

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9076
Project Name:	Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh
Countr(ies):	Bangladesh
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh

Country

Bangladesh

GEF ID

9076

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment and Forests, department of Environment (DoE), Bangladesh

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/15/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 6th PIR

Objective

The overall project objective is "to reduce risk to human and animal health and the environment from Stockpiles of POPs and other obsolete pesticides and from ongoing excessive use of new POPs and other Highly Hazardous Pesticides' in Bangladesh.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

9,083,025.00

Cumulative Disbursement

7,839,704.55

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

1/25/2019

Agency Approval

10/11/2018

Implementation Start 1/1/2019	First Disbursement 9/2/2019
Expected MTR	Actual MTR 10/15/2021
Expected Completion 12/31/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Between July'24 to June'25, FAO Bangladesh, in collaboration with government counterparts, made significant strides in pesticide container disposal, food safety, regulatory strengthening, and awareness building.

Under a Letter of Agreement with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the POPs project aimed to safely dispose of 100 tonnes of empty pesticide containers from 20 upazilas. To date, 78 tonnes have been collected through a paid model, with 22 tonnes sent to Lafarge for co-processing. A voluntary mini-pilot in Satoria Upazila, led by FAO, collected 1.2 tonnes through targeted awareness-raising activities, including 10 courtyard sessions, 12 briefings for farmers, dealers and SAAOs, and eight miking campaigns. The voluntary approach proved effective for awareness but confirmed the paid model's necessity for large-scale impact. Lessons learned: incentives accelerate results; awareness enhances participation. Recommendation: expand the paid model alongside national outreach and a long-term disposal strategy.

In support of regulatory frameworks, FAO and the Department of Fisheries jointly updated the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) Policy Guidelines 2011 through a series of desk reviews, focus group discussions in Khulna, Gazipur, and Dhaka, and a national validation workshop held in February 2025. A complementary Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program (PRMP) Guideline for Dry Fish was also developed. These documents will improve monitoring of residues in fish and fisheries products, protect public health, and support export standards.

To promote regulatory oversight in the pesticide supply chain, the POPs project collaborated with the Plant Protection Wing of DAE and BCPA to establish a Pesticide Dealer Networking system. Twelve regional workshops were held across the country with 1,200 participants, including DAE officials, farmers, dealers, and retailers. A standardized data collection sheet was finalized, and a digital platform launched on the DAE website to enable real-time updates and oversight.

Increased national capacity for pesticide residue analysis was achieved through the installation of advanced laboratory equipment in key government institutions. One Gas Chromatograph (GC) equipped with ECD and FID detectors, along with other relevant accessories, was procured, and installed at the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Khamarbari, Dhaka in May 2025. One GC-MS/MS system, including all relevant accessories, delivered, and installed at the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Savar, Dhaka in May 2025. A laboratory upgrade, along with relevant accessories, delivered, and installed at the Department of Environment (DoE), Chattogram in March 2025.

Additionally, a three-day capacity-building workshop on phytosanitary principles for international trade was conducted for 25 officials from the Plant Quarantine Wing and DAE. Delivered by six expert trainers, the training covered 18 sessions and included field exposure at the Teknaf Quarantine Land Port, significantly strengthening national capacity.

FAO handed over 93 low-cost dry fish processing technologies to 93 entrepreneurs in 12 Upazilas across 7 districts, using locally sourced materials. Training was provided by the Department of Fisheries under an LoA.

FAO also handed over 93 low-cost dry fish processing units to entrepreneurs in 12 upazilas across seven districts. With training provided by the Department of Fisheries, the initiative improved food safety, reduced pesticide use, and supported livelihoods. Community-level outreach reached 1,554 people through courtyard meetings, miking, and over 60,000 IEC materials, ensuring broad visibility across all FAO and UN platforms.

Most project activities and deliverables have been successfully completed, with the remaining components scheduled for completion by September 2025. As of April 16, 2025, approximately 93% of the budget has been spent, and the remaining funds are fully allocated, requiring careful budget management moving forward.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

