



A Report on COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Project Title

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

Date: 18 October 2023

Venue: Mymensingh, 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 finfish hatchery personnel.

Objective

The primary objective of this focus group discussion was to delve into the multifaceted dimensions of problems within 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.

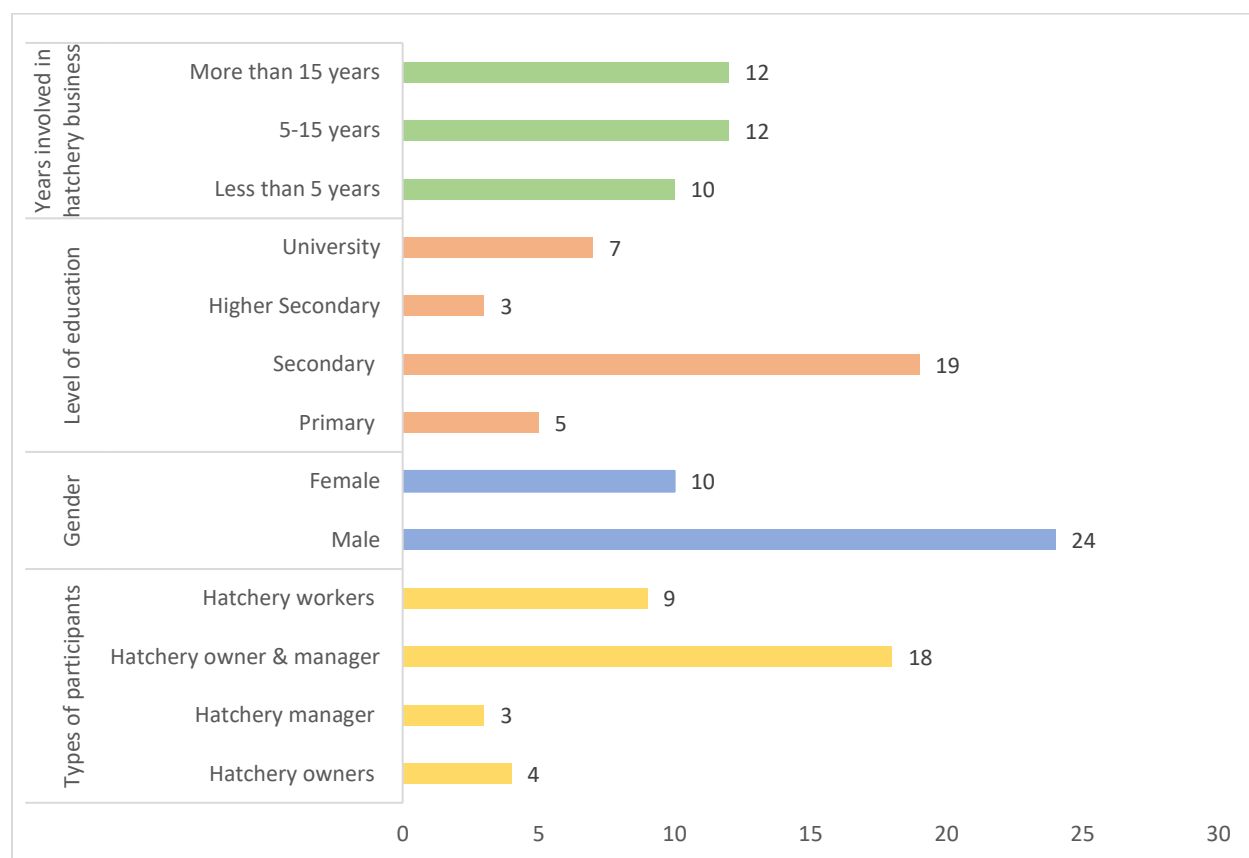


Figure 1: Demographics of the participants

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
Inbreeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Same broods are used year after year ➤ Non-rotational breeding ➤ Lack of brood pond ➤ Target oriented business ➤ Lack of knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poor growth rate ➤ Economic loss ➤ Disease outbreak
Improper dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of knowledge ➤ Profit-oriented attitude ➤ Early breeding tendency ➤ Illegal motivation by company agents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poor growth rate ➤ Deformities in larvae ➤ Higher mortality at earlier stage
Brood mismanagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scarcity of wild broods ➤ Malnutrition ➤ Lack of brood rearing facility ➤ Post breeding mortality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poor quality seed ➤ Economic loss ➤ Inbreeding
Quality of hormone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of monitoring and regulatory activities ➤ Lack of knowledge on hormone quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poor quality seed ➤ Poor growth rate ➤ Higher mortality ➤ Economic loss
Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of knowledge on disease management ➤ Biosecurity ➤ Malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Production loss ➤ Economic loss ➤ Diseased seed



- Water quality
- Climate change

Unplanned hybridization
