Roadmap approach for improving food value chain efficiencies

Results from the food value chain workshops for beef, chicken, fish, onion, potato and rice

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The results of the food value chain workshops will be used as input source for the report: Roadmap approach for improving food value chain efficiencies: How to identify and implement interventions for reducing food loss and waste in Dhaka's food system?, which is one of the deliverables within the project.

We hereby want to express our gratitude to the colleagues from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Bangladesh for organizing the workshop logistics, their inputs and facilitating the group discussions. Additionally, we want to thank all workshop participants for their participation, inputs and commitment in the food value chain workshops.



List of abbreviations

Abbreviations	Description	Abbreviations	Description
BADC	Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation	DLS	Department of Livestock Services
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute	DoF	Department of Fisheries
BFSA	Bangladesh Food Safety Authority	GoB	Government of Bangladesh
BPDB	Bangladesh Power Development Board	MFI	Micro Finance Institution
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board	MMC	Market Management Committee
BREB	Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board	MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Insitute	MoF	Ministry of Finance
BSTI	Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute	NBFI	Non-banking Financial Institutes
СС	City Corporation	NBR	National Board of Revenue
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
DAM	Department of Agricultural Marketing	ТСВ	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh



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Introduction (1)

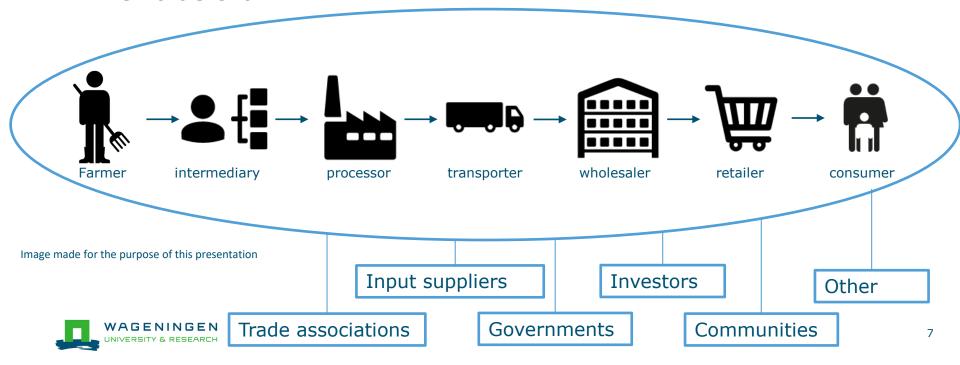
The aim of the workshops was twofold:

- Capacity: Strengthening the capacity and collaboration between food value chain stakeholders via (further) familiarization with food value chain thinking, specifically to find interventions and identify an implementation strategy to solve food value chain inefficiencies collaboratively.
- Validation of preliminary report findings (see acknowledgements): Finding out what food value chain inefficiencies are most urgent to solve regarding food value chain stakeholders.



Introduction (2)

The value chain



Introduction (3)



Waste segregation at biodigester in Jessore (photo by FAOBD)



Fish retailer in Dhaka (photo by WUR)

- Value chain inefficiencies can lead to undesirable outcomes, including:
 - Food losses and waste
 - Deteriorating food quality
 - Food safety issues
 - High food prices



Introduction (4)

- The goal is to intervene in food value chains to reduce value chain inefficiencies, and support greater availability and access to safe and nutritious food
- But we also know that >50% of interventions fail \rightarrow white elephants (Ika, 2012)
- Therefore, we need lasting, long-term change, with attention to interlinking interventions, inclusivity, and implementation conditions
- However, intervention selection is a complex task as they should (Soethoudt et al., 2021):
 - Fit the context
 - Make economic sense (be profitable)
 - Not burden the environment
 - Improve access to food
 - Be socially and culturally acceptable
 - Be affordable and accessible
 - Address real problems



⁻ Ika, L. A. (2012). Project management for development in Africa: Why projects are failing and what can be done about it. Project management journal, 43(4), 27-41.

Methodology description

- Value chain workshop approach
 - Presentations, group work and sharing results
- Workshop logistics
 - Dates and participation
- Value chain assessment
 - Issues, root causes, interventions and strategy*
- Group assignments
 - Assignment 1
 - Assignment 2

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^{*} This approach is loosely based on the EFFICIENT protocol for estimating food loss and waste (FLW). During these workshops the approach was applied to broader value chain inefficiences than FLW. See 'further reading' for more info about the EFFICIENT protocol, including the Food Loss & Waste cause & intervention tool.

