



Annual progress Report

Name of project: Noya Krisi

Project Reporting period: July 2024 to June 2025

													<i>and provide reasons for over/underachievement)</i>
1	Monthly Group meeting	0	0	36 0	36 0	12	12	0	0	0	0		
2	Seed Expert and Conservation Committee	0	0	12 0	12 0	10	10	0	0	0	0		
3	Courtyard meeting	0	0	24 0	21 0	6	6	0	0	0	0		
4	Seed Resource Centre	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		
5	Seed collection, storage, and reproduction	0	0	30	30	30	30	0	0	0	0		

Good Practices Identified:

During the reporting period, the *Noya Krishi* project has demonstrated strong progress toward its objectives, with clear evidence of community acceptance and positive changes in sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers, particularly women, are increasingly engaging in project activities, contributing to improved livelihoods and resilience.

One of the most notable achievements is the increased adoption of local seed production. Farmers are now actively producing, preserving, and using locally adapted seed varieties. This has reduced their dependence on expensive commercial seeds while strengthening agricultural biodiversity. Community-managed seed banks are functioning effectively, ensuring timely access to quality seeds and promoting seed sovereignty at the local level.



The expansion of organic composting practices has also been highly successful. Farmers are widely using locally available materials such as cow dung, crop residues, banana plants, and household waste to produce compost. This shift has significantly improved soil fertility and crop productivity, while reducing input costs and reliance on chemical fertilizers. As a result, farming practices are becoming more environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

In terms of climate resilience, farmers are increasingly adopting climate-resilient seed varieties and sustainable farming techniques. These practices are helping them better cope with climate-related challenges such as drought, flooding, and salinity. Additionally, awareness and understanding of climate adaptation strategies have improved across project communities, enabling farmers to make more informed decisions.

Another important success is the strengthened community collaboration. Seed exchange networks and farmer groups are actively sharing knowledge, experiences, and resources. This has fostered a strong sense of cooperation and collective responsibility, which is essential for sustaining agricultural development initiatives.

Overall, the integration of local seed systems, composting practices, and community engagement has created a solid foundation for long-term agricultural sustainability. The project is not only improving farming practices but also empowering communities to become more self-reliant and resilient in the face of environmental and economic challenges.

Repairing Agricultural Damage from Climate Change through Noya Krishi

During the reporting period, the *Noya Krishi* project has played a vital role in addressing agricultural damage caused by climate change in the coastal regions of Batiaghata, Dumuria, Koyra, and Dakop. These areas are highly vulnerable to salinity, flooding, and unpredictable weather patterns, which significantly impact crop production and farmers' livelihoods.

Through this initiative, Nice Foundation has implemented a range of sustainable and climate-adaptive agricultural practices to restore soil health and improve farming resilience. Farmers are adopting diversified cropping systems growing multiple crops on the same land which enhances soil fertility, reduces the risk of crop failure, and helps control pests and diseases naturally.

The project also promotes farming in harmony with nature by encouraging the use of organic inputs and recyclable resources. This approach reduces environmental pressure, restores soil structure, and supports long-term agricultural sustainability. Composting and organic farming practices are contributing to the gradual recovery of degraded land.



Community-based approaches have further strengthened the impact. Farmers are organized into groups and cooperatives, creating platforms for knowledge sharing, mutual support, and collective problem-solving. These groups are instrumental in spreading climate-resilient practices and building local capacity.

In addition, the project supports nature-based solutions such as tree plantation and water body conservation, which help restore the ecological balance and protect agricultural land from climate-related risks.

Overall, *Noya Krishi* is making a significant contribution to repairing agricultural damage while strengthening the resilience of farming communities. By combining sustainable practices, community engagement, and environmental restoration, the project is helping safeguard the future of agriculture in climate-vulnerable coastal areas.

Key Challenges and Gaps:

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the *Noya Krishi* project continued to build on the achievements of the previous year while addressing key gaps identified in 2023–2024. Despite notable progress, some challenges remained that required focused attention to enhance the project's overall effectiveness and sustainability.

One of the key areas for improvement was the uneven adoption of local seed production and composting practices across all project locations. While many farmers successfully adopted these approaches, certain communities were slower to engage due to limited awareness, resource constraints, and hesitation to shift from traditional or chemical-based practices. This highlighted the need for more targeted outreach, practical demonstrations, and continuous motivation.

Additionally, the management of community-based seed banks required further strengthening. In some areas, limitations in technical knowledge, storage facilities, and record-keeping affected the quality and availability of seeds. Improving these aspects became essential to ensure that seed banks function effectively and maintain viable seed stocks throughout the year.

Composting practices also presented challenges. Although widely introduced, some farmers were unable to produce sufficient quantities of compost to meet their farming needs. This was often due to a lack of materials such as organic waste or manure, as well as limited space for composting.

Strengthening access to resources and promoting shared or community-based composting systems emerged as important areas for improvement.

Overall, addressing these challenges during 2024–2025 was crucial to ensuring more inclusive participation, strengthening long-term sustainability, and maximizing benefits for all farmers, particularly women and marginalized groups.

