

# Climate Change Adaptation and Economic Profitability: Crop Land Shifting to Mango Orchard in Rajshahi Region

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## ABSTRACT

Barind ecosystem (Rajshahi Region) is unfavourable for field crop production but suitable for production of fruits like mango, litchi and jujube etc. Thus, an investigation was made to find out the causes, challenges and opportunity of crop land shift to mango orchard in Barind areas. A total of 85 mango growing farmers were randomly selected for interviewing. The dominant mango orchard based patterns are: i) Wheat-Fallow-T. Aman (30%); and ii) Mustard-Fallow-T. Aman (29%). About 75% farmers are transforming crop land into mango orchard because of water scarcity, high profitability, easy cultivation process, land suitability and favourable environment for mango cultivation. Mango farmers obtained on average 231 kg/ha yield in 1st quarter (year 1-3) and then production increased sharply and reached 2,190 kg/ha in 5th quarter (year 13-15). The highest gross return of mango was found in the 5th quarter. The estimated net present worth (NPW) of the project was Tk 99,588 per hectare, which indicates that mango cultivation was profitable in Rajshahi area. The internal rate of return (IRR) was 28%, which is higher than the opportunity cost of capital. However, increasing life span of mango orchard increases yield loss of both rice and non-rice crops. In 11-year-old mango orchard, intercrop yield reduced drastically (65%). More than 83% farmers obtained increased income and about 67% achieved better livelihoods due to mango cultivation. However, there is a possibility to decrease food grain, pulses, oil seed and vegetable production in the long run. Therefore, planned mango cultivation is needed along with ensured credit facilities through both institutional and non-institutional sources for mango cultivation, preservation and marketing.

**Key words:** Barind, land shifting, mango orchard, climate change, adaptation and economic profitability

## INTRODUCTION

There are multifaceted problems of crop production in northwest Barind area (Rajshahi region) of Bangladesh. Barind ecosystem is characterized by drought, extreme temperature, erratic rainfall and drawdown of groundwater, which restricts economic use of natural resources (particularly, land and water) for field crop production. The total area of the northwest region of Bangladesh is 3.49 Mha, out of which 76% (2.63 Mha) is net cultivated area. The estimated existing population of the area is around 35 million. Boro is the main irrigated crop and covers above 48% rice land. Aus and Aman rice cover 10 and 69% rice areas respectively. Groundwater irrigation is the main source of irrigation. But groundwater table has been depleted by 2.1 meter per year from 1985 to 2012 (Biswas, *et al.* 2014). Moderate to severe drought and soil nutrient depletions are adding more pressure on natural resources for sustainable crop production. Thus, farmers in the region have started to shift crop land into

fruits (mango, litchi and jujube) cultivation due to low water requirement, favourable agro-ecological condition, ready market and profitability.

In farm planning, farmer decided what to produce, how to produce, and how much to produce (Van and Keller, 2006). The farmer has to decide between alternative uses of resources at his disposal in order to address these three different but inter-related questions. In general, there are three major components of aggregate output - crop area, yield and level of diversification. The growth of output could be improved by increasing the area, either by extension or intensification or reducing the cost of production, either by decreasing the prices of inputs or by introducing new technology that improves productivity of crops. In addition, government policy options, diversification is one of the major components of growth that influences output through its impact on cost, income and risk (Van and Keller, 2006).

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The sustained economic growth, rising per capita income and growing urbanization have caused a shift in the consumption patterns in favour of high valued crops like fruits and vegetables from staple food crops such as rice and wheat. In the recent past, demands for these high-valued crops such as fruits have grown much faster than that of food grains. Fruits play a significant role in nutritional improvement, employment generation, food and financial security of the farmers. In 2009-10, the national production and area of fruits were 1.09 million ton and 2.42 lakh hectares respectively.

The cultivation of mango has gaining momentum among the farmers in the Rajshahi region (especially in Barind area) due to its low water requirement, favourable agro-ecological conditions, ready market and profitability. In 2009-10, national production of mango, litchi and jujube were 10.48, 0.65 and 0.76 lakh ton respectively and corresponding areas were 3.35, 0.23 and 0.29 lakh hectares respectively (BBS, 2012). Due to land suitability, higher returns and productivity of fruits this group emerged as an important area for diversification and as an alternative cropping pattern. With this backdrop, area shifting in favour of fruits has been suggested as a viable option to stabilize

and augment farm income, enhance agricultural growth and increase employment opportunities (BARI, 2013). However, there is inadequate information about micro-level decision for area transformation/shifting of high valued crops such as fruits in Barind areas. Therefore, an attempt was taken to focus the profitability, factors responsible, challenge and opportunities of crop land transformation/shift into mango orchard in Barind area of Bangladesh.

