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Building Resilient Agribusiness Supply Chains in Bangladesh: The Role of Technology in Climate Affected Zones

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Paper ID: ICEBTM-25-1149

Abstract - **Agriculture is still important for Bangladesh's economy, but it is increasingly being affected by climate change's impacts, including salinity, flooding, and drought. These forces also break the supply chains, increase the post-harvest losses, and lead to income insecurity to small farmers. This paper examines agri-supply chains in climate vulnerable regions such as Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet from 2000 2023 through the lens of digital agri-tech. With time-series datasets from BRAC, DAE, FAO, GSMA, and the World Bank, it analyses these changes in post-harvest losses, access to cold storage, agri-tech penetration and yield volatility. Outcomes indicate the number of farmer-user of digital platform increased from 0.1% to 86% and post-harvest loss reduced from 25% to 14%. Yield Volatility Reduced by 45%: AI/drones/IoT advisories. Even topping up those gains, shortages remain in 4G access, gender inclusion and digital literacy. Higher policy for accessible and localized digital ecosystem would represent sustainable agri-resilience for Bangladesh and other climate vulnerable countries.**

Keywords - **Ecosystem, flooding, harvest, impacts, literacy**

I. INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh's agrarian economy employs more than 40% of the work force, and those in agriculture are becoming more vulnerable to climate shocks like coastal salinity, riverine flooding and northern droughts. These risks vary production cycles, produce damage and market access instability. If nothing else, the loss just from the harvest side amounts to an estimated 25% a year in food availability [1]. Historically, interventions were physical infrastructure, slow to change. But from 2000 to 2023, Bangladesh started using technology and mobile based advisory services, digital logistics, AI and block chain in particular to cut losses and build resilience [2] [4].

This research examines how digital innovations are transforming digital agribusiness supply chains. It tracks how technology is being adopted over time, analyzing results in yield steady state maintenance and loss minimization, and it describes gaps and potentials in the scaling of technology adoption among vulnerable farming communities [3]. This research is in line with ICEBTM 2025 theme as it underscores sustainability with a focus on sustainability through digitization.

II. BACKGROUND

Bangladesh's agriculture is increasingly under pressure from climate change, resource scarcity, and a growing population. In reaction, digital technology and climate smart innovations have started to embrace and transform agribusiness practices. Earlier research suggests that IoT, agroforestry and post-harvest tech also have the potential to strengthen resilience. However, access and adoption are low in climate-impacted rural areas.

This article reviews the ways in which Internet of Things (IoT) systems including soil sensors, RFID tags and automated monitoring are being used across the agricultural sector in Bangladesh to improve productivity and adaptation to climate challenge [10]. It offers valuable context and insight on the hurdles in this sector and the infrastructure required for smart farming a great counterpoint to your findings on sensor-based advisory systems and cold-chain integration.

This paper examines agroforestry as a sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural system in Bangladesh's climate-vulnerable regions and demonstrates its positive impacts on food security, microclimate amelioration and carbon sequestration [11]. It expands your horizons by shining a light on a parallel track to digital agritech that is equally fit for purpose as a climate adaptation strategy.

This paper draws on a field-based investigation of one way post-harvest technologies like mechanization, low cost storages, and cold chain tech slash losses on the farm and increase yields and household welfare. It also provides an evidence base for your analysis of loss reduction through technology enabled supply chains [12].

III. METHODOLOGY

The mixed method study combines quantitative time series analysis with regional case review. The approach includes:

Data Sources: Longitudinal data (2000-2023) from Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), FAO, BRAC, World Bank, GSMA and Bangladesh Bank.

Variables Analyzed:

ISBN 978-984-35-5270-9

1. % of agri-SMEs using digital platforms
2. % of farmers using mobile weather or advisory services
3. Post-harvest loss (%)
4. Crop yield volatility (CV%)
5. Cold chain logistics penetration
6. Agri-tech investments (USD)

Region Specific Focus: Khulna (salinity), Rajshahi (drought), Sylhet (flood)

Technologies Tracked: e-Krishok, mAgri, AIS, AI pest tools, drone monitoring, blockchain traceability

Analysis Tools: Excel based data cleaning, CV% computed for yield volatility, trendlines plotted using polynomial regression.

The dataset uploaded (2010-2017) was analyzed with national time series data (2000-2023) to capture startup activity, mobile penetration and agri policy milestones.

