



PRINCESS SIRINDHORN
PROJECT



Collaboration between
the Kingdom of Thailand and
the People's Republic of Bangladesh
under the Patronage of
Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn



CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT



Introduction

During the visit to the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) in Dhaka in February 2010, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn learned that there were many methods to treat patients suffering from diarrhea, particularly children. Children need special diet to recover from illnesses as well as to maintain good nutritional status. It is well known that children are the most vulnerable group. Malnutrition among children can be

further aggravated by diarrhea as well as other infectious diseases such as respiratory tract infections. As a consequence, children cannot reach their full potential of growth and cannot attend school regularly because of illnesses. This can contribute to a decrease in a child's ability to learn and school performance. Therefore, it is an urgent issue for every sector concerned to cooperate in promoting better nutrition and health among children.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has personal experiences of over 30 years in improving the quality of



life of school children and people in remote areas throughout the Kingdom of Thailand and in other neighboring countries across the Greater Mekong Sub-region. One of the most effective approaches for improving local conditions is through a **school setting**. An integrated approach can be implemented by teachers and the community with the support from key sectors like education, agriculture, health and local administrations. Her Royal Highness believes that sustainable development must start with the empowerment of people. Children will be equipped with knowledge and skills for healthy life through a process called **learning by doing**. **Community participation** is also a key. Parents and other community members are encouraged to participate in school activities, in which knowledge can be transferred to families and communities.

Concern for the well-being of people, particularly children who are the future of societies, thus, in

2011, Her Royal Highness began a collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education of Bangladesh **aiming** at promoting children's nutrition and health to facilitate the learning by applying her practical experiences.

Scope of the Project

Under the school-based approach, the scope of the project will include:

1. School environmental sanitation

The aim is to create an opportunity for school children to have access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation practices. Cleaner water and schools will reduce the risk and spread of infectious diseases, including diarrheal diseases and other illnesses. Activities include setting up safe drinking water systems, sanitary latrines for girls and boys, hand-washing facilities and training on how to manage the maintenance of these facilities, etc.





2. School health services

The aim is to prevent or reduce illnesses among school children by monitoring or providing appropriate prevention and treatment services at school sites. School health services can be first aid provision, illness recordings (such as a cold, the flu, diarrhea) and annual health examinations, etc.

3. School nutrition services

The aims are to alleviate hunger and malnutrition and to help develop proper food habits of children through school meals. Activities include preparing and serving children at least one nutritious and clean meal using food produced from the school farm, snack services, promoting iodized salt consumption. In addition, body weight and height of each child will be periodically measured.

4. Nutrition and health education

The aim is to instill knowledge and skills in nutrition and good hygienic practices. The learning activities will be developed for each grade with emphasis on learning by doing through school meal services, sanitation and school farm.



5. School farm

The aim is to provide school children with necessary knowledge, technology and skills to produce nutritious and safe food for learning and consumption. Activities include setting up a small-scale integrated farm in school for food production and learning.

Project Sites

Two schools, situated in reachable communities near Dhaka, are selected:

1. Mariali Government Primary School, Gazipur Sadar, Gazipur
2. Azampur Government Primary School, Uttara, Dhaka



Many aspects of development like nutrition, health, hygiene, as well as sanitary environment can help children achieve their full potential growth and development. They can learn and develop as responsible and productive members of our societies. By putting children and their well-being at the center of development, this collaborative effort will lead to a sustainable development of the quality of life among children in Bangladesh.

LEARNING CENTER ON H.M. THE KING'S SUFFICIENCY ECONOMY PHILOSOPHY



Introduction

In September 2010, the high-rank officers from the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh paid a visit to Thailand. On this occasion, the group visited the Royal Development Study Centers according to the initiatives of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and expressed an interest in expanding the benefits of H.M. the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to Bangladesh. Thereafter in 2011, the collaboration on sustainable agricultural development was established under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn **aiming** at establishing a learning center on H.M. the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. The learning

center will be used to demonstrate the way to achieve sufficient economy in agricultural sector namely the **New Theory**: a method to manage the land and water for agriculture and household use in a small plot of land initiated by His Majesty the King. Such farming system focuses on producing enough agricultural products for the household as first priority. After meeting the household's needs such as rice, vegetables, fruits, fish, fowl, goats, etc., the production can then be sold to the market for the family's income.

