

Transforming Coastal Lives

Quarterly Newsletter of the RHL Project



Volume No. 9

July – September 2026

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We are pleased to present the July–September 2026 issue of the RHL project newsletter highlighting the progress of climate-resilient housing and livelihood initiatives in Bangladesh's vulnerable coastal communities. The recent visits by PKSF General Body Members to project interventions in Mongla and Dacope upazilas reaffirmed the importance of combining resilient housing with climate-adaptive livelihoods to address the growing challenges of climate change.

The recognition of project supported houses as *micro-shelters* during disasters reflects their value beyond individual households, offering safety to neighboring families when conventional shelters are difficult to reach. Meanwhile, initiatives such as ginger cultivation in gunny bags, crab farming, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation and raised livestock houses are creating practical opportunities to strengthen food security and diversify household incomes.

This issue also showcases the achievements of beneficiaries, particularly women, whose determination and growing capabilities demonstrate the transformative potential of locally appropriate adaptation measures.

Happy reading!



PKSF General Body Members Visit RHL Project Interventions in Mongla and Dacope

General Body Members of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Mr. Md. Ziaur Rahman and Ms. Shahnaz Sharmin Rinvi, visited interventions of the GCF-funded Resilient Homesteads and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) Project in Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district and Dacope upazila in Khulna district, on 8 and 9 September 2026 respectively. The visits were organized to observe field-level implementation, assess the practical application of climate-resilient interventions and interact directly with beneficiaries and community members.

In Mongla, the delegation visited RHL interventions implemented by Nabolok Parishad in Dakshin Kainmari of Chandpai Union. The team observed climate-resilient homesteads, crab farming and fattening, raised slatted goat and sheep houses, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation and sack-bag ginger cultivation. They also met members of the Bhadra Climate Change Adaptation Group (CCAG), comprising 28 women, and discussed local climate risks, adaptation priorities and community-led responses.

The climate-resilient homesteads visited by the delegation combine raised plinths and resilient core houses with rainwater harvesting systems, rooftop solar power, improved cooking systems and sanitation facilities. These measures are designed to reduce household exposure to cyclones, tidal surges, flooding, waterlogging and salinity while improving access to essential services.

Kolpona Swarnaker, a beneficiary of a climate-resilient homestead in Mongla, said, “For a family like ours, a safe home means much more than four walls and a roof. It gives us a sense of security and hope for the future.” She added that the visit by the PKSF delegation made her feel that the experiences and challenges of families like hers were being recognized.

The delegation also observed climate-adaptive livelihood activities. Chandrika Mondal's crab farming and fattening activity demonstrated an income-generating option suited to the coastal environment, while the raised slatted livestock house of Swapna Khan showed how simple structural adaptation can protect livestock from waterlogging and flooding. Sack-bag ginger and



PKSF General Body Member visits climate-resilient house of beneficiary

saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation further demonstrated how households can continue food production despite saline and water-related constraints.

On 9 September, the delegation visited RHL interventions implemented by Ad-din Welfare Center in Dacope, Khulna. The team observed climate-resilient homesteads, raised slatted goat and sheep houses, saline-tolerant vegetable and ginger cultivation, and interacted with members of the Gaurkathi-02 CCAG.

At the homestead of Madhuri Ray, a widow raising two daughters, the delegation learned how the resilient house has strengthened her family's sense of security during adverse weather. "As a mother raising two daughters, having a safe and stronger home gives me confidence that I can protect my family during difficult weather," she said.

The visit also highlighted the link between climate adaptation and livelihood security. At Kakoli Das's raised goat house, the delegation



PKSF General Body Member visits slatted house for goat rearing

observed how elevated slatted structures keep livestock dry and reduce exposure to waterlogging. "Now they stay dry and healthier, and I feel more confident about raising goats and increasing my income," Kakoli said.

At both locations, the delegation observed that RHL interventions go beyond providing safer housing. By combining resilient homes with climate-adaptive livelihoods, safe water, renewable energy, improved cooking systems, food production and community-based adaptation, the project is helping vulnerable coastal households strengthen their capacity to withstand and recover from climate-related stresses.

