

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

Slatted Houses Elevate livelihoods

Considering the potential of smallholder livestock businesses among poor and extremely poor households in coastal Bangladesh, the RHL project provides 20,000 beneficiary households with both training on goat/sheep rearing management 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 structure helps protect goats from flooding or standing water during heavy rains, which is common in coastal areas. Additionally, it promotes faster growth and higher productivity. Overall, slatted housing improves efficient, profitable, and sustainable alternative to traditional rearing methods. Overall, slatted housing improves efficient, profitable, and sustainable alternative to traditional rearing methods.

Beneficiaries report significant improvements, showing that slatted housing is transforming goat farming and enhancing livelihoods in coastal Bangladesh.

Shukkur's Inspiring Journey from Debt to Dignity

“ Before, I was always worried about the end of the month. Now, I have courage, I can build something lasting for my family. My goal now is to grow both my goat and cattle farms simultaneously. ”

For Md. Shukkur, a 57-year-old fisherman from Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali district, life was always uncertain. As the sole earning member of a six-person family who was depended entirely on fishing, his monthly income was barely enough to cover the rising costs of food and household maintenance. During fishing bans or bad weather, he frequently borrowed money, and over time, debt became a heavy burden on his family.

A new opportunity came through the RHL project, which helped Shukkur explore alternative



Shukkur's wife feeds their goats

livelihoods. He received training on livestock management along with support to build a climate-resilient “Macha” goat house. The raised slatted-floor structure protected goats from



Shukkur's wife with their new cow and her calf

waterlogging and disease, making it suitable for the coastal environment. Starting with Black Bengal goats, Shukkur applied scientific management techniques, ensuring his herd remained healthy and productive. Through rigorous adherence to the project's technical training - including regular vaccinations and deworming - Shukkur transitioned from a struggling laborer to a disciplined entrepreneur.

His efforts soon began to pay off. Income from goat sales helped him buy a cow and repay long-standing debts. Free from interest payments, he could better manage household expenses, cover medical costs, and support his children's education, bringing greater stability and hope to his family's future.

Today, Shukkur is known in his community as a successful small-scale entrepreneur. Shukkur now dreams of expanding his farm further and building a more secure future for his children.

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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