

## Danish Crown Princess Mary visited Barisal

The Crown Princess of Denmark Mary visited Barisal, Bangladesh on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Ulla Tørnæs, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and representatives from the Embassy of Denmark in Dhaka accompanied the Crown Princess. The delegation visited DANIDA funded Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC) and Climate Resilient Rural Infrastructure Project (CRRIP) activities at field level.

The Delegation started their visit from Moddho Rakudia village under Babugonj upazila of Barisal and observed Farmer Field School (FFS) and Farmer Organization (FO) activities organized by IFMC, Barisal Region. The delegation observed one FFS training session on poultry rearing using improved method and technologies including Farm Management Analysis by four groups of farmers. The Crown Princess interacted with the farmers individually and also in groups, and showed keen interest on what they learn from the FFS and how it has improved their livelihood. Later, she met with the Farmer Organization members and participated in interactive discussion. She got to know how the farmers become empowered through collective marketing activities.



Afterwards, the delegation visited households of FFS participants and saw adoption of women-friendly farming practices like poultry rearing, cattle rearing, homestead vegetable and fruit gardening by utilizing different spaces of their homestead areas and also farm yard manure production. This demonstrated in practice how FFS helps to improve the living standard of the poor farmers. Issues like family planning, health, hygiene and sanitation, education were also discussed.

In the second part of the visit, the delegation visited Climate Resilient Rural Road Project (CRRIP) activities in Panbaria, Shayestabad Union of Barisal Sadar Upazila. And learnt about how rural women are involved in the construction of climate resilient rural roads. CRRIP is implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). Before leaving Barisal, the delegation recognized this visit as highly successful and well organized.