



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



LoCOS- Loving Care for the Oppressed Society

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Message from Executive director

LoCOS as a nonprofit development organization has been working for the development of the underprivileged, marginalized community and fight against the adverse impact of Climate Change in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. The life, livelihood and the environment are severely vulnerable and endangered the underprivileged people of this area.

LoCOS, has been continuing its utmost development intervention with limited resources to secure an improved living condition for the people of this area by implementing different projects and programs. To strengthen the community's resilience capacity, there are significant achievement on local seed preservation, high yielding local seed varieties invention with technology transfer for appropriate local rice breeding to fight against the catastrophic and challenging situations.

The Annual Report 2021-2022 of LoCOS depicts the planned activities, target and achievement that accomplished during the period. The report provides simultaneously specific tangible success and a bird's eye view about LoCOS. There were different challenges while implementing projects and programs and necessary measures taken to address of those challenges.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the community we working together, especially the Maitree farmers' federation and civil society members for their aspiration and endeavor towards making the positive change with sustainability.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the government officials, journalists, national and international development partners for their ardent support and cooperation. Thanks to the board members and colleagues of LoCOS for their continuous efforts, feedback and support.

Deb Prosad Sarker
Executive Director

Acronyms

APCDRR	Action for the Participatory and Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction
BARCIK	Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge
BNF	Bangladesh Ngo Foundation
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSRL	Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
CDPC	Community Disaster Preparedness Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
FLACEP	Farmers Led Agro Biodiversity Conservation and Empowerment Program
FLADP	Farmers-led Agricultural Development Project
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
LoCOS	Loving Care for the Oppressed Society
PVS	Participatory Variety Selection
PVCA	Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
PC	Program Coordinator
VGd	Vulnerable Group Development

Local Terms

Sajina	Local name of Moringa plant
Parishad	Committee
Aman	A kind of native paddy
Lakh	Local unit of number, consists of 100 thousand
Bigha	Local land measurement unit (.0747494 Bigha= 1Ayer)
Gher	Local name of fish farm
Ganz	Local entrepot of trade
Mahajan	Traditional money lender

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1.1. Background of LoCOS

LoCOS-Loving Care for the Oppressed Society, founded in 1998 by some concerned, dedicated and humanitarian social workers, development practitioners and benevolent local youths, has been working and contributing for a comprehensive and sustainable development for the underprivileged, marginalized and disaster-hit people of the Southwest Region of Bangladesh. This organization focuses and emphasizes on the activities that are conducive to reducing poverty; ensuring food security, health and education; building self-confidence of the community's occupationally marginalized rural poor people by arranging technical support for income generating activities; establishing equal rights for men and women; raising issue based awareness; and guaranteeing sustainable agriculture through biodiversity conservation involving local community in the shape of non-profit, non-government and voluntary approach.

1.2. Legal Status

Registration Authority	Registration Number	Date of Registration
Department of Social Welfare of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh	Khulna- 758/98	December 06, 1998
NGO Affairs Bureau, Bangladesh	2798	July 8, 2013
European Union (PADOR Registration)	Europe Aid ID # BD-2010-EAE-0702933842	2010

1.3. Vision

An environmentally sound and economically independent society

1.4. Mission

Raising socio-economic status, environmental condition and rights of underprivileged people of the society

1.5. Objectives

- Improve food security and livelihoods of vulnerable communities in South-west coastal region of Bangladesh;
- Sustainable agricultural development and conserve bio-diversity focusing saline affected areas;
- Safe water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion;
- Climate Change adaptation and mitigation at grassroots level;
- Promotion of renewable energy at grassroots level;
- Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness and responses;
- Improve good governance and human rights situations;
- Improve education and health & nutrition condition.

1.6. Governance Structure

- **General Body:** LoCOS has 21 members General Governing body where 9 members are female. The General Body elects 7 members from the 21 members for the period of two years as Executive Committee. The Secretary of the Executive Committee acts as the Executive Director of the Organization.
- **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee has the effective control of the Organization by organizing meetings every 4 months interval. It approves the accounts, the budget, all policies and procedures and the organization's Programs/projects.
- **Advisory Committee:** LoCOS has an Advisory Committee consisting of 3 members who remain on their post for 2 years and their main purpose is to give technical advice to run the organization.

