

USC CANADA- Narrative Report Format, Annual Report 1018-19

Name of Partner: USS Nilphamari

Title of Program: SoS Bangladesh

Reporting Period: May 1 2018 to April 30 2019

1. Introduction

a. Achievements and challenges (2 paragraphs only)

Highlight the major and most significant achievements and challenges of the first year and please explain if any changes or events have led you to change or shift your expectations for the project and foreseen outputs, outcomes and impact.

Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) is a non government; non-profitable knowledge based voluntary organization of Nilphamari district. USS started its development activities in Nilphamari since 2002. USS has been implementing seeds security and diversity, climate resilience, promotion of village economic and equality of men and women with the support of USC Canada through during this time. USS has developed skills as well relationship with government departments and civil society organizations. USS is implementing **Seeds of Survival (SoS)** project based on learning and experiences of previous years at Laxmichap and Palashbari unions of Nilphamari sadar upazila from May, 2015 to improve seeds and nutrition for young women and men. Total right holder of the project is 3340 consisting 19 villages (male-668 and female-2672). Species and varieties of vegetables seeds production and storage properly has increased at home. Blast disease of rice and gangrene disease of potato has reduced using vermi compost by the farmers in their land. Parble yield has increased in vermi compost using crop field compare to chemical fertilizer using crop field. Fungal disease of chilli and bean has controlled significantly using Bordomixture. Organic vegetable cultivation around homestead areas has increased which areas was as fallow land. Vegetable cultivation in bed has increased. Movable techniques of seedling cultivation have also increased. Number of organic vegetable consumer has increased. Cucumber vegetable yield are increasing applying vermi compost and setting sex pheromon trap to control insect pest.

Challenges:

Some farmers are habituated with chemical fertilizer and pesticide. Pests are not control successfully using organic pesticide that's why farmer are not interest to cultivate organic vegetable commercially. Members are not getting extra prices of organic vegetable. Accomplish planned activities/events through different kinds of natural disasters like heavy rain and flood. Extension of vermi compost production by own initiatives. Women leadership practices at social structure. Members are not interested to sale product in collection point by own initiative.

2. Program Reach

a. Data on program reach: Please confirm figures. Note any adjustments

Program reach	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Notes
Number of participating districts	01	01	01	01	
Number of participating communities – defined as a Thana as that is the smallest government administrative unit	19 Communities of 02 Union in SadorNilphamariUpazila	19 Communities of 02 Union in SadorNilphamari Upazila	19 Communities of 02 Union in SadorNilphamari Upazila	19 Communities of 02 Union in SadorNilphamariUpazila	
Direct beneficiaries	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17	2018-19	
Households	3340	3340	3340	3340	
Adult Female (over 30 years)	-	-	-		
Adult Male (over 30 years)	-	-	-		
Youth Female (under 30 years)	2672	2672	2672	2672	
Youth Male (under 30 years)	668	668	668	668	
Indirect beneficiaries	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
Households	4200	5500	6600	7100	

3. Major activities for the period (including Table 1)

Describe the **major activities** by providing a summary of the accomplishments under each of the output/thematic areas of the Logic Model. Please consult the logic model to decide in which output area to place activities.

Also please UPDATE **Table 1** from the Semi Annual Accompanying this message

With the facilitation of USS 3340 right holders are organized in 114 groups and 80% are female members. The members are aware now on organic vegetable production and consumption, local seeds production collection and preservation and 39% members are practicing their earned skills and knowledge. They are preparing seeds plots separately. Most significant achievement is the members are very much inspired of producing Vermi compost. Even some people out of the groups are influenced for production of Vermi compost and use in their land. They are selling these products locally and enhancing family income controls by the women. Women participations are increasing day by day at family decision making process. Women mobility and dignity increased in the society which is contributing to promote gender equality in the society. Members of the project have developed communication and good relationships among them through participation of project activity like PVS workshop, organic pesticide demonstration, providing seed to others, farmer's field day with result sharing green pea plot, Eco and seed fair, demonstrate local variety seed plot, germplasm conservation, day observation on women rights, workshop and trainings. As a result confident level and capacity has been increased among the members. Communications have been developed with local government, Department of

Agriculture Extension (DAE) and civil society organizations. They are receiving quality services from those departments especially DAE extended positive support to the members. Through leadership of USS and support of USC Canada the project facilitators are working with friendly environment which increased their working speeds and thus major achievements are possible.

