater Sylhet)
- ☞ Participatory training on sustainable post harvest practices and rice seed management for female farmers of RPFPGs (greater Sylhet & Kishoreganj)

- ☞ Orientation Training on Impact Study of FARMSEED for Staff and Farmers in greater Sylhet district
- ☞ Training on hybrid rice production technology
- ☞ Training on Improved Practices of Rice Production
- ☞ FAMPAT on FARMSEED for rice
- ☞ Participatory Sustainable IPNM for intensive rice-based cropping through farmer's IT.
- ☞ Intensive crop production practices;
- ☞ Commercialized crop production management system;
- ☞ Seed production technology for non rice crops;
- ☞ Nursery establishment and management;
- ☞ Intensive Poly-culture of Carps;
- ☞ Intensive fingerling production techniques;
- ☞ Safe and effective use of pesticides

These training's are being conducted in the farmer's fields during the crop-growing season and will continue based on the needs of farmers.

B. Staff Training

AAS has undertaken series of training session/training courses on several issues including the following field for the benefit of 367 AAS and Partner Organization's (NGO & CBOs) Staff:

- ☞ Participatory training on FARMSEED for rice
- ☞ Improve Rice Seed Technology
- ☞ Orientation Training on Impact Study of FARMSEED for Staff and Farmers in Kishoreganj & greater Sylhet districts
- ☞ Training on participatory technology uptake process
- ☞ Orientation Training on Hybrid Technology for CEs of POs
- ☞ Training on hybrid rice production technology for staff of POs at BIRRI HQ
- ☞ Methods of modern rice production
- ☞ Rice production Training at BIRRI HQ
- ☞ Staff orientation training on participatory IPNM for Intensive Rice-based cropping system
- ☞ Participatory training on Fertilizer Management Trial in T. Aus
- ☞ Participatory Sustainable IPNM for intensive rice-based cropping
- ☞ Sustainable yield maximization strategy for rice and high value cash crops
- ☞ Intensive Fingerling Culture Methods
- ☞ Intensive Carps poly culture
- ☞ Seed Production Technology for non rice crops
- ☞ Arsenic Hazard and it's mitigation Technology
- ☞ Safe and Effective Use of Pesticide in Crop Production
- ☞ Sustainable Intensive Agricultural Production Management Strategy
- ☞ Gender issues and their development strategy

C. Farmers Motivational Activities

Total of 14,590 partner resource poor, small and progressive farmers participated in AAS sponsored field days, field visit, farmers experience sharing and farmers motivational

meetings at its various demonstration sites of different project activities including PETRA funded 6 sub-projects in three working zones.

D. Workshop

A total 3,656 farmers and staff of AAS and its Partner Organizations (NGOs/CBOs) were Participated in workshop on several issues including the following issues organized and conducted by AAS:

- ☞ Participatory Workshop on FARMSEED (Orientation)
- ☞ Participatory Workshop on FARMSEED Planning
- ☞ Participatory Planning Workshop on FARMSEED for RPFs and Staff of POs of greater Sylhet district.
- ☞ Workshop on GIS based IPNM in rice cropping through farmers IT
- ☞ Orientation Workshop on IPNM in Crop Production through farmers IT for CEs of POs
- ☞ Workshop on the assessment of the project findings on IPNM
- ☞ Workshop on uptake strategy development of the fine-tuned IPNM through farmers IT
- ☞ Prospect of rice hybrids seed Production under Bangladesh conditions
- ☞ Arsenic Hazard and it's Abatement
- ☞ Participatory workshop on Appropriate Agricultural Technology for AAS Partner Organizations
- ☞ Participatory workshop on commercialized high value cash cropping system for RPSFs of POs.
- ☞ Gender issues and their development strategy
- ☞ Waste and waste water management strategy.

14. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Research and development initiatives on agricultural and environmental issues are the principle activities of AAS. Presently, AAS has been under taking the following research and development programmes in its working areas:

- ☞ Skilled family members extension approach for rice knowledge adoption
- ☞ Women-led group extension method for rice and rice seed drying and storage technology
- ☞ Extension of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) through verification
- ☞ Arsenic in Food Chain: Assessment of the Water, Soil and Crop System in target areas of Bangladesh
- ☞ Production and marketing of Fine, Aromatic and Glutinous (FAG) rice through farmer's participation in Northeast region in Bangladesh
- ☞ Pilot Testing of BRRI hybrid dhan-1 in Rajshahi Region
- ☞ Participatory Integrated Plant Nutrient Management For Intensive Rice-based Cropping
- ☞ Strengthening FARMSEED (Farmer to farmer seed exchange system) extension method
- ☞ Identifying location specific Arsenic free layer for Tube-well installation for drinking ground water in the Arsenic contaminated areas
- ☞ A study on "Impact of Arsenic Contaminated Ground water Irrigation" in Jessore, Faridpur, Kushtia, Pabna, Comilla and Chandpur districts under BAMWSP funding support
- ☞ High yielding crop variety introduction through farmers participatory demonstration

- ☞ Study on Sustainable production package development for maximization of Fish yield through intensive carp poly-culture
- ☞ Sustainable yield maximization trial on rice (Hybrid and Inbreed)

15. ARSENIC HAZARD AND ITS ABATEMENT PROGRAM

In Bangladesh, Arsenic pollution in ground water is a recent environmental episode and it assumes to begun after 1975 but first known to the community was only in 1993. Presently drinking ground water at different areas of 61 districts in the country becomes Arsenic Contamination and the coverage continues to increase to 87,000 sq. km. More than 75 million people may fall in health risk by drinking ground water arsenic contamination in our country.

During the reporting period, water of 981 tube-wells at 31 villages in 11 upazilas of Faridpur, Jessore, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Magura, Rajbari, Rajshahi and Chapai Nawabganj districts has been tested for Arsenic concentration by AAS.

Total of 58 Staff of AAS PNGOs, civil society members, journalists etc have been trained on arsenic hazards and its mitigation methods. More than four thousand HTW users in AAS working areas received motivational training & materials on arsenic hazard and its abatement strategy.

Presently AAS been working for PETRRA funded sub-project on Arsenic in Food Chain: Assessment of the Water, Soil and Crop System in target areas of Bangladesh in Rajshahi and Chapai Nawabganj districts as an important technical partner since 1 September 2002.

AAS has been working to identify location specific Arsenic free layer for tub-well installation for drinking ground water in Arsenic contaminated areas in collaboration with Krishok Bandhu Agro-System Limited (KBAL) since February 1996.

AAS has agreed to work as Technical partner with BARC, Mott Mac-Donald-Dhaka and Society for Sustainable Development for the Rural and Urban Areas (NGO) for implementing a study on "Impact of Arsenic Contaminated Ground water Irrigation" in Jessore, Faridpur, Kushtia, Pabna, Comilla and Chandpur districts under BAMWSP funding support.

16. LOCALLY INTENSIVE FARMING ENTERPRISE (LIFE)

AAS worked as a partner NGO (PNGO) to implement the LIFE project of CARE- Bangladesh funded by the European Commission (EC) from 1 October 1999 to 31 December 2000 CARE-Kishoreganj (LIFE Project) supported both financially and technically for implementing the LIFE project in Sadar upazila of Kishoregonj and Nandail upazila of Mymensingh districts.

After completion of the CARE -LIFE Project, AAS has been implementing CARE-LIFE Project concept using it's own strategy at 12 villages in sadar, Pakundia and Hossainpur upazilas of Kishoregonj district. AAS has been implementing the following fine-tuned activities of LIFE with a total of 167 resource poor farmers in Kishoregonj district:

- ☞ Rice-Fish technology;
- ☞ Community Fish Culture;
- ☞ Dike technology;

- ☞ Community/Road side vegetable production;
- ☞ Soil health improvement;
- ☞ SRI trial etc.