Methodology – Value chain workshop approach

- General introduction about improving food value chain inefficiencies
- Explain value chain assessment
- Group assignments per table of 5-8 actors active in one product value chain
- Presenting outcomes per food value chain product group



General introduction and explanation of value chain assessment (photo by FAOBD)



Group assignments (photo by FAOBD)



Presenting outcomes group work (photo by FAOBD)



Methodology – Workshop logistics

- Two food value chain workshops were held in Dhaka:
 - 26th of February 2023: beef and chicken
 - 5th of March 2023: fish, onion, potato and rice
- Participants included managers, directors, agricultural officers, consultants and others from:
 - Private sector (from farm to retail)
 - Governmental organizations (GoB)
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGO's)
 - Donor organizations
 - Associations and foundations
 - Research institutes



Beef	- 5 participants
Chicken	- 6 participants
Fish	- 5 participants
Onion	- 5 participants
Potato	- 6 participants
Rice	- 7 participants



Methodology – Value chain assessment

- Steps of the value chain assessment:
 - Determine issues in the food value chain
 - Determine root causes of issues and bottlenecks
 - Evaluate potential interventions
 - Formulate coherent long-term intervention strategy

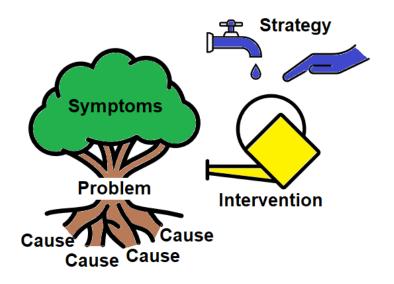


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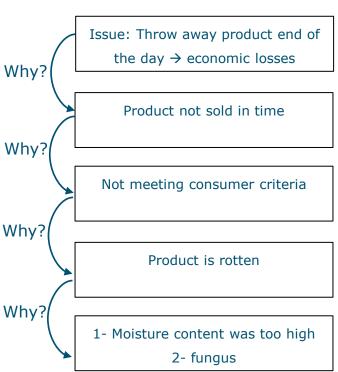


Methodology - Group assignment 1

- a) What are the major issues in the value chain?
- b) To which actors do these issues apply mainly?
- C) What are the intermediate causes of this issue at this actor?
- d) What is/are the root cause(s) for this issue at this actor?

		Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
a)	What are the major			
	issues in the supply			
	chain? (mention 1 – 3			
	issues)			
b)	To which actor does			
	every issue apply			
	mainly?			
c)	Why is this issue 1x			
	occurring?			
	2x			
	3x			
	4x			
d)	Root cause(s) 5x			





Methodology - Group assignment 2

- a) Select one of your identified root causes to solve
- b) Come up with 1 to 3 suitable interventions to solve this root cause
- C) What strategy would you suggest to address the identified root causes? A strategy consists of:
 - I. Pick 1 suitable intervention to solve the root cause
 - II. Describe supportive actions
 - III. Prioritize the intervention and supportive action in terms of a timeline (what to do first)
 - IV. Per action, describe the stakeholder involvement
 - V. Per action, describe the duration of implementation

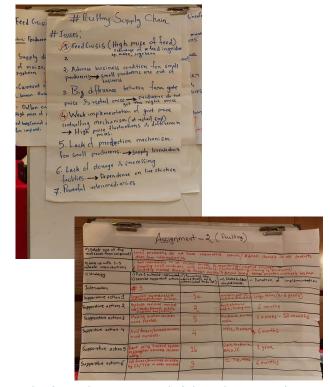
a) b)	Select one of the causes from ass Come up with 1 interventions	ignment 1				
c)	Strategy	1	table intervention supportive actions	iii. Prioritize the intervention and actions (what to do first)	iv. Stakeholder involvement	v. Duration of implementation
Inter	vention					
Supp	ortive action 1					
Supp	ortive action 2					
Supp	ortive action 3					
Supp	ortive action 4					
Supp	ortive action 5					
Supp	ortive action 6					

Template for group assignment 2



Results

- Results per food value chain
 - Results assignment 1
 - Template with: 1-3 issues, main actor the issue applies to, cause description and root cause
 - Other issues mentioned during assignment 1
 - List of other issues
 - Results assignment 2
 - Template with: Selected root cause, 1-3 intervention
 - Template with: Selected intervention and it's implementation strategy