The delegation was accompanied by the staff of Project Management Unit (PMU) and respective IEs.

Based on the experience and inner realization from the visit, General Body Member Md. Ziaur Rahman published three news reports on leading national level media outlets.





Neighboring families seek refuge in a beneficiary's resilient home at Charfashion upazila of Bhola district before heavy rain in July 2026

RHL's Resilient Houses Become Neighbors Oasis

Every year during the monsoon season in Bangladesh, homes in coastal areas are damaged by storms and heavy rainfall, and submerged by floodwaters. During natural disasters, many families are unable to move to safer places due to the lack of nearby government cyclone shelters and various social and cultural challenges. To address these risks to the lives and assets of coastal communities, the RHL project is constructing 3,000 disaster-resilient homesteads. Construction of 1,800 houses has already been completed under the project, and beneficiary families are now living safely in these homes. Built 4 to 5 feet above the last five year average flood level, these houses remain protected during storms and heavy rainfall, while tidal surges and floodwaters cannot enter the homes. As a result, the residents are protected during disasters, while their neighboring families can also take shelter there when needed.

In July 2026, heavy rainfall and resulting water flows submerged many homes, putting families

at increased risk from the disaster. During this period, many coastal families were seen taking shelter in disaster-resilient houses constructed under the RHL Project. Ayub Dhali, who took shelter at the home of RHL beneficiary Anjuara Khatun in Koyra Upazila of Khulna District, said, “We cannot go to the Cyclone Shelters. If every village had houses like Anjuara Apa’s, we would all be able to stay safe during disasters.” During the disaster, many beneficiaries were able to keep not only their family members and neighbors safe, but also their livestock and poultry within their disaster-resilient homesteads. As a result, these houses have already begun to be recognized in many areas as small shelters, or ‘micro shelter’.

To combat the impacts of climate change in coastal areas and to promote climate-resilient and sustainable livelihoods, the project is providing resilient homesteads to the extreme poor coastal families. Besides, the project is directly supporting coastal people through climate-smart income-generating activities.

From raised homes to crab farms, how life is adapting on the coast

By **Md. Ziaur Rahman**, General Body Member, PKSf

(This report published on The Business Standard on 18 September 2026. The author of this feature is the Honorable Member of the General Body of PKSf. He prepared the report based on his recent visit to the RHL project implementing areas.)



Resilient Homestead

From rainwater harvesting and homestead gardening to crab farming, these adaptations are helping families reduce their vulnerability while creating alternative livelihoods.

For people living along Bangladesh's vulnerable southwestern coast, climate change is no longer a distant threat. Cyclones, tidal surges, flooding, salinity and erratic weather are increasingly shaping their homes, livelihoods and everyday lives.

In response, many families are adopting practical ways to reduce their risks — raising houses and livestock above floodwater, harvesting rainwater, growing vegetables and ginger in limited spaces, and turning increasingly saline water into an opportunity for crab farming.

For Kalpona Sornokar of Mongla, these changes have a deeply personal meaning. She has lost her homestead three times to cyclonic storms. Living now in a climate-resilient house, she feels more secure about facing the next storm.

A home has never been a place she could take

for granted; she has had to rebuild hers again and again.

Kalpona lives with her ageing husband and two children on the bank of the Pashur River in South Kainmari. The first major blow came when Cyclone Sidr hit the area in 2007; other storms followed, bringing fresh destruction each time.

She and her husband rebuilt their house with whatever they could afford — bamboo, *golpata* and other locally available materials. But the fragile structures could not withstand cyclones, tidal surges and saline water.

Now in her 60s, Kalpona hopes those days are behind her. She has received a climate-resilient house through a local NGO. Unlike her previous homes, it stands on a raised earthen mound, reducing the risks from tidal surges, saline waterlogging, cyclones and heavy rain.

For Kalpona, it means more than a stronger roof. The house has restored a sense of security she had almost forgotten.