Project Site

The learning center is located in the Horticulture Development Center in Kashimpur sub-district, Gazipur District, Dhaka.

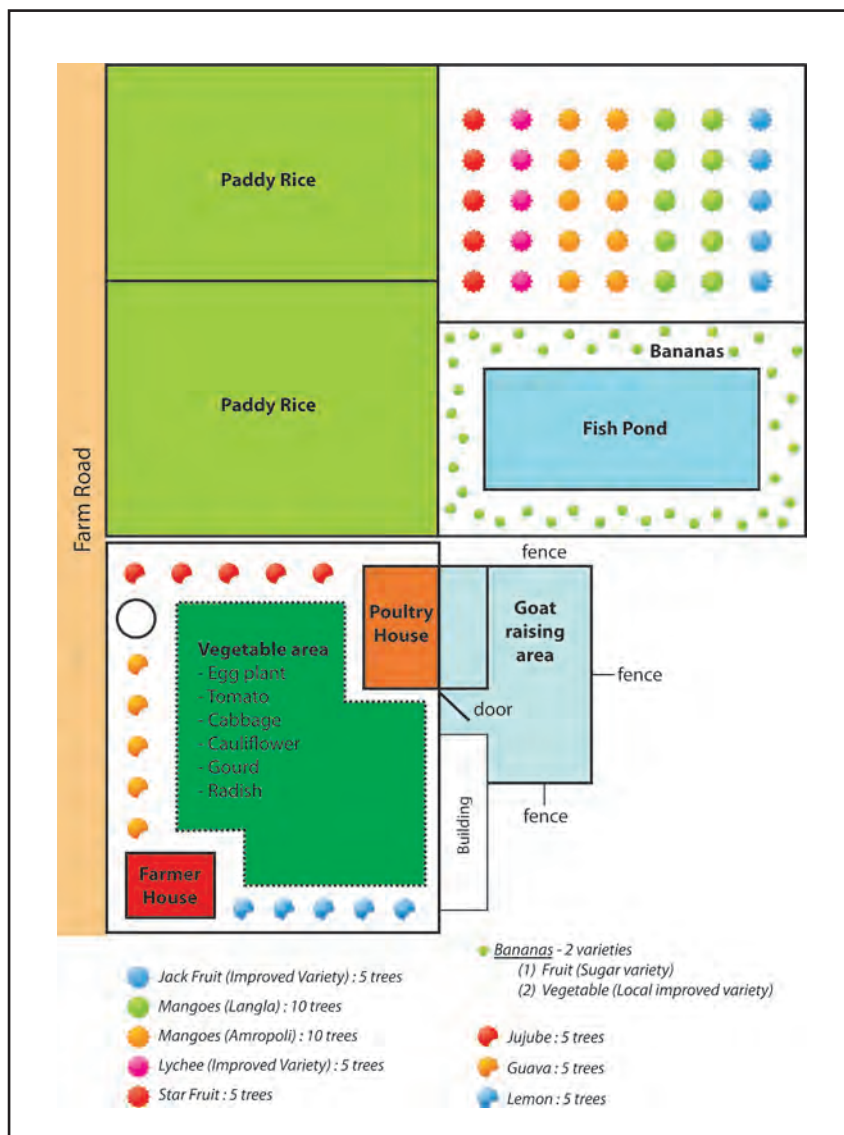


Scope of the Project

1. Establishing learning center

1.1 **Farm Layout:** The total area that has been used for illustration of the New Theory on farming system is about 0.51 hectares, more or less the same as the average farm holding

of the Bangladesh farmers. In accordance with the New Theory, the farm area is divided into four parts as follows.



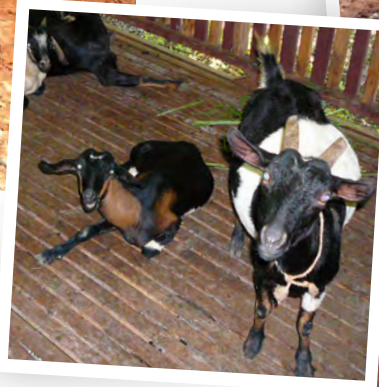
The first part, about 16 percent of the total area or about 0.08 ha is used for the farm pond to store water for irrigation and for fish raising. Vetiver grasses are also planted in concentric rows around this farm pond for control of soil erosion. To intensify land use, on the dike around the farm pond, bananas are also grown.