1.7 Geographical Area Coverage

Name of District	Name of Upazila	Number of Unions and Pourosova
Khulna	Batiaghata	7
	Dacope	10

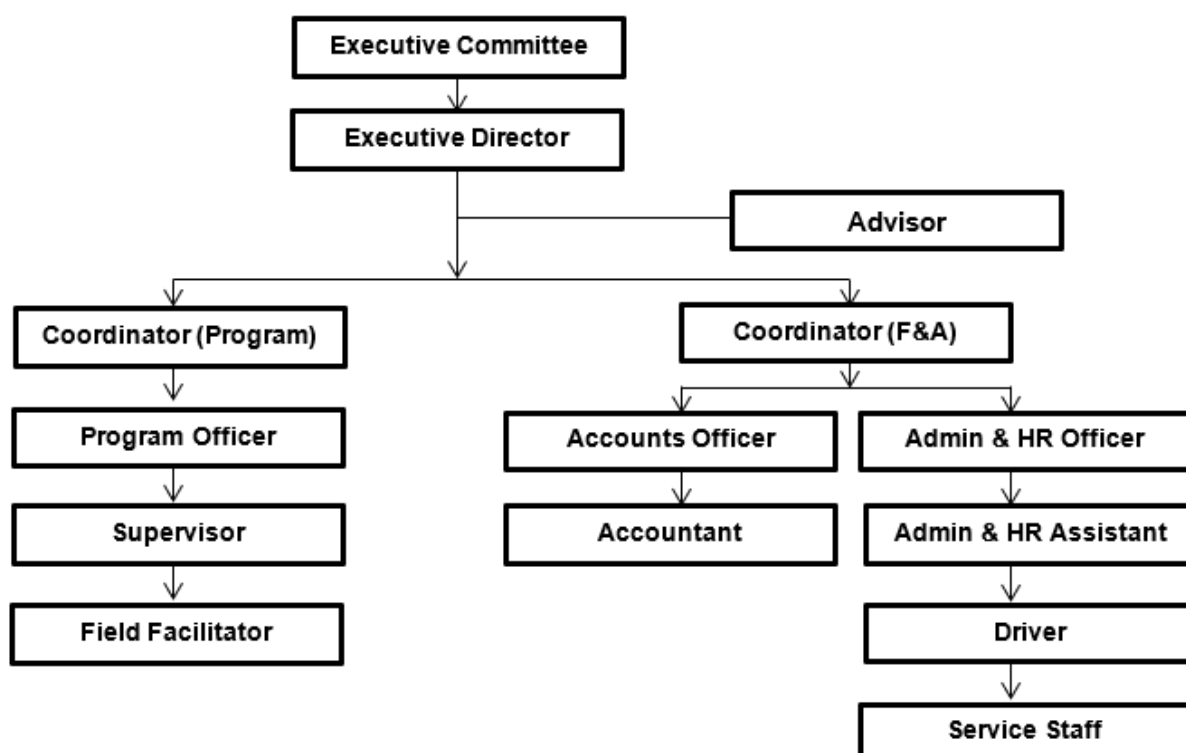
1.8 Membership, Partnership and Networking

Name of Body	Theme/Focus	Year of affiliation	Position of the organization
CSRL-Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood	Access to Natural Resources	2008	Member
Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh-ADAB	Coordination of NGOs	2001	Executive Member
KHANI Action-Aid	Food Security	2010	Member
Child Protection Coalition, Khulna	Child Protection	2020	Member

1.9 Human Resource

Level	Head Office Staff	Field Office Staff	Total Staff
Senior Management	02	01	03
Mid Level Management	08	07	15
Volunteer	08	07	15
Support Staff	01	01	2
Total Staff:			35

1.10 Structure of the Organization



Project at a glance

Name of the Project	Location	Duration		Donors
		Start date	End date	
Farmers-led Agricultural Development Project	Dacope and Batiaghata Upazila under Khulna District	July 2013	June 2024	MISEREOR, Germany
Self-employment of Women's through tailoring training:	Batiaghata Upazila under Khulna District	March 2019	Continue	Bangladesh NGO Foundation
Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGD)	Paicgacha and Koyra Upazila under Khulna District	January 2019	December 2020	Govt. of Bangladesh – Ministry of Women's Welfare