## METHODS

**Sampling technique and sample size:** The study was conducted in Rajshahi and Chapai Nawabganj districts during June to August 2014. Tanore and Godagari upazilas of Rajshahi district and Gomastapur upazila of Chapai Nawabganj district were selected for the study. Field investigators under the direct supervision of researchers collected field level cross-sectional data using pre-tested questionnaire. A total of 85 mango growing farmers (55 from Rajshahi and 30 from Chapai Nawabganj) were randomly selected for interviewing. Out of 85 sample farms 8% farmers newly started mango farming and 30% have 10-12 years mango farming experiences (Table 1).

**Table 1. Distribution of sample farmers by location**

| Location   | Mango farming experience (year) |     |     |       |       | Total |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
|            | 1-3                             | 4-6 | 7-9 | 10-12 | 13-15 |       |
| Tanore     | 6                               | 4   | 4   | 7     | 4     | 25    |
| Godagari   | 1                               | 13  | 6   | 8     | 2     | 30    |
| Gomastapur | -                               | 5   | 10  | 11    | 4     | 30    |
| Total      | 7                               | 22  | 20  | 26    | 10    | 85    |
| Percentage | 8                               | 26  | 24  | 30    | 12    | 100   |

### Analytical techniques

Collected data were edited, summarized, tabulated and analyzed to fulfil the objectives of the study. Using different statistical tools descriptive statistics like averages, percentages and ratios were used in presenting the results. The profitability of crops and mango production was examined on the basis of gross return, gross margin and benefit cost analysis. Besides, the opportunity cost of family supplied labour was taken into consideration in estimating total cost.

Land use cost was calculated on the basis of per year lease value of land. In addition, project appraisal technique was used to measure returns to investment on mango orchard using following equations.

**Net present value (NPV).** The NPV of an investment is the discounted value of all cash inflows and cash outflows of the project during its lifetime. It was computed as:

$$NPV = \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{Bt - Ct}{(1+r)^t}$$

**Benefit cost ratio (BCR).** The BCR of an investment is the ratio of discounted value of all cash inflows to the discounted value of all cash outflows during project life span. It was estimated as follows:

$$BCR = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{B_t/(1+r)^t}{C_t/(1+r)^t}$$

**Internal rate of return (IRR).** The IRR is the rate of return at which the NPV of a stream of payments/incomes is equal to zero. It was computed as:

$$IRR = \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{B_t - C_t}{(1+r)^t} = 0$$

Where,

B<sub>t</sub> = Total benefit (Tk/ha) in time t

C<sub>t</sub> = Total cost (Tk/ha) in time t

r = Rate of interest (discount rate)

t = Number of years (t = 1, 2, 3, ...n)

IRR = Lower discount rate + (Difference between the discount rates)\*

$$\frac{\text{Present worth of cash flow at the lower discount rate}}{\text{Absolute difference between the present worth of the cash flow}}$$

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-economic profiles of the farmers

Socio-economic profile of the respondent farmers is required to have an idea about the present farm activities, possible development opportunities and potentials for more efficient farming. Therefore, information regarding respondents age, education, occupation, farm size and farming experience in cultivation were recorded for the study.

**Age distribution:** Age is an important factor that influences farmer's production decision, efficiency and adaptation of improved

technologies. Farmers were older (46 years) in Godagari followed by Tanore area (40 years). Average age of the farmers was 42 years, which ranged from 27 to 64 years (Table 2).

**Literacy status:** Mean schooling years (around nine years) was almost similar among locations, which ranged from four to 14 schooling years (Table 2). Among the farmers, 34% belonged to primary level, 40% to secondary and 14% to above secondary levels.

**Occupational status:** A number of respondent farmers have both primary and secondary occupations. The respondent farmers of the study areas involved in various occupations such as agriculture, business and service for their livelihoods. About 84% farmers were engaged purely on agriculture and it was the highest in Gomastapur (90%) upazila followed by Tanore (83%) area (Table 2).

