

# Addressing *Monga* through a collective regional forum response in the northwest of Bangladesh

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# *Monga*

- ... a seasonal food insecurity in ecologically vulnerable and economically weak parts of north-western Bangladesh, primarily caused by an employment and income deficit before *aman*[\[1\]](#) is harvested. It mainly affects those rural poor, who have an undiversified income that is directly or indirectly based on agriculture (Zug 2006:2)  
[\[1\]](#) *Aman* is the rice grown in the monsoon season

# *Monga* Responses

- VGF
- VGD
- FFW
- AR&D (technology & extension methods)
- FAF for collective mobilization of AR&D

# Monga Calendar

|           |  |      |     |            |     |             |     |              |     |             |     |       |     |            |     |        |     |            |     |            |     |               |     |       |     |  |  |
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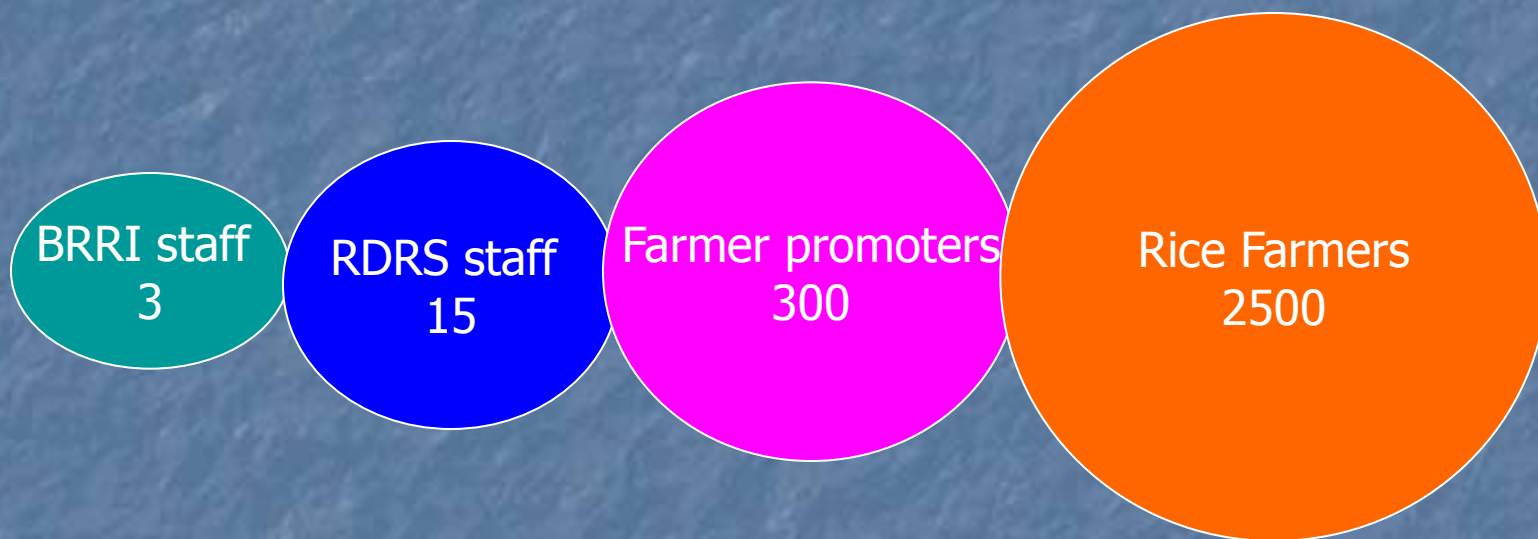
# FAF: Justifications

- Many activities are ongoing but are not known to relevant actors;
- NAEP gives legitimacy to actors working together;
- Can help develop communication and linkage among actors;
- Consistent knowledge on innovations and their movements can be ensured;
- GO-NGO extension agents can help raise the voice of the resource-poor (men and women);
- Advocacy and gender issues could be addressed;
- Joint capacity development activities for farmers and field workers could be easier; and
- Agencies can share human, physical and financial resources for common cause;

# NW FAF Interventions (1)

- Started with active 11 PETRRA project partners
- FAF initially decided to work four aspects:  
Movement of knowledge on rice-based innovations: technology dissemination to address *Monga*
  - PETRRA: Brridhan28, 29, LCC; used RDRS FFSs;
  - Post PETRRA: short duration rice variety e.g. Brridhan33, direct seeded planting method
  - Latest: Stress tolerant rice varieties being tested

# The capacity dev model (2)



# Seed innovations replicated (3)

- RDRS group federation led seed model replicated from 1 to 18 (piloted under PETRRA)
- Ensured availability of quality seed at farmer level;
- Within FAF a SeedNet developed to share seed related issues involved GO-NGO-Pvt sector and farmers;

# Voice of the resource-poor ensured (4)

- Resource-poor farmers represent in the forum as equal status members
- Resource-poor farmers participate, guide and evaluate demand-led FPR
- Demand-led research-education being institutionalized by RDRS in collaboration with national & international universities;
- Federation members equipped with knowledge to operate seed business on their own; RDRS provide technical support;

# Conclusion

- Agriculture technology has potential to combat *Monga*; FAF experience showed the effectiveness of collective initiative in mobilizing technology to poor farmer;
- Finding out a niche and a proper host such as RDRS for NWFAF was essential
- Evidences such as 1) the endorsement of state minister, 2) MoU signed between RDRS and DAE, 3) RIB support for Monga technology dissemination and 4) IRRI engagement for stress tolerant technology dissemination through FAF indicate stakeholders' confidence and the effectiveness of the approach;