Development Interventions

Agriculture and Livelihoods

The demand for declaration of agro-economic zone for watermelon cultivation has become popular

Last couple of years, the farmers in Batiaghata Upazila have been cultivating watermelons on their land as they succeeded in harvesting huge watermelons. Due to absence of many necessary supports including transportation, development of infrastructure facilities for this vast production, farmers have even failed to get benefitted from this cultivation. During the last season, many farmers could not get their expected profit. Considering the fact, LoCOS and Maitri Krishak Federation have demanded the declaration of Dacope and Batiaghata Upazilas of Khulna as agro-economic zones for watermelon cultivation. The above demand was made through press conference and other activities throughout the year. As an impact of these activities, the demand for declaration of an agro-economic zone for watermelon cultivation has become popular through national based news including all local media.

At the same time, the availability of high yielding inbred seeds that require less pesticide ensures easy availability of seeds, irrigation system for leased / uncultivated and excavated rivers and canals, training on water watermelon for proper farmers who are involved and also prepared a guideline on cultivating watermelon through workshops with experienced farmers and agriculturists. Providing interest free loans to real farmers, fixing fair prices of all types of seeds and arranging for sale of pesticides at fair prices, strict monitoring of whether fertilizers are being sold at government fixed prices, Demands were made for soil testing and fertilizer recommendation before watermelon cultivation, setting up of warehouses for sale of watermelons at government level at local level, fixing of wharves and truck fares and monitoring of their effectiveness and protection of watermelon transport and marketing system from middlemen.



Officials from the local agriculture and fisheries department have assured that they will take initiatives to solve local agricultural problems

LoCOS initiates lobby and advocacy with the government to establish the rights of local people in natural resources. Officials from the local agriculture and fisheries department have been sensitized to solve local agricultural problems.

Through lobby and advocacy LoCOS presents the present issues including digging of canals to retain wastewater for agriculture, lease release, reduction of prices of seeds and pesticides, provision of fertilizers at fair prices etc. irrigation in local agriculture, to block and dig river canals for agricultural water. Different government officials, civil society representatives and farmers organization representatives including Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Department, Khulna, Upazila Agriculture Officer Batiaghata Upazila, Upazilla Fisheries Officer, Batiaghata Upazilla and Agriculture Extension Officer, President and General Secretary of Batiaghata Upazila Press Club, LoCOS Maitri Krishak Federation were involved in the lobby and advocacy activities.

Officials from the local agriculture and fisheries department have assured that they will take initiatives to solve local agricultural problems.

Impact towards Women's Empowerment

Around 540 women are empowered to enhance their rights with capacity of reducing risk of disasters and climate change

- Trained women are playing role in decision making at family level.
- Women's participation in social activities increased.
- 180 women are capacitated in decision making in their families.
- 255 women have received training, improved skills and enhanced income from farming activities

During this period, training (formal and women to women exchange) on Disasters and Climate Change, Women's Empowerment, Maternal and Child Health and Food & Nutrition for rural women livelihood was held for the backward women.

A total of 720 women of 36 groups received the trainings. During the training sessions, discussion was held to take various steps and changes in the protection of women's rights. The training sessions were facilitated for the participation of women of Jalma and Batiaghata Unions of Batiaghata Upazila. The training centers have been used at Rajbadh Madhyapara Durga Mandir in Jalma Union, Harintana Gaffar Gazi Bari and Hetalbunia Chowkidar Bari Durga Mandir in Batiaghata Union, Kismat Fultala Baraitala Durga Mandir, Balabunia Cyclone Shelter, and Hogalbunia Mitali Sangha. During this year, around 540 women are empowered to enhance their rights with capacity of reducing risk of disasters and climate change.

Women farmers in agriculture and dairy rearing

240 have increased income through homestead gardening

24 trainings on IGA training on Home-grown vegetable farming were conducted in 2022 with the participation of women farmers of Jalma and Batiaghata Unions of Batiaghata Upazila. A total of 336 destitute women in 24 batches participated in the two-day income-generating training on vegetable cultivation in the backyard. As an impact of the IGA training 240 women have increased income through homestead gardening.

