

Caritas

saf^obin
For Small Farmers Future



**smallholder
adaptive
farming and
biodiversity
network**



What is SAFBIN?

SAFBIN is a regional programme to promote local food and nutritional security through adaptive small-scale farming in four rain-fed Agro Ecosystems (AES) in South Asia.

Who is SAFBIN?

SAFBIN is implemented by Caritas Austria, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

What does Adaptive Farming mean?

- Understanding the local environment and agro-ecology
- Identification of the problems of climate variability and change
- Identification of the locally feasible and acceptable solutions
- Testing of the solutions to identify the best results
- Proactive action (precautionary) to overcome the problems
- Mutual sharing and learning

How is SAFBIN serving the SDGs?

SAFBIN is contributing to several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, primarily to **SDG 2 “Zero hunger”**¹, but also to SDG 1 “No poverty”, SDG 5 “Gender Equality”, SDG 10 “reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible consumption and production”, SDG 13 “Climate action”, SDG 15 “Life on Land” and SDG 17 “Partnerships for the goals”.

¹ End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



What is SAFBIN dealing with?

- Doubling farm production and Income
- Access to balanced diet and nutritional self-sufficiency
- Control over land and secure access to knowledge and farm based entitlements
- Resilience to climate change and disaster while maintaining farm ecosystem
- Multi-level cooperation and partnership for smallholder friendly policies
- Sustainable food production and consumption of small-farm-agri-foods for urban middle class consumers



Foto: Stefan Gormasz/Caritas Austria



How is climate change challenging the agriculture in South Asia?

Whereas the per capita contribution of smallholder farmers of South Asia to climate change is almost zero, the last decades have shown the tremendous consequences, such as:

- Advancement, delay and fluctuations in monsoon and rainfall events (increased climate variability)
- Prolonged dry spell during cropping season (at critical stages)
- Decreased rainfall during critical stages of crops
- Increased frequency of drought events
- Increasing trend of maximum and minimum events
- Increase in pest, insect and disease infestation
- Increasing trend in the intensity and frequency of extreme events

One third of the world's malnourished live in South Asia*



South Asia: 281 Mio.
World Total: 794 Mio.

* Source: FAO 2017



Why is SAFBIN so important?

- Smallholders produce more than 70 percent of food worldwide from 40 percent of the world's land
- South Asia hosts the world's largest number of smallholders
- More than 70 % farmers in South Asia are smallholders and mostly practice subsistence agriculture
- Future agriculture and the wellbeing of the region lies in the hands of smallholders
- Chronic malnutrition (one third of the world's malnourished live in South Asia)
- Increasing vulnerability to climate change and signals of change
- Large proportion of rain-fed agriculture in arid and semi-arid conditions
- Low productivity and reducing trend of landholding across the region (avg. landholding 1–15 ha)
- Vanishing traditional practices and agro-biodiversity
- Lack of farmers access and control over farming inputs, socially acceptable and culturally appropriate food (food sovereignty)
- Excessive use of chemicals and external dependency for farming inputs
- Lack of mainstream focus on agricultural research and extension services favourable to smallholder farmers
- Weak agricultural extension system across the region (last mile reach and time delay)





Where is SAFBIN located?

SAFBIN is a **multi-country** programme. Political borders no longer hinder mutual development. The concept is scalable and replicable in similar geographies across the world. SAFBIN will be implemented in **four countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan), 21 districts** covering **165 villages** in total.

Districts in

Bangladesh: Naogaon, Natore, Khulna, Satkhira, Rajshahi (Tanore and Baba)

Nepal: Nawalparasi, Kaski, Bardiya, Surkhet, Banke, Lamjung

India: Mandla, Sagar, Dindori, Seoni, Vidisha, Raisen

Pakistan: Khushab, Mainwali, Sargodha

How many people will benefit from SAFBIN?

165 Project Villages

495 Farmers Collectives




7.425 Project Smallholder Farmers

37.125 Individuals gaining Food Sovereignty

How do we know, that SAFBIN is the correct answer to current challenges?

SAFBIN has undergone a **first phase** in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, co-financed by the European Commission from **2011-2016**. The results are convincing. Major successes of this programme were a significant increase of Food Security and a diversification of agricultural products.

Increase in Food Basket

	 Bangladesh	 Indien	 Nepal
2011	9	10	18
2016	12	21	31

Further achievements of the first phase of SAFBIN:

- **Understanding** of the farmers on the factors of climate variability and climate change
- **Access** to culturally preferred and socially acceptable food
- Focus of the farmers on the **farming system approach**
- **Capacities of the farmers** to test and research favourable options suiting local conditions
- **Linkages with stakeholders** of agriculture in the area
- **Unity, sharing and learning** mechanism among the farmers

Why is OFAR so important within SAFBIN?

Smallholder Collective Led **On-Farm Adaptive Research (OFAR)** is an empowering approach tested during the previous SAFBIN intervention. The programme will focus on proven participation-triggering activities like farmer's field school, community-video based capacity building, consumer-forum, community seed bank and above all intense capacity building to ensure participation of target communities in the programme. The OFAR is something like the key to the success of SAFBIN. It ensures the linkage with scientific institutions and empowers the farmers to share knowledge for their benefits.

What is the key strategy of SAFBIN?

According to the programme strategy, there will be two major “entry points”:

- (a) empowering smallholder farmer to individually and collectively address the issues at **household level** and
- (b) improving the **environment** of smallholder farmers around policy, research, extension and market relations.

The expected programme outcomes are designed around this approach:

- Smallholder farmers are able to increase their food security by **doubling their farm production and income**.
- Small farm households have and apply **improved capacities to consume a balanced diet**.
- Smallholder farmers have enhanced **land tenure security and access to water, seed, entitlements and knowledge on small farming**.
- Small farm households are **resilient** and have enhanced capacity for **adaptation to climate change and disaster** while maintaining **ecosystem and soil health**.
- **Multi-level cooperation and partnerships** are contributing to **small-farmer favourable policy and actions** (around research, extension and technology development).
- **Urban Middle Class Consumers** recognise the benefits of and increasingly demand for Small-Farm-Agri-Foods.





Foto: Caritas India/SCIAF

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