

## Project

# Better livelihoods and environmental health through certified aquaculture, Bangladesh

**Time frame:** March /December 2014

**Status:** completed

## 1. Principal

Solidaridad Network Asia ([www.solidaridadnetwork.org](http://www.solidaridadnetwork.org) )

## 2. Background

“Solidaridad Network Asia in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh has started implementing the ‘Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL)’ programme in the south west of Bangladesh. SaFaL will trigger and facilitate bio and ecosystem-based economic development making farmers better agricultural entrepreneurs. The broader objective of the programme is to ensure food and nutrition security and developing sustainable market linkages to raise productivity, quality and income for smallholder farmers, disadvantaged landless workers & women.” For more information please see: ([www.solidaridadnetwork.org/safal](http://www.solidaridadnetwork.org/safal)).

### A. Challenges

Aquaculture production has a long tradition in rural Bangladesh. However, due to insufficient vertical integration of farms into value chains and as a result of poor post-harvest handling, Bangladeshi shrimp have so far been undervalued in international shrimp markets.

In addition, insufficient national regulation have led to poor farming practices in terms of environmental impacts (mainly effluent water) posing a risk for public waterways, local communities and surrounding eco-systems.

### B. Response / methodology

Implementation of the ASC standard on shrimp farms and the creation of a farmer association in order to give farmers a face on international markets, better negotiation power with local processors and access to high end consumer markets on one hand, and better farming practices, lower environmental impact and better living conditions for local communities on the other.

Capacity building and coaching of local farm owners and farm management.

### C. Main activities

Ekolibrium has worked within the SaFaL programme on the following tasks:

- Scoping mission in order to evaluate existing Black Tiger shrimp farms and discuss opportunities for improvement
- Strategic advice on market access and better environmental management practices
- Gap-analysis on a number of semi-intensive shrimp farms in order to elaborate a framework for improvement
- Advise and work-shops on ASC standard requirements and environmental impact mitigation measures