Measures Taken to Address Identified Gaps:

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the *Noya Krishi* project, implemented by Nice Foundation, introduced several practical adaptations to address the challenges identified in the previous year and to strengthen overall project effectiveness.

To improve the performance of community seed banks, the project provided targeted training to seed bank managers, focusing on seed preservation techniques, stock management, and proper record-keeping. These efforts have contributed to better seed storage and ensured the availability of quality seeds throughout the year. In addition, a seed quality monitoring system has been introduced to regularly assess the viability and standard of seeds being produced and exchanged among farmers.

In response to climate-related challenges, particularly in saline-prone areas such as Koirā, the project introduced salt-tolerant crop varieties and provided hands-on training on salinity management practices. This has significantly improved crop survival and productivity in vulnerable locations.

To address gaps in compost production, especially in areas like Batiaghata, the project supported the establishment of centralized composting facilities. This initiative has increased farmers' access to organic fertilizer and encouraged collective compost production, resulting in improved soil fertility and better crop yields.

Furthermore, the project strengthened community engagement through regular follow-ups, practical demonstrations, and peer learning approaches to increase adoption among slower-moving groups. These adaptive measures demonstrate the project's responsiveness to local needs and its commitment to building a more inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient agricultural system.

Overall, these adaptations have enhanced the project's capacity to meet diverse community needs while ensuring long-term sustainability and impact.

Key Lessons Learned

In 2024–2025, the *Noya Krishi* project implemented by Nice Foundation generated important lessons that will guide future programming and strengthen sustainable agriculture initiatives.

A key lesson is that continuous community engagement and clear communication are essential for improving adoption of practices such as local seed production and composting. Regular follow-up visits, demonstrations, and feedback sessions helped build trust and encouraged farmers to gradually shift their practices.

The project also learned that flexible and adaptive approaches are critical in climate-vulnerable contexts. Different geographic areas, such as saline-prone and flood-affected zones, required tailored solutions like salt-tolerant crops and localized composting systems, as a single uniform approach was not effective across all locations.

Another important lesson is that strong seed bank management systems are central to sustainability. Training on storage practices, record-keeping, and seed quality monitoring significantly improved seed availability and reduced losses.

The project further confirmed that data-driven monitoring and regular field observation improve decision-making, enabling timely identification of gaps and corrective actions.

In addition, it became clear that women’s participation and leadership strengthen project outcomes, particularly in seed conservation and community mobilization, leading to greater ownership and effectiveness.

Finally, the project highlighted that resource availability and collective action are crucial, especially in compost production, where shared facilities and community-based systems proved more effective than individual efforts.

Overall, the 2024–2025 learning emphasizes that sustainable agricultural transformation requires flexibility, strong community engagement, continuous capacity building, and locally adapted solutions.

Conclusion

In 2024–2025, the *Noya Krishi* project implemented by Nice Foundation made significant progress in promoting sustainable agriculture, strengthening local seed systems, and improving climate resilience among smallholder farmers in coastal Bangladesh.

The project successfully advanced community-based seed production, expanded the use of organic compost, and strengthened the role of women in agricultural decision-making. These achievements contributed to improved soil health, reduced dependency on external inputs, and enhanced food security at the household level.

Although some challenges remained particularly in ensuring uniform adoption, strengthening seed bank management, and scaling compost production—the project responded effectively through targeted training, infrastructure improvements, and localized climate-smart interventions.

Overall, the 2024–2025 period demonstrated that the *Noya Krishi* approach is effective in building more resilient and self-reliant farming communities. With continued adaptation and community engagement, the project is well-positioned to achieve long-term sustainability and greater impact in the coming years.

Case Study

Dulali Mondal – Growing Resilience Through Local Seeds

Dulali Mondal, a 37-year-old woman from Soluya village under Dumuria Upazila, lives with her husband, Kuntal Mondal (52), and their three daughters. Her husband works as a carpenter, and the family has long depended on his irregular income to meet their daily needs. Like many rural households, they faced financial uncertainty and limited opportunities for improving their livelihoods.

Through the *Noya Krishi* project implemented by Nice Foundation, Dulali found a new pathway toward resilience and self-reliance. She became actively involved in local



seed conservation, learning how to collect, preserve, and exchange indigenous seeds within her community.

Using these locally adapted seeds, Dulali began cultivating crops on the small piece of land around her home. She adopted fully organic farming practices, producing her own compost from household and agricultural waste instead of relying on chemical fertilizers or pesticides. This not only reduced her production costs but also improved soil health and ensured safe, chemical-free food for her family.

Over time, her efforts started to yield positive results. Dulali is now able to meet her household's nutritional needs and sells surplus vegetables in the local market, generating a steady source of income. This additional earning has helped her contribute financially to her family and support her daughters' needs.

Beyond her individual success, Dulali has become a source of inspiration in her community. With support from the project, she participates in monthly group meetings and has helped form a women's group in her village. Through this group, women come together to share knowledge on seed preservation, composting, and sustainable farming practices, strengthening collective learning and cooperation.

Dulali's journey reflects how access to knowledge, local resources, and community support can transform lives. Her story highlights the impact of the Noya Krishi approach in empowering women, promoting sustainable agriculture, and building resilient rural communities.