Her family still depends mainly on fishing in the Pashur River and rearing goats, growing vegetables whenever possible to supplement their food and income. But with a safer home,



Ginger cultivation in gunny bags



Slatted house for goat/sheep rearing

Kalpona can now think more about rebuilding her livelihood than rebuilding her house.

Like her, other coastal families are gradually adapting their homes and livelihoods to a changing environment, with support from organisations working on climate resilience.

Shanai Bibi of Gawrokathi in Chalna knows the same feeling. She too has received a climate-resilient house and is more confident about facing storms, floods and tidal surges. She believes it will protect her family during disasters and can also shelter nearby neighbours in an emergency.

For people in these vulnerable coastal areas, such security is precious. A single cyclone can destroy a house, damage livelihoods and wipe out years of savings. Yet, as the climate changes, people are finding new ways to protect themselves and keep their livelihoods alive.

A safer home for a changing climate

The houses provided to families like Kalpona and Shanai are part of a wider effort to help vulnerable coastal communities adapt to growing climate risks. The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is implementing the Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) project in 20 upazilas across seven coastal districts - Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola and Cox's Bazar - with funding from the Green Climate Fund.

On the ground, it is delivered through partner organisations Nabolok Parishad and Ad-Din Welfare Centre.

The houses are built on raised plinths with stronger construction to reduce risks from floods, cyclones and tidal surges. They also include safe sanitation, rainwater harvesting, solar power and improved cooking stoves.

Rainwater harvesting is particularly important in areas where saline intrusion has made freshwater scarce. But the houses serve another purpose too: helping families develop climate-adaptive livelihoods.

"This is not just a climate-resilient home; it has also become a hub for vegetable cultivation, ginger farming, goat rearing and fruit-tree planting, which provides financial support to the families," said Fazlul Hoque, director of Ad-Din Welfare Centre.

Turning the homestead into a source of food and income

As salinity makes traditional farming increasingly difficult, coastal families are finding new ways to use the small pieces of land around their homes.

Many climate-resilient homesteads are now surrounded by vegetables and fruit trees. Families grow sweet potato, pumpkin, okra and spinach, providing food for themselves and, when there is a surplus, additional income.

They also plant coconut, neem, guava, *sofeda*, *amra* and lemon. Besides fruit and shade, the trees generate income, help hold the soil together and offer some protection from strong winds.



Tree plantation



Crab farming

The homestead is becoming more than a place to live — gradually turning into a small farm that can provide food and income when conventional farmland becomes difficult to cultivate.

Growing ginger where farmland is scarce

Another promising adaptation is ginger cultivation in sacks. For families with little cultivable land, the method turns unused spaces around their homes into productive areas. Sacks are filled with loamy soil and organic manure and placed around homesteads, in shaded areas or on fallow land.

Ginger does not tolerate waterlogging; when heavy rain, high tides or flooding threaten, the sacks can simply be moved to higher ground.

A household setup of 20 to 30 sacks can generate additional income, depending on production and market prices, without requiring the family to rent farmland — a small but telling example of how coastal people are adjusting traditional farming practices to changing conditions.

Raising goats above floodwater

Goat rearing is another important source of income for poor coastal families. But in low-lying areas, sheds can become wet and muddy, and floodwater can enter during the rainy season.

Raised platforms offer a simple solution. They keep goats above standing water and mud, provide a cleaner, and better-ventilated

environment, and help protect the animals from cold during winter. The system is particularly useful for rural women who rear goats alongside their household responsibilities.

Kakoli Das and Lipi Khatun, programme participants from the coastal areas of Dacope and Mongla, previously struggled to raise goats in open spaces; some of their animals died because of poor housing conditions and disease. With support from local NGOs, they have received raised platforms that make it easier to keep their goats safe and encourage them to expand their herds.

A cleaner, drier environment keeps the animals healthier and improves the prospects of earning more. For women like Kakoli and Lipi, goat rearing is becoming an opportunity to earn and gradually become financially self-reliant.

