

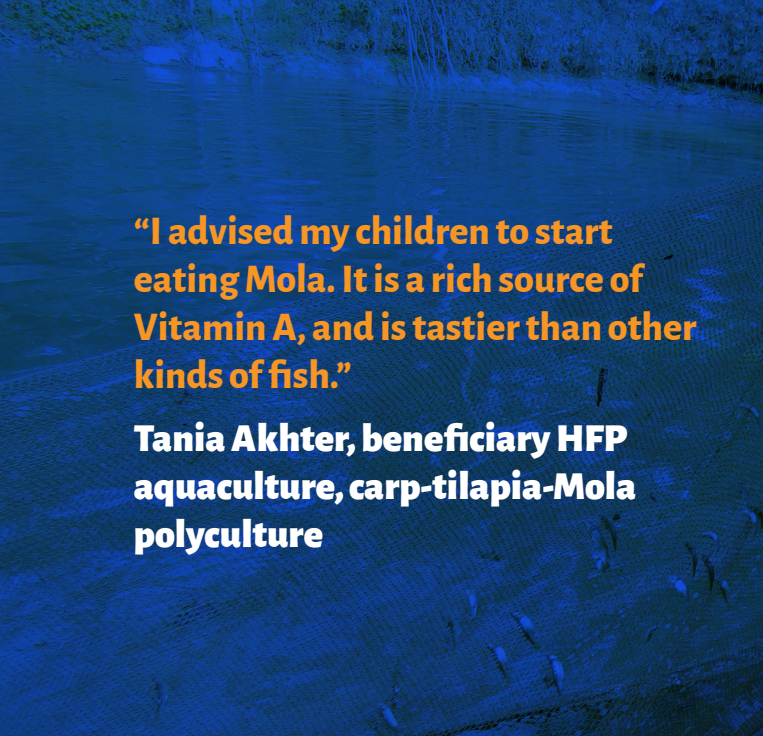


Knowledge Product

Suchana:

Ending the cycle of undernutrition in Bangladesh

**Homestead Food Production (HFP) aquaculture
carp-tilapia-Mola polyculture**



“I advised my children to start eating Mola. It is a rich source of Vitamin A, and is tastier than other kinds of fish.”

Tania Akhter, beneficiary HFP aquaculture, carp-tilapia-Mola polyculture



Introduction

Suchana supports all beneficiaries in horticulture food production activities.

These interventions aimed to improve access to nutrition-sensitive fish, vegetables, and poultry produce, to improve the dietary diversity and nutrition status of women.

Suchana’s Homestead Food Production for carp-tilapia-Mola polyculture (HFP Aquaculture) aims to increase production and consumption of fish for beneficiary households to improve their nutritional status. Homestead aquaculture was anticipated to contribute to Suchana’s goal of improved nutritional intake of beneficiary households. The intervention was predicted to be possible with 30% of beneficiary households having access to ponds of small water bodies.

Nutrition-sensitive fish production focused mainly on carp-tilapia and Mola poly-culture along with small indigenous fish species (SiS), using improved pond management techniques. In consideration of beneficiary households (BHHs) having access to limited water resources, Suchana interventions supported integrated production techniques. Each BHH had the option to choose any one of the following interventions based on their resources and interest to engage in this particular activity:

- Aquaculture only
- Aquaculture with small-scale poultry rearing, for beneficiaries with access to less than 2 decimals of water
- Subsistence fishing opportunities


Context

Suchana has supported 64,609 beneficiary households on the production and consumption of nutrition-sensitive aquaculture and fisheries up to November 2020. The programme takes an integrated approach to deliver nutrition-focused interventions to prevent classic malnutrition within the critical first 1,000 days of a child’s life.

Suchana interventions include the promotion of both on-farm and off-farm income generating activities (IGAs), and homestead food production (HFP), to ensure sustainable production and supply of nutritious food. This was in turn supported by training on improved technologies and best practices, resulting in increased usage of these new technologies.

Suchana focused on the production of the following species of fish:

- Rui
- Catla
- Mrigel
- Silver carp
- Common carp
- Mola
- Local, small indigenous fish species (SiS)



“We are now aware of the different technologies required to breed healthy fish. I take care of the pond by applying lime and fertiliser, and check the water regularly. As with our children, we also need to take great care of our fish.”