3.1. Output 1: Seed security and diversity

Activities under the output

Participatory Variety Selection (PVS):

54 Young farmers (48 female and 06 male) of Laxmichap and Polashbari union of Nilphamari district participated in a day long workshop on Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) in 2 batches arranged by USS, under Seeds of Survival (SoS) project supported by USC Canada. A workshop was held at 01 number dhan bank, Akaluganjpara of Laxmichap union on 13th November'2018 and another workshop also held at Community Dhan Bank, Bamandanga of Palashbari Union on 14th November'2018. Participants of Laxmichap union select Green pea, potato & Bitter gourd species through these workshops following 4-cell analysis among huge number of species and then they select Narrow-long & Swallow-dwarf local variety of green pea, Silbilati & Jolpai local variety of potato and local variety bitter gourd which will cultivate by selected 5 farmers in their areas. Palashbari union participants selected Carrot, Green pea & Kaligira species through the workshop following same process and then select local varieties of carrot, green pea and Kaligira which will cultivate by selected 5 farmers in their areas. Total 10 farmers will cultivate selected varieties to find out best varieties through experiment in their plot and disseminate next.

PVS setting: 10 farmers among them 01 male and 09 female cultivated separately in 5 decimal land of selected variety. 4 farmers cultivated two varieties of green pea, 2 farmers bitter gourd, 2 farmer carrots and 2 farmers silbilati potato in different location. Swallow-dwarf local variety of green pea showed more yield and farmers are interested to cultivate in next year. Silbilati potato showed better performance in this year for the reason of favour environment. They have eaten, sell of product and stored seeds for cultivate next year. It will be extended in through CSB network seed fair promotion activities. USS has provided 10 hand sprayers to 10 farmers to control pest in their vegetable field through spraying. These hand sprayer will use of group members as per need.

Demonstrate Local Variety Seed Plot:

10 farmers have produced local variety vegetables to increase seed production, collection and preservation and availability at community level. Every selected farmers established seed plots in every 5 decimal land which is total 50 decimal lands, cultivating winter and summer season vegetables. Two varieties coriander (local), Two varieties of Baburi, two varieties of Raddish (Local), two varieties of Cucumber (local) and two varieties of Snake gourd (local). Cucumber (Local) and Raddish has shown more yield performance. Farmers consume, and sell of vegetables and produced seeds to fulfil their demand and sell community & local market. Right holder has motivated to cultivate local variety of cucumber because it is testy high price of cucumber and produce seed which are more profitable.

Strengthening ARC seed bank

Four staff coordination meeting has conducted during reporting period. A justified quarterly activities implementation plan has prepared like garden we establishment, vermi compost shade repair, office decoration and mintanance etc. and sharing with staffs in these meeting. An open discussion has conducted in those

meeting for learning sharing through expressing success, challenges and reason of success & technique of overcome challenges.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Project right holder are producing, harvesting, collecting and storing of different kinds of seeds through proper process. Family income has increased of selling quality seeds and organic vegetables. Well perform local varieties of vegetables are adapting through testing of PVS and demonstration. Locally different kinds of seeds productions are increased and therefore dependence of market is decreased. There was insufficient verity of seeds in Palashbari union but nowadays it is increasing through exchange. 97 farmers received 88 varieties of seeds from ARC seed bank and 81 farmers provided 86 varieties of seeds to that bank in this year.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Some farmers are habituated with chemical fertilizer and pesticide because chemical products are attractive color and size and consumer are interested to purchase these produce due to lack of their knowledge. Pest are not control effectively by organic pesticide. Size, shape and color are not attractive and yield is comparatively less of organic product than chemical product so consumer want not purchase organic product with higher price. That's why farmers are not taking initiative to produce organic vegetables and fruits commercially. Local variety yield are less than hybrid which are not profitable for farmers.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

We are creating awareness of peoples regarding organic vegetables necessity of good health of human. We are sharing with peoples at organic market corner and organic vegetable selling areas by the mobile van regarding negative affect to human body result of chemical vegetables consumption and positive side of organic vegetable. USS is also aware to peoples on the subject of chemical crop cultivation negative effect to soil and environment. Young farmers have developed good relationship with the business man for selling vegetables and seeds through communication.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Organic vegetables demand has been increased in the local markets and in front of different office for reason of their awareness. There are available lands for vegetables cultivation in the working area. It is easy to get raw material to produce vermi compost and organic pesticide in the working areas. Interests are increasing of right holders day by day to produce vermi compost. Interest are also growing out of SoS right holders.