**Farming experience:** Mean farming experience was 21 years, which ranged from 8 to 45 years. Though farmers in the localities were more experienced in farming but their average mango farming experience was only nine years (Table 2). Only 25 and 50% farmers reported that they have been cultivating mango during the last 10 to 15 years and five to nine years respectively and the rest 25% farmers had one to four years of experience on mango cultivation.

**Farm size:** Average farm size was 1.81 ha (ranged from 0.62 to 4.09 ha) and mango orchard was 0.29 ha (ranged from 0.13 to 0.80 ha), which was 16% of the cultivated areas (Table 2). But farmers' reported that they are interested to increase mango area year by year.

Table 2. Socio-economic profile of the mango producing farmers

| Item                            | Rajshahi  |           | Chapai Nawabganj | All locations |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
|                                 | Tanore    | Godagari  | Gomastapur       |               |
| Age (yrs)                       |           |           |                  |               |
| Mean                            | 40        | 46        | 38               | 42            |
| Range                           | 28-70     | 27-65     | 25-55            | 27-64         |
| Education level (schooling yrs) |           |           |                  |               |
| Mean                            | 9         | 9         | 8                | 9             |
| Range                           | 5-16      | 3-12      | 5-14             | 4-14          |
| Occupation (%)                  |           |           |                  |               |
| Agriculture                     | 83        | 80        | 90               | 84            |
| Business                        | 11        | 12        | 6                | 10            |
| Service                         | 6         | 8         | 4                | 6             |
| Agril. farming experience (yrs) |           |           |                  |               |
| Mean                            | 18        | 23        | 23               | 21            |
| Range                           | 6-50      | 8-46      | 10-40            | 8-45          |
| Mango farming experience (yrs)  |           |           |                  |               |
| Mean                            | 9         | 8         | 10               | 9             |
| Range                           | 1-15      | 3-15      | 5-15             | 3-15          |
| Total cultivated land (ha)      |           |           |                  |               |
| Mean                            | 1.89      | 1.96      | 1.57             | 1.81          |
| Range                           | 0.66-4.00 | 0.40-5.33 | 0.80-2.93        | 0.62-4.09     |
| Mango cultivated land (ha)      |           |           |                  |               |
| Mean                            | 0.27      | 0.23      | 0.38             | 0.29          |
| Range                           | 0.13-0.80 | 0.13-0.80 | 0.13-0.80        | 0.13-0.80     |

**Mango based cropping pattern:** Table 3 shows the major mango based cropping patterns. It reveals that Wheat-Fallow-T. Aman (30%) and

Mustard-Fallow-T. Aman (29%) patterns were dominant.

Table 3. Area coverage (%) under mango based cropping patterns

| Cropping pattern         | % area coverage |          |                  | All locations |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
|                          | Rajshahi        |          | Chapai Nawabganj |               |
|                          | Tanore          | Godagari | Gomostapur       |               |
| Boro-Fallow-T. Aman      | 7               | 10       | 5                | 7             |
| Wheat-Fallow-T. Aman     | 30              | 15       | 45               | 30            |
| Mustard-Fallow-T. Aman   | 36              | 15       | 35               | 29            |
| Chickpea-Fallow-T. Aman  | 15              | 30       | -                | 15            |
| Tomato-Fallow-T. Aman    | -               | 20       | -                | 7             |
| Vegetable-Fallow-T. Aman | 12              | 10       | 15               | 12            |
| Total                    | 100             | 100      | 100              | 100           |

### Cost and return for crop production

Financial profitability of crop production was examined on the basis of gross margin (GM) analysis. Farmers allocated their land and other resources in crop production on the basis of land suitability, relative financial profitability and family needs. It also depends on prices of the products, cost of production and availability of production technologies. Table 4 shows the details of financial profitability of crop

production or gross margin of crops grown in selected locations. In Rajshahi region, non-rice crops were more profitable (BCR ranged from 1.20 to 2.02) than rice crops (BCR ranged from 1.29 to 1.59). Among rice crops, HYV Boro rice was less profitable than T. Aman rice due to high irrigation and fertilizer costs associated with Boro rice cultivation (Table 4).

