

CEREAL SYSTEMS INITIATIVES FOR SOUTH ASIA- MECHANIZATION EXTENSION ACTIVITY (CSISA-MEA)

Empowering Skills, Advancing Agriculture



The Cereal Systems Initiatives for South Asia-Mechanization Extension Activity (CSISA-MEA) project is a collaborative effort between USAID and CIMMYT Bangladesh partnering with RRF aimed at improving the capacity of the light engineering sector in Jashore. By developing skilled youth workers and enhancing institutional capacity in agricultural mechanization, the project seeks to strengthen farmers’ access to agricultural production and marketing.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Increase the capacity of the light engineering sector in Jashore.
2. Develop skilled youth workers to strengthen institutional capacity in agricultural mechanization.
3. Enhance farmers’ access to agricultural production and marketing.

FACT & FIGURE

Sl.	Fact	Figure
1	Name of the program	Cereal Systems Initiatives for South Asia-Mechanization Extension Activity (CSISA-MEA)
2	Duration	July 2023 to 30 June 2024
3	Supported By	USAID & CIMMYT Bangladesh
4	No. of project participants	150 Beneficiaries, (Male : 119 Female :31)
5	No. of staff	07
6	Working Location	Jashore, Bangladesh

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Conducted awareness campaigns and preliminary selection of trainees.
2. Delivered skill training for men and women in relevant fields.
3. Maintained a comprehensive database and provided certifications.
4. Regularly documented and reported project progress.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023-24

1. **Skill Training on Machinist for Men**
 - **Content:** Lathe, Milling, Welding, OHS, Basic Tools, Drilling, Grinding, Heat Treatment, Technical Drawing, etc.
 - **Participants:** 5 batches of 20 trainees each (Total: 100 workforce).
 - **Duration:** 27 days * 3 hours/day per batch.
2. **Skill Training on Foundry for Men**
 - **Content:** Sand Preparation, Sand Molding, Casting, Fettling, Finishing/Machining.
 - **Participants:** 1 batch of 20 trainees.
 - **Duration:** 10 days * 8 hours/day.
3. **Skill Training on Foundry for Women**
 - **Content:** Sand Preparation, Sand Molding.
 - **Participants:** 1 batch of 10 trainees.
 - **Duration:** 3 days * 8 hours/day.
4. **Skill Training on Machinist for Women**
 - **Content:** Fettling, Drilling, Painting.
 - **Participants:** 1 batch of 20 trainees.
 - **Duration:** 3 days * 8 hours/day.



IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The training sessions conducted under this project significantly contributed to developing a skilled workforce within the light engineering sector in Jashore. By empowering participants with practical knowledge and techniques, the project ensured their capability to train others in their respective workshops. This cascading effect has laid the foundation for sustained growth in the sector, fulfilling the project's goals.



CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT

1. Difficulty in maintaining trainees' concentration after their full-day work schedules.
2. Fatigue among participants, particularly those undergoing intense physical labor before attending training sessions.
3. Limited interest from workshop owners in releasing workforce for training programs.
4. Ensuring social distancing during practical training sessions.