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Keyword 1	: Farmers' perspectives
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Title of Entry	: Perception and Participation of the Youth in Agriculture
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation

Abstract : While most of the food in Asia is produced by aged farmers who are less likely to adopt technologies for a sustainable increase of the productivity required to keep the world food secure, yet around the world, few young people see a future for themselves in agriculture. Similar scenario in Bangladesh where there is a general perception that young generation is less likely to prefer farming as their main profession. The present study was conducted in southwest Bangladesh to document the perception and participation of the young generation (18-35 years) in agriculture. A total of 270 youth from polder-30 were randomly selected and interviewed. Although all the respondents belong to farm families, only 42% are directly engaged in farming. About one-third of their parents' primary occupation is agriculture. Study found that respondents who are unmarried, very young and from small family-are less likely to be engaged with farming. A binary logistic model shows that respondents' education, farming experience, receiving agricultural training, land holding, plan to migration, internet use were found significant influencing factors for participation in agriculture but parents occupation did not influence. Most of the respondents think, there are very less work opportunities available in non-farm sectors. But few of them are planning to be engaged in farming activities while most of the youth aspire for a job after achieving higher level of education. Most of the youth consider that farmers work hard for little reward and their living standard influence the youth to work in the non-farm sector. Ninety percent of the parents want to see their children to work in the urban sector which is linked with their social reputation, while 42% respondents do not like to migrate and consider agriculture as the only option to their livelihood. So they are more likely to be engaged in farming. The study also indicates that introduction of agricultural mechanization, land ownership, inclusion of training on agriculture the as part of school curriculum and profitability can attract the youth in agriculture. These findings would be helpful for making appropriate policies to make agriculture attractive for the next generation in Bangladesh.

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