Table 4. Goss margin (Tk/ha) for rice and non-rice crops under mango based patterns

| Crop                                | Yield (t/ha) | Sale price (Tk/kg) | Total variable cost ( TVC) (Tk/ha) | Gross return (GR) (Tk/ha) | Gross margin (GM = GR-TVC) (Tk/ha) | Undiscoun- ted BCR = GR/TVC |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Godagari, Rajshahi</i>           |              |                    |                                    |                           |                                    |                             |
| T. Aman                             | 5.13         | 16.25              | 70,794                             | 88,493                    | 17,699                             | 1.25                        |
| HYV Boro                            | 5.30         | 16.12              | 77,552                             | 90,736                    | 13,184                             | 1.17                        |
| Mustard                             | 1.07         | 45.06              | 33,756                             | 49,284                    | 15,528                             | 1.46                        |
| Tomato                              | 18.50        | 8.25               | 75,550                             | 1,52,625                  | 77,125                             | 2.02                        |
| Wheat                               | 3.66         | 18.80              | 52,896                             | 72,468                    | 19,572                             | 1.37                        |
| Chick Pea                           | 1.26         | 48.06              | 45,750                             | 60,550                    | 14,800                             | 1.32                        |
| Vegetables                          | 10.16        | 10.25              | 66,500                             | 1,04,140                  | 37,640                             | 1.56                        |
| <i>Tanore, Rajshahi</i>             |              |                    |                                    |                           |                                    |                             |
| T. Aman                             | 5.45         | 16.25              | 77,060                             | 94,013                    | 16,953                             | 1.22                        |
| HYV Boro                            | 5.70         | 16.12              | 84,856                             | 97,584                    | 12,728                             | 1.15                        |
| Mustard                             | 1.04         | 45.06              | 31,935                             | 47,902                    | 15,967                             | 1.50                        |
| Wheat                               | 3.53         | 18.80              | 49,924                             | 69,894                    | 19,970                             | 1.40                        |
| Chick Pea                           | 1.22         | 48.06              | 43,950                             | 58,633                    | 14,683                             | 1.33                        |
| Vegetables                          | 10.10        | 10.15              | 64,300                             | 1,02,515                  | 38,215                             | 1.59                        |
| <i>Gomastapur, Chapai Nawabganj</i> |              |                    |                                    |                           |                                    |                             |
| T. Aman                             | 5.42         | 16.25              | 74,202                             | 93,495                    | 19,293                             | 1.26                        |
| HYV Boro                            | 5.60         | 16.12              | 85,600                             | 95,872                    | 10,272                             | 1.12                        |
| Mustard                             | 1.11         | 45.06              | 35,753                             | 51,127                    | 15,374                             | 1.43                        |
| Wheat                               | 3.35         | 18.80              | 48,750                             | 62,980                    | 14,230                             | 1.29                        |
| Vegetables                          | 9.75         | 10.15              | 62,500                             | 98,963                    | 36,463                             | 1.58                        |

### Cost and return for mango cultivation

Cost of production includes variable items like land preparation, human labour, sapling, manures, fertilizer, bamboo stick, insecticides etc. Both cash expenditure and imputed value of family supplied inputs were included in the analysis. Table 5 represents the cost of mango cultivation in study areas. Total cost of mango cultivation varied among years. Average higher production cost (Tk 47,003/ha) was observed in 1st quarter (year 1-3) followed by Tk 27,983/ha in 2nd quarter (year 4-6) and so on in Tanore area. Similar cost trend was observed in Godagari and Gomastapur areas. Table 5 presents the return from mango cultivation. In the 1st year, farmers did not get any product. Mango farmers usually start getting yield from the 2nd year of cultivation. They obtained on average 231 kg/ha mango yield in 1st quarter

(year 1-3) and then production sharply reached to 2,190 kg/ha in 5th quarter (year 13-15). Almost similar trend was found in Godagari and Gomastapur areas. The highest gross return of mango was found in 5th quarter in all locations, which were Tk 1,01,358/ha, 1,06,432/ha and 1,09,408/ha in Tanore, Godagari and Gomastapur respectively. In 1st quarter, farmers gained negative gross return. The BCR (undiscounted) of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th quarters were 0.29, 2.05, 3.19, 4.40 and 5.20 respectively in Tanore area, which indicates that increasing life span of mango orchard increases profitability. The analyses reveal that mango cultivation is more favourable in Gomastapur than Tanore and Godagari areas. Appendix 1 shows the details of year-wise cost and return estimation.

