

FARMER PERCEPTIONS SURVEY

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December 2023 Follow-Up Survey

[This survey was conducted over the phone in December 2023. I am grateful to G. M. Mustafizur Rahman of the Soil Research Development Institute for his guidance in the salinity information provided in this survey. Notes describing the mechanics of the survey are written in italics inside brackets. Instructions for the enumerators not intended to be read aloud to the respondent are denoted in blue.]

1. Assalamu Alaikum/Namaskar. My name is *[NAME]*. I am calling as part of a research team studying farmers in Bangladesh. We interviewed you twice over the past year. We are calling today to share the results of our research with you and ask you a small number of questions. It will only take a few minutes. We interviewed *[NAME]*. We would like to interview *[NAME]* again. Are you available? *[If “Yes”, continue with survey.]*

2. Thank you. First, I would like to ask you about growing Boro rice. What are the different reasons that your rice plant might suffer in your area? Please list as many reasons as you can.

- Brown spot | Bacterial blight | Bacterial leaf streak | Sheath blight | Blast (leaf and collar) | Blast (neck) | Sheath rot | Tungro | Ugra | Fungus | Rice stem borer | Brown plant hopper | Grasshopper | Yellow stem borer | Hispa | Lack of rainfall | Lack of water in river | Lack of water in dam | Fall in groundwater level | Not enough water | Too much water | Salinity | Water too saline | More arsenic in groundwater | Electric failure | Lack of diesel | Dispute with irrigation organization | Irrigation machine disfunction | Not enough fertilizer | Too much fertilizer | Other | Don't know

3. How much salt do you think will be in your soil this year? **Instructions: Read out options.**

- Extremely little salt | Very little salt | Some salt | A lot of salt | A very high amount of salt | Don't know

4. How worried are you about salinity on your plots? **Instructions: Read out options.**

- Extremely worried | Very worried | Somewhat worried | A little worried | Not worried at all | Don't know

5. How likely do you think it will be that soil salinity harms your crops this year? **Instructions: Read out options.**

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

6. How likely do you think it will be that a pest harms your crops this year? **Instructions: Read out options.**

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

7. Do you expect to cultivate boro rice this year?

- Yes | No | Don't know

8. *[If 7 = “Yes”]* Do you expect to plant any saline tolerant seed varieties this year?

- Yes | No | Don't know

9. Now, I'm going to ask you about some different things you might see if you experience a bad harvest. For each characteristic I say, please tell me if it is very likely to occur if there is a bad harvest, somewhat likely, a little likely, or not at all likely to occur if there is a bad harvest.

10. How likely is it to see small plants/stunted height if there is a bad harvest?

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

11. How likely is it to see plant death if there is a bad harvest?

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

12. How likely is it to see red patches on the leaves if there is a bad harvest?

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

13. How likely is it to see white patches on the leaves if there is a bad harvest?

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

14. How likely is it to see brown patches on the leaves if there is a bad harvest?

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

15. How likely is it to see brown leaves if there is a bad harvest?

- Not at all likely | A little likely | Somewhat likely | Very likely | Don't know

16. Now I am going to ask you about last year. You should think about last year's Boro season. How salty do you think the irrigation water you used last year was?

- Extremely little salt | Very little salt | Some salt | A lot of salt | A very high amount of salt | Don't know

16. I'd now like to tell you about the results of the research study last year.

17. The amount of soil salinity can change from year to year. Last year, the amount of soil salinity in Khulna division was much lower than it had been in previous years. It is difficult to know whether it will be low again in the future. But it is clear that last year was low relative to what it had been in the past.

18. Because last year's salinity levels were so low, the farmers who planted more of their land with salinity-tolerant seeds actually earned less money than the farmers who planted different seeds. If the amount of salinity on the soil had been higher, then it might have been better to plant the salinity tolerant seeds. But because it was low, that year, those seeds were not as profitable. It is hard to know what the soil salinity will be next year. In general, when soil salinity is very high, it is better to plant salinity tolerant seeds, and when soil salinity is very low, it is better to plant a different kind of seed. In coastal areas, the government recommends planting salinity tolerant seeds."

19. Do you have any questions?

20. Thank you so much for your time. We greatly appreciate your time. Have a great day.