and Illegal crossing

- Lack of training
- Non-rotational breeding
- Profit-oriented business
- Wick motivation
- Crossed breeds
- Environmental impacts
- Poor market price

Water quality

- Lack of knowledge
- Pollutants in water (ammonia, iron etc.)
- Extreme weather condition
- Lack water recycling opportunity
- Disease outbreak
- Poor hatching rate
- Higher mortality
- Production failure
- Poor seed quality

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.

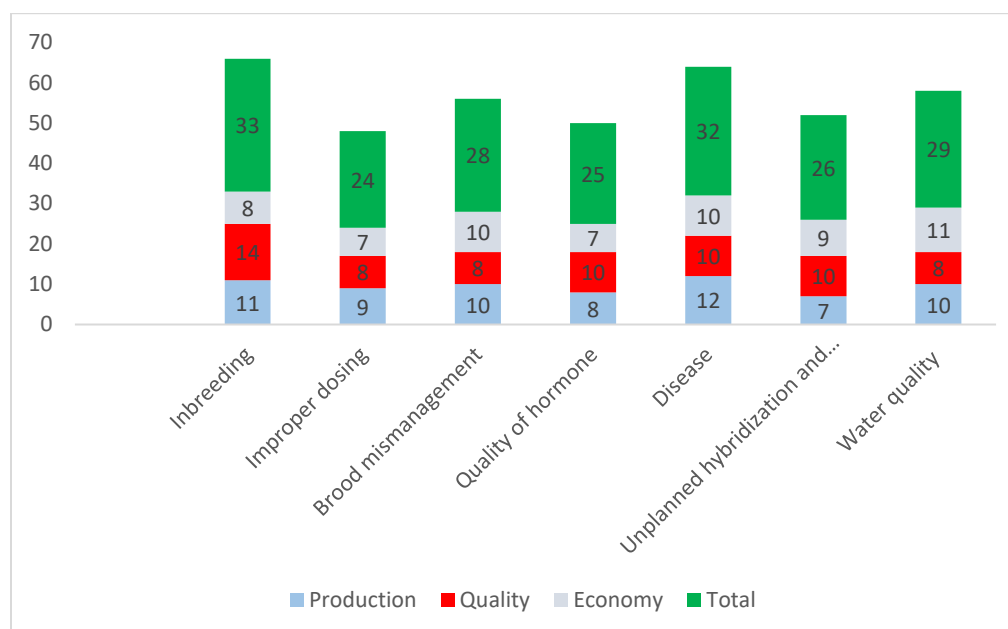


Figure 2: Results of problem ranking in terms of production, quality, and economy.

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 inbreeding, disease management, and water quality management. All participants unanimously agreed on the selected topics 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 express a demand for both hands-on and lecture-based modules in the training sessions.
2. Participants firmly believe that a training course focusing on the selected topics would be beneficial for enhancing their skills in hatchery management, quality seed production, and overall economic considerations, contributing to the sustainability of the industry.



3. There is a preference among participants to visit an ideal or model hatchery during the training to better understand the challenges they face and explore potential solutions.
4. Participants express a strong preference for on-site training within their community, as they anticipate a higher level of interaction and engagement compared to training in external institutes or universities.

Exercise-05: Community Championship

- Participants committed to personally nominate community leaders 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:
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Experience
 - ✓ Accessibility
- Nominations are expected to be finalized by the upcoming March, and participants anticipate no potential risks in the selection process.



APPENDIX