**Table 5. Cost and return (Tk/ha) analysis for mango cultivation**

| Item                                | Life span of mango orchard (year) |                               |                               |                                 |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter (1-3)     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter (4-6) | 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter (7-9) | 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter (10-12) | 5 <sup>th</sup> quarter (13-15) |
| <i>Tanore, Rajshahi</i>             |                                   |                               |                               |                                 |                                 |
| Yield (kg/ha)                       | 231                               | 1211                          | 1635                          | 1906                            | 2190                            |
| Sale price (Tk/kg)                  | 47.5                              | 47.5                          | 47.5                          | 47.5                            | 47.5                            |
| Total return (Tk/ha)                | 10973                             | 57349                         | 76063                         | 90519                           | 101358                          |
| Total cost (Tk/ha)                  | 47003                             | 27983                         | 23667                         | 20600                           | 20000                           |
| Gross return (Tk/ha)                | -36030                            | 29365                         | 52396                         | 69919                           | 84025                           |
| BCR                                 | 0.29                              | 2.05                          | 3.24                          | 4.40                            | 5.20                            |
| <i>Godagari, Rajshahi</i>           |                                   |                               |                               |                                 |                                 |
| Yield (kg/ha)                       | 240                               | 1219                          | 1604                          | 1905                            | 2241                            |
| Sale price (Tk/kg)                  | 47.5                              | 47.5                          | 47.5                          | 47.5                            | 47.5                            |
| Total return (Tk/ha)                | 11400                             | 57903                         | 75905                         | 90503                           | 106432                          |
| Total cost (Tk/ha)                  | 46003                             | 28117                         | 24033                         | 20767                           | 20000                           |
| Gross return (Tk/ha)                | -34603                            | 29785                         | 51872                         | 69737                           | 86432                           |
| BCR                                 | 0.30                              | 2.06                          | 3.19                          | 4.37                            | 5.32                            |
| <i>Gomastapur, Chapai Nawabganj</i> |                                   |                               |                               |                                 |                                 |
| Yield (kg/ha)                       | 244                               | 1233                          | 1616                          | 1926                            | 2303                            |
| Sale price (Tk/kg)                  | 47.5                              | 47.5                          | 47.5                          | 47.5                            | 47.5                            |
| Total return (Tk/ha)                | 11590                             | 58583                         | 76744                         | 91469                           | 109408                          |
| Total cost (Tk/ha)                  | 45303                             | 28116                         | 23767                         | 21200                           | 20000                           |
| Gross return (Tk/ha)                | -33980                            | 30467                         | 52978                         | 70269                           | 89408                           |
| BCR                                 | 0.31                              | 2.09                          | 3.26                          | 4.33                            | 5.47                            |

**Returns to investment in mango cultivation**

Table 6 shows the results of project appraisal analysis (estimation of NPV, BCR and IRR). In this estimation we consider life span of mango orchard is 15 years. In study areas, discounted BCR was 1.44 at 15% discount rate, which is greater than unity and highly accepted. The

estimated NPV of the enterprise was Tk 99,588 per hectare, which indicates that mango cultivation is profitable in Rajshahi area. The IRR was 28.09% that is highly acceptable because it is much higher than the opportunity cost of capital

**Table 6. Estimation of NPV, BCR and IRR of mango cultivation in Rajshahi area**

| Discount rate | Discounted total benefit | Discounted total cost | Net present value (NPV) | Benefit cost ratio (BCR) |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 15            | 327141.40                | 227553.90             | 99587.50                | 1.44                     |
| 20            | 243396.80                | 200224.90             | 43171.90                | 1.22                     |
| 25            | 187082.00                | 180369.30             | 6712.70                 | 1.04                     |
| 30            | 147877.70                | 165438.10             | -17560.40               | 0.89                     |
| IRR (%)       |                          |                       |                         | 28.09                    |

**Agro-physiological information**

Agro-physiological characteristics like canopy coverage (% of shading area), crops yield loss (%) due to shading and land loss (%) due to pit formation were estimated (Table 7). Increasing life span of mango orchard increases yield loss

of both rice and non-rice crops. In 11-year-old mango orchard, intercrop yield reduced drastically (65%) indicating that intercrop production was not economically profitable.

