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## Impact of Potential Enterprises on Food and Nutritional Security of People in Haor Areas

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### Abstract

The overall objective of the study was to assess the impact of potential enterprises on food and nutritional security of people living in haor (wetland eco-system) areas. The food security indicators measured with the primary data were per capita income, food consumption, calorie and protein intakes, savings, expenditures on education and health, nutrition literacy, sanitation, absolute and hard core poverty. The study period was July 2015 to June 2016. Boro rice was lost three times for the last ten years due to early flooding. Women headed families were more vulnerable and faced severe problems to feed their families during flooding. There were enterprises like production of vegetables at the homesteads and uplands, Boro rice in the haor areas, poultry and livestock rearing by women, fish culture in own ponds and water bodies, fishing from the government owned rivers and canals, pulling rickshaw and van, transport services and petty businesses. During flooding period, some people migrated to Sylhet, Chittagong and Dhaka for jobs and returned to original places after the flood water receded. Marginal people during flooding virtually engaged in fishing and small trading. Farm households were found to consume about 17 food items excluding fruits where rice was the staple food. Overall daily per capita consumption of all food items was 797.67g. Daily per capita calorie and protein intakes were respectively 1925 kcal and 51g. Absolute poverty per capita monthly was at Tk. 1903.86 and hard core poverty was at Tk. 1697.35. The absolute and hard core poverty were respectively 87% and 68% on the basis of DCI method and 67% and 54% on basis of CBN method. Haor people faced various problems like fewer enterprises to support sustainable livelihood, ineffective market, less connectivity and mobility, lacks of development of institution or association, governmental intervention, public-private partnership initiative, conservation of resource, general health care, safe water, sanitation, and nutrition education. Some policies have been implicated to alleviate poverty and enhance food and nutritional security in haor areas.

**Keywords:** Food and nutritional security, haor, potential enterprises, poverty