

iCARE Innovation Fund

Social Innovation Through Technology Nudging:
Developing a Behavioral Toolkit for Diffusing Solar
Irrigation

Monthly Progress Report

Reporting period: 15 Dec 2023 - 14 Jan 2024

1. Project Information

Project Title:	Social Innovation Through Technology Nudging: Developing a Behavioral Toolkit for Diffusing Solar Irrigation
Project Code:	A-05177-WBCAR
Partner Organisation:	Curtin University Australia, University of Rajshahi Bangladesh, American International University-Bangladesh, Khulna University Bangladesh
Reporting Period:	15 December 2023 - 14 January 2024
Date of Submission:	02 February 2024
Contact Name:	Dr Habib Rahman
Contact Position:	Project lead
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Status of project progress in this reporting period	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant delay <input type="checkbox"/> Delay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Track
Report sign Off	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have reviewed all the information provided for each section including number of beneficiaries. The information provided for each section of the report is complete. Name: <i>Dr Habib Rahman</i> Designation: Associate Professor, Durham University

2. Key Highlights

- The team attended the project inception workshop and shared the project brief with other iCARE Innovation Fund innovators.
- The project lead and co-lead conducted an inception meeting with the consortium members including local partners and advisors.
- The project lead and co-lead started brainstorming with local partners, advisors and the recruited research assistants.
- A qualitative review of government documents and relevant literature is in progress.
- Draft of the project inception report is in progress.
- The monitoring and evaluation plan has been finalized.
- Results framework has been prepared.
- A procurement plan has been submitted.
- The inception phase (before the ADOPT training intervention) timeline and work plans have been updated.
- The team is planning a policy engagement workshop with local partners and influential end-users (i.e., ministries in Bangladesh) in Bangladesh.
- Preparation of the ADOPT training manual (the first milestone deliverable) is in progress.

3. Reporting on Project Activities

Activity Title	Previous Status	Current Status
Project inception workshop	N/A	Completed
Inception meeting of the consortium	Planned	Completed
Recruitment of research assistants	Planned	Completed
Brainstorming with local partners and advisors	Planned	In progress
Networking with end-users and other influential stakeholders	Planned	In progress
Content analysis of reports and qualitative review of literature	Planned	In progress
Preparation of the Inception Report	Planned	Draft in progress
ADOPT training manual preparation (the first milestone)	Planned	In progress
Policy engagement workshop	N/A	Planned
Recruitment of surveyors and trainers	Planned	In progress

4. Challenges, Lessons Learned and Way Forward

During the reporting month, the core research team brainstormed in several sessions regarding i) the draft preparation of the Inception Report, ii) recruitment of research assistants and iii) planning of the analytical framework (i.e., the monitoring and evaluation plan). Finalizing analytical framework seemed challenging as we intend to estimate the effectiveness of the ADOPT training (technology nudging to the treatment group of 700 farmers). We assumed possible estimation bias in this regard. Therefore, we planned to give a minimal training (without technology nudging) to the control group of 700 farmers. We revised the results framework accordingly. We also perceived that it would be more insightful if we estimate the actual adoption decision of non-solar-using farmers (not only studying their behavioural change) after the ADOPT training. We are networking with the ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (Government of Bangladesh) and the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) Bangladesh regarding their solar installation project locations in 2024 and we plan to include some of these locations.

For timely completion of this project, we have prepared a work plan timeline for developing the ADOPT manual, placebo training content, and baseline survey questionnaires. We have planned to pilot the manuals and the survey questionnaire for

verifications. Preparation of the training manuals, conducting surveys and training interventions are crucial in this project. Therefore, we are wary of forming the research teams of the three local partners. We plan to accommodate surveyors and trainers who have previously worked with the project team and have experience in behavioural research activities.



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