

SAFETI Supported Farming Family wins “*Best Women Shrimp Farmer*” award



Ms. Zarna receiving award form Hon'ble Minister, MoFL

SAFETI Semi Intensive Shrimp farmer Ms Zarna Mondal received “Best Women Shrimp Farmer” award Dumuria Upazila of Khulna District on July 22 during National Fish Week - 2018.

Zarna Mondal and her husband Bigon Bahary Mondal are shrimp farmers from Kodomtola village

of Dumuria Upazila, Khulna. This farming family has been producing shrimp for the last 8 years, following traditional farming methods in their 45 decimal gher (pond). But, the family has been unable to achieve their hoped-for levels of annual production.

The SAFETI team selected this family because they showed an interest in adopting and investing in improved shrimp farming methodologies developed and promoted by SAFETI. As one of 25 of the SAFETI farmers in a cluster, they received two modules of training on Semi-Intensive Shrimp Farming prepared and delivered by the SAFETI technical team. In collaboration with the SAFETI technical team, the family chose their gher to serve as a Demonstration Gher for the other 24 farmers in the cluster.

This farming family demonstrated the sincerity of their commitment to the group by excavating the gher to remove bottom mud and increase the pond depth by 5 ft, which will be used for the next 5 years. This season in April 2018, they stocked their gher with 8,000 Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) shrimp seed (i.e., Post Larvae), and implemented post-stocking management steps that they learned through the training and suggestions made by SAFETI technical staff during post-stocking follow-up visits. Their total expenditure in this season is BDT 79,500 (US\$ 946) including depreciation cost

of pond excavation and netting.

As per the SAFETI technical staff's suggestions, they have begun partial harvesting and harvested total 156 kg shrimp worth BDT 1,25,000 (US\$ 1,400) from their 45-decimal pond.

During a visit to the family's gher, the Dumuria Department of Fisheries (DoF) Officer recognized Ms. Zarna as an early adopter and leading farmer of the area and considering the current success and expected harvest at the end of the season, the local DoF office selected her to receive the "Best Shrimp Farmer" award.

While presenting the award, Mr. Narayan Chandra Chanda, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) asked Zarna what the reason was behind for her remarkable production and success. She responded saying "*SAFETI's training has been very helpful for us. We have learned quite a lot. Not only just the training, SAFETI's staff are always guiding us and helped sourcing SPF Post Larvae and other inputs throughout the production period.*"

SAFETI congratulated the "Farming Family" who received award and also the farmers and family who are struggling to overcome the challenges of increasing shrimp and prawn production, and "recognized the Field Team that has been working hard to deliver services and motivate farming families to adopt improved farming methodologies."



Ms. Zarna and her delighted Farming Family upon receiving the Best Shrimp Farmer award

"SAFETI'S TRAINING HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR US. WE HAVE LEARNED QUITE A LOT. NOT ONLY JUST THE TRAINING; SAFETI'S STAFFS ARE ALWAYS GUIDING US AND HELPED SOURCING SPF POST LARVAE AND OTHER INPUTS THROUGHOUT THE PRODUCTION PERIOD." MS. ZARNA