Table 7. Agro-physiological information of mango orchard

| Item                                | Life span of mango orchard (year) |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
|                                     | 1                                 | 2 | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14-15 |
| <i>Tanore, Rajshahi</i>             |                                   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| Canopy coverage (%)                 | 6                                 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 28 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 65 | 70 | 75-90 |
| Yield loss (%)                      | 6                                 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 25 | 28 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 65 | 75 | 80-85 |
| Rice crop                           | 5                                 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 20 | 22 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 55 | 65 | 75    |
| Non-rice                            | 7                                 | 9 | 14 | 17 | 21 | 30 | 34 | 40 | 45 | 60 | 70 | 75 | 80 | 85    |
| Land loss (%) for pit               | 4                                 | 4 | 4  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 10 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 25    |
| <i>Godagari, Rajshahi</i>           |                                   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| Canopy coverage (%)                 | 7                                 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 75-90 |
| Yield loss (%)                      | 6                                 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 25 | 28 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 65 | 75 | 80-85 |
| Rice crop                           | 5                                 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 20 | 22 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 55 | 65 | 75    |
| Non-rice                            | 7                                 | 9 | 14 | 17 | 21 | 30 | 34 | 40 | 45 | 60 | 70 | 75 | 80 | 85    |
| Land loss (%) for pit               | 4                                 | 5 | 5  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 10 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 25    |
| <i>Gomostapur, Chapai Nawabganj</i> |                                   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| Canopy coverage (%)                 | 5                                 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 28 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 68 | 70 | 75-90 |
| Yield loss (%)                      | 6                                 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 25 | 28 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 65 | 75 | 80-85 |
| Rice crop                           | 5                                 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 20 | 22 | 32 | 35 | 40 | 48 | 55 | 65 | 75    |
| Non-rice                            | 7                                 | 9 | 14 | 17 | 22 | 30 | 34 | 38 | 45 | 60 | 72 | 75 | 80 | 85    |
| Land loss (%) for pit               | 5                                 | 5 | 6  | 7  | 8  | 8  | 10 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 20 | 25    |

### Information sources for land shifting

The sample farmers mentioned various sources from which they got information to switch over crop lands to mango cultivation for the first time. Major reported source was neighbouring farmers (43%). Farmers in the study areas were enthusiastic toward mango cultivation by observing positive benefits and, later seek help from neighbouring farmers. On average, 34%

farmers reported that they cultivated mango for the first time without taking any help from others. They observed the technique of cultivation from others and did it themselves. Extension worker also helped farmers by supplying information on mango cultivation. About 14% farmers received information from relatives/friends (Table 8).

Table 8. Information sources for first time mango cultivation

| Source of information   | % respondent farmer |          |                  | All locations |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
|                         | Rajshahi            |          | Chapai Nawabganj |               |
|                         | Tanore              | Godagari | Gomastapur       |               |
| Neighbouring farmers    | 35                  | 43       | 52               | 43            |
| Own experience          | 40                  | 32       | 30               | 34            |
| Relatives/friends       | 15                  | 18       | 10               | 14            |
| Extension worker/dealer | 10                  | 7        | 8                | 9             |
| Total                   | 100                 | 100      | 100              | 100           |

### Reasons for mango cultivation

The farmers were asked to mention the possibility of expanding their cultivated area for mango cultivation. They reported that they might increase mango area next year. Among all the responded, farmers in Chapai Nawabganj district showed higher level of interest than Rajshahi district farmers in increasing their cultivable area for mango orchard due to scarcity of water and favourable climate for

mango cultivation. They want to shift their cultivable areas for mango in coming years because it is highly profitable enterprise (83%) and its cultivation process is easy (67%). About 70% farmers stated that they want to increase area because they have suitable mango land (70%) and favourable environment (71%) for mango cultivation (Table 9).