1. Implementation has slowed due to political movements in Bangladesh, with potential safety challenges during the upcoming elections. To mitigate risks, the project will adjust timelines, use remote monitoring, enhance staff safety protocols, and strengthen coordination with local stakeholders and authorities.
2. Involvement of multiple stakeholders can delay implementation, such as workshop closures. To avoid this, key stakeholders will be engaged early to align on expectations and timelines, with focal points designated for each group to ensure timely communication and follow-up.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	DOE	Lead Executing Agency	LoA signed with DoE (Department of Environment) on 19 January 2022. DoE has agreed to conduct activities including recycling options, the development of an EMP, the development of an e-Hazardous Waste Manifest System, and the shipment and disposal of DDT stockpiles for final disposal (to be procured by FAO, following FAO procurement rules). The DoE laboratory in Chattogram will also be upgraded with necessary technical training provided to staff. Currently, the detailed planning for implementation of the activities is ongoing.
Government Institutions	DAE	Associated Agency	LoA was signed with DAE (Department of Agriculture Extension under of Ministry of Agriculture) on 27 April 2022 and as per the agreement, DAE will facilitate and provide quality assurance of the services related to the piloting of collection, recycling, and disposal of empty pesticide containers, installation of the PRT software, installation of analytical equipment, demonstration of alternative to conventional pesticides and POPs pesticides in agriculture, awareness and communication. Currently, the detailed planning for implementation is ongoing. A new LOA was signed with DAE for the disposal of 100 tonnes of empty pesticide containers. Identified 20 upazilas by DAE for the collection of 100 tonnes of empty pesticide containers addressing cropping intensity and uses of pesticide quantity.
Government Institutions	DGHS	Associated Agency	LoA signed with DGHS (Directorate General of Health Services) on 14 December 2021. In order to facilitate Output 1 of the project related to POPs pesticides being identified and packaged in preparation for destruction, a key activity (1.1.2 as per project document) to identify & shift temporary storage and office space for MSD/DGHS staff. This activity has been completed. Other activities under the LoA include establishing a network for the promotion of sustainable non-POPs control measures for health protection. DGHS completed all activities which are mentioned in the LOA.
Government Institutions	DOF	Associated Agency	LoA signed with DoF (Department of Fisheries) signed on 8 December 2021. DoF has agreed to conduct activities related to supporting ongoing academic research and regulatory and enforcement efforts in order to identify the sources of POPs that are being illegally used in agricultural production and food processing and also determine POPs residues in food might originate from environmental reservoirs such as sediments. All LOA activities are completed.

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Under Component 4 of the project, the communication strategy was designed to mainstream gender both passively by ensuring equal access to information and training and actively by creating tailored awareness materials for women and children and promoting their participation in outreach activities. This approach aims to empower women with greater control over farming decisions and outputs. In Manikganj, 10 courtyard meetings engaged farmers, dealers, and their families, with women comprising 14% of participants. A video was produced featuring Beauty Akter, a female farmer from Satura, showcasing best practices. Furthermore, 78 female farmers participated in briefing sessions in Satura, and 123 female government officials from 14 districts joined the Dealers Networking Workshop.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Targeted training and awareness initiatives on pesticide container management have been incorporated for women. In Manikganj, 10 courtyard meetings were held to engage farmers, dealers, and their families 14% of participants were women. A video was produced featuring Beauty Akter, a female farmer from Satura, to promote best practices. Additionally, 78 female farmers took part in various farmer briefing sessions in Satura, while 123 female government officials from 14 districts participated in the Dealers Networking Workshop.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women		As per the Letter of Agreement (LoA) signed with various departments in collaboration with FAO, plans are being implemented to ensure that qualified women and men have equal access to training and different opportunities. Several women are already employed in various agricultural activities, including plant protection practices and laboratory work.
Any other good practices on gender		The project promotes gender equality through a gender-responsive M&E system and gender-disaggregated data tracking. Activities ensure equal participation of women and men in pesticide risk reduction. Under FAO-supported LoAs, equal access to training and opportunities has led to increased female involvement in plant protection and lab work, advancing gender equity in agriculture.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	The project promotes knowledge sharing and learning at both national and sub-national levels through targeted awareness, capacity building, and communication efforts. Over 60,000 IEC materials and 10,000 communication items have been produced for farmers and dealers on pesticide risks and safe disposal, and fishermen. At Manikganj, 10 courtyard meetings were held to raise awareness amongst the locals. Miking and several other communication activities were held as well. At the national level, participation in FAO and UN events has helped share lessons with key stakeholders. Visual documentation, including videos and upcoming awareness materials, ensures broader dissemination and continued learning across all levels.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	• 10 courtyard meetings at Manikganj to aware farmers, dealers and their families • Over 60000 IEC materials distributed (Leaflets, flyers, posters, stickers etc.) • Over 10000 communication materials distributed (Backpacks, tote bags, tshirts, caps, pens, notebooks etc.) • One video produced • Awareness miking in nine upazillas of Manikganj • 93 beneficiaries practiced improved technology for producing pesticide-free quality dried fish. • An elevated, improved drying rack covered with fine-meshed nets was developed as an eco-friendly technology for safe dried fish production. • A total of 20,000 Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) were handed over to DGHS for distribution for awareness raising.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	Successes: The project ensured strong visibility through 6 press releases, 30+ social media posts, and awareness campaigns in nine upazilas. Over 60,000 IEC materials and 10,000 communication items were distributed, effectively engaging target groups. Active participation in FAO and UN events, along with photo and video documentation, boosted knowledge sharing. Challenges: Reaching remote areas, content production delays, and coordination during peak field activities were key challenges. Maintaining consistent messaging across platforms required continuous effort, but the team adapted well to sustain engagement.
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one	https://www.facebook.com/FAOBangladesh/videos/946527647630327

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	The project has been extended till 31 December 2025.
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Chittagong	22.3213	91.8087	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Government Medical Sub-depot,

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
GEFID9076_2025PIR_FAO_Bangladesh