

**TRANSFORMATION FROM CROP FARMING TO FISH FARMING:  
DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS OF NISHAIGANJ VILLAGE IN MYMENSINGH  
DISTRICT OF BANGLADESH<sup>1</sup>**

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**Abstract**

Nishaiganj village in Mymensingh district of Bangladesh has been transformed from a crop farming to fish farming village within a span of two decades. In the 1980s and early 1990s, major sources of livelihood were crop agriculture, especially rice. In the 1970s, villagers mostly used to grow local varieties of rice. With the availability of irrigation facilities in the 1980s, villagers gradually adopted modern rice varieties. However, the crop agriculture was always risky due to frequent floods. Frequent floods used to damage their rainy season rice crops. To combat it, the villagers converted rice fields into fish ponds. The fish farming has been intensified with modern technologies during last 7 years. With intensification of fish culture, household income has increased and the life-style of the villagers has changed. Employment and earning opportunities has increased in fish cultivation, non-crop (small poultry firms) and non-farm activities (transport labor, petty business, etc.). Economic conditions and per capita income of the villagers in general has improved but the gap between the rich and poor has widened.

**Keywords:** Panel data, Fish farming, Crop farming, income, Bangladesh

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