Beef – assignment 1

		Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
a)	What are the major	High feed costs	Transport related cost	Spoilages of meat
	issues in the supply			
	chain? (mention 1 – 3			
	issues)			
b)	To which actor does	Farmers	Traders	Processors, retailers
	every issue apply			
	mainly?			
c)	Why is this issue 1x	Import dependent	High transport cost, required more	Lack of infrastructure of standard
	occurring?		space for live cattle	processing
	2x	Low domestic production	High fuel cost	High temperature during handling, transport & storage
)		
	3x	a) High competition of human food	Bribes required on transport routes	Costly cooling system
		b) No feedstock seed available		
	4x		Body weight loss of live cattle	
d)	Root cause(s) 5x	a) Competition with high value food	Long distance, farness of production	High fuel cost,
		crops	hub, high land cost at Dhaka	High cost for cooling system (as
				technology should be imported)



Beef – assignment 1 other issues

Other issues discussed between group members during the group assignments that did not make it to the final ranking in assignment 1:

- Inadequate veterinary services
- Lack of grazing land
- Lack of capital to invest in beef rearing
- Low productivity of cattle
- Lack of market infrastructures to process meat
- Lack of import of cattle due to government ban
- Lack of adopting high-tech beef processing equipment by the butchers
- Lack of hygienic place in retail markets



Beef – assignment 2

a)	Select one of the root	Land	Land scarcity/ Competition with high value crop	
	causes from assignment 1			
b)	Come up with 1-3 suitable	i.	Production of high yielding and climate resilience fodder & grain	
	interventions	ii.	Vertical/ hydroponic production	
		iii.	Awareness of farmers	

c) Strategy	i. Pick 1 suitable intervention	iii. Prioritize the	iv. Stakeholder involvement	v. Duration of
	ii. Describe supportive actions	intervention and actions		implementation
		(what to do first)		
Intervention	Cattle farmers produce their	7		
	cattle feed			
Supportive action 1	Cattle farming area selection &	1	DLS & Development organization	6 months
	Farmers group formation			
Supportive action 2	Classroom training	2	DLS, Development organization	6 months
Supportive action 3	Providing high yielding variety	3	Research organization, Development organization & private sector	12 months
Supportive action 4	Demonstration & piloting	4	DLS, Development organization & private sector	12 months
Supportive action 5	Govt. subsidy	5	GoB	24 months
Supportive action 6	Provide modern machine & technology	6	DLS, machine supplier, development organization & GoB	6 months



Chicken – assignment 1

		Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
a)	What are the major	Feed crisis	Price fluctuation & gap between	Unhygienic & unsafe chicken
	issues in the supply		farmer gate price and retail	
	chain? (mention 1 – 3		price (live bird)	
	issues)			
b)	To which actor does	Producers/farmers	Direct: producers	Direct: Processors
	every issue apply		Indirect: Consumer, intermediaries,	Indirect: Consumer and wet market
	mainly?		GoBt. and retailers	vendors
c)	Why is this issue 1x	Supply disruption of maize and	Small producers are depending on	Slaughter dead chicken & unhygienic
	occurring?	soybean	the intermediaries price	practices
	2x	a - Current ongoing Ukrain-Russia war	No other options to sell (lack of	For profit & resistance to change the
		b - Dollar crisis (lack of dollars) + high	other buyers	practices
		price of dollar (money exchange rate)		
	3x			
	4x			
d)	Root cause(s) 5x	b - Local body cannot open LC (license	No other options to sell (lack of	Unwilling to change practices
		of import) for import	other buyers	
		, , ,	,	



Chicken – assignment 1 other issues

Other issues discussed between group members during the group assignments that did not make it to the final ranking in assignment 1:

- Adverse business condition for small producers -> Small producers are out of business
- Weak implementation of GoB. price controlling mechanism (at retail end) -> high price fluctuation & difference in prices
- Lack of production mechanisms for small producers -> supply breakdown
- Lack of storage & processing facilities -> Dependence on live chicken
- Powerful intermediaries
- 1% of total production die during transportation (Mortality rate of 1%)
- Dead chicken are sold to restaurants



