A Report on

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Project Title

Implementing Community Champion Scheme to Improve the Sustainability of the Hatchery Industry in Bangladesh

Date: 07 October, 2023

Venue: Khulna, Bangladesh

In the realm of qualitative research, focus group discussions (FGDs) serve as a valuable tool for gathering in-depth insights and exploring diverse perspectives on a particular topic. This report encapsulates the findings from a structured focused group interaction conducted with the crab hatchery personnel.

Objective

The primary objective of this focus group discussion was to delve into the multifaceted dimensions of problems within crab hatchery operations that might affect the sustainability of the industry anyhow. By engaging a diverse group of participants, each contributing unique viewpoints, the goal was to generate a comprehensive understanding of the problems, identify training needs, and suggestions on developing and delivering training that should help them in longer terms.

Methodology

The focus group discussions were conducted following a carefully crafted protocol. Participants, selected based on predefined criteria, were invited to partake in moderated group sessions designed to facilitate free-flowing conversations. Four skilled reporters and two moderators guided the discussions. The responses were recorded and transcribed for generating the report.

Participants

The participants in the focus group discussions were purposefully chosen to represent diverse demographics, ensuring a broad spectrum of perspectives. Their backgrounds, experiences, and opinions were considered valuable in capturing the complexity inherent in the topic of interest.

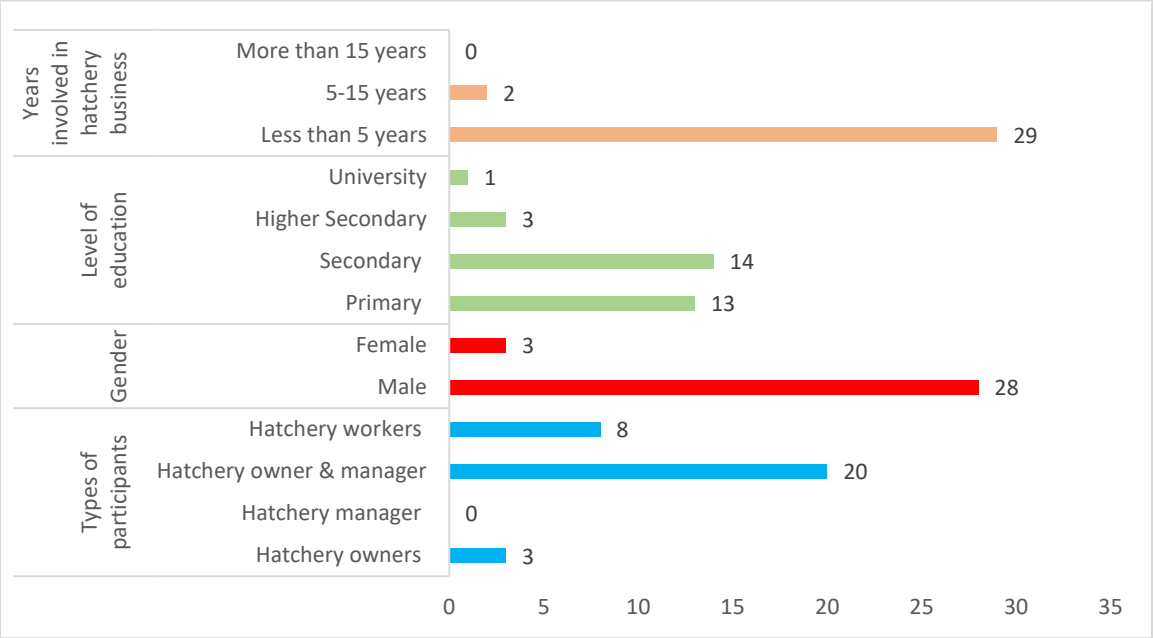


Figure 1: Demographics of the participants

Exercise – 01: Problem tree analysis

We asked three distinct groups within the hatchery community, tasking them with identifying the foremost challenges encountered in their hatchery operations. Each group was requested to prioritize and articulate the top three challenges they face in their daily activities. Based on their responses, we meticulously documented the identified problems, exploring their potential causes and effects.

