

Internship Placement:

Organization:

Ma Farm

Address:

Mymensing, Bangladesh

Location:

120 km northwest of Dhaka



1. Project description:

The owner of the farm is Mr. S M Munir (42). The farm is about 7 km away from the BAU and located by the side of the main road connection to Dhaka in Danikhula village.

The farm belongs to Upogela Trishla a middle aged man who was once an MSc student at Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) (www.bau.edu.bd) and has worked with a number of NGOs. He then quit his job to concentrate on his farm. The size of the farm is about 5.5 ha with 10 ponds. There are 4 fully employed staff. The farm is established on family land although currently there is an extension on a leased land. The farm uses underground water which is pumped using an electric pump lowered up to a depth of 720m. They do not have a hatchery hence concentrate on table size fish production. Ma fisheries is a medium sized Pangasius farms run by one of our graduate students. It is about 10 ha in size and produce about 10 metric tons of fish mostly Pangasius. Sometimes other fishes are also cultures in polyculture. They keep four species of fish, Silver carp, common carp, Catla. The ponds are stocked twice a year and once every year they are drained and the bottom dredged. They produce their own fingerlings. The ponds are stocked with fish at 40 to 45g. They produce 80-100 tonnes of table size fish per annum. The farm gate prices are between about 1.5 US\$ to 2.5 US\$ per kg. The farm has so far excelled because it started small with 3 ponds but now its production has gone up. The farm has plans to establish a processing plant so that they will be able to sell filleted fish. Also they intend to fully produce their own fingerlings.

- The owner of this farm was a graduate of BAU and also trained in AIT.
- Started in 2002 with 3 fish ponds, in 2003 he rented more area and increased the ponds to 10 and has 4 staff.
- Seed is reared and sold to other farmers at 2-3Taka per piece.
- Has a bore hole that is about 240 ft deep.
- Main species is Pangasius; others are silver carp, common carp, Catla catla and Mrigal. Pangasius sell at 47-60Taka per kg.
- Informed us that he harvested 2000 kg from one pond and sold for 18,000 Taka.
- Uses 20 tons of feed in one pond over the entire growing period.
- Would wish to start a small processing plan for Pangasius to export to Europe.
- He looked comfortable with what he has and is well informed

2. Location:

It is located 120 km northwest of Dhaka in a rural setting. But the provincial headquarters, Mymensing and Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) are about 15 km away from the farm where ATM cash machines, Banks and other facilities are there. It is also connected by train and buses from Dhaka.

3. Living conditions:

Be prepared to live in rural setting. Most people can speak English; however, it will be a life-time experience in living with a local family as its member and learning local culture, language and adapting a different way of life. There is electricity. Land line and cellophone services are there. Cell phone works in the area but you have to have machine and SIM card purchased in the local town. Internet services and ATM/cash machines are also available in the village. There are plenty local food vendors which serve delicious Bangladeshi food.

4. Climate

Climate is tropical, warm and humid. Temperature may go up to 30°C in summer is quite hot. It may rain heavy for short time in summer. During winter temperature may fall around 15°C.

5. Culture:

It is important to respect local culture and traditions. Cover-up dresses are required. Shoes or sandal does not matter but most of the time you will need to walk; therefore, light sport shoes/trainers will be suitable. Dress conservatively; casual clothing is suitable while working at the fish farm - T-shirts, shorts and sandals are appropriate.

6. Host is happy to provide:

- Dormitory type accommodation nearby or you stay in BAU.
- Subsidized rate for food wherever possible
- Office space, computer and internet facilities
- Fish, labour and other materials for research, if needed

7. Your Costs:

- International airfare (please check with your University, may have this provision)
- Local transportation
- Fees for visa/passport
- Food and drinks (approx. about US\$1/meal)
- Any costs of trips, trainings, and others arranged personally
- Insurance and costs of damages due to personal negligence

8. Miscellaneous

Travel medical kit, light mosquito net, insect repellent, sleeping bag, flash light, umbrella or rain coat, few books, a towel and toiletries. But do not bother if you need to buy them, they are available locally at cheap prices.

Note: you will be paired with students of our local partner institution, as far as possible.