Chicken – assignment 2

a)	Select one of the root	Small producers do not have alternative options/direct channels to sell products other than intermediaries
	causes from assignment 1	
b)	Come up with 1-3 suitable	i. Govt. Interventions to set chicken prices & monitoring (adaptive pricing)
	interventions	ii. Connecting small producers with processors (Contract training, training by processors)
		iii. Converting market demand to frozen chicken & demand based storage projection and supply backup

c) Strategy	i. Pick 1 suitable intervention	iii. Prioritize the	iv. Stakeholder involvement	v. Duration of
	ii. Describe supportive actions	intervention and actions		implementation
		(what to do first)		
Intervention	Converting market demand to frozen	6		
	chicken & demand based storage			
	projection and supply backup			
Supportive action 1	Consumer awareness to shift demand	1 a	Processor, GoB, CC, academia, BSTI, BFSA	Long-term (5-6
	to frozen chicken			years)
Supportive action 2	Produce real time market info (stock,	2	GoB, electronic media, trading association	6 months
	demand, supply production projection)			
Supportive action 3	Making portion chicken more popular	5	Academia, processors, media	6 – 12 months
Supportive action 4	Make available frozen/processed	4	MMC, processors	3-6 months
	chickens in wet markets			
Supportive action 5	GoB Policy & control system to	1b	GoB, academia, BFSA, CC	1 year
	slaughter & process chickens safely			
Supportive action 6	Sell frozen/processed chicken by	3	CC, TCB, MMC	6 months
	CC/TCB in open market			



Fish – assignment 1

		Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
a)	What are the major	High input price (feed, seed, utility)	Losses during handling &	Value addition
	issues in the supply		transportation	(Lack of technology – from
	chain? (mention 1 – 3			fresh fish to processed fish e.g.
	issues)			ready to cook/ready to eat)
b)	To which actor does	GoB (DoF, NBR, PDB, REB), Private organization (Feed	Farmer/ Processor,	Exporter, processors
	every issue apply	miller, hatchery owner), Farmer, Producer	wholesaler, Retailer,	
	mainly?		Broker	
c)	Why is this issue 1x	Inflation	Perishable item	Less policy support
	occurring?			
	2x	Dependency on import for raw materials	Low storage facility	Low interest of investors
			(cold storage, packaging)	
	3x	No subsidy on electricity	Unavailability of cool	Don't maintain international
			chain facility	compliance
	4x	Low fish price in market	Technical know how	Market promotion/
			(Training)	Diversification of processed
				fish
d)	Root cause(s) 5x	Insufficient production of inputs and dependency on	Highly perishable items	Lack of appropriate
		importation of some inputs	having chance of rapid	technology
			contamination	



Fish – assignment 1 other issues

Other issues discussed between group members during the group assignments that did not make it to the final ranking in assignment 1:

- Unavailability of fish feed
- Lack of food safety & hygiene
- Technology gap between farmers/processors & exporter



Fish – assignment 2

a)	Select one of the root	Highly perishable items having chance with rapid contamination		
	causes from assignment 1			
b)	Come up with 1-3 suitable	i. Establishment of fish cold storage at different fisheries hubs		
	interventions	ii. Transportation through well designed vehicles		
		iii.	Capacity development of stakeholders	

c) Strategy	i. Pick 1 suitable intervention	iii. Prioritize the	iv. Stakeholder involvement	v. Duration of
	ii. Describe supportive actions	intervention and actions		implementation
		(what to do first)		
Intervention	Establishment of fish cold storage	3	GoB, NGO, farmers association,	12 months
	at different fisheries hubs		investor	
Supportive action 1	Survey to find out the suitable	1	Investor	2 months
	location			
Supportive action 2	Access to finance	2	GoB, bank	1 months
Supportive action 3	Direct access to farmers in cold storage and avoid intermediaries	5	Producer, investor, local DoF officer	12 months
Supportive action 4	Training (how to handle, transport, store, packaging, processing)	4	GoB, investor	3 months
Supportive action 5	Market promotion	6	GoB, investor	12 months (continuous process)
Supportive action 6	Government subsidy	7	GoB	12 months



Onion – assignment 1

		Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
a)	What are the major	Import dependency (4 months lean	Very much perishable materials (No	Onion loss due to poor
	issues in the supply	period- November to February)	modern technology for storage)	transportation.
	chain? (mention 1 – 3			
	issues)			
b)	To which actor does	Importer	Farmer	Supplier
	every issue apply			
	mainly?			
c)	Why is this issue 1x	Summer variety scarcity	High Price	Poor packaging system
	occurring?			
	2x	One time production	Traditional technology	Lack of proper transportation
	3х	No modern storage facilities	Lack of innovation	
	4x			
d)	Root cause(s) 5x	No year-round production. (4 months lean period)	No high tech or modern technology for storage	Poor packaging and transportation



