

Bangladesh was the site of IDE's first country program, established in 1984. With over twenty-four years of experience working in poverty alleviation in the context of rural Bangladesh, IDE has developed a comprehensive understanding of agricultural opportunities and constraints, regional markets, and the needs and capacities of small farmers. While in the last two decades Bangladesh has experienced some remarkable achievements in reducing poverty, roughly half of the population (an estimated 63 million people) still lives in extreme deprivation. In response, IDE is pioneering creative solutions that use existing resources and can be scaled up to reach large numbers.

### Program Description and Activities:

To sustainably eliminate poverty, poor households must move beyond subsistence agriculture. IDE's approach identifies potential products which have a high market demand. Then, with the relevant traders and input suppliers, IDE works with clusters of farmers to produce and market a particular crop.

Spices are a great opportunity market in Bangladesh. Over 30% of spices consumed in Bangladesh are imported from India due to the shortage of supply within Bangladesh. Most farmers are familiar with and involved in the production of a multitude of spices. We have identified chilli and turmeric as having the greatest potential for small farmers in Bangladesh. In addition, farmers may identify other crops for which they believe are potential markets and for which they would like to support.

Most farmers lack the required skills for post-harvest management and primary processing of spices. IDE is facilitating training on harvest techniques, post-harvest processing, intermediate/pre-drying storage, cleaning and sorting, pre-storage packaging, post-drying treatment, and pre-transportation packaging. These skills significantly improve small farmers' ability to earn the best prices for their spice crops.



<b>Project:</b>	RPI/ISEM
<b>Location:</b>	Two districts in northwestern Bangladesh
<b>Target Population:</b>	300 small farm households
<b>Partners:</b>	Government of the Netherlands

### Impact Assessment

IDE is working with 300 farmer households to increase their annual income by an average \$250. Other project outcomes include:

- Improved capacity of farmers for production of turmeric, chilli, and at least three other horticulture crops based on market demand
- Improved processing and packaging, improved ability of farmers to access markets
- Improved ability of traders to disseminate information and to expand their markets
- Improved relationships and linkages between farmers, traders and spice processors
- Improved access to quality inputs and technical information
- Increased land productivity through improved use of inputs and management practices
- Increased income

IDE is collecting detailed information in order to assess whether access to and the quality of input services are improving. This will identify which investments lead to the greatest returns. To ensure high quality baseline and impact information, we are sharing our approaches to impact monitoring while learning about the impact indicators of other organizations.



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