



A Report on COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Project Title

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

Date: 21 November, 2023

Venue: Cox's Bazar, 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 shrimp hatchery community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

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 shrimp 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 sustaining the shrimp hatchery business in Bangladesh.

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.

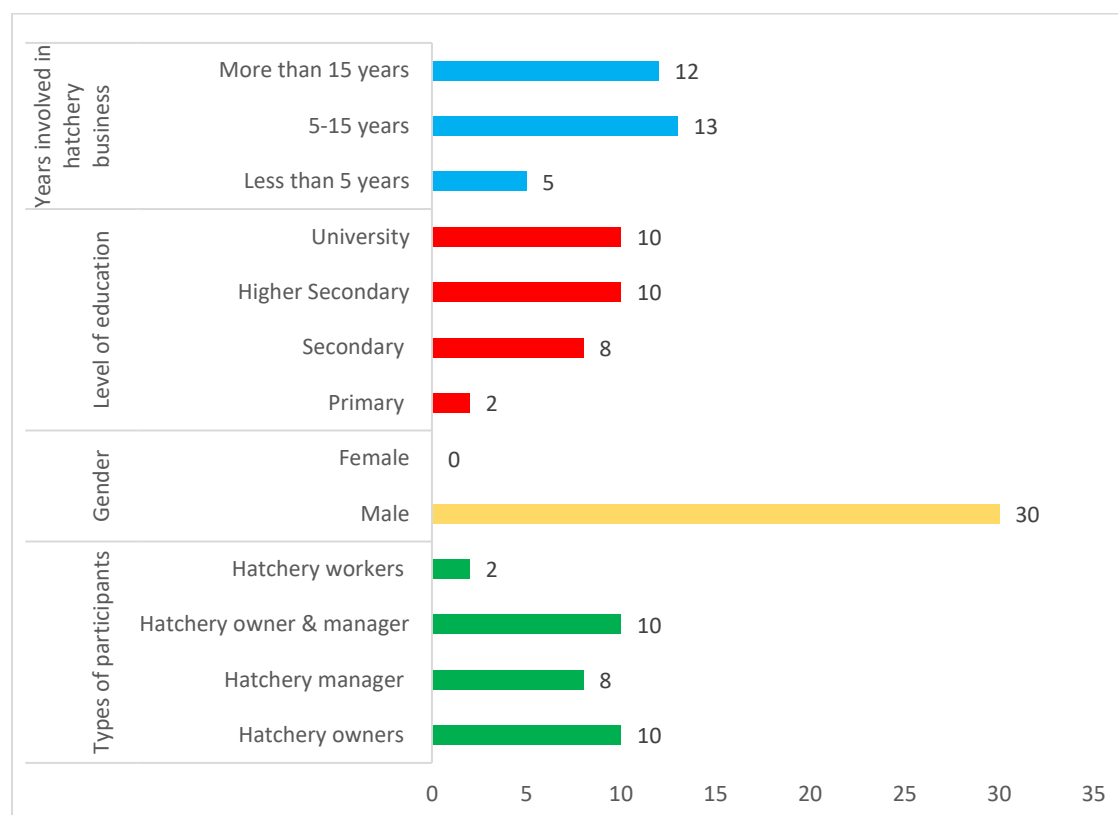


Figure 1: Demographics of the participants

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
Disease	➤ Lack of biosecurity ➤ Climate ➤ Poor water quality ➤ Dependency on wild brood	➤ Production loss ➤ Economic loss
Biosecurity	➤ Lack of knowledge ➤ Lack of training and technical supports ➤ costly	➤ Disease outbreak ➤ Economic loss
Transportation	➤ Costly ➤ Difficulties in air and transport system ➤ Scarcity of oxygen ➤ Long marketing chain	➤ Higher mortality of PL ➤ Economic loss
Poor hatching	➤ Lack of knowledge on shrimp biology ➤ Oxygen deficiency ➤ Power supply cut	➤ Higher mortality ➤ Economic loss
First feeding	➤ Lack of live food culture system ➤ Lack of knowledge on live food culture	➤ Higher mortality ➤ Economic loss



- Poor water quality
- Contamination
- Costly

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.

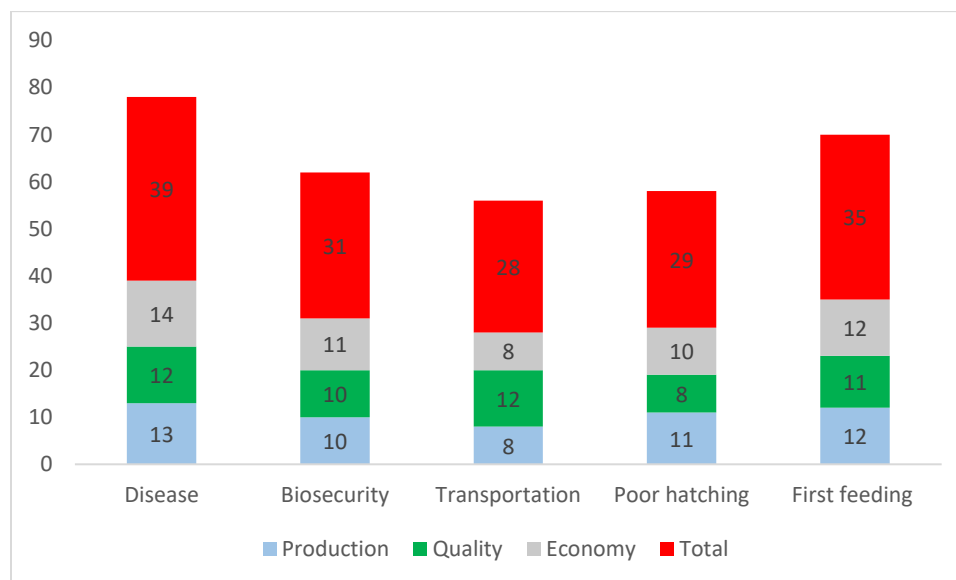


Figure 2: Results of problem ranking in terms of production, quality, and economy.

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, first feeding, and biosecurity. 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 felt that both in-person and online-based based training will be helpful.
2. Training course on selected topics will ensure shrimp farmers to produce quality shrimp seed for sustainable culture of shrimps in the south-west Bangladesh.

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:
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Experience
- Nominations are expected to be finalized by the upcoming March, and participants anticipate no potential risks in the selection process.



APPENDIX