When the land turns salty, crabs become an opportunity

Climate change is also changing the nature of aquaculture in the country's coastal belt. In some regions such as Mongla, near the Sundarbans, rising soil and water salinity has made traditional agriculture and freshwater fish farming increasingly difficult.

As a result, crab farming has emerged as an alternative livelihood in parts of Satkhira and Khulna, including Koyra and the Chalna-Dacope area.

Rising salinity, problems in shrimp farming and frequent tidal flooding have encouraged farmers to look for options better suited to the changing environment. They often introduce crabs into existing brackish-water ghers, including former shrimp or fish enclosures, allowing them to diversify their income.

Farmers usually focus on crab fattening — growing lean, wild-caught juvenile crabs to market weight within 30 to 40 days — or soft-shell production using floating boxes or pen enclosures. Traditional fish or rice farming can take six months to a year to yield returns; mud crabs return a profit in just 40 to 90 days. More than 90% of harvested live and soft-shell crabs from coastal hubs such as Bagerhat and Mongla are processed and exported to



CCAG monthly meeting

international markets, with China the top destination.

Crab fattening has created a new source of income for Chandrika Mondal, a young housewife who lives on the bank of the Pashur River in South Kainmari, Mongla. In one cycle of about three months, she earned a net profit of around Tk13,000.

"Good-quality mature crabs can fetch around Tk1,000 to Tk1,200 per kilogramme, depending on size and market conditions," said Chandrika, adding that the trade also creates work for coastal women, who can be involved in feeding, cleaning and monitoring crabs.

The area's tidal rivers, estuaries and proximity to the Sundarbans provide favourable conditions for crab farming, while overseas demand has helped expand the trade. For coastal families, it is another example of adapting livelihoods to a changing environment.

Learning to live with a changing climate

The experiences of Kalpona, Shanai, Kakoli, Lipi

and Chandrika show how coastal communities are changing the way they live and earn. They cannot stop cyclones or prevent the sea from rising. They cannot remove salinity from their land and water. What they can do is reduce their risks and make their homes and livelihoods better suited to the conditions they face.

"We cannot prevent natural hazards such as cyclones, tidal surges, flooding, rising salinity and increasingly erratic weather. What we can do is strengthen people's capacity to cope with these challenges. This means scaling up climate-resilient housing in coastal communities, raising awareness about climate change and adaptation, and helping people find new and sustainable ways to live and earn their livelihoods," said Kazi Rajeeb Iqbal, Executive Director of Nabolok.

A raised house can make a family safer during floods or tidal surges. Rainwater harvesting can provide freshwater when other sources turn saline. Vegetables and fruit trees can improve nutrition and bring income. Ginger sacks can turn unused space into a small farm, while raised goat sheds can protect livestock.



RHL project organized Training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management

The RHL project organized a series of two three-day training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management in Cox's Bazar, held from 29–31 August and 21–23 September 2026. The trainings were organized to strengthen technical knowledge and practical capacity for sustainable crab hatchery operation and nursery management.

The training aimed to improve participants' understanding of the complete crab production cycle, from broodstock selection to spawning, hatching, larval rearing and crablet production. It also focused on feed and live-feed management, water-quality control, hatchery hygiene, biosecurity, disease prevention, nursery management, and proper record keeping and documentation.

The training composed at technical presentations combined with interactive discussions, experience sharing, question-and-answer sessions and practical-oriented learning.

The training also highlighted the importance of

regular monitoring and documentation of water quality, feeding, larval development, mortality and production performance. Participants gained practical insights into identifying production bottlenecks and improving hatchery efficiency, larval survival and crablet quality.

The knowledge gained is expected to support more technically sound and sustainable crab hatchery and nursery operation under the RHL Project, contributing to improved livelihood opportunities.