The second part, about 29 percent of the total area on about 0.15 ha is cultivated to local rice. This is expected to provide year-round staple food for the family.

The third part, about 35 percent of the total area on about 0.18 ha is planted to fruit trees such as jackfruit, mangoes, lychee and star fruit. This can be used for daily food, with the surplus to be sold.

The fourth part, about 20 percent of the total on about 0.10 ha, is allocated for housing and growing vegetables such as egg-plant, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, gourd and radish. Small fruits such as lemon, jujube and guava are also planted around the area. In addition, livestock namely poultry and black Bengal goats are also raised in this portion of land.





1.2 Practice in real life by a Bangladesh farmer: A Bangladesh farmer, Mr. Md. Abed Ali, was recruited and practices the Sufficiency Economy concepts in his everyday life - always maintain moderation, reasonableness, and immunity building using knowledge and virtues as a guideline. Along with the farm activities, Mr. Md. Abed Ali will practice to use various aspects of knowledge, patience, honesty, perseverance with kindness and consciousness in making decisions and taking actions in his life.

2. Providing training courses

After establishing the learning center, practical experiences gained by Mr. Md. Abed Ali will be documented as an applicable model of Sufficiency Economy Approach for Bangladesh context. Then, these knowledge and tech-

nologies will be transferred to local farmers and communities through many training courses offered by the learning center. The level of training courses will vary from training of the trainers to agricultural extension officers and local Bangladesh farmers.

The integrated farming introduced is an alternative agricultural practice rather than mono cropping for small scale farmers. While practicing in the farm, essential characteristics including patience, perseverance, diligence, wisdom and prudence have been developed and become a way of life of farmers. Thus, it is expected that this collaboration will contribute to the improvement of the standard of living of small scale farmers in Bangladesh towards sustainable development under His Majesty the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

Sufficiency Economy is a philosophy bestowed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej to the people of Thailand. Through royal remarks on many occasions over the past three decades, His Majesty has provided guidance on appropriate conduct covering numerous aspects of life. After the economic crisis, His Majesty reiterated and expanded on his “Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy” in remarks made in December 1997 and 1998. The philosophy points the way for a recovery that will lead to a more resilient and sustainable economy that is better able to meet emerging challenges such as globalization.

Sufficiency Economy¹ stresses the middle path as an overriding principle for appropriate conduct by Thai people at all levels, from family to community to country. It calls for national development and administration to modernize in line with the forces of globalization. “Sufficiency” means moderation, reasonableness, and the need of self-immunity for sufficient protection from impact arising from internal and external changes. To achieve this, the application of knowledge with due consideration and prudence is essential. In particular, great care is needed at every step in the utilization of theories and methodologies for planning and implementation. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the moral fiber of the nation, so that everyone, particularly public officials, academics, and businessmen, adhere first and foremost to the principle of honesty and integrity. In addition, a way of life based on patience, perseverance, diligence, wisdom and prudence is indispensable to create balance and be able to cope appropriately with critical challenges, arising from extensive and rapid socioeconomic, environmental, and cultural changes in the world.

¹ Unofficial translation. A working definition compiled from remarks made by His Majesty the King on various occasions and approved by His Majesty and sent by His Majesty’s Principal Private Secretary to NESDB on 29 November 1999.

Application of Sufficiency Economy for Farmers

His Majesty's "New Theory" for agriculture offers the opportunity for farmers to use and apply their wisdom and skills to support themselves in ways, which are consistent with their respective environment. Royal initiatives also stimulate and support collaboration and integration using community resources to develop strong social and business networks, while encouraging members to abide by morality and wisdom in their decisions and actions. Strong foundations should be created using self-reliance before building up more market reliance in the advanced stage. The "New Theory" Agriculture has three phases:

The First Phase is to manage agricultural land and resources at the household level in a way that provides enough return to live appropriately and with self-reliance, according to one's conditions.

The Second Phase is the formation of groups in the form of cooperatives to collaboratively produce goods, organize markets, and develop community welfare to increase social solidarity and prepare communities to keep pace with the outside world.

The Third Phase is to build contacts and partnerships with outside institutions such as banks, businesses, government and nongovernment organizations, to obtain the financial, knowledge and technical support necessary for further development.

*From: Sufficiency Economy Implications and Applications
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