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News Release

Bayer to train smallholder farmers on modern agricultural practices

- In the 2020 Aman and Boro seasons, Bayer supported 100,000 smallholder farmers challenged due to Covid-19, with free seed kits under its global 'Better Farms, Better Lives' initiative
- This year, Bayer will train 15,000 of these smallholder farmers to build their capacities to farm using modern agricultural practices

Dhaka, January 11, 2021: Launched in 2020, Bayer's global initiative – 'Better Farms, Better Lives' has supported over 20 lakh smallholder farmers in Asia, Africa and Latin America, with free Better Life Farming care packages. These packages were tailored to farmers' local needs and included a combination of Bayer's hybrid seeds, crop protection products, personal protective equipment and safety & training materials.

In Bangladesh, the initiative supported 100,000 smallholder farmers during the 2020 Aman and Boro seasons across 59 districts and 242 Upazillas. Beneficiary farmers received 1 kg packs of Bayer's Arize hybrid rice seeds (free of cost) which was distributed with support from the local Department of Agriculture Extension. In 2021, Bayer will help build capacities for 15,000 of these smallholder farmers on the use of modern agricultural technologies, in collaboration with **BRAC**. Farmers will receive training on seed to harvest solutions and disease & pest management along with support for market linkages.

The capacity building program was kicked off yesterday at the BRAC Learning Center in Dhaka, in presence of key officials from Bayer and BRAC. In the first phase, both organizations will jointly train the trainers, who will eventually train smallholder farmers and build their capacities to adopt modern agricultural practices.



"Bayer's 'Better Farms, Better Lives' is providing additional support to smallholder farmers with access to modern agri-inputs and crop advisory. Our long-term aim is to help smallholder farmers achieve higher crop yields and use their farms as a source of sustainable income rather than just a means to survive," says Zahidul Islam, Managing Director, Bayer Crop Science Ltd., Bangladesh. "In 2021, we will conduct third-party impact assessment to evaluate the value created through our initiative in terms of food security and livelihood support for smallholder farming communities," added Zahidul Islam.

Bayer is committed to helping more than 100 million smallholder farmers in developing countries by 2030. The 'Better Farms, Better Lives' initiative complements Bayer's ongoing smallholder support activities, which will aid in mid-term recovery and building long-term resilience for smallholder farmers. Additionally, Bayer will expand its partnerships with governments, internationally recognized NGOs and local organizations; create a Smallholder Center of Excellence for sharing successes; provide accelerated access to digital farming tools to increase capabilities and scale up existing & new value chain partnerships to generate maximum impact.

For more information on Bayer's 'Better Lives, Better Farms' initiative and its commitment to smallholder farmers, please visit www.bayer.com and www.betterlifefarming.com

About Bayer

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and nutrition. Its products and services are designed to benefit people by supporting efforts to overcome the major challenges presented by a growing and aging global population. At the same time, the Group aims to increase its earning power and create value through innovation and growth. Bayer is committed to the principles of sustainable development, and the Bayer brand stands for trust, reliability and quality throughout the world. In fiscal 2019, the Group employed around 104,000 people and had sales of € 43.5 billion. Capital expenditures amounted to € 2.9 billion and R&D expenses to € 5.3 billion. For more information, go to www.bayer.com.

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