Hands on training on crab hatchery operation and management

Updates from Ground

During the period the RHL project reached to 13,226 coastal people with different types of interventions and services, among them 2,400 are male, and 10,826 are female. Additionally, the project achieved the following milestones:

Design and building of homesteads



Resilient homestead

Following the overall target for designing and building 3000 climate-resilient homesteads, the RHL project constructed 1,800 resilient houses so far. The project has already handed over the houses to beneficiary families, where they are now living. Along with the construction of houses, the project provided a comprehensive package of rainwater harvesting system, an environment friendly twin pit offset latrine and a solar system based on the needs of individual beneficiary. Approximate 10% contribution against the total cost were born by the beneficiaries.

Homestead tree planting

So far, the project planted 251,000 climate-resilient trees in the beneficiary homesteads, roadsides and institutions. The plantation included a variety of species such as coconut, guava, sapodilla, wood apple, betel nut, and neem, contributing to both environmental

conservation and the livelihood needs of the communities. To support the healthy growth and protection of these trees, beneficiaries were also provided with garden trellis nets, ensuring enhanced care and sustainability of the planted trees.

All trees planted under the RHL Project are native species suited to local climatic conditions. The Project does not promote or encourage the planting of non-native tree species.

Cultivation of saline tolerant vegetables



Harvesting ginger

In the period, the project provided support to 10,615 beneficiaries with saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation in raised homestead areas including cultivating ginger using bags. The support included seeds, plants, nets, and watering cans. Beneficiaries have also begun growing a variety of crops, including tomatoes, eggplants, red amaranth, kangkong, and turnips, and Ginger in gunny bags.

Slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing



Slatted house for goat/sheep rearing.

To enhance hygiene, reduce disease risk among livestock, and contribute to better livelihoods for the beneficiaries, the project constructs slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing. So far, 11,450 houses have been constructed for goat/sheep rearing. Prior to the construction, beneficiaries were systematically selected and provided with training on the effective use and maintenance of the structures. The construction materials include concrete pillars, bamboo, wood, tin etc.

Development of crab Hatchery



Crab hatchery

During the reporting period, the project provided support to develop 45 crab hatchery. Besides, construction work for three hatcheries is underway. Additionally, the project is working with hatchery owners in Cox's Bazar for developing crab hatcheries.

Crab Nurseries and Crab Farming



Crab Farming

So far, the project provided technical and financial support 194 beneficiaries to establish crab nurseries. During the period, the project provided technical and financial support to 1,748 new beneficiaries for crab farming in saline ponds. In total, 8,985 beneficiaries have been supported with crab farming so far. This initiative aims to enhance livelihoods and promote sustainable aquaculture practices.

Climate-Change Adaptation Group (CCAG)

Each group is scheduled to hold at least one meeting every month for its 3200 CCAGs. During the last quarters, a total of 71,906 CCAG monthly meetings were organized, engaging beneficiaries with repeated participation.

Each CCAG is structured with a committee comprising a President, Secretary, Cashier, and General Members to promote community involvement in climate action and decision-making processes. These committees play a vital role in ensuring the effective implementation and management of project activities within their respective areas.

Beneficiary training



Beneficiary training

To the date, 2,099 batches of training on income-generating activities were conducted for beneficiaries by 18 Implementing Entities (IEs). The training sessions include goat and sheep rearing in slatted houses, cultivation of saline-tolerant vegetables, crab farming, and climate change.

Grievance Management



Submission of grievance

During the quarter, the project received 15 complaints from beneficiaries, of which 10 were submitted by females and 5 by males. All complaints were resolved in consultation with the respective beneficiaries. To date, 171 grievances have been received, and resolved.

RHL PROJECT ACTIVITY PROGRESS AT A GLANCE



Resilient Homesteads

1,800



Tree Plantation

251,000



Slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing

11,450



Crab Fattening

8,985



Crab nurseries

194



Saline tolerant vegetables within homestead areas

10,615



CCAG Meeting

71,906



Grievance

171



Beneficiary Training

2,099



Crab hatcheries

45



Transforming Coastal Agriculture and Livelihood through Ginger Cultivation in Gunny-Bags

Climate change is increasingly narrowing livelihood opportunities in coastal communities, where tidal surges, flooding and salinity intrusion continue to affect agricultural production and household incomes. In response to these challenges, the RHL Project introduced ginger cultivation in gunny bags as a simple, climate-adaptive livelihood option for vulnerable coastal households.

