

Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) project

Slatted Houses Elevating Livelihoods

Considering the potential of smallholder livestock businesses among poor and extremely poor households in coastal Bangladesh, the **Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) project** provides beneficiaries with both training on goat/sheep rearing in slatted houses and support for constructing slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing.

Slatted houses are especially important in coastal areas for goat rearing. The slatted floor design allows urine and droppings to fall through, keeping the goats dry and the housing area clean, thus minimizing the risk of diseases like foot rot and respiratory infections. The raised slatted structure helps protect goats from flooding or standing water during heavy rains, which is common in coastal areas. Additionally, it enhances ventilation, providing a comfortable environment that promotes faster growth and higher productivity. Overall, slatted housing improves efficient, profitable, and sustainable alternative to traditional rearing methods.

The project benefits 20,000 households (90,000 people) through constructing slatted houses and hands-on livestock management training. Beneficiaries report significant improvements, showing that slatted housing is transforming goat farming and enhancing livelihoods in coastal Bangladesh.

Fahima's Goat Farm Becomes Successful This Time



Fahima Khatun feeding her goats in front of slatted house for them

in Koyra upazila under Khulna district, Fahima, alongside her husband and young child, barely managed to scrape by. Their sole source of income came from rearing a handful of goats. However, the conditions were harsh. The cramped, unsanitary pen where her goats lived stifled their health and made expansion nearly impossible. Besides, without a proper shelter, her goats were constantly exposed to damp conditions, and diseases. Despite her relentless efforts, financial instability was a constant companion.

Things started to improve when Fahima became a beneficiary of the Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) Project. The project provided resources and support that helped

Fahima Khatun's life was once a daily struggle. Living in the coastal village of Gobra Purbachalk,

Fahima made significant changes. One key intervention was the construction of a slatted goat house, an elevated, flood-resistant structure that ensured a clean, spacious environment for her goats. This improved ventilation and hygiene, boosting both their health and productivity. Along with the new



Fahima Khatun

infrastructure, Fahima received training in modern goat-rearing practices, including better feeding techniques, health management, and breeding methods. Within this knowledge, she was able to expand her herd from three to six goats. Additionally, financial support from the project allowed Fahima to invest in her goat farming business, which led to an increase in her income.

The project also provided financial literacy training, which helped Fahima manage her resources effectively, save money, and plan for the future. Fahima shared, “Now I know the right way of rearing goats, I understand how to make profit out of it, which makes me more confident.” She added that the benefits of the project were felt not only by her family but also by others in her community.

To reduce the climate-induced vulnerability of the most vulnerable coastal communities and to enhance their resilience, PKSF is implementing the RHL project in seven coastal districts in Bangladesh. The adaptation practices are climate-resilient homesteads, saline-resilient livelihood practices including integrated fruit-fish-fibre (crab farming) farming, slatted houses for goats or sheep rearing, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation, and storm-resilient tree plantations.

Contact:

Project Management Unit (PMU),
Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL)
Project, PKSF



PALLI KARMA-SHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, Plot: E-4/B,
Agargaon Administrative Area,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Tel: +88-02-222218331-33, Fax: +88-02-222218341
E-mail: pkssf@pkssf.org.bd, Website: www.pkssf.org.bd
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pkssf.org