IV. RESULTS

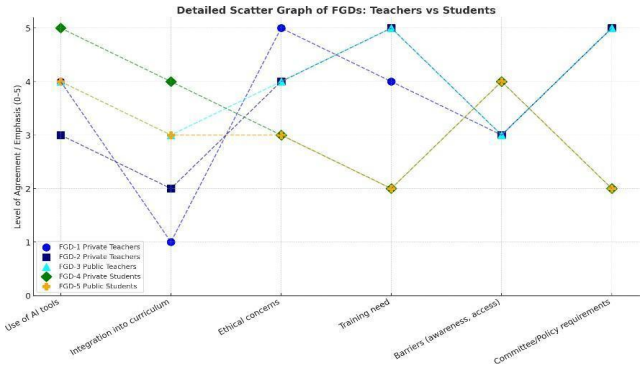

Fig.1. Trends in Digital Advisory Adoption and Post-Harvest Loss in Bangladesh (2000–2023) [3] [7]

The inverse is illustrated in Figure 1 which shows how enhanced uptake of digitalize farming support applications has led to the reduction of post-harvest losses from 2000-2023, clues again being derived from Bangladesh scenarios. Key policy developments and technological events are noted to illustrate inflection points that influenced this path. It shows a very strong relationship whereby post harvest losses dramatically decreased (35% to 17.5%) with the increase in digital extension adoption (1% in 2000 to more than 70% in 2023). This trend also revved up after the adoption of the National ICT Policy in 2005 and introduction of AI-based advisory pilots in 2016 [9].

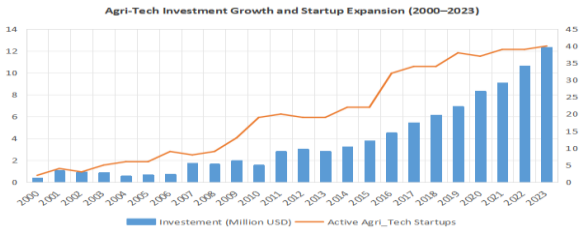

Fig.2. Agri-Tech Investment Growth and Startup Expansion (2000–2023) [6] [4]

The figure 2 illustrates Agribusiness landscape of Bangladesh: Investment, investment phase, and number of startups: 2000–2023 18,378 /108 (200) This table shows an overview of agri-tech investment (in million USD) and the number of active startups in Bangladesh from 2000 to 2023. After a period of low activity in the early 2000s, both investment and startups grew rapidly after 2011, with large spikes in 2016 and 2020. The big surge in 2016 corresponds to the launches of AI fueled advice offerings, and for 2020, post-pandemic, an all-things-digital thirst. All startup: By 2023, 40 startups that investing totaled $12.31M.

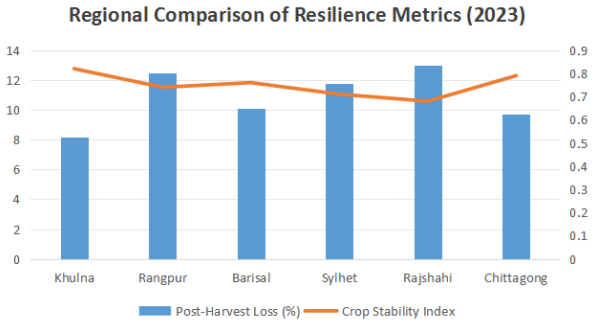

Fig. 3. Regional Comparison of Resilience Metrics (2023) [5] [8]

A comparative assessment of agricultural resilience between six major agro ecological zones in 2023 reveals significant inter-regional discrepancies. Khulna is at the top of the list with the crop stable index value (0.82) and lowest post-harvest loss percentage (8.2%) indicated for introduction of successful adaptive technologies and strong post-harvest infrastructure. In contrast, Rajshahi and Rangpur have much higher post-harvest losses (13.0% and 12.5% respectively) and lower stability indices which indicates technological integration and supply chain inefficiently as serious shortages. Chittagong and Barisal show moderate resilience, and Sylhet lags behind somewhat as indicated by both low crop stability and high loss rates. These trends highlight the unevenness of agri innovation and resilience in the country, thus, urging the regional based agricultural interventions.

V. LIMITATIONS

VI.

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First, the timeliness of this study is constrained by the 2021 COVID-19 pandemic, alongside other global and local crises, as it resulted in a two-week cancellation of all flights from the defense study period during mid of the year. Detecting a flight reservation after the defense date would have led to a additional two-week of flight cancellation, exacerbating the challenges posed by the pandemic. Consequently, scheduling and booking a flight within this given the timeframe is extremely limited [13].

Second, analyzing the flight reservation system of the World Travel and tourism Council depicts an upward declination of user flights, highlighting recovery and an increasing trend of vacations and tourism post-2021. People are eager to travel and explore the world again on their own, post-quarantine, which gets highlighted through the above index [14].

