



# ENHANCING URBAN HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is characterized by a high rate of urbanization, giving rise to three major problem groups for urban environment sustainability, namely population growth, the depletion of resources and atmospheric pollution. The leading development challenge of the country today is to include poverty alleviation, sustainable development and environmental management in the context of its rapidly growing population. Against this background, the project aimed to increase horticulture production in two of the country's most densely populated cities, Dhaka and Chittagong, to contribute to food security and create a positive impact on urban environment.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Capacity development for urban horticultural practice and management was one of the key interventions of the project. For this purpose, demonstration rooftop gardens and school gardens were established in Dhaka and Chittagong cities, and urban homeowners received inputs and hands-on training on advanced rooftop garden technologies through the establishment of these gardens. Training courses, workshops and consultations were also organized for gardeners, input sellers and nursery owners, equipping these stakeholders with advanced knowledge and skills in urban horticultural development. Through the project activities, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) of the Ministry of Agriculture produced new initiatives, such as including urban horticultural activities in their mainstream work. The project successfully motivated city dwellers and policy-makers to promote rooftop gardens.

## IMPACT

The project contributed to increasing the production of fresh and nutritious vegetables and fruits in the cities of Dhaka and Chittagong. The project interventions also contributed to generating income and increasing food security; as well as creating a positive impact on the urban environment in these two cities. Given that home gardening activities are centred on women, the project contributed to increasing women's incomes, and to empowering them.

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 299 000

### Duration

December 2015 – December 2017

### Resource Partner

FAO

### Partners

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Ministry of Agriculture

### Beneficiaries

Building owners of Dhaka and Chittagong cities, nursery owners, input dealers/retailers, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) of the Ministry of Agriculture, service provider organizations, city dwellers, metropolitan agriculture officers and subassistant agriculture officers working in the city areas

## ACTIVITIES

- Two hundred and fifty demonstration rooftop gardens were established in Dhaka and Chittagong cities.
- A total of 800 city dwellers received training on rooftop garden technologies.
- A training session on basic nutritional aspects was organized for demonstration beneficiaries.
- Two motivational tours and an exposure visit for 200 beneficiaries were organized in Dhaka and Chittagong cities.
- Four consultation meetings were held in Dhaka and Chittagong with nursery owners, seed traders, fertilizer sellers and gardening implements traders.
- A training course was organized on business development and marketing for input retailers in Dhaka and Chittagong cities.
- Forty-five local youths were trained as gardeners.
- Five school garden demonstrations were established (three in Dhaka and two in Chittagong) in 50 selected schools in the two cities, to increase awareness among schoolchildren and teachers; as well as a participatory motivational programme, “Oxygen Banking”.
- A guide was prepared to provide basic information on: assessing building weight capacity, the utilization of space, the selection of plants/varieties, obtaining materials and seeds, the preparation of soil, the crop calendar, etc.



### Project Code

TCP/BGD/3503

### Project Title

Enhancing urban horticulture production to ensure food security

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