Marginal women farmers has changed through keeping cows

In order to provide self-employment, free cows were distributed among the disadvantaged, disabled and extremely poor people in Batiaghata. LoCOS distributed 08 cows (bakna) free of cost among 08 poor farmers of 04 villages of 2 unions of the Upazila.

Batiaghata Upazila Livestock Officer Dr. Bankim Kumar Haldar and Gangarampur Union Parishad Chairman Sheikh Md. Hadi-uz-Zaman Hadi and Sheikh Md. Mosharraf Hossain UP member and panel chairman of Gangarampur Union Parishad were present on the cow distribution ceremony. Mr. Deb Prosad Sarker, Executive Director of LoCOS. Social workers Joydev Bepari, Suranjan Mondal and farmer Dulal Chandra Biswas were present on the occasion. Pramadini Kabiraj and Brajen Roy of Gangarampur village of Gangarampur union, Anwara Begum, Nasima Begum and Gopal Goldar of Katianangla village, Beauty Rani Bapari of Baranpara village and Nazmeen Akhter Begum and Nazmun Nahar of Noaitala village of Vandarkot Union have been given 1 cow each for free.

A survey was conducted among local farmers to select poor, destitute and disabled women and men to be trained as beneficiaries. After selecting the beneficiaries, Batiaghata Upazila Livestock Officer Dr. Bankim Kumar Haldar and Veterinarian Dr. Pritilata Das acted as the facilitator in the cow rearing training in 2021 at the Upazila Livestock Training Center. At the end of the training, each beneficiary builds a cow house for keeping cows.



Right to Food Campaign

To create public opinion, interest and sensitize the legislators, public representatives, administrative levels for the importance and necessity of enacting food rights laws in Bangladesh to ensure food security for all

On the occasion of International Food Day, farmers rally and women farmers tug of war competition organized by LoCOS. Besides, there was a demonstration of mother trial plot of local 105 varieties of Aman rice in front of Gangarampur Star Unit Club ground. Farmers from different villages observed demonstration plots of local variety Aman rice. The leader of Khulna region's farmers' association, Batiaghata Upazila parishad vice chairman Nitai Gain played a major role in this program.

Farmers Meeting: In 2021, Batiaghata Upazila Farmers meetings were held with the participation of 25 farmer organizations of 04 unions of the Upazila and representatives of Maitri Krishak Federation in Batiaghata and thousands of farmers and common people of the area. Various local problems related to agriculture and the contribution of farmers in food production are highlighted through this gathering.

The farmers and dignitaries opined that the right to food is the basic right of every human being. The right to food is inextricably linked with hunger, poverty, malnutrition. The right to food is not a charitable matter, but the goal of the right to food is that every person should provide their own food. Although the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh identifies food as a basic need for livelihood, Bangladesh ranks 84th out of 113 countries in the 2020 World Food Security Index and ranks highest in South Asia.

The constitution of the country is supposed to provide food, shelter, shelter and education for all people, but 2 crore 55 lakh malnourished people are not getting it. Bangladesh has signed up to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the United Nations, two and a half million people in the country are suffering from malnutrition. 44 percent of women



suffer from anemia. To become a real developing country, this situation must change. For that, the right to food law initiative is demanded to be implemented immediately.

Tug of war competition with participation of women farmers: During this year, a tug of war competition was held with the participation of 4 women farmers' organizations. Gangarampur Union Women's Development Farmers' Organization, Matrimangal Women's Farmers' Organization, Golap Farmers' Organization and Sabuj Women's Farmers' Organization participated. In the competition, Gangarampur Women's Development Farmers' Organization won first place, Matrimangal Farmers' Organization second place and Sabuj Farmers' Organization third place. The winning teams in the competition are awarded with crests and all participants with a plate. Gangarampur Union Parishad Chairman Sheikh Hadi-uz-Zaman Hadi gave away crests to the winning teams and prizes to all the participants. The competition ended with a joyful atmosphere in the presence of thousands of people from the area.