Table 9. Reasons for increasing mango cultivation

| Item                                | % respondent farmer |          |                  | All locations |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
|                                     | Rajshahi            |          | Chapai Nawabganj |               |
|                                     | Tanore              | Godagari | Gomastapur       |               |
| High profitable                     | 81                  | 87       | 82               | 83            |
| Easy cultivation process            | 67                  | 72       | 63               | 67            |
| Climate change/water scarcity       | 70                  | 60       | 95               | 75            |
| Availability of suitable mango land | 65                  | 60       | 85               | 70            |
| Favourable environment for mango    | 70                  | 68       | 75               | 71            |
| Needs less labour                   | 68                  | 62       | 65               | 65            |

### Impact of mango cultivation on farm income

Mango cultivation has created tremendous impact on farm income. About 92% respondent farmers mentioned positive impacts to some extent on household income, food intake and livelihoods improvement due to shifting of crop lands to mango orchards (Table 10). More than 83% farmers obtained increased income and about 67% achieved better livelihoods. The

amount of food intake has also been increased to some extent for some of the respondent households (48%). But farmer also reported that in the long run, mango cultivation may decrease both rice and non-rice land (65%) and thus lead to decreased food grain, pulses, oil seed and vegetables production (55%), which may threaten food security in the area (Table 10).

Table 10. Impact of mango cultivation on farm income, livelihood and food security

| Item   | % respondent farmer |          |                  | All locations |
|--|---------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
|  | Rajshahi            |          | Chapai Nawabganj |               |
|  | Tanore              | Godagari | Gomastapur       |               |
| Positive impact  | 94                  | 85       | 97               | 92            |
| Negative impact  | 6                   | 15       | 3                | 8             |
| <b>Types of positive impact</b>                          |                     |          |                  |               |
| Increase in household income                             | 81                  | 87       | 82               | 83            |
| Increase in livelihoods                                  | 67                  | 72       | 63               | 67            |
| Increase in food production/intake                       | 46                  | 51       | 47               | 48            |
| Less water requirement                                   | 90                  | 85       | 95               | 90            |
| <b>Types of negative impact</b>                          |                     |          |                  |               |
| Decrease food grain/pulses/oil seed/vegetable production | 50                  | 45       | 55               | 50            |
| Decrease non rice land                                   | 65                  | 75       | 55               | 65            |

### Constraints to mango cultivation

Although mango is a profitable crop, there are some constraints to its higher production (Table 11). The first and foremost constraints to mango cultivation reported by farmers were lack of technological support and training (75%) followed by disease and insect infestation (71%). As mango tree plantation in crop land is a new idea, many of the farmers were not trained

about the technology of cultivation. Mango cultivation required higher cost, especially in 1st year. Therefore, some marginal and small farmers were not able to cultivate this crop, although they were very much enthusiastic to cultivate it. Lack of transport facilities (64%) and marketing facilities (63%) were other constraints to mango cultivation (Table 11).

Table 11. Constraints to mango cultivation in Barind area

| Item  | % respondent farmer |          |                  | All locations |
|---|---------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
|   | Rajshahi            |          | Chapai Nawabganj |               |
|   | Tanore              | Godagari | Gomastapur       |               |
| Insect and disease infestation                        | 63                  | 74       | 75               | 71            |
| Lack of technological support and training facilities | 75                  | 70       | 80               | 75            |
| Lack of credit access                                 | 60                  | 45       | 70               | 58            |
| Lack of transport facilities                          | 70                  | 45       | 75               | 64            |
| Lack of marketing facilities                          | 64                  | 55       | 70               | 63            |
| Lack of suitable mango land                           | 52                  | 54       | 45               | 51            |

## CONCLUSIONS

The study assessed the profitability of mango cultivation in comparison to rice/non-rice crops cultivation. Although mango cultivation required initial higher cost, it received higher net return as well as BCR compared to other crops. This is the main reason for which farmers are more interested to shift their crop land to mango. Besides, farmers' attitudes toward area substitution for mango orchard seemed to be very positive due to water scarcity, high profitability, easy cultivation process, land suitability and favourable environment for mango cultivation. Although mango is a profitable crop, due to some setbacks, few farmers have showed negative attitudes toward its production. They have experienced different constraints to its cultivation such as diseases and insects infestation, lack of training, credit and marketing facilities. Mango cultivation also has positive impact on household income and livelihoods pattern but some farmers reported that increasing mango area may decrease rice and non-rice production. Farmers reported various sources from which they were motivated to cultivate mango.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Following recommendations are put forwarded for crop land transformation and sustainable mango cultivation with respect to climate change impact adaptation, food security and economic profitability.

