

Status of Minor Fruit Diversity in Southern Coastal Zones of Bangladesh

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Abstract—An intensive survey on agrobiodiversity, information collected from key informants, and Focus Group Discussion (FGD), were made of aquatic agricultural systems in three regions (polders) of Borguna, Satkhira and Khulna in southwestern Bangladesh. This research was conducted by Bioversity International in partnership with the Fruit Tree Improvement Program (FTIP) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and WorldFish under the CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS). Key stakeholders consulted included farmers, businessmen, politicians, local leaders, local public representatives both male and female, Government and Non-government officials and religious leaders. The topics covered included species loss (minor fruits), cropping pattern, homestead diversity, food habit and marketing systems. Information was also collected on causes of loss, major constraints, potential actions, and responsibilities. Wide variations were observed in respect of species loss, cropping pattern, food habit and marketing system in the three polder zones. Homestead diversity of crops also varied significantly. Species loss was associated with natural disasters, sea level rise, increased salinity and political interventions.

Key message: *Agrobiodiversity is key to livelihoods of people in the southwestern region of Bangladesh. Species loss in the coastal zones of Bangladesh is caused by natural disaster, sea level rise, increase in salinity and political interventions.*

Keywords: *Agrobiodiversity, dhap cultivation, sorjan system, key organization, endangered plant and fish species, conservation.*