3.2. Output 2: Natural Resource Management & Diversifying farming and food systems

By using vermi compost and different kinds of composts are contributing a lot for friendly environment, climate resilience factors, soil and water. These relevant factors are coordinated with different institutions, GO/NGOs collaboration through observing national/international days, rallies, seminars, seeds and environment fair, which contributing to make climate change resilience environment. Established organic vegetables garden at homestead and adjacent homestead areas to increase the variety of seeds. USS has established Germplasm conservation plot by local indigenous species which are lost and variety preservation and expansion. Linkage has enhanced between demand side actors (Mobile Vendor, Market Corner, Agro Retailer, etc.) and Supply

Side Actor (Farmer). To enhance the relationship among vegetable producer farmers, experience farmers, UP members and young farmers through different workshop, field day etc.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Family income has increased by selling vermi and vermi compost. Women are playing vital role so they are empowered. Increasing and playing role to keep balanced environment using organic fertilizer. 1467 family are cultivating organic vegetables and consuming safety food under the project. On the other hand 145 family out of the project are also cultivating and consuming safe foods. 575 farmers are making and using vermi compost at their homestead and different type of crop field as a result organic materials are increasing day by day to land. 45 farmers producing vermi compost and 37 farmers are making organic pesticide by their own initiatives who are influenced by the project.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Accomplish planned activities/events through different kinds of natural disasters like heavy rain and flood. Extension of vermi compost production by own initiatives of farmers. Organic vegetables are not bright and small in size, so it creates less demand in the market, who are not aware regarding organic vegetables usefulness. Members are less interested to Liquid Manner and organic pesticide because during making of organic pesticide it releases bad smell. Cattle rearing are relatively decreasing due to high price of straw and other cattle food materials.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Develop awareness among the members for advantages of the method of organic cultivation. Sharing of ideas to farmers on how they preserving and collecting liquid manure and organic pesticide. Increase marketing linkage of Vermi compost. Prepare contingency plan at starting of every year.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Vermi compost demand created in the working area. It is easy to get raw material for compost fertilizer and organic pesticide in the working area. Government agriculture extension department is spreading their helping to make vermi compost. Organic vegetables demand has been increased in the local markets who has eaten and get test. There is demand of quality indigenous seeds in the locally.

3.3. Output 3 Strengthened small farm based enterprises and promote marketing of seeds

Develop Vermi compost cluster:

USS has distributed 100 nos ring to 50 right holder family of Seeds of Survival (SoS) project at Laxmichap and palashabri unio supported by USC-Canada for varmi compost production, use and sell. The project has provided 250g worm per each ring receiving right holder. Project Coordinator of SoS project gave elaborate briefing how they will set ring and which protection measure have to taken to save worm from chicken, birds, ant and other harmful insects. Project coordinator also awarded the ring receiver why they use vermi compost in their soil and how they will be benefited. Selected Participants installed ring with shade maintaining other requirements following USS staffs suggestion. Now they are producing vermi compost successfully using their land for crop cultivation.

Demonstrate Organic Pesticides:

Seeds of Survival (SoS) project staffs of Udyankur Seba Sangstha (USS) arranged and conducted organic insecticide, fungicide preparation & organic vitamin preparation and use demonstration at 10 spots of Laxmichap and Palashbari union of Nilphamari district. There were 316 participants present among them 273 were female and 43 are male. At first project coordinator discussed in detail regarding importance of organic pesticide and negative impact to human being, other plant & animals, soil and environment. Secondly participants prepared organic insecticide by cattle urine, dust chilli, Garlic & onion pest and other bitter & medicinal value carrying plants following specific ration with the facilitation of SoS project Community Facilitators. Thirdly participants produced Organic fungicide name Bordo mixture using Lime and Blue vitriol following specific ratio with the facilitation of above mention CF to control of any kind of rotten cause by fungus. Finally participant's sprayed separately insecticide and fungicide practically dilute with water following specific ratio by the hand sprayer to their vegetable garden to control pest. A plastic drum and a hand sprayer have provided to the demonstration group from the mention project for organic pesticide preparation and to do spray in their pest infected vegetables garden. Respective project coordinator overall conducted the whole program. Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) of DAE was present at the time of demonstration. All participants participated actively and committed to apply these technologies in their vegetable crop field to control pest and to produce organic vegetables, consume of these product, save their land & environment. This event will contribute to achieve SDGs 13, 14 & 15.

Established Organic Market Corner:

Two organic market corner has established at Palashbari Bazer of Palashbari union and Chourongi bazer of Laxmichap union. An auto van puller collect organic vegetables from growers and sell different local market in front gate of different office and houses to house.