- Cultivation of mango is gaining popularity due to its low water requirement, favourable agro-ecological conditions, ready market and profitability, which leads to increasing mango area year by year in Barind region. So, there is a possibility to decrease food grain, pulses, oil seed and vegetables production in the long run that may threaten food security in the area. Therefore, government should take necessary steps for planned mango cultivation retaining crop land for food grain along with ensured credit facilities for orchard cultivation, preservation and marketing.
- Researchers and extension workers may provide technological support and training to mango growers for better and sustainable production under changing climatic situations.

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**Bangladesh Rice J. 18(1&2): 8-17, 2014**

**Appendix 1. Cost and return (Tk/ha) analysis for mango cultivation.**

| Item                 | Life span of mango orchard (year) |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
|                      | 1                                 | 2      | 3      | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10    | 11    | 12    | 13     | 14-15  |
| <i>Tanore</i>        |                                   |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
| Yield (kg/ha)        | 0                                 | 177    | 516    | 965   | 1242  | 1415  | 1518  | 1562  | 1724  | 1842  | 1886  | 1989  | 2070   | 2250   |
| Sale price (Tk/kg)   | -                                 | 47.5   | 47.5   | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5   | 47.5   |
| Total return (Tk/ha) | 0                                 | 8408   | 24510  | 45838 | 58995 | 67213 | 72105 | 74195 | 81890 | 87495 | 89585 | 94478 | 98325  | 106875 |
| Total cost (Tk/ha)   | 66500                             | 35710  | 38800  | 28450 | 27750 | 27750 | 26000 | 22500 | 22500 | 21400 | 20400 | 20000 | 20000  | 20000  |
| Gross return (Tk/ha) | -66500                            | -27302 | -14290 | 17388 | 31245 | 39463 | 46105 | 51695 | 59390 | 66095 | 69185 | 74478 | 78325  | 86875  |
| BCR                  | -                                 | 0.24   | 0.63   | 1.61  | 2.13  | 2.42  | 2.77  | 3.30  | 3.64  | 4.09  | 4.39  | 4.72  | 4.92   | 5.34   |
| <i>Godagari</i>      |                                   |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
| Yield (kg)           | 0                                 | 190    | 530    | 965   | 1242  | 1450  | 1508  | 1562  | 1724  | 1810  | 1886  | 2020  | 2122   | 2300   |
| Sale price (Tk/kg)   | -                                 | 47.5   | 47.5   | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5   | 47.5   |
| Total return (Tk/ha) | 0                                 | 9025   | 25175  | 45838 | 58995 | 68875 | 71630 | 74195 | 81890 | 85975 | 89585 | 95950 | 100795 | 109250 |
| Total cost (Tk/ha)   | 64500                             | 35310  | 38200  | 28450 | 28150 | 27750 | 26700 | 22900 | 22500 | 21400 | 20900 | 20000 | 20000  | 20000  |
| Gross return (Tk/ha) | -64500                            | -26285 | -13025 | 17388 | 30843 | 41125 | 44930 | 51295 | 59390 | 64575 | 68685 | 75950 | 80795  | 89250  |
| BCR                  | -                                 | 0.26   | 0.65   | 1.61  | 2.10  | 2.48  | 2.68  | 3.24  | 3.64  | 4.02  | 4.29  | 4.80  | 5.04   | 5.46   |
| <i>Gomastapur</i>    |                                   |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
| Yield (kg)           | 0                                 | 182    | 550    | 985   | 1250  | 1465  | 1548  | 1575  | 1724  | 1842  | 1910  | 2025  | 2210   | 2350   |
| Sale price (Tk/kg)   | -                                 | 47.5   | 47.5   | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5  | 47.5   | 47.5   |
| Total return (Tk/ha) | 0                                 | 8645   | 26125  | 46788 | 59375 | 69587 | 73530 | 74813 | 81890 | 87495 | 90725 | 96188 | 104975 | 111625 |
| Total cost (Tk/ha)   | 62300                             | 35110  | 38500  | 28850 | 26750 | 28750 | 26300 | 22500 | 22500 | 22200 | 21400 | 20000 | 20000  | 20000  |
| Gross return (Tk/ha) | -62300                            | -27265 | -12375 | 17938 | 32625 | 40837 | 47230 | 52313 | 59390 | 65295 | 69325 | 76188 | 84975  | 91625  |
| BCR                  | -                                 | 0.25   | 0.68   | 1.62  | 2.22  | 2.42  | 2.80  | 3.33  | 3.64  | 3.94  | 4.24  | 4.81  | 5.25   | 5.58   |