Table 1: Results of problem tree analysis

Problems identified	Causes	Effects

Poor hatching	➢ Lack of knowledge of crab biology ➢ Feeding problem ➢ Lack of infrastructural capacity ➢ Lack of training ➢ Disease	➢ Higher mortality ➢ Economic loss
Disease	➢ Improper brood management ➢ Lack of biosecurity ➢ Lack of disease diagnosis and treatment facilities ➢ Climate change	➢ Poor hatching rate ➢ Higher mortality at earlier stages
Higher mortality	➢ Disease ➢ Malnutrition (fast feeding)	➢ Poor growth rate ➢ Economic loss
Biosecurity	➢ Lack of proper knowledge and training ➢ Inaccessibility to credits ➢ Lack of technical supports ➢ No guidelines	➢ Disease ➢ Higher mortality ➢ Economic loss
Lack of knowledge and training	➢ Insufficient supports government ➢ Inadequate research	➢ Economic loss

	➢ Lack of field-oriented policies	
Feeding	➢ Lack of knowledge on nutritional requirement ➢ Lack of knowledge on first feeding ➢ High cost of commercial feeds	➢ Lower hatching rate ➢ Higher larval mortality ➢ Economic loss

Exercise-02: Problem ranking

Following the initial exercise, we collated all the issues identified by each group and presented the comprehensive list to them. Subsequently, each group was tasked with assigning rankings to all the identified problems, considering factors such as production, quality, and economy. The ranking values were then aggregated for each consideration, providing a consolidated assessment of the perceived significance of the problems across the three groups.

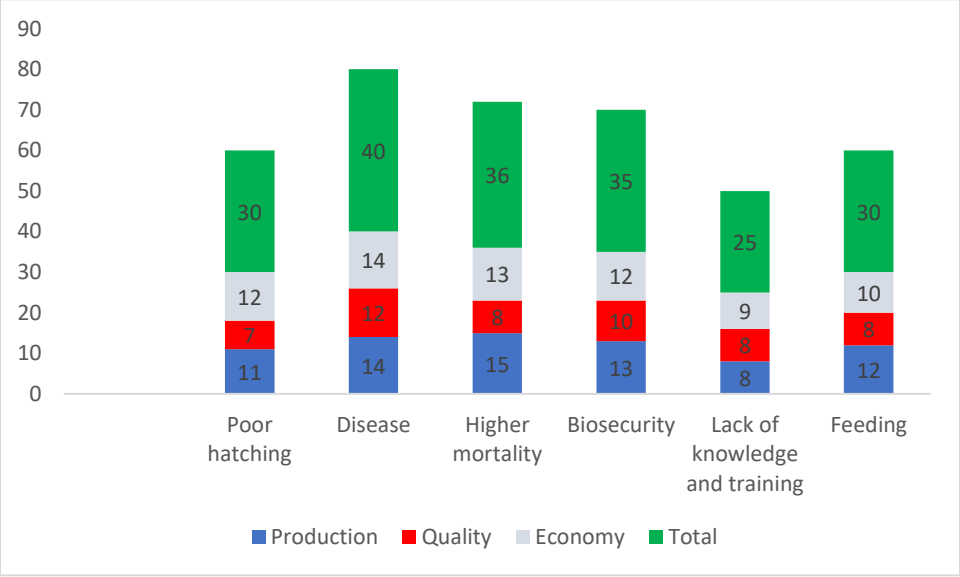


Figure 2: Results of problem ranking in terms of production, quality, and economy.

Exercise-03: General discussion

Inbreeding, disease, and water quality emerged as the top three problems, respectively, based on cumulative ranking. Consequently, we expressed our interest in developing and delivering a three-day training course focused on disease, higher mortality, and biosecurity. Given that higher mortality is associated with disease and biosecurity, we offered participants to choose another on as an alternative of higher mortality. All participants found feeding management as important a topic to be covered in the training sessions.

