



SUMMER ONION

Nurturing the Earth, Feeding the World

PROJECT NAME: EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND INCOME GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH EXPANSION OF SUMMER ONION CULTIVATION UNDER PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL COMMERCIALIZATION AND ENTERPRISE (PACE) PROJECT



The "Employment Creation and Income Generation of Entrepreneurs through Expansion of Summer Onion Cultivation" project, under the Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprise (PACE) initiative, aims to meet the growing domestic demand for onions in Bangladesh by promoting summer cultivation to fill off-season gaps. This project was supported by IFAD, PKSf, and RRF, the project operates across several upazilas in the Jashore and Jhenaidah districts. The project, operational from July 2023 to December 2023, targeted sustainable agricultural growth by filling the off-season production gap, providing income and employment generation opportunities to local farmers. It targets 500 small-scale entrepreneurs, providing essential training in onion seed and production techniques, seed support, and financial assistance for advanced cultivation practices.

FACT & FIGURE

Sl.	Fact	Figure
1	Name of the program	Employment Creation and Income Generation of entrepreneurs through expansion of summer onion cultivation under Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprise (PACE) Project
2	Duration	06 months (July 23 to December-23)
3	Supported By	IFAD, PKSf, RRF
4	No. of project participants	500 (Male-471 and Female-29)
5	No. of staff	03
6	Working Location	Jashore district-Jashore Sadar, and Chougacha upazila, Jhenaidh district -Jhenaidh Sadar, Kaligonj, Kotchandpur and Mohespur Upazila

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the project included:

Enhancing Summer Onion Production: To meet domestic demand during the lean period by growing summer onions.

Capacity Building for Producers: Equipping local farmers with knowledge and skills to improve yield, maintain quality, and achieve efficient marketing.

Ensuring Seed Availability: Facilitating the production and availability of summer onion seeds for future seasons to maintain a steady supply chain.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The project provided comprehensive training and resources to enhance summer onion production. Each planned activity was successfully achieved at 100% completion, as detailed below:

SL	Activity	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
1.	Training on Summer Onion Seed Production	1 batch	1 batch	100%
2.	Training on Summer Onion Production	20 batches	20 batches	100%
3.	TOT Training on Summer Onion Production (7 partner NGOs)	1 batch	1 batch	100%
4.	TOT Training on Summer Onion Seed Production (7 partner NGOs)	1 batch	1 batch	100%
5.	Demonstration Plots for Seed Production	10 plots	10 plots	100%
6.	Demonstration Plots for Onion Production	100 plots	100 plots	100%
7.	Seed Support for Summer Onion Production	400 packs	400 packs	100%
8.	Financial Support for Raised Seed Beds	10 beds	10 beds	100%
9.	Exchange Tour for Onion Seed Growers	1 tour	1 tour	100%
10.	Participation in Agricultural Fairs	2 events	2 events	100%
11.	Observation of Onion Field Days	2 events	2 events	100%

PROJECT IMPACT

The PACE project has had a significant impact on local farming communities by empowering farmers to increase off-season onion production. Key impacts include:

Enhanced Production Knowledge and Skills: Farmers developed improved techniques for summer onion cultivation, previously restricted to winter production. This knowledge uplifted both their production and marketing skills, promoting year-round cultivation.

Income Generation and Market Development: With higher yields and quality produce, farmers accessed new markets, increasing their income and livelihood options.

Strong Agricultural Linkages: The project facilitated partnerships with agricultural extension service providers, local dealers, company representatives, and spice research institutions, thereby building a robust support network.

Seedling and Supply Chain Development: Establishing seed production and summer onion supply markets has increased accessibility for producers and consumers alike, reducing reliance on winter onion crops.

Community Excitement and Engagement: Fresh summer onions now available in local markets have excited the community, driving greater interest in year-round onion cultivation.



CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While the project has been largely successful, a few challenges surfaced:

Climate Change and Weather Conditions: Unpredictable weather patterns impacted cultivation timelines, highlighting the need for climate-resilient farming practices.

Seed and Seedling Quality and Cost: Limited availability of high-quality seeds and the high cost of seeds posed a challenge for sustained production.



PARTICIPATION REFLECTION

"Before joining the Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF) project, I only knew traditional winter onion farming. But after meeting the project team, I was introduced to summer onion cultivation, and it completely changed my approach. With RRF's support, I received training on advanced techniques in summer onion production, pest control, and seed cultivation. I now produce high-quality seeds and seedlings on my 5 katha land, timing my planting to avoid damage from seasonal storms—a strategy I learned through the project.

A major breakthrough for me was growing the high-yielding BARI onion variety-5, which I believe can address the onion shortages in Bangladesh. I hope more farmers adopt this variety as I have, with the skills and knowledge that modern methods bring. Additionally, the project's financial and technical support has opened doors for me to expand my business. Using platforms like YouTube and F-commerce, I now market my seedlings across the country, connecting with farmers interested in summer onion cultivation.

Being part of this project has been one of my best decisions. It's not only transformed my own farming but also allowed me to support others through my work. I'm deeply grateful to RRF, IFAD, and PKSf, and I look forward to expanding summer onion cultivation and making a difference in the country's onion production."



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Summer Onion Entrepreneur