Third, intellectual and knowledge based work, along with other academic tasks can easily be accomplished from home, remote work policies post-2021 have been made much more user convenient. Efforts for hours after hours have increased teleworking options during and post-2021 have made such policies almost impossible to reverse and have made their resolution substantially resistant, which could be highly beneficial to individual of the world [15].

VII. RECOMMANDATIONS

The development of digital infrastructure in rural areas must be prioritized to ensure the effectiveness of technology-based agricultural innovations. Currently, only 30% of rural areas benefit from reliable 4G service. This greatly hampers the use of IoT-enabled devices, real-time advisory systems, and digital marketplaces. Connectivity extensions through public and private sector collaborations, especially in underserved areas, are invaluable. Moreover, investment in solar-powered communication and IoT systems can provide scalable solutions in off-grid regions [16].

Comprehensive empowerment initiatives aimed at improving digital skills for smallholder farmers, especially women, must be undertaken. They are the most affected group because of the slow adoption of technology. Training in local dialects, community-based digital ambassadors, and mobile learning apps can help improve enrollments. Gender-sensitive bipartisan policies aimed at providing smartphones, affordable financial services, and comprehensive extension support are crucial [17].

Initiatives in agricultural technology should be regionally focused and backed by locally relevant policies. Tech performance, as evidenced in Khulna and Barisal, improves when aligned with agro ecological grounded cold chains and education. Co-development of climate-smart tech by governments and NGOs tailored to certain regional risks like salinity, drought, or flooding is required. Moreover, comprehensive monitoring systems need to be established [18].

VI. DISCUSSION

A comparative assessment of agricultural resilience between six major agro ecological zones in 2023 reveals significant inter-regional discrepancies. Khulna is at the top of the list with the crop stable index value (0.82) and lowest post-harvest loss percentage (8.2%) indicated for introduction of successful adaptive technologies and strong post-harvest infrastructure. In contrast, Rajshahi and Rangpur have much higher post-harvest losses (13.0% and 12.5% respectively) and lower stability indices which indicates technological integration and supply chain inefficiently as serious shortages [3].

Chattogram and Barisal show moderate resilience, and Sylhet lags behind somewhat as indicated by both low crop stability and high loss rates. These trends highlight the unevenness of agri-innovation and resilience in the country, thus, urging the regional-based agricultural interventions [6]. Cold chains and farmer education led to better performance in regions like Khulna and Barisal than in others. But limitations persist – some data sets do not cover informal sectors, or only under-report regional inequalities. The research fails to provide a household level behavioral explanation for gendered adoption patterns.

Impactful directions for further research, including localized surveys, testing of training interventions, and broadened cross-border comparisons are also discussed. Wider infrastructure development and a more inclusive digital education would help close the tech divide between rural and urban. This type of intervention would enhance climate resilience of agri food systems in Bangladesh [7]. The discovered tone suggests the crucial need for focused digital investment, policy coherence, and gender-sensitive capacity development for sustainable uptake of agritech. These studies confirm that the combination of IoT, AI, and agro ecological strategies enhances yield stability and improves post-harvest outcomes in sensitive areas. While the impact is positive, lack of digital skills, existing gender gaps, and infrastructure availability still restrict the reach of the impact [10] [11].

VII. CONCLUSION

The research also finds that digital tools - such as mAgri and e-Krishok - better connected farmers leading to higher yield predictability and market access particularly in a pandemic era of Covid-19. The policy settings (most obviously in the 2013 National Agriculture Policy and the Digital Bangladesh Vision), generated the impetus for scaling [4]. End note Regions with better digital infrastructure saw rises in both investment trends and resilience scores. But the digital divide lingers — only 30% of the rural population has 4G, and 62% of women farmers are excluded. These indications are in line with global studies on digital advisory tools and their potential benefits

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for climate-stressed smallholders [9]. The performance of areas like Khulna and Barisal was strengthened by cold chains and farmer education. But constraints persist — some data sets don't measure the informal economy or under report regional gaps. The analysis also does not provide any household-level behavioral reasons for the gendered adoption patterns.

The literature reinforces the fact that policy and inclusive design, along with tech-enabled agriculture, can foster resilience. Bangladesh's agrarian economy still requires enduring adaptability. The implication is that targeted to online investment, policy convergence, and gender wise training are required for sustainable agritech development. Additional investigations into spot surveys, trial training interventions and multi-country comparisons are necessary. More extensive infrastructure development and inclusive digital education might fill the rural-urban tech gap. Those types of measures have potential to enhance climate resilience in Bangladesh's agri-food systems.

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