Onion – assignment 1 other issues

Other issues discussed between group members during the group assignments that did not make it to the final ranking in assignment 1:

- Lack of technology for storage of onions properly
- Increase of production of onion will not result in meeting the year-round demand → With current technology for storage not possible to store onion for more than 8 months
- Low production of summer onions (produced in August to September with harvest in October) → Lean period may be filled up by this summer production
- Summer variety is available BARI onion 3, 4 and 5, but need to disseminate in the field level
- Need to develop modern technology for summer onion production technology



Onion – assignment 2

a)	Select one of the root	No year-round production. (4 months lean period)		
	causes from assignment 1			
b)	Come up with 1-3 suitable	Summer onion production and summer seed production		
	interventions	Development of improve variety		

c) Strategy	i. Pick 1 suitable intervention ii. Describe supportive actions	iii. Prioritize the intervention and actions (what to do first)	iv. Stakeholder involvement	v. Duration of implementation
Intervention	Summer onion production	5	MoA (DAE, BADC, Private Sectors, BARI)	4 months
Supportive action 1	Ensure seed availability	1	MoA (DAE, BADC, Private Sectors)	9 months
Supportive action 2	Farmers capacity development	2	DAE, NGO	Continue process
Supportive action 3	Market linkage	4	MoF (NBFI, MFI, Bank)	Continue process
Supportive action 4	Financial support for seed production	3	DAM, NGO, Private Sectors	Continue process
Supportive action 5	Farmers Association formation	6	Departure of Co-operative, BRDB	12 months
Supportive action 6				



Potato – assignment 1

		Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
a)	What are the major	High price of seeds and low availability of	Minimal mechanized farming	Small farmers do not have
	issues in the supply	quality seed	for small farmers (sowing,	collection points and access to
	chain? (mention 1 – 3		grading, harvesting)	cold storage
	issues)			
b)	To which actor does	Farmers, exporters, processors	Farmers	Farmers, wholesalers, bulk
	every issue apply			buyers (processor)
	mainly?			
c)	Why is this issue 1x	a - Syndicate of seed companies (high price)	No training and limited	a - Need for instant cash
	occurring?	b - Fraud with selling low quality seeds (low	knowledge	b - Small operating capital
		quality)		
	2x	a - No or limited monitoring in the seed market	Too expensive	a,b - no business knowledge
		for price and syndicates		a,b - Limited access to finance
		b - Farmers cannot understand the seed quality		
	3x			Limited market access
	4x			
	47			
d)	Root cause(s) 5x	b – No grading system in place for seed quality	Farmers are accustomed to	Low profit
			traditional farming	
			1	



Potato – assignment 1 other issues

Other issues discussed between group members during the group assignments that did not make it to the final ranking in assignment 1:

- Quality seeds are not available
- High price of quality seed
- Low selling price for farmers
- Quality pesticides and fungicides are not available
- Low production due to pest and fungus infection
- High labor wage during harvesting
- Mechanized farming is too expensive for the small farmers (sowing to harvesting, grading)
- No collection point at producer level
- Extension service (like soil testing) is not available
- Small farmers cannot access cold storage facilities
- High wastage at farm level



Potato – assignment 2

a)	Select one of the root	Farmers are accustomed to traditional farming
	causes from assignment 1	
b)	Come up with 1-3 suitable	Formation of farmers groups/association/organization capacity funding (production, business etc.)
	interventions	

c) Strategy	i. Pick 1 suitable intervention ii. Describe supportive actions	iii. Prioritize the intervention and actions (what to do first)	iv. Stakeholder involvement	v. Duration of implementation
Intervention	Formation of farmers group + capacity building	1b	GoB, private sector	Minimum 5 years
Supportive action 1	Awareness building to motivate + build model forms	1a	GoB, NGO, academia, research, media	10 years
Supportive action 2	Access to finance (credit, insurance)	3	Financial institute (bank, non-bank financial institute,	Minimum 5 years
Supportive action 3	Technical training (GAP, mechanization, input)	2	GoB, NGO, research organization	Minimum 5 years
Supportive action 4	Logistic support (machinery)	4	Private sector, processor, GoB	Minimum 5 years
Supportive action 5	Post harvest management	5	GoB, NGO, academia, research	Minimum 5 years
Supportive action 6	Access to wider market (export, processor, direct sales to consumers)	6	GoB, NGO, processor, private sector	Minimum 5 years



