

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
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Title of Entry	: Gendered Time Use, Seasonality and Improved Crop Practices of Coastal Polders Farm Households in Bangladesh
Presenting author	: Most. Umme Habiba
Presenting author email	: uhhbau@gmail.com
Co author 1	: Dr. Sadika Haque
Co author 2	: Dr. Ranjitha Puskur
Affiliation presenting author	: MS Student & Scholar at IRRI in Gender Research, Department of Agricultural Economics, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh
Affiliation 1	: Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh-2202 Mobile: +8801711931847 Fax: +880-91-61510 Email: sadikahaque@gmail.com
Affiliation 2	: Senior Scientist and Gender Program Leader International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Banos, Philippines DAPO Box 7777, Metro Manila 1301, Philippines Email: r.puskur@irri.org
Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	: Time use is a critical aspect in farm households which takes more complex shape at intra- and inter-household level. The present study was performed to reveal the gender gap, gender roles and responsibilities by understanding the time utilization pattern of randomly selected 130 male and 112 female members of 54 farm households in two villages of polder 30 from southwestern Bangladesh. Time utilization was estimated for the agricultural lean and peak seasons during one year as farm activities vary in terms of seasonality, labor requirements, crop practices, social norms, socioeconomic status, household composition and other factors. The findings reveal that in addition to social norms, household's composition and socioeconomic status; improved crop practices have significant consequences on the workload and additional benefits derived by the household members through time commitments in their daily farm and non-farm activities. The study showed that during peak (transplanting and harvesting) periods, the male members of improved farming households on an average spend the most working hours on agricultural activities (6.0 hrs) and least on domestic activities (1.0 hrs) and women spend the least (4.1 hrs) and most (7.3 hrs) respectively on the same. Whereas the farm households using traditional practices, men allocate 5.3 hrs and 1.0 hr; women dedicate 3.4 hrs and 9.8 hrs respectively on agricultural and domestic activities. Similarly, during lean period men (5.2 hrs) and women (4.3 hrs) using improved farming practices spend more time on agricultural activities than the men (2.6 hrs) and women (3.4hrs) adopted traditional farming. But not surprisingly across all the sampled household members, women do the majority of and sometimes all the domestic activities. In traditional farming, men get the highest hours for sleeping, personal care and leisure and women have the least hours whether it is peak or lean period. The study provides a clear understanding on seasonal trade-off of farm household members regardless of farm practices through their time commitments in simultaneous daily activities where time serves as a critical gender resource.

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