



**DFCD ORIENTATION FACILITY PROJECT: Uptake of climate resilient seeds and bio-Pesticides into Ispahani’s upstream and downstream One Stop Agriculture platform**  
**[STATUS: PROPOSED INVESTMENT]**

WEBSITE CLIENT	<a href="http://www.ispahaniagro.com">www.ispahaniagro.com</a>
REGION	ASIA
COUNTRY	BANGLADESH
SECTOR	AGRICULTURE
PUBLICATION DATE	
TOTAL FINANCING	EUR 350,000
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL CATEGORY	
DFCD CONTACT PERSON	ALEX DOWNS (ADOWNS@SNV.ORG)

**Who is our (prospective) client?**

Ispahani Agro Limited (IAL) has been operating since 2007 and has three divisions “Ispahani Seeds”, “Ispahani Biotech” and “Ispahani Agro Processing”. IAL provides agro inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and bio-pesticides) to ensure safe food quality together with processing food stuffs and supplies finished goods to retailers and end consumers. IAL is also a leading supplier of healthy rice, fruits, vegetables to popular supermarkets in Bangladesh.

**What is the intended funding objective (type of activity)?**

The two main objectives of the project are to increase awareness and uptake of climate resilient seeds, and bio-pesticide by small holder farmers and the participation of Ispahani in systems change.

**Why do we fund this project?**

The project is expected to address the following sustainable development goals: safe and nutrition enriched food, value addition and diversification for economic growth, employment creation and capacity building, climate smart agriculture and gender equality.

The project is expected to bring 75,000 hectares of farmland under sustainable management and improve the resiliency to climate change, in the Ganges Delta, a key DFCD landscape, as well as the North of Bangladesh. Switching farmers to more sustainable, climate resilient, seeds, and bio-pesticides, is expected to increase farmer’s income by 15-20%, while reducing their risks to climate change. It is expected to directly benefits 500,000 small holder farmers



of that 150,000 are expected to be women. This project has a strong Rio-marker 2 (Climate Change Adaptation) focus.

The project is aligned with the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan of Bangladesh government, which has a strong focus on adaptation in agriculture against drought, salinity and flooding. It is also address key DFCD outcomes including climate-resilient land use and ecosystems and climate-resilient food security.

## **Environmental and social rationale**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

The Ganges Delta, such as Khulna and Barishal, is severely affected by salinity intrusion, water logging, submergence, which makes it difficult for farmers to grow rice and vegetables. Northern region (including Rangpur and Rajshahi division) faces other issues such as drought.

### **SOCIAL**

This project has a high social impact as support the small holder farmers with acquiring quality inputs, which in turn are more safe for their health (in the case of bio-pesticides), and leads to improved resiliency to climate change, as well as improved incomes. Ispahani Agro Limited is unique in that they are able to provide finished packaged foodstuffs (One Stop Agriculture), so that consumers can know and buy safe affordable foods from supermarket as well as convenience stores. This project is expected to have a positive ripple effect for stakeholder actors along the value chain.

### **Gender Equality**

The project includes a gender lens focus to ensure that women and ethnic minorities have access to opportunities, technology, and skills, which lead to the improved health and wellbeing of women, ethnic minorities, and potential marginalized small holder farmer segments.



## **DFCD Disclosure Policy**

The DFCD Consortium believes that transparency and public dialogue is fundamental to its development mandate. 30 days before signing a project grant or financing agreement, the Consortium Partners thus publish a disclosure statement (i.e., this document), enabling stakeholders that have any concerns about the project to express their feedback ahead of the formalization of the contract, so we can take these into consideration. Feedback and concerns can also be provided after the contract signing date.

For specific feedback or concerns on this specific project proposal stakeholders can email [adowns@snv.org](mailto:adowns@snv.org)

For general feedback or concerns of the DFCD, stakeholders can e-mail [disclosure@fmo.nl](mailto:disclosure@fmo.nl)

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