Exercise-04: Training direction and requirements (if any)

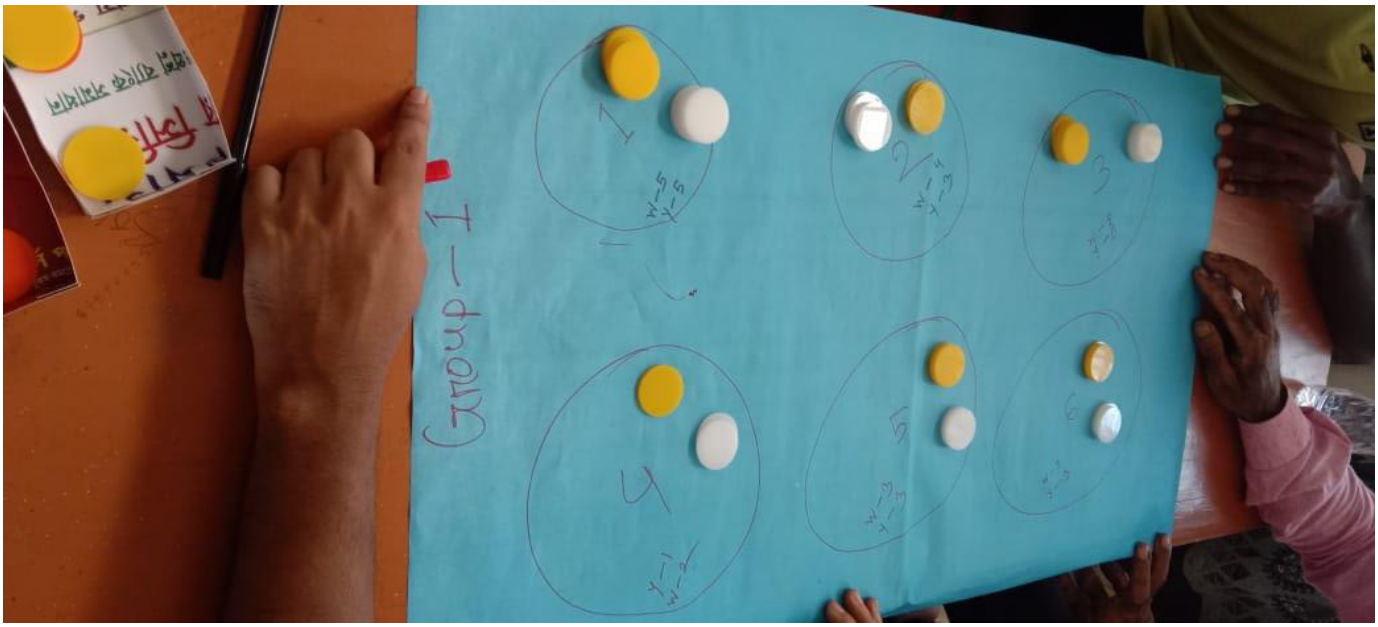
Important notes on training direction and requirements include:

1. Participants believe that hands-on, lecture- and online-based lectures will be helpful for them.
2. So far, crab hatching is an experience-based practice in Bangladesh and there is a dearth of scientific literature and evidence-based learning, the training will be great in improving their capacity to produce crab seed for aquaculture interest.
3. Participants felt that on-site training would be more helpful for them rather than room-based lectures.

Exercise-05: Community Championship

- Participants committed to nominating community leaders themselves who will undergo training and willingly commit to serving the community at no charge.
- When selecting community champions, they will adhere to specific criteria, including:
    - ✓ Experience
    - ✓ Acceptability
    - ✓ Accessibility
    - ✓ Education
- Nominations are expected to be finalized by the upcoming March, and participants anticipate no potential risks in the selection process.

APPPENDIX


Group – 1