Tania Akhter’s husband

Objectives of aquaculture and horticulture interventions

- Increased production of fish and vegetables
- Increased consumption of fish and vegetables
- Improved income opportunities
- Increased adaptive capacity in response to risks

Aquaculture and horticulture in Suchana

- Increased production and consumption of fish and vegetables to improve dietary diversity of women and children
- 235,579 beneficiary households were selected for nutrition-sensitive horticulture up to November 2020
- 55,141 beneficiary households have received support for aquaculture. 39,883 BHHs on poly-carp production, and 15,258 BHHs for other fisheries
- 8,386 IGA BHHs received support on income generation through aquaculture. 2,759 BHHs on poly-carp production, and 15,258 on other fisheries
- 1,082 BHHs supported in the establishment of demonstration ponds

Training on HFP aquaculture for the BHHs and market actors

Suchana organised the following training sessions for aquaculture beneficiaries and market actors:

- Sustainable homestead aquaculture for improved nutrition for homestead food production (HFP) BHHs
- Household based pond aquaculture for income generating activities (IGA) BHHs
- Advanced training on pond aquaculture for demo pond operators
- Training on improved technologies in fish fingerling production for fish nursery operators
- Building linkages with fish hatcheries and fish nursery operators
- Building linkages with patilwalas (fish fingerling retailers) and fish nursery operators
- Fingerling transportation and stocking technologies for patilwalas
- HFP aquaculture and nutrition orientation training for front line field staff of Suchana’s implementing partners (IPs)
- Improved horticulture practices for the BHHs

Support provided for aquaculture and horticulture

- Technical training and on-farm coaching
- Door-to-door follow-up
- Input supplies including vegetable seeds, fish fingerlings, lime, and fish feed
- Development of linkages with local service providers and market actors (input sellers and output retailers)

“The success of HFP aquaculture in carp-tilapia-Mola polyculture has encouraged neighbours and other farmers to adopt our technologies.”

**Mifta Akter, field facilitator
Kamalganj, Maulvibazar**

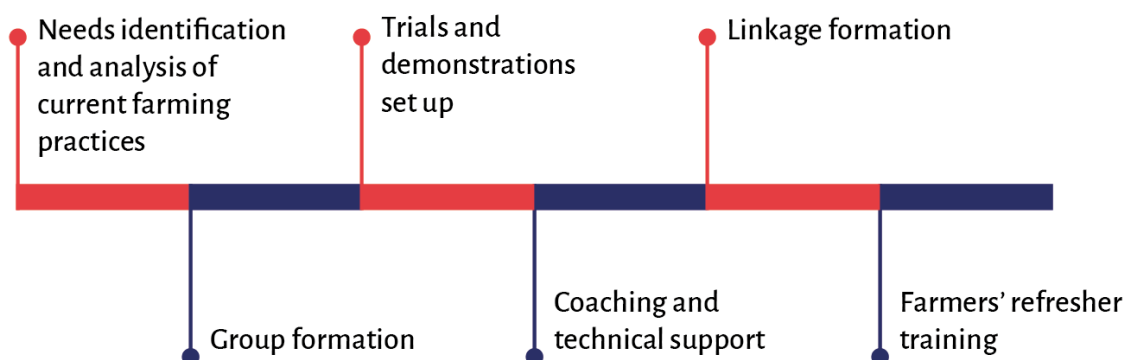


Outcomes of HFP aquaculture: carp-tilapia-Mola polyculture

- Average annual fish production increased from 38 kg to 86 kg per beneficiary household for IGA aquaculture
- Average annual fish production increased from 26 kg to 42 kg per beneficiary household for HFP aquaculture
- 42.7% reproductive age women of HFP aquaculture households consumed a minimum diversified diet
- 36.0% children (6 months to 23 months of age) of HFP aquaculture households consumed minimum diversified diets (4 or more food groups based on FANTA 2013)

About Suchana

Suchana: Ending the cycle of undernutrition in Bangladesh is a multisectoral nutrition programme that aims to reduce chronic undernutrition leading to stunting among children under two years of age living within 235,500 poor and very poor households in the Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts of Bangladesh. The programme involves an integrated approach to nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, and is a sustainable and replicable model that can be scaled to other regions.



Contact us at:

suchana.bangladesh@savethechildren.org

House CWN (A) 35, Road 43, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212

