

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

Creating Resilient Livelihoods through Crab Farming

As a climate smart technology Crab farming holds strong potential in saline coastal areas of Bangladesh but remained untapped due to limited awareness, high infrastructure costs, and persistent risks from natural disasters and disease. To bridge this gap, the “Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL)” project implements a structured intervention designed to turn vulnerable coastal communities into self-reliant crab producers. The RHL project empowers marginalized communities through providing technical capacity building, financial support and continuous guidance.

By combining expert technical guidance with accessible finance, the RHL project has significantly reduced crab mortality rates and boosted household incomes. This initiative does more than just create an alternative income source; it fosters climate resilience, allowing coastal families to adapt to a changing environment while achieving long-term economic independence.

Crab Farming: Turning Climate Risk into Smart Livelihood

“ The river once swept away my past, but the RHL project has given me a future to build with crab cultivation. I am no longer just a victim of climate change; I am a producer of change.” ”

Shahid Majhi, lived much of his life at the mercy of the Meghna River. With a family of five—his wife, two sons, and a daughter he became part of a river-broken community where insecurity was constant and meeting daily needs felt like an endless struggle. Hope felt distant until the RHL Project reached him.



Shahid Majhi at his crab farm

Among the few assets Shahid still had a 22-decimal pond. For years, it remained mostly unused, often seen as a burden rather than an opportunity. Recognizing its potential, the RHL Project selected Shahid for a crab fattening demonstration and provided a grant. With hands-on technical training and regular guidance, he began to see the pond differently. Determined to make the most of the chance, Shahid invested his own savings and borrowed additional capital. The scientific crab fattening methods he learned proved well suited to the salinity-prone environment, offering a climate-resilient alternative livelihood to traditional fish farming.



By carefully following project guidelines and managing his farm with dedication, Shahid achieved remarkable results within a single production cycle. He generated total sales of BDT 155,600, earning a net profit of BDT 53,300. This income allowed him to clear debts and ensure better educational opportunities for his children.

Shahid's success has inspired his community. Once a man who had lost his ground to the river, he now stands firmly on his own efforts. Looking ahead, he plans to reinvest his earnings, expand his farm, and support other displaced families, proving that even after losing everything, it is possible to rebuild with dignity and hope.

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 include climate-resilient homesteads, saline-resilient livelihood practices, e.g. integrated fruit-fish-fibre (crab farming) farming, slatted houses for goats or sheep rearing, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation, and storm-resilient tree plantations.

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