Established Germplasm conservation of indigenous species:

USS has distributed saplings to the selected 10 participants name Rubi Begum of Dakkin Bamandanga , Varoti Rani of Kanaikata, Sorubala Rani of Khalishapocha & Giribala Rani Roy of Bamondanga Babupara village under Palashbari union and Protima Rani of Nrishing Dakkinpara, Shafali Rani of Dubachuri Sarkerpara, Rikta Begum of Dubachuri Nimtoly Bogurapara, Radha Rani Roy of Purbo Dangapara, Aonjona Rani Roy of Choker Bazerpara & Momita Rani Roy of Dubachuri Meyapara under Laxmichap union of Nilphamari district under Seeds of Survival (SoS) project supported by USC Canada on 12th June 2018 to conserve the indigenous species which are losing day by day. USS has distributed three types of sapling like Medicinal, Fruit trees and Spices trees sapling to participants and 14 saplings received per participants. The provided saplings are Neem, Amla, Myrobalan, Bohera, Arjuna Carambola, Chalta, Pomgranat, Olive, Hog plum, Lemon, Coconut, Cinnamon and Cassia leaf. SoS project of USS has provided hand sprayer separately to the participants during distribution of sapling to control insect pest and disease pest of sapling as well as homesteads vegetables using organic pesticide. Project coordinator Md. Jomil discussed regarding organic fertilizer & pesticide applying, planting, sticking, fencing, irrigating and nursing during distribution of sapling to aware of the participants. Participants are satisfied to get of the saplings.

Successes: (one paragraph)

55 of model seed bank houses have been established in the community. 52 members of Laxmichap union started seeds business. They sell seeds to the seed businessman in the market. Most of the times farmers and local seed businessman come to their house for purchasing seeds. Every seeds bank farmers earned 2550-6600 Tk. by selling seeds in this year. Some women right holders are selling directly vermi compost to fertilizer dealer at market.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

There is no certification of seeds tacks and packets. There are no moisture measure machines. Availability of high breed seeds in the market. More yield of high breed seed. Vermi compost sells in outer market without packing and bagging.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Linkage and networking among the young farmers and seeds business holders. Arrange training, group meeting and set model seeds plots to encourage quality vegetables. Establish more model seeds bank house in the community. Awareness raising increase to farmers regarding quantity of plant nutrition value beneficial for maintain soil health and keep good health.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

There is a positive environment for producing seeds in the communities and already seed banks model houses are established and functioning. Awareness is being conducting through different media as well mass gathering on climate change resilience, safe environment and disadvantages of using chemical fertilizers and pesticide. Mass people are aware in the issues. Gradually people are show interest to produce organic productions. As a result quantity and quality of local seeds are increasing day by day.

3.4. Gender equality

Seeds of Survival (SoS) Project have arranged gender training at USS Head Office hall room supported by USC Canada on 25th October'2018 to reduce discrimination and earning equality between male and female at family and society.

Objective of the training:

- Initiative can be taken of participants against society made discrimination between male and female at family and society.
- Participants will be able to take mutual responsibilities between male and female
- Participants can be play role to earn gender equality.

Total 27 young & youth participants of SoS projected attended and took actively participate in the training. There were 12 couple, 2 adolescent girl and an adolescent boy participants participated among the total participants. Alauddin Ali, Executive Director of USS inaugurated the day long training. The discussed topic are-difference between sex and gender, gender discriminations and their causes, productive role, reproductive role and social role, division of labour, position and condition of women at family & society at present, violence, type of violence, causes & effect of violence against women, women empowerment and Initiative to earning gender equality

Lecture, group work, pictorial presentation, Chaka game and memorable event sharing methods were used to make the sessions attractive and participatory in the training. The training was very interactive male and female. All participants were committed to established gender equality through playing different productive & reproductive role at their family and social role at society and organization. A plan has made to work between

husband and wife at family through mutual sharing. The training may play slight role to earn SDG of Gender Equality. The training was facilitated by Mst. Salma Akhter, gender focal person of USS.

Observation of International Women Day

USS has observed International Women Day under Seeds of Survival (SoS) project on 08th March'2019 at district level. A colorful rally started from Deputy Commissioner (DC) office, Nilphamari at 10:00 am and moved main roads of Nilphamari town. Nazia Shirin, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Nilphamari district, Dewan Kamal Ahmed, Chairman of Nilphamari Pourosova, different government department officials, NGOs representatives, School & College students and huge numbers of village women were participated in the rally. Near about 4-5 hundred of peoples were present in the rally. Md. Jomil Project Coordinator of Seeds of Survival (SoS) project; Abdul Kuddus Sarker M&E Coordinator of USS, Mst. Shahnaz Begum project coordinator of PGEILKPI project and other staffs of USS were present in the rally.

Refreshers training of seed model farmers:

Refreshers training of seed model farmers held on Seed production, harvest, collection & preservation under Seeds of Survival (SoS) project at USS head office, Nilphamari on 16th July'2018 for remind and add of new technical knowledge and sharing skill to each other of seed model farmers. **Udayankur Seba Sangshta (USS)** implemented the training supported with the USC Canada. 30 participants participated in the training. There were 29 female and 1 male participants among the participants. The training was inaugurated by Abdul Kuddus Sarker Coordinator M&E of USS. The training was facilitated over all by Md. Jomil, Project Coordinator, Seeds of Survival (SoS) Project and Nonogopal Roy CF of SoS project played co-facilitator role.

