



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RICE-CUM-FISH CULTURE IN BANGLADESH

Professor Dr. Franz Heidhues

Master Thesis

By

Mohammad Ataur Rahman

**In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc)
in Agricultural Sciences, Food Security and Natural Resource Management in the
Tropics and Subtropics, University of Hohenheim, Germany**

Submitted to

**The Institute of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences in the Tropics and
Subtropics**

This research work was done by financial assistance of the Eiselen –Stiftung, Ulm

September 2002

ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of the rice-cum-fish culture and the rice-mono culture on the rural households at Muktaghachha upazila of Mymensingh district. Five villages were selected for this study. Primary data were collected through field survey by using pre-designed questionnaire. A stratified random sampling technique was followed in this study. Data were collected from 100 farmers of the selected villages. Activity budgets were prepared and comparisons were made through the tabular and statistical analysis. Benefit-cost ratio was calculated. To reject the null hypothesis, t-test was done and multiple regression analysis was also done to determine the coefficient of different independent variables which impact on the total household income as dependent variable. The major findings of the study were that both the rice-cum-fish culture and the rice-mono culture were profitable business for the farmers. However, farmers are earning about 3 times higher profits from the rice-cum-fish culture than the rice-mono culture. Per hectare net return of the rice-cum-fish culture and the rice-mono culture were Tk.10230.00 and Tk.3593.00, respectively. The rice yield was increased 11.4 percent in the integrated rice-cum-fish culture than the rice-mono culture. Fish consumption was increased 14.5 percent with the rice-cum-fish culture than without the rice-cum-fish culture. Total cost was also increased by about 49 percent in the rice-cum-fish culture than the rice-mono culture mainly due to fingerlings purchasing. Human labour employment was increased by 09.4 percent in the rice-cum-fish culture than the rice-mono culture. The study clearly hints that the rice-cum-fish culture provides greater scope for higher returns(1.6:1) and employment opportunities(1.1:1) of human labour than the rice-mono culture. This study also found that the farmers are practicing the rice-cum-fish culture technology without using any pesticides, so this system is ecologically sound and friendly with environment. Even there are some constraints in the rice-cum-fish culture system like diseases, unexplained mortality of fish and so on, farmers are interested in to practising this system to improve their socio-economic condition. Government, policy makers and extension workers should encourage the farmers to practice the rice-cum-fish culture system providing necessary information and financial assistant.