



Funded by the European Union





## **R**ahul Chakma mobilizes his community for nutrition and prosperity



Rahul Chakma is a farming expert in his community and a Local Service Provider (LSP) for vegetable production in the Dighinala Upazila in Khagrachari Hill District. As a community leader with extensive knowledge on local vegetable value chains, Rahul has begun nutrition sensitive agricultural business planning sessions with a group of 15 local vegetable producers through the newly created Banchoramukh Vegetable Producers Group.

Leading the first session in October 2019, Rahul showed farmers how to develop plans for marketing, production, organization and financial management for the upcoming crop season. As a part of developing these plans, Rahul facilitated a discussion on issues such as current market demand, product prices, production capacity, potential risk factors and how to mitigate them and current financial opportunities.

Farmers were able to share their knowledge with one another and work creatively to develop a collective understanding of their vegetable value chain in order to identify areas where they could make improvements in their position.

Rahul was selected for this LSP role by the European Union funded LEAN project due to his experience and ability to share his knowledge with others in his community. As a part of this process, Rahul received additional training on improving the nutrition-sensitivity of vegetable production, vermicomposting and business planning for MSME producers. This training enables him to support Banchoramukh Vegetable Producers Group and organizing training throughout the coming year.

LSP trainers like Rahul are important to set up linkage between LEAN project and producers in the larger community. LSP's are filling a critical gap through providing training and market linkage services to producers group which were inadequate due to resource constraints of local extension departments. LSP is leading producer groups; connect and build collaborative partnerships with their neighbors. Thus, they are building collective voice of producers group to negotiate for nutritious crops production and getting fair price from market actors in their communities and larger region.

