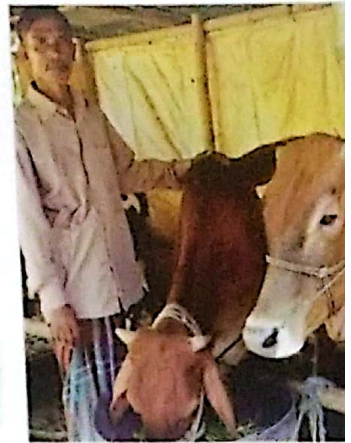
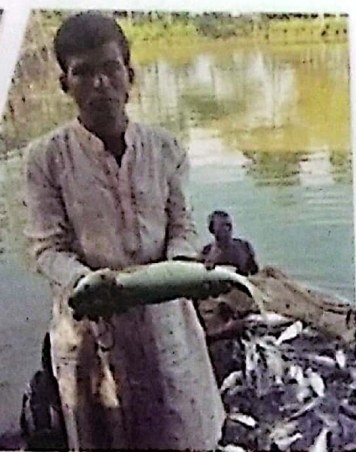


# Effectiveness of Village Development Organizations (VDOs) of Amar Bari Amar Khamar (ABAK) Project



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## **Acknowledgements**

We are indebted to several persons for their guidance, assistance and various inputs which have been crucial for completion of this report.

We like to give our special thanks to Mr. Swapan Bhattacharjee and Mr. Kamal Uddin Talukder, the State Minister and Secretary respectively for Rural Development and Co-operative Division (RDCD) for kindly hearing the findings presentation and made valuable comments on the report held at RDCD Conference Room on 20 June, 2019. We are also grateful to the Project Director Mr. Akbar Hossain and Deputy Project Director Mr. Nazir Ahmed for their presence and organizing the occasion.

We sincerely acknowledge the cooperation extended by the Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO), Upazila Coordinators of Amar Bari Amar Khamar (ABAK) project, union Chairman and ward members, beneficiaries of ABAK project and the relevant persons for providing necessary information in connection with the study. We are giving thanks to all the enumerators (Research Supervisors, Tabulators and Research Investigators) and Programmer Assistant Mr. Kamrul Islam of Research Division, RDA, Bogura for doing their job with all sincerity and integrity.

The authors are expressing their gratitude to Prof. Dr. Faruq Hasan, Department of Agricultural Extension, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur and Dr. Sk. Mehdee Mohammad, Joint Director, RDA, Bogura for reviewing and editing the report respectively.

Finally, we acknowledge the continuous encouragement, administrative support, assistance and help of Director General and Director Research of RDA, Bogura for their interest in publishing the report.

**The Research Team**

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

Bangladesh has been combating poverty since her independence in 1971. However, some bold initiatives taken by the present government for last one decade help her graduating from a least developed country (LDC) to a developing country and leading to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) and intend to be a developed country by 2041. The key consideration is the elimination of all dimensions of chronic poverty from the society to achieve sustainable development. From that viewpoint Amar Bari Amar Khamar (ABAK) project was undertaken for uplifting the livelihoods of small and marginal farm households (with land 0.05 – 1.00 acres) (BBS 2015).

The Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh is the enlightened faces of the world political affairs today. After the independence of Bangladesh the achievement of the microcredit programs as much as earned the basket of successes, but livelihood of the poor people goes as far as behind. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina realized that, microcredit has created a lot of flows of money at the primary level, but it could not positively impacted to improve the livelihood of the poor peoples.

The implementation of the dreams of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is to build up own savings of the poor peoples to get rid of from the poverty by ABAK project's small savings model. Through the small savings of underprivileged poor people and contribution of equal amount of matching grant of government created capital along with revolving fund investment for increasing the permanent capital based village development organization is now moving towards improving the livelihood of the poor people in every village.

The 'Micro Savings Model' has created a new paradigm shift in the rural economy from itself directly related to the distribution of capital and the process of realization for themselves. Which will play an important role in the national economic growth in the future and that raise funds for poor people in the rural areas for sustainable poverty reduction by generating permanent income in the family farm. It will play vital role for reducing national poverty rates at 10% by 2020.

The Project is being implemented throughout the country in each and every Union Parishads (councils), particularly 40,950 wards of 4,550 unions. The project has started in July 2009 and will continue till June 2020 with a cost of Tk. 80.1 billion from the development budget of the government. This is for the first time that the government is financing to the poor and marginal people through village development organizations (VDOs) directly as grant for creating their primary capital to use it as a revolving fund. They will use it for their development in the long run. VDOs are the core part of ABAK project and it is important to understand how effectively those organizations are working at community level to achieve the goal of the project. Thus, the main objective of this study is to explore the effectiveness and present situation of VDOs under ABAK project. The study was conducted in 37 Upazilas (sub-districts) under seven districts of north-western Bangladesh. Those seven districts are Bogura, Gaibandha, Jaipurhat, Naogaon, Chapai Nawabgonj, Rajshahi and Sirajgonj, representing more than 1,200 VDOs of the study area and they are the presidents, the managers and the general members of those VDOs. Out of 4767 project beneficiaries 4625 respondents (excluding vice president and general secretary as they are not common in all VDOs) were selected by using purposive sampling methods.