OVERVIEW
In November 2015, CARE received a two year grant in the amount of $1.5 million USD from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies to implement Nutrition at the Center: Homegrown (N@C:H). The intervention complements the on-going integrated nutrition program, Nutrition at the Center, by increasing dietary diversity through homestead food production with a goal of reducing stunting and anemia in children under two years of age and anemia in girls and women of the reproductive age (15-49 years).

APPROACH AND STRATEGY
The N@C:H project participants are organized into 20-25 member Farmer Nutrition Groups (FNGs) that receive education and skills at demonstration sites on innovative homestead food production including climate sensitive approaches to gardening and essential nutrition actions. Education and transfer of skills are conducted by project staff, Community Support Groups (Community Health Volunteers), and Community Agriculture Volunteers in seven unions.

PARTICIPANT SELECTION
Participant selection criteria included: (1) poor and extremely poor households with a minimum of five decimals of land; (2) pregnant and lactating women with children under two years of age; and (3) willingness to engage in homestead food production. The process included dialogue with community leaders, local government representatives, opinion leaders and review of secondary data from local government. Household visits were also conducted to verify data. This inclusive approach reduced incidents of inaccurate or duplication of data.

OUTCOMES
In partnership with the local NGO JASHIS, CARE Bangladesh through N@C:H reaches 3,000 households to meet the following outcomes:
1. Availability and equitable access to quality food for women and children.
2. Improved nutrition practices for women and children within households in intervention areas.
3. Increased resilience and improved adaptive capacity of households to climate change.
Key Results to Date

FARMER NUTRITION GROUPS
551 monthly education sessions have been held for 126 Farmer Nutrition Groups (FNGs). Topics include:
1. **Essential Nutrition Actions**— exclusive breastfeeding (0-6 months), complimentary feeding and dietary diversity (6-24 months), and women’s nutrition and dietary diversity;
2. **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**— handwashing and household sanitation;
3. **Innovative Homestead Food Production**— sack and rooftop gardening, duck rearing, addressing climate change and increased resilience.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS
Forty-two (42) demonstration plots established as learning labs on the premises for all Community Clinics.

DUCK REARING PROMOTION
All participating households have received ducks and training on duck rearing. Community Agriculture Volunteers (CAVs), in collaboration with government Agriculture Extension Agents, provide vaccinations and other technical support.

FEMALE VACCINATORS
To support poor and extremely poor women engaged in duck rearing, N@C:H, with support from the Department of Livestock, has trained a cadre of female CAVs on vaccinations. In addition to addressing cultural sensitivities around women and men’s engagement, this provides female CAVs the opportunity to generate income, positions them to be professional service providers, and ensure accessibility of this service in the communities.

INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE
• 3,000 households engaged in innovative agricultural practices including sack and rooftop gardening to reduce vulnerability to annual monsoon floods;
• Over 650 households engaged in the cultivation of Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) to improve consumption of vitamin A rich food.

Rapid Assessment on Homestead Food Production
Data collected randomly during routine monitoring from 296 households to assess the production, consumption, and income generation indicates the following:
• **97% of households** are consuming their homegrown vegetables and **57% of participants** have consumed eggs they have produced;
• 16% of households have sold surplus produce (vegetables and duck eggs) at the local market; and
• 79% of those who sold surplus vegetables earned less than $12.50 USD (approximately 1,000 BDT), and 14% earned more than $12.50 USD ($12.50 to $37.51) (approximately 1,000—3,000 BDT).

Upcoming Interventions
• Scaling up of OFSP cultivation to all project participants;
• Skills building on food storage and preservation practices;
• Final project evaluation; and
• Dissemination of best practices and scale up of interventions.

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