The following topics were discussed in the training:

- 1) What are seeds? Concept of quality seeds.
- 2) Production technology of vegetables seeds.
- 3) Pest control by organic pesticide.
- 4) Identification of beneficial and harmful insects and control
- 5) Demonstration of vegetables seeds germination and preservation technique.
- 6) Planning of vegetables seeds production and marketing.

All participants were committed that they will apply the gathered knowledge in case of seed production and will share knowledge to their own group members. They have planned to available vegetables seeds in their community and reduce dependency on seeds sellers.

Successes: (one paragraph)

129 members of SoS project are included and participating actively in community Dhan Bank executive committee, union standing committee, school management committee and local village court committees. 567 women participated and gave their opinions in marriage, selling or purchasing of their own choice. Participation and attended rate has been increased of women in different events such as Eco and agriculture technology fair, rally, social activities, sports competitions or mobility in the markets. 29 women right holder and 1 male right holder has capacitated regarding modern seed production and storage through refreshers training from USS SoS project.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Women leadership in social structure is so far. Lack of social security specially for women and girls.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Initiatives for active participation of women in holistic development at family and social level

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Government is playing effective and positive role for empowering the women and their rights engaging different training and provide support.

3.5. Youth Engagement**Arranged of Environment and Seed Fair'2018**

Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) has organized organic agriculture and Seed Fair under seed of Surviva (SoS) project with the support of USC-Canada at Nilphamari district from 4-6 February'2019 for technology dissemination of local vegetable seeds production, storage in house and organic vegetable production. Right holders other NGOs were displayed different technology in 30 stalls.

Agriculturist Md. Abul Kashem Azad, Deputy Director (DD) of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Nilphamari district was chairperson, Asaduzzaman Nur Member of Parliament was chief guest and agriculturist Mazedul Islam, Upazila Agriculture Officer of Nilphamari Sader upazila was also attended as special guest of stall investigation and discussion session.

Chief Guest mentioned that Bangladesh already fulfills of food security and awareness raise is need on organic agriculture at present to keep safe of peoples. Seeds production applying organic methods is important for reduce dependency to seed seller and save money. Special guest said Bangladeshi people are not well aware regarding amount of consumption of organic vegetable & fruits per day. Organic vegetable help to keep good human health & soil and save environment.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Members are started leafy and vegetable production through using vermi compost. Youth are playing vital role to preventing child marriage and violence against women. Participation of youth are increasing in decision making process in family and society

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Elders of family and society are not emphasis opinion of young. Most of the youth are involved in education and other profession so sometimes attendance rate is low in the project activities

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Work increase to awareness build-up of elders and young. Increase involvement of elders in activity.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Young are more positive to accepting new idea. Demand of organic product increasing day by day in market

3.6. Best Practices Documentation and Spread of SoS

Activities description: A case studies have been documented from best practice during the reporting period. The documentations are consists project seeds and Agriculture technology fair, Eco and seed fair, germplasm conservation, vegetable cultivation through organic method, PVS plots demonstrations, mustard cultivation by vermi compost, demonstrate local variety seeds plots through organic, using and producing brinjal, potato, green pea, Tomato, Chilli, vermi compost, seeds collection and preservation through bio pesticide. Pictures of different activities are attached herewith. Project staffs collected those documentations.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Documentations are uses in the meeting, workshop, and training as learning materials in field. Field facilitators are more encouraged as they think it is the recognition of their efforts. Documentations are helping to the staffs to develop networking and communication with GO/NGOs. Organizational reputation increased.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Insufficient budgets for documentation. Lack of skills of field facilitators

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

To arrange skill development training for staffs. Collective efforts and support from organizational management

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Committed staffs and other staffs of the organizations extended their supporting hand. Right holders are very cooperative and they have many success stories for documentation

Successful production of organic Parble

Ranjita Rani age 28 years is a right holder under Laxmichap sobujpara village of Laxmichap Union. Her husband name Babuchon Roy age 31 years. They have two daughter elder daughter name Barsha age 10 years read in class four and younger daughter name Thithy age 3 years. They have 5 decimal homestead areas and 60 decimal cultivated lands. Ranjita has been cultivating different types of vegetables in homestead areas round the year following tradional method but she did not get benefit. In this situation she involved in Laxmichap Sobujpara Youth group member of SoS project under USS supported by USC-Canada in 2015.