Recommendations of the participants in the meeting

The farmers who participated in the meeting raised several demands to ensure food rights and solve local agricultural problems. The claims are summarized below:

- People's access to food should be recognized as a right rather than a state grant or service program;
- Enact Right to Food Act to ensure food and nutrition security for all citizens;
- Agricultural Incentives/Agricultural Subsidies announced by the Government shall be paid to all farmers;
- Construction of disaster resistant high modern dams and switch gates;
- Every paddy farmer should be issued an agricultural card and purchase paddy from the farmer at the government price. Declaring partial areas of Batiaghata and Dacope Upazila as watermelon zone and providing overall support;
- to provide punishment and compensation for fraud in seeds, fertilizers and pesticides;
- Ensuring all-season crop production by digging ox-filled canals;
- fixed remunerative prices for farmers' crops and abolished syndicates of buyers or mediator;
- Prohibit setting up of industrial plants on agricultural land and stop unplanned development. Agricultural machinery should be provided free of charge to organized farmers' organizations;
- In case of death of a farmer due to lightning while working on an agricultural farm, government assistance of Tk 25 lakh should be given and lightning protection should be installed to prevent lightning;
- Banks should stop accepting bribes for taking agricultural loans.

Farmers Public Hearing at Khulna Batiaghata

Raising demands for determining the profitable price of agricultural products and solving agricultural problems

On the occasion of Food Rights Week, non-governmental development organization LoCOS and Food Safety Network (Khani), Bangladesh, organized a farmers' public hearing at Batiaghata in Khulna to demand guaranteed livelihood, food and nutrition rights for all citizens of the country, determination of profitable prices of agricultural products and solving local agricultural problems.

Hundreds of farmers from different areas of Batiaghata and Dacope participated in the public hearing held in 2021.

Batiaghata Upazila Agriculture Officer Rabiul Islam presided over and LoCOS Executive Director Deb Prosad Sarker conducted the public hearing and Deputy Director of Khulna District Agriculture Extension Department Md. Hafizur Rahman, former principal of Khulna Agricultural Training Institute, agriculturist Dr. SM Ferdous, former deputy director of DAE Khulna Pankaj Kanti Majumder, Khulna District Seed Certification Officer Md Nazrul Islam, Batiaghata Upazila Press Club President Pratap Ghosh, General Secretary Indrajit Tikadar, Daily Star Khulna Correspondent Dipankar Roy, Batiaghata Upazila Agricultural Extension Officer Abu Bakkar Siddiqui. etc. Daily Prothom Alo Staff Reporter Sheikh Al Ehsan, Bangladesh Daily Khulna Correspondent Maqsood Rahman, UP Member Kamrul Sheikh, Female UP Member Selina Yasmin Poly, Retired Teacher Nikunj Bihari Sarkar, Journalist Rington Mandol, Assistant Agriculture Officer Mihir Kanti were among others present at the public hearing. Bairagi, Vishad sindu Mandol. Farmer representatives, development workers, teachers, journalists and people from various professions were present in the program.



In the public hearing, Batiaghata Upazila Maitri Farmers Federation President Rabindranath Mall, Vritishlua Farmers Association President Vivas Roy, Bunarabad Lal Sabuj Farmers Association President Thakur Das Roy, Andharia Banful Farmers Association President Arun Biswas, Green Women Farmers Association Cashier Vandana Roy and Dacope Vidyut Gharami, the representative of the farmer's organization of the Upazila.

In the public hearing, the speaker demanded to determine the profitable price of agricultural products and solve the agricultural problem and said that food is the basic right of every human being. The right to food protects every person's right to hunger, food insecurity and nutrition. The right to food is related to the existence of a human being. Fulfilling the right to food is a prerequisite for sustaining human existence. Farmers are working tirelessly to sustain human existence by continuing agricultural production. Remunerative prices of agricultural produce should be determined to keep the farmer alive and local agricultural problems such as, irrigation of fresh water for agriculture through digging of filled rivers and canals, distribution of agricultural incentives/agricultural subsidies announced by the government to all farmers, partial areas of Batiaghata and Dacope Upazilas as watermelon zones. Proclamation and general cooperation should be given and syndicates of buyers or mediators should be abolished and bilateral taxation should be stopped in the sale and purchase of agricultural produce.

