CABI BioProtection Portal

# Success story: Mr Motaleb and Mr Harun Ur Rashid

## Growers in Bangladesh successfully using bioprotection products

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Image: Mr Motaleb by Keith Holmes, CABI

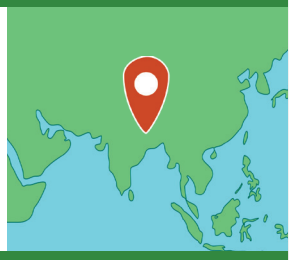
# Overview

## Who

Mr Motaleb and Mr Harun Ur Rashid are growers cultivating vegetable crops

## Where

Rangpur, Bangladesh



## Highlights

- Both growers had issues with fruit flies and whiteflies and used bioprotection products after learning about them from their input dealers
- The effect of this was noticed during the flowering stage and resulted in **higher crop yields** overall
- Both growers **will use bioprotection again** and recommend it to other farmers

# Growers in Bangladesh successfully using bioprotection products

During a trip to the Rangpur division in Bangladesh in April 2025, Ms Khadeja Tul Kobra, CABI Programme Coordinator, and Dr Keith Holmes, PlantwisePlus Global Team Leader, met with two local growers, Mr Motaleb and Mr Harun Ur Rashid, to hear how they have successfully integrated bioprotection products into their farming practices.

The growers use intercropping to cultivate a range of vegetable crops including brinjal, cucumber, bitter gourd, ridge gourd, red amaranth and green chilli. Fruit crops such as lemon, jackfruit and betel nut are grown around the borders of their plots.

## The pest challenge

Both growers were struggling with pest pressures from fruit flies and whiteflies, which were both causing significant crop damage.

Fruit flies are a major pest of fruiting vegetables. They lay their eggs inside ripening fruits, and the larvae feed internally. Cucumber and gourd are particularly high-risk crops for fruit fly damage, and infestation can cause premature fruit drop, internal rotting and reduced market value.

Whiteflies are sap-sucking pests that feed directly on the fruiting vegetable. These pests cause damage by enabling the spread of sooty mould, stunting the growth of plants and transmitting viruses, such as the Chilli Leaf Curl Virus in green chillis.

Mr Harun Ur Rashid inspecting yellow traps. Copyright: Keith Holmes, CABI

## Looking to bioprotection

Mr Motaleb and Mr Rashid first learned about bioprotection products through local input dealers. Both growers were looking for more environmentally friendly pest management methods and therefore opted to use yellow stick traps and pheromone traps alongside their usual chemical pesticide use. Despite the initial cost of the biological products being considered high, they both considered it as a worthwhile investment.

## Positive results in the crops

The growers noticed the impact of the bioprotection products during the flowering stage, which led to a boost in crop yield. Encouraged by the results, both growers say they will adopt bioprotection as a long-term solution in the long term. They have already promoted the benefits of these products to their neighbouring growers encouraging them to also adopt them on their farms. Both men emphasized the importance of proper application techniques and suggested that further training would be beneficial for accelerating the wider awareness and adoption of bioprotection products across the region.

## Takeaways from the growers

When asked to summarize their experiences of using bioprotection products,  Mr Motaleb and Mr Rashid recommended their use for two reasons: first to achieve higher yields and second, to protect the environment. Their advice to other growers was clear - invest in these products to see similar benefits.

Mr Harun Ur Rashid's field. Copyright: Keith Holmes, CABI

## Further resources

CABI Academy offers a free online course on bioprotection products in English, which covers accessing information, selecting the right product, find and understanding label information, safety and more.

Use the Portal's search function to find bioprotection products that are available in your country.

## About the CABI BioProtection Portal

The CABI BioProtection Portal is the largest, free global resource for biological pest management. The Portal's mission is to raise awareness and encourage the adoption of bioprotection among growers and advisors. It offers a comprehensive, searchable directory of nationally registered biocontrol and biopesticide crop protection products, along with detailed guidance to help agricultural advisors and growers source and effectively incorporate these sustainable natural products into integrated pest management programmes.