She participate in group meeting regularly and gain knowledge from group meeting and community facilitator regarding safety food, nutrition, organic agriculture, adaptation for climate change, production and use of organic vitamin, organic pesticides production & use, seed production & storage. She also received knowledge about production and use of vermi compost. She motivated to cultivate organic parble in 15 decimal lands of adjacent homestead area. She used vermi compost in pit and then different stage of growth and flowering stage. She also used sex pheromon trap and organic pesticide to control pest and organic vitamin for more yield. She get attractive size, shape and color of parble and also get higher price than chemical parble following organic producer. Huge amoung of parble has produced during long time. They consume and fulfill nutrition requirement and sold. She stated that Tk 10000 has earned through selling parble. She said that following production cost has reduced and benefit increased. She has pleased to cultivate organic parble. Her wise to

cultivate organic parble in more areas in next season. Now her dignity has increased both family and social level.

3.7. Program Innovations adapted seed varieties and best practices disseminated

Group members are collecting new seeds from the other areas and keeping those in the community seeds banks and this is how the new variety of seeds are spreading in the working areas as well other areas. As a result are, Green pea, cown, sesame, Khira, Mathi, Tomato, Brinjal, Katua leaf, Bakla Pea, newly added seeds in the community seeds bank.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Dependence to market for purchase seeds are decreasing. Seed exchange increasing inter and intra community. Members are now capable to swing seed timely. Family income of right holders is increasing. Different kinds of verities and species of seeds are increasing and spreading.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Some members cannot follow proper process conservation of seed. Some of the seeds collected from out sides are affected by disease. Seeds collection from outside of working area takes time to adapt with the soil and environment. At first farmers want not cultivate new varieties.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

High yielding of leafy and vegetable are seed extension. Knowledge and skill develop of right holder on proper seed conservation.

4. Organizational development

Describe any key strategies and/or activities undertaken to increase the capacity of **your** organization to implement the new program. This pertains only to you as an organization, and not to the communities you are supporting. Please also highlight challenges encountered or to be addressed.

Management committee of USS has taken initiatives to implement the project smoothly. Management committee supervises the project activities regular basis. Government and civil society organizations have taken positive steps to preach safety food. As a result societies are standing for to preach to cultivate organic productions. USS reputation has been increased for the reason of implementing SoS project. Coordination and effective relationship has been developed with government departments and civil society organizations. Some activities were needed for develop communication and advocacy but minimum was limitation.

- **Recruitment of new staff**

- None

- **Capacity building/training of existing staff**

- Staff capacity has been developed through training and continue sharing knowledge and practicing

- **Improvement of financial or administrative procedures**

- Additional responsibilities of Accounts and Admin performed officer who is fully assigned for head office. Mostly he performs official activities by desk work. He could perform field based support as well official works if a staff is recruit (if possible)
- **Strengthening of your organizations' infrastructure, materials and equipment.**
- **Organizational assessment**
 - Organizational assessment is needed to develop organization and sustainable.
- **New alliances and relationships with other organizations and institutions**
 - USS is the member national committee of World Rural forum. USS wants to keep effective contribution to the committee. USS is developing effective coordination and relationship with Department of Agricultural Extension and Seed production department of Bangladesh government like BADC, SCA, and research organization. As a result project is keeping effecting contribution and on the other hand organizational ability developed.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation activities**
 - USS monitoring cell is working efficiently to monitor and evaluate the project activities. To develop more capacity of monitoring cell, capacity and skills (Human resource, training, equipment) partial support is needed from the project.

5. Outputs Please Update Table 1 from the Semi Annual Attached to this message

		Activities	Target	Achievement	Male	Female	Total	Remarks
Output 1: Farmer-driven research and innovations developed to strengthen seed security and promote the sustainable use and conservation of plant genetic resources (PGRs)								
1.1 Assess specific needs in local seed systems through USC's Seed Security Assessment Methodology ⁱ								
1.2 Increase access to seed diversity through participatory varietal selection (PVS) and diversity kits, to address local seed system needs	01	PVS Workshop	02	02	06	48	54	
	02	PVS Setting	10	10	01	09	10	
	03	Farmers Field day	02	02	56	315	371	
1.3 Establish new community seed banks (CSBs) and promote the organization of CSB networks to enhance seed security and diversity	04	Strengthening ARC seed bank	4	4	0	0	0	
1.4 Multiply and disseminate	05	Demonstrat	10	10	03	07	10	