Safe Food agriculture Campaign Volunteer youth have been involved in the work of the Safe Agriculture Movement

A voluntary organization called Nirapad Krishi Andolan Mancho (Safe Agriculture Movement Platform) emerged in Khulna with the desire of safe agriculture. The organization will work to promote farmers' freedom of cultivation, safety of farmers' seeds through seed conservation, encouraging farmers to produce chemical fertilizers and poison-free vegetables, fruits and crops, while also conducting campaigns and taking multifaceted initiatives to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for safe vegetables and fruits.



Journalist Gauranga Nandi presided over the organization's goals, objectives and programs in the seminar room of Khulna Umeshchandra Public Library in 2022 in collaboration with LoCOS. One of the founders of the organization, SKMD Bahlul Alam, spoke at the event Khulna University Professor Dr. Dr. Monirul Islam Ripon, former principal of Khulna Agricultural Training Institute. Ferdous, Associate Professor Vikshan Mal, Department of Physics, Brajlal University College, ADAB

Khulna General Secretary Nazmul Azam David, Distinguished Journalist Abu Tayyab, LoCOS Executive Director Deb Prosad Sarker, Dipti Foundation Executive Director Rafael Khan, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Khulna General Secretary Shariful Islam Salim, Journalist Abu Hena Mostafa Jamal Poplu, Kaushik De Bappi, Rekha Maria Bairagi, Executive Director of Dhrubo, Akbar Hossain, cultural activist, Moufarsher Hossain Lenin, Sohaib Saki, Mehedi Hasan Jim, Palash Das, Coordinator of LoCOS. A committee comprising SKMD Bahlul Alam as convener and other interested members was announced at the function.

Youth awareness on Safe Agriculture Movement

1637 students have acquired the idea of safe agriculture Many students have expressed interest in joining the activities of the Safe Agriculture Movement platform

Through the campaign, students learned about the safe agriculture. They want to be involved with further activities to participate in Safe Agriculture Movement.

Throughout the year, class campaigns have been launched in 10 secondary schools in Khulna this year to make students aware of safe food and agriculture. The leaders of the Safe Agriculture Movement Forum played the role of organizing and supporting these class campaigns. The awareness campaign was carried out at 38 of class VIII to X in 2022 including Khulna Zilla School, Aga Khan Secondary School, Khulna Government Laboratory school, Lions School, Khulna Government Modal School, B.K School, PMG School, Noor Nagar WAPDA School, Dayana Secondary School and Palli Mangal Secondary School. The importance of safe food and agriculture in health has been discussed in the class campaign. A team of 07 people from Andolan Mancha presented the discussion in front of a total of 1736 students including 623girls and 1113 boy's students of ten schools.

Biodiversity fair

Displayed 240 varieties and species of local seeds of fruits, forests and vegetables in the fair

Growing interest in seed conservation and distribution among local farmers;

Local farmers are interested to preserved local seeds. They displayed seeds during the biodiversity fair. During this period, two rural seed fairs were held separately at Dacope Union Parishad premises and Union Parishad premises, Gangrampur of Batiaghata Upazilla for the exchange, exhibition and marketing of seeds of lost native varieties. LoCOS organized the seed fair in collaboration with Upazilla Maitri Krishak Federation, financial support by MISEREOR-Germany. In the two fairs more than 50 women farmers were participated of the area with their stored seeds and At least 25 to 240 varieties of fruits, timber and vegetable seeds are displayed in each



stall of the fair. People are different professions, local administration; local government representatives and Officials of Department of Agriculture Extension were attended the fairs. At the end of fairs, the Farmers raised their demand are; seed fairs are not hybrids; Seeds can be kept, high-yielding inbred varieties that require less fertilizers and pesticides Sanjib Roy of Kalinagar Krishak Sangathan and Haripada Chakraborty of Tengrachar Krishak Sangathan came first and second among the farmers participating in the DACOP through a selection panel based on the number of seeds, seed diversity, seed quality and seed presentation techniques from the farmers' seed stalls displayed at the seed fair. Umashankar Mandol of Singjora Krishak Sangathan was selected third. Among the women farmers participating in Batiaghata, Lakshi Rani Dhali were first, Korna Mandol was second and Shankari Sarkar was third. All the women farmers participating in the two fairs were awarded.

