

## Agroecology Scientific Day 2024 Workshop n°5, Session n°4

Md. Nurul Islam<sup>1</sup>; Samiya Selim<sup>2</sup>; Emilie Cremin<sup>3</sup> and René Véron<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SAJIDA foundation, Bangladesh;

<sup>2</sup> University of Liberal Art of Bangladesh, ULAB;

<sup>3</sup> IGD, UNIL, Switzerland

Contact:

[emilie.cremin@gmail.com](mailto:emilie.cremin@gmail.com); [emiliehelene.cremin@unil.ch](mailto:emiliehelene.cremin@unil.ch) (corresponding)

**Title: Governance of land under Shrimp farming in the coastal area of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) delta**

### Abstract:

The coastal regions of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) delta, particularly in Bangladesh, face numerous hazards such as cyclones, floods, erosion, and salinity intrusion, posing significant challenges to the livelihoods of coastal communities, especially the landless. As agricultural lands turn brackish due to salinity, traditional livelihoods are threatened, prompting some to turn to aquaculture like shrimp and crab farming. However, this transition exacerbates job losses for the landless, further deepening poverty.

This paper investigates how the current institutional framework governing aquaculture influences the prospects of pro-poor, ecosystem-based development in the face of climate and environmental changes. The study analyzes how governance structures impact human well-being, social justice, and environmental sustainability by examining the relationships within the shrimp production supply chain. It delves into the interplay between actors in the supply chain, exploring how their interactions are shaped by consumer demand and power dynamics, ultimately driving landscape transformations to meet global shrimp demands.

By scrutinizing relevant laws and policies, the paper questions whether the current practices adequately address the needs of vulnerable populations and advocate for reforms aimed at supporting equitable, environmentally sustainable, and economically viable aquaculture. The methodology involves a literature review, interviews with stakeholders from government ministries, NGOs, and affected farmers, highlighting the necessity of governance reforms to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on coastal communities.

Ultimately, the study advocates for aquaculture governance explicitly designed to uplift the most vulnerable populations in the poorest coastal regions, ensuring their livelihoods are protected amidst climate and environmental changes. It proposes reforms aligning aquaculture laws and policies with the goals of social equity, ecological sustainability, and economic viability in Bangladesh's coastal regions.