adapted seed varieties to strengthen climate resilience and productivity through CSBs, community-based seed production, networking of seed producers, seed fairs and diversity kits.		e Local variety Seed Plot						
1.5 Provide training on seed production for vegetable or other crops for which dependence on external seed sources is high								
1.6 Support CSB associations and farmer groups to develop strategies to enhance their sustainability	06	Plastic mat	100	100			100	
	07	Materials support for group	114	114	0	0	114	
Output 2. Practices implemented to improve natural resource management and diversify farming and food systems diversifying farming and food systems								
2.1 Provide training, material and support to apply soil conservation and compost management	01	Develop Vermi compost cluster	40	40	0	50	50	
	02	Demonstrate Organic Pesticides	10	10	41	265	306	
2.2 Support the diversification of agricultural production systems, through women and youth-managed market and home gardens	03	Established Organic Market Corner	02	02	02	0	02	
	04	Established Germplasm conservation plot of indigenous crop species	10	10	0	10	10	
2.3 Support farmer-driven research and innovation to reduce field and post-harvest losses								
Output 3. Developed/ strengthened small farm based enterprises and promote marketing of seeds and other high value agro biodiversity products								
3.1 Carry out value chain, market analyses and feasibility studies for seeds	01	Market analyses and feasibility	0	0	0	0	0	

and other high value agrobiodiversity products from home and group gardens		studies workshop						
	02	Trg. on high value crop production of selective farmers	0	0	0	0	0	
	03	High Value crop Linkage to marketing	0	0	0	0	0	
3.3 Provide training to community-based women's and youth groups in financial management, book-keeping, and organizational development	04	Provide training & Materials support to on record keeping & financial management the group leader	0	0	0	0	0	
Output 4. Gender equality and youth engagement strategies developed implemented to promote women and youth's leadership, economic empowerment and access to resources								
4.1 Provide opportunities for youth to engage in collective initiatives and to develop leadership skills	01	Training on gender for the youth & yang farmer.	2	2	14	33	47	
	02	Day observation on women rights	01	01	230	492	722	
Output 5. Best practices and evidence based knowledge on program results analyzed and documented								
5.1. Organize events such as seed fairs and produce user friendly materials for knowledge sharing and dissemination	01	Arrange Seed Fair	01	01	400	1100	1500	
		Develop Local Seed Album						
5.1.3 Annual publication on field base farmers success, PVS, PGR, CSB etc		Annual publication on field base farmers success						
5.2 Coordinate exchanges among farmers (including women and youth) and local	02	Exposure visit for farmers and	1	1	5	7	12	

partners to reflect on innovations and best practices		staffs USC partners						
	03	Annual reflection	1	1	20	22	42	
	04	Quarterly staff meeting	4	4	4	3	7	
	05	Refreshers training of seed model farmers	1	1	1	29	30	
Output 6. Program innovations, adapted seed varieties and best practices disseminated through knowledge sharing, training and policy outreach and influenceⁱⁱ								
6.1 Provide hands-on training to other key actors (NGOs, government agencies,) to integrate Seeds of Survival practices such as CSBs, PVS, etc into their programs								
Other Activities								

6. Outcomes

Please work with your team (management and field staff) to reflect on and respond to the following questions

Please provide specific examples as much as possible. The more detailed the better!

You may also attach other documents (workshops reports, memoranda of understanding, newspaper articles, and e-mail communications) that provide further evidence related to your answers.

1. Please describe any **external factors** that occurred between **May 2018 and April 2019** that **affected the food and farming systems of farmers in SoS program regions**. *We are particularly interested in whether there have significant climate events such as extreme weather, drought, or flooding. We would also be interested in any other social, economic, political or other types of pressures that have affected the farming communities you are working with.*

There was not hampered food and farming system this year.

2. In general, **how did the young women farmers respond to the external factors** described in #1 above? Did you observe any **differences** in how **men, women, youth**, or other specific groups **responded**? *Here we are interested to farmers' responses in areas affected (including but not limited to program*

participants). Give specific examples (e.g. describe a situation you observed, quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).

3. **How did participants' ability to respond** to external factors described in #1 **compare** to farmers who have not participated in the program or compared to other similar situations you have witnessed? Did the **program contribute** to participants' ability to respond? How? Give specific examples (e.g., describe a situation you observed, provide specific quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).
4. Are there any **other factors (beyond the program) that have either facilitated or limited** participants' ability to respond to external factors described in #1? Give specific examples (e.g., describe a situation you observed, provide specific quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).
5. Are there **strategies that the program needs to develop in the future to better support participants' ability to respond to external factors?** Is there specific support that USC can offer to help you do this?
 - Workshop/training and mass gathering can be arranged to increase awareness of vegetable producers and consumers on negative affect to human body for consuming of chemical food especially inorganic vegetables and fruits, soil and environment at working areas.
 - Harmful chemical measure in vegetables related works should take of Bangladesh. Research works should continue on human who are consume chemical vegetables purchase from market. Nutrition ensures related works may take.
 - Effective organic pesticide and organic vitamins should find out through research.
 - Biological agent (like *Trichoderma Spp.*) grow in vermi compost to control disease causing organism of vegetables and fruits.
 - Sex pheromon and other insect attracting effective trap support.
 - Successful organic vegetables and fruits production farm visit abroad for knowledge development of staffs. These type works should consider in next project design.

