

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.

From Flooded Ground to a Resilient Livelihood

“Crab farming gave me a voice in my own family and the courage to dream again. If women in coastal areas get the right support, we can change not only our homes but our future. ”



Rekha Mondol at her crab farm

Rekha Mondol is a determined woman from the coastal belt. She was married at the age of fifteen. Her husband Bapi Mondol is a van puller. Today, they are a family of five.

Life was never easy. Her husband’s daily wages barely covered food and schooling. Nutritious meals for the children felt like a distant dream. Rekha longed to earn and stand beside her husband. But with little land, no capital, and rising salinity ruining crops, hope kept slipping away.

Change came when she learned about the RHL project. After being selected as a beneficiary of Climate Change

Adaptation Group, she received training on crab farming from the project. She learned how to choose species, prepare the enclosure, manage feed, control disease, and sell in the market. She prepared a small enclosure beside her home.

The first months were risky. But with regular water change, good feed, timely harvesting, and technical support, results came fast. Within three to four months, she started earning. Her confidence grew with her income.

To expand, she took a financial support of BDT. 15,000 from the project. Now she runs four cycles a year. She sold crabs worth BDT 24,600. Her total cost was BDT 11,300. Her yearly profit stood at BDT 133,000. With the additional income, she now buys nutritious food for her family, pays her children's school fees on time, and meets household



needs without fear. She also saves a small amount regularly, so her family can face the future with more security and hope.

Her success now inspires other women nearby. She believes that with the right support, coastal women can build strong and lasting livelihoods.

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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