

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

### Creating Resilient Livelihoods through Ginger Cultivation

In the coastal areas of Bangladesh, high soil salinity makes it difficult to grow regular vegetables, and in many places, there is also a shortage of suitable land. For many families, this means limited income and constant uncertainty about meeting daily needs.

To address this challenge, the RHL project introduced Ginger cultivation in sacks in March 2025. Instead of relying on saline soil, farmers could grow ginger in controlled conditions using sacks, even in small spaces around their homes. A total of 6,188 beneficiaries took part in this initiative. On average, each person used 30 sacks, producing about 1.6 kilograms of ginger per sack. By the end of the cultivation cycle, the total production reached 166,785 kilograms. The harvest was sold during January and February 2026, generating a total income of 35,956,196 BDT.

Each beneficiary earned around 5,877 BDT from this effort. For many families, this income came at a crucial time and helped cover essential household expenses. Beyond the financial benefit, the method also brought confidence. People realized that even with limited land and challenging soil conditions, they could still grow valuable crops.

### From Homestead Farming to Empowered Living

“ Through ginger cultivation, I will be able to contribute to my family, support my children’s education, and improve our household condition very soon. For my effort, now I feel confident and respected in my community. ”

Ashtomi Raptan, a 42-year-old homemaker from Shyamnagar Upazila in Satkhira, once lived within the limits of deep financial hardship. Her family of five depended mainly on her husband’s irregular income as a day laborer. With only 6 decimals of homestead land and no personal earnings, meeting daily needs was often a struggle, leaving the household under constant pressure.

Her journey changed when she was selected for ginger cultivation support as a homestead-based income-generating activity. With a grant of BDT 1,400 from the project and a personal contribution of BDT 100, she started ginger cultivation in 20 sacks on 08 May 2025. From the project, she also received practical training, technical guidance, and regular follow-up support to ensure proper cultivation practices.

After careful nurturing and monitoring, she harvested her crop on January 2026. Out of 20



Ashtomi harvests ginger



sacks planted, she successfully harvested from 19 sacks. From the total production, 2 kg of ginger worth BDT 360 was consumed by her family, improving household nutrition. She sold 11 kg in the local market, earning BDT 1,980, and kept rest of the Gingers for future cultivation. The income was primarily used to support her children's education, ensuring that school expenses were paid on time. Encouraged by the results, she has decided to continue ginger cultivation in the next cycle. Beyond financial benefit, the initiative brought her social recognition and confidence. Neighbors now seek her advice on ginger cultivation, and she feels respected 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 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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