





A traditional agricultural practice in southern wetlands of Bangladesh

## **Floating Gardens**







## **Floating Gardening**





## Performance

- Economic benefit
- Food / Nutritional security
- Agricultural benefits
- Ecological/ Environmental benefits
- Disaster risk management



## What Makes it so Attractive?



- Simple
- Natural
- Traditional
- Control over water!











## Lost in Transfer

 Original locations: a local, efficient, selfsustaining business model

 New areas: nutritional security for the extreme poor sustained by external support





## **Indigenous Innovation**



- A traditional practice showed potentials to tackle new challenges posed by climate change and climate variability
- Became an 'adaptation sensation'

land & food

#### Floating Gardening: a local lad becoming a climate celebrity?

Floating gardening in Bangladesh is an example of how a traditional practice can become a development sensation. **Haseeb Md. Irfanullah** asks if this picturesque technique will be compatible with climate change.

#### Policy

Some national climate change documents mentioned as a good option.

Second National Communication of Bangladesh to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 0 Ministry of Environment and Forests Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Adaptation Programme of Action October 2012 Ministry of Environment and Forests Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



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#### Impact / Community

Nutritional security remains the main focus

- CARE/IUCN (2007-2014): 2,000 families of 200 villages in 10 districts
- Practical Action (2005-2015): ca. 1,000 families in 5 districts







## Scaling Up an Adaptive Option PRACTICAL ACTION

- The Government of Bangladesh's initiative:
  - US\$ 1.6 million (Own fund
    Bangladesh Climate
    Change Trust Fund)
  - 3 years
  - 40 sub-districts of 8 districts
  - Benefiting 12,000 farmers families
- Driver: policy vs politicalwill







#### Research / Knowledge

- Very limited compare with the enthusiasm or promotion
- No going back to see if the introduction is sustaining or not
- No research on if the technology would survive under changing climate

# Adaptive or Sensitive to Climate Change?

- Unpredictable rainfall
- Long dry spells
- Reduced water in wetlands
- Intense, frequent floods
- Salinity intrusion
- Inadequate water hyacinth





# Innovation for adaptation: the missing points



- In-built limitations of a technology
- Charity versus business model
- 'Innovation-evaluation-diffusion cycle' ignored
- Failures not appreciated
- Research overlooked
- Gaps among policy-practice-research

## **Technology Justice**



Practical Action defines technology justice as "the right of people to decide, choose and use technologies that assist them in leading the kind of life they value without compromising the ability of others and future generations to do the same".



## References



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- 3. Islam and Atkins, 2007. Indigenous floating cultivation: a sustainable agricultural practice in the wetlands of Bangladesh. *Development in Practice* **17**:130-136.
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- Irfanullah, 2013. The 'moving sown fields': Anyone interested? <u>SILnews</u> 63:22-23.
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## Thank you

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