Adoption of Practices and Policies

6. Between May 2018 and April 2019, have you observed any **actions which demonstrate that actors in your country are adopting practices or policies** that support farmers rights, agro-biodiversity, seed security or other principles promoted by the SoS program? Please give specific examples describing the changes you have observed. Note that these changes do not need to be directly related to your program.

Yes. USS organized organic agriculture and Seed Fair support of USC-Canada at Nilphamari district for technology dissemination of local vegetable seeds production, storage in house and organic vegetable production. Agriculturist Md. Abul Kashem Azad Deputy Director (DD) of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Nilphamari district was as chairperson, Asaduzzaman Nur Member of Parliament was chief guest and agriculturist Mazedul Islam Upazila Agriculture Officer of Nilphamari Sader upazila was also attended as special guest of stall investigation and discussion session in the program. All they were expressed their opinion in favour of organic production and process.

7. Between May 2018 and April 2019, have you observed any **actions which demonstrate that actors in your country are showing increased interest, awareness, or recognition of practices or policies** that support farmers rights, agro-biodiversity, seed security or other principles promoted by the SoS program? (i.e. signs that actors could be moving toward adoption?). *Please give specific examples describing the changes you have observed. Note that these changes do not need to be directly related to your program.*
- District agriculture department is working on vermi compost for extension. Department is purchasing vermi compost from SoS project farmers and supplying to the selected farmers. They are taking technical support from SoS project staffs to establish vermi compost pit. A NGOs name World Vision and other institutions are purchasing vermi compost from the project farmers and they are very much interested start these types of activities in future.. As a result project farmers are getting financial benefit as well vermi are being extension and farmers are showing interest to produce.
 - Environment and seed fair is effective for awareness raising and interest increase all kinds of participants like students, teachers, farmers etc on seed diversity, vermi compost production, organic vegetable production & sell.
 - USS uploads most of the event of SoS project in the **website: www.ussnilphamaribd.org** and **facebook: www.facebook.com/uss.nilphamari** where reader are providing recognition of practices and showing interest.
8. **Has the program contributed (directly or indirectly) to any of the changes described in #6 or #7 above?** *If so, explain how the program contributed, as well as any other factors you think were important in influencing other actors. Are there **strategies** that the program needs to develop in the future to better support external stakeholders adopting policies or practices that represent the values and approaches used by this program? Is there specific support that USC can offer to help you do this?*

1443 families are producing organic vegetables under the SoS project and 377 families are influenced out of the project who are also producing organic vegetables. 1069 farmers collect and preserve seeds in whole working for next season. 583 families are producing vermi compost but they are not getting the actual market price. Marketing facilitation is very much needed to get the actual price of vermi compost.

7. Lessons learned and other comments

Please describe any lessons learned during this reporting period and any other useful information or observations regarding your program. Please explain whether changes in the context or re-evaluation of activities call for a revision or change of project plans or targets.

- Women are participating in the family decision making process as they developed leadership.
- Integrated pest management is necessary (excluding chemical pesticide) to produce organic vegetables
- Cost-benefit ratio should find out comparing chemically and organically produced vegetables to motivate farmers for organic production.
- Right holders are well aware regarding consumption of organic vegetable
- Youth are very easily accepting the innovations like sex pheromon use to control pest, Bordomixture spray to control fungal diseases, vermi compost use in different crops especially in potato and parble cultivation and implementing accordingly.
- Expected result will come if man`s participation increase in different training, workshops beside women members.

- If right holders and working area extended, it will keep impact in the product marketing and selling.
- Couple training is very much effective to reduce gender base violence (GBV), redistribute gender role between male and female.
- Exposure visit can be arrange for the right holders and staffs in any other location for learning and sharing.

Comments:

USS reputation is increasing day by day through networking to work regarding organic vegetable production and marketing. Management team member of a reputed International NGO name World vision has already visited organic vegetables cultivation fields. The organization has interested to work with USS regarding organic agriculture production and marketing. A team of **Hazi Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology university** will visit USS organic vegetable and vermi compost production system. Some private company donor agencies are interested to work with USS to entrepreneurship development on organic vegetable production and marketing. Organic vegetables sell probability is creating in working areas. Chemical vegetables consumption negative impact study should need to do on human health to grow more interest for organic vegetables consumption. Project areas are needed to extend and increase right holders numbers for strengthening journey of production and selling of organic products and contribute to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3, 13, 14 and 15.
