

Contribution of Homestead Vegetable Farming and Social Wellbeing to the Rural People in Bangladesh

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It is widely believed that the incidence of poverty in Bangladesh has increased during the decade of 1970. According to some studies, the calorie-based poverty has in fact more in the rural people. Households owning no land or less than 0.5 acre of land own more than 50% of the total population. There are almost no job opportunities for the landless, illiterate people and disadvantaged group especially women (if they are widows or single earners) in the country. In this case home stead vegetable gardening may be a first investment for a livelihood weapon to increase their income and get out of poverty. Therefore we can assume that the ultra poor could be helped if they undertake some income earning activities like home stead vegetable garden what will gradually move away them from dependent to self –sustained livelihood activities that eventually become a major development innovation.

This paper examines ways in which the poor can use small amount of land to establish home stead vegetable garden to advance important livelihood objectives. It consider the potential benefits of home gardens in light of policy, financial and cultural constraints, and provides a frame work for planners to consider whether, home garden interventions are appropriate for improving livelihoods for the rural poor people.

Home stead vegetable farming can play an important role in reducing poverty by providing food, cash income, and employment opportunities for the rural poor people. They can utilize their time, energy, and efforts for productive work and earn additional income which makes them independent. In this way vegetable farming can bring the social wellbeing for the rural people.

According to HIES 2000 data, the estimate for the lower poverty line is US \$ 78 per capita per annum. On an average, successful vegetable farmer can earn 320 taka per month by selling their vegetables. This is more than lower poverty line. Therefore if every poor family cultivates vegetable in their home garden they can utilize this income with family expenditure and it will help as a ladder to combat poverty. The results indicate that the participants of homestead vegetable farming have benefited positively in terms of income, consumption, nutrition and empowerment of women.