Rice – assignment 1

		Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
a)	What are the major	Shortage of good quality seed	Labor shortage + high wages	
	issues in the supply			
	chain? (mention 1 – 3			
	issues)			
b)	To which actor does	Farmer		
	every issue apply			
	mainly?			
c)	Why is this issue 1x	Low knowledge and money capacity		
	occurring?	of farmer		
	2x	No resources (training) for good		
		quality seed production		
	3x	Low interest of farmers		
	4x			
d)	Root cause(s) 5x	Dependent on seed production		
		company		



Rice – assignment 1 other issues

Other issues discussed between group members during the group assignments that did not make it to the final ranking in assignment 1:

- Water scarcity is profoundly visible in norther and southern part during the summer season which hampers rice production
- Soil structure of rice production areas differ from region to region → tailor made practices/seeds needed
- Labor shortage and high wages → more people are getting education and other alternative opportunities which attract them more in other jobs than agriculture
- Modern scientific technology is not introduced and, in some extent, unavailable for the local farmers



Rice – assignment 2

a)	Select one of the root	Dependent on seed production company		
	causes from assignment 1			
b)	Come up with 1-3 suitable	I) Subsidy from Govt		
	interventions.	II) Production of good quality seed by farmer		

i. Pick 1 suitable intervention	iii. Prioritize the	iv. Stakeholder involvement	v. Duration of
ii. Describe supportive actions	intervention and actions		implementation
	(what to do first)		
Production of good quality seed by	6	Local farmer, GoB	3 years
farmer			
Training based project	3	Local farmer, local political leader	5 years
implementation			
Involve local farmer leader for	2	Farmer, BRRI, DAE, private sector	Continuous
awareness building		(seed company)	
Linkage development between	4	GoB and seed company	2 years
Govt. and private sector			
Market facilities development by	5	GoB, retailer, beneficiaries, farmer	5 years
proper govt policy			
Pilot project implementation	1		5 years
	ii. Describe supportive actions Production of good quality seed by farmer Training based project implementation Involve local farmer leader for awareness building Linkage development between Govt. and private sector Market facilities development by proper govt policy	ii. Describe supportive actions intervention and actions (what to do first) Production of good quality seed by farmer Training based project 3 implementation Involve local farmer leader for awareness building Linkage development between Govt. and private sector Market facilities development by proper govt policy	ii. Describe supportive actions intervention and actions (what to do first) Production of good quality seed by farmer Training based project 3 Local farmer, local political leader implementation Involve local farmer leader for awareness building 2 Farmer, BRRI, DAE, private sector (seed company) Linkage development between Govt. and private sector Market facilities development by proper govt policy 5 GoB, retailer, beneficiaries, farmer



Conclusions

- Multiple issues, root causes and suitable interventions were collaboratively described by the participants per food value chain
- Per food value chain, participants collaboratively designed an implementation strategy to adress a food value chain inefficiency
- The inputs of the participants generated new insights regarding the most urgent issues per food value chain
- Findings from the food value chain workshops are used in the final report: Roadmap approach for improving food value chain efficiencies: How to identify and implement intervention for reducing food loss and waste in Dhaka's food system?



Further reading

The steps of the value chain assessment during this workshop were loosely based on the EFFICIENT protocol for identifying interventions to reduce Food Loss and Waste. Find more information here:



EFFICIENT Protocol →

https://www.wur.nl/en/research-results/research-institutes/food-biobased-research/show-fbr/take-the-target-measure-act-approach-to-reduce-food-waste-yes-but-be-pragmatic-about-it.htm

EFFICIENT Protocol explanation video → https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3ojTcQYlwc&t=40s





Part of the EFFICIENT protocol is the Food Loss & Waste cause & intervention tool > https://the-efficient-protocol.azurewebsites.net/

Pilot studies & measurement templates of the EFFICIENT protocol \rightarrow

Tomato Nigeria: https://edepot.wur.nl/470201

Rice Nigeria: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666790822000921







Thank you

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