17. OPERATING AAS's FISH HATCHERY

AAS has been operating its fish hatchery at Alampur, Kushtia with trained fishermen on contractual agreement. Under such sub-contract system a total of 480 Kg quality hatchlings of the following seven different carps and Thai Sarputi has been produced and distributed among the resource poor fish farmers and fisherman in Kushtia district during the reporting period:

SL #	Carp type	Quantity (Kg)
1.	Rohu	64
2.	Mrigal	83
3.	Catla	69
4.	Silver carp	86
5.	Big head	71
6.	Common carp	36
7.	Grass carp	41
8.	Thai Sarputi	31
Total		481

18. AAS PARTNER NGO NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

AAS has been strengthening and expanding its partner NGO network all over the country since 1989. At present about 150 NGOs directly and indirectly are involved with AAS partner NGO network. Moreover, 50 NGOs are involved for implementing AAS developed intensified crop management strategies with their client resource poor farmers in 3 working zones. A total of 93 AAS partner organizations (NGOs and CBOs) have been implementing PETRRA funded eight sub-projects in 42 upazilas of Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabganj, Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Naogaon districts under the umbrella network of AAS. A total of 91 partner organizations has received training on sustainable FARMSEED strategy for its implementation with their partner resource poor farmers in three working zones. Total of 36 AAS partner NGOs have been developed for a partnership network all over the country in 3 working zones for extension of intensive carp poly-culture fish fingerling production and distribution under donor support.

19. Summary of AAS-PETRRA Sub-project Activities

Project Title: Rice MVs uptake through Farmer to Farmer Seed Exchange System (FARMSEED)

The objective of the project is to increase rice production, income and nutritional standard of resource poor and small farm families (RPFFs) by adapting suitable rice MVs through strengthening the farmer to farmer seed exchange system (FARMSEED) in the project areas.

Project Title: Pilot Testing of BRRI hybrid dhan-1 in Rajshahi Region

The objective of the sub-project is to evaluate the performance of BRRI hybrid dhan-1 under farmer's field conditions in Rajshahi region. The project is being implemented in 5 northwest working districts of AAS in Rajshahi region.

Project Title: Participatory Integrated Plant Nutrient Management For Intensive Rice-based Cropping.

The objective of the project is to apply GIS technology in combination with farmers' indigenous knowledge together with digitized database to implement integrated plant nutrient management (IPNM) strategies leading to improve livelihoods for resource poor farmers. The project is being implementing in 2 northeast working districts of AAS.

Project Title: Production and marketing of Fine, Aromatic and Glutinous (FAG) rice through farmer's participation in northeast region in Bangladesh

The objective of the project is to promote the production and marketing of Fine Aromatic and Glutinous (FAG) rice for the purpose of increasing the income and nutritional standards of resource poor farmers in northeast Bangladesh. The project has been implementing in 2 of the northeast working districts of AAS.

Project Title: Women-led group extension methods for rice and rice seed drying and storage technology (Post Harvest Technology Development)

The objective of the project is to introduce and popularize an innovative women-led group extension method for drying tables and storage of rice and rice seed among female members of resource poor farmers. The project has been implementing in 3 northeast working districts of AAS.

Project Title: Extension of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) through verification

The objective of the project is to introduce and verify the appropriateness of SRI based rice Intensification strategies for yield maximization among resource poor farmers in Comilla and Sylhet regions. The project is being implemented in 3 northeast districts and Comilla district.

Project Title: Ground water Irrigation and Arsenic in food chain

The objective of the project is to identify health risks and soil contamination that may be resulting from naturally occurring, Arsenic contaminated ground water being used for irrigated crop production. The project is being implemented in 2 northwest districts of AAS working areas.

Project Title: Skilled family members extension approach for rice knowledge adoption (Whole Family Development Project)

The objective of the project is introducing an innovative extension approach for rice knowledge dissemination among all family members (whole families) of resource poor farmers. The project is being implementing in 3 northwest districts of AAS working areas.

20. STAFFING

AAS has a total of 115 staff, of which 51 regular staff, 12 consultants, 15 advisors, 37 part time and seasonal staff for implementing its program activities in 25 districts through AAS partner NGO network as a cost-effective project implementation strategy. Out of 115 staff, 82 staff is technical staff specialized in Agriculture, Irrigation, Environment, GIS, Seed technology, Aquaculture, Road Safety, Business Management etc.