

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: Rebuilding Lives on Saline Shores

“ What I received from the RHL project went far beyond training—it gave me confidence, skills, and belief in myself. Today, I stand as a capable crab cultivator, earning with dignity and supporting my family through the strength of my own farm. ”

Kohinur Akter, 37, lives in Nayapara Village in Moheshkhali, Cox’s Bazar, a coastal area where life is shaped by uncertainty. A mother of three, she once depended entirely on her husband, who worked on a deep-sea fishing ship for 14 years. That stability ended abruptly when a severe accident at sea cost him one hand. He was dismissed without compensation, leaving the family struggling under medical costs and the sudden loss of income.

Refusing to surrender to despair, Kohinur began rearing poultry and goats, while her husband took on limited day labor. Seeking a more stable



Kohinur Akter at her crab farm

future, she entered crab farming three years ago by jointly leasing a water body for BDT 15,000 per year. Lacking capital and technical knowledge, she relied on high-interest loans and faced repeated losses due to disease, making survival increasingly difficult.



In 2024, her struggle changed into opportunity when she joined the RHL Project as a crab farming beneficiary. She received structured training, continuous technical guidance, and financial support totaling BDT 33,000 from the project, which she invested directly into her farm. Supplemented by microfinance loan from the project, Kohinur restarted her venture with confidence and discipline.

Today, she has earned a net profit of BDT 83,250. The income sustains her family, supports her children's education, and allows her to save for the future. By keeping proper accounts and staying connected with fellow farmers and traders, Kohinur has transformed hardship into hope, building a resilient livelihood rooted in knowledge, perseverance, and dignity.

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.

Advisors:

Md. Fazlul Kader

Managing Director (CEO), PKSf

Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed

Deputy Managing Director, PKSf

Editorial Panel:

Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman

Md. Abu Nashir Khan

Md. Shamim Iftekhhar

Contact:

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



PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSf)

PKSf Bhaban-1, Plot: E-4/B,
Agargaon Administrative Area,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Tel: +88-02-22218331-33

Fax: +88-02-22218341

E-mail: pkssf@pkssf.org.bd

Website: www.pkssf.org.bd

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pkssf.org