Cultivating ginger in gunny bags does not require traditional land preparation or ploughing. It requires less physical effort and labour, making the practice particularly accessible to women, especially members of CCAGs. The approach enables households to make productive use of limited space while engaging in an agricultural activity that can be managed close to home.

During FY 2025-26, 6,118 beneficiaries received training on ginger production technology, equipping them with the knowledge and practical skills needed to independently adopt climate-adaptive agricultural practices. Each

beneficiary was also provided with gunny bags, ginger seeds and fertilizers, while the beneficiaries contributed cow dung as an organic input for cultivation.

The initiative has strengthened beneficiaries' technical knowledge and practical capacity while introducing a sustainable agricultural practice suited to the changing conditions of coastal communities. On average, each beneficiary used around 30 gunny bags, producing approximately 1.6 kilograms of ginger per bag. By the end of the cultivation cycle, total production reached 166,785 kilograms.

The harvest was sold during January and February 2026, generating a total income of around BDT 3.50 CR. for the beneficiaries. Beyond the income generated, the experience has demonstrated how a simple and accessible farming practice can help coastal households diversify their livelihoods, strengthen local agricultural skills and build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Inspiring Story - 1



Growing Resilience at the Edge of the Sundarbans through Ginger Cultivation

Fatema Begum, a dedicated housewife from Vojonkhali village of Banishanta Union, lives in a community located very close to the mighty Sundarbans. Life in this area is challenging due to salinity, tidal water intrusion, and limited livelihood options, which make agriculture and income generation difficult. Her family of five depended mainly on her husband's day labor, earning BDT 5,600 per month, while their monthly expenses were around BDT 6,000, leaving little room for savings or investment in new opportunities.

Seeking ways to improve her household's income and food security, Fatema joined the RHL Project in August 2024. Under the project, she received training on ginger cultivation in gunny bags, along with technical guidance, a grant, and support for cultivation materials. Fatema also learned important practices such as soil preparation, water management, and crop care, which were essential for achieving a successful harvest in a coastal, saline-prone area.

Using her 20-decimal homestead land, she prepared space for ginger cultivation, which allowed her to grow the crop without interfering with her existing vegetable garden.

On 15 March 2025, Fatema planted ginger in gunny bags, carefully managing the seedlings, watering, and soil throughout the season. The climate-resilient gunny bag method proved particularly suitable for her area, protecting the crop from salinity and waterlogging while making efficient use of limited space.

By 06 January 2026, Fatema successfully harvested 34 kg of ginger. Part of the harvest was used by the family for daily consumption, reducing the need to purchase ginger from the market. The remainder were sold locally, generating BDT 10,200, a significant increase to the household's income. This extra income allowed Fatema to cover day-to-day expenses, buy nutritious food and fruit for her family, ensure timely payment of school fees for her grandchild, and save for future needs, improving both financial stability and overall well-being.

Encouraged by the success of her first cultivation cycle, Fatema is determined to continue ginger cultivation in gunny bags in the coming seasons. Her story demonstrates how homestead-based, climate-resilient practices can empower women, improve food security, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities even in vulnerable coastal areas near the Sundarbans. Fatema's success not only enhances her household's resilience but also inspires other women in her community to explore similar initiatives for self-reliance and income generation.



Fatema works at her courtyard

Inspiring Story - 2



A Mother's Determination: Firoja Begum's Story of Resilience

Today, 31-year-old Firoja Begum is preparing to cultivate ginger again. Her first experience with just 20 geo-bags has given her more than a modest income. It has given her confidence that she can contribute to her family's wellbeing and her daughters' future.

In January 2026, Firoja harvested all 20 bags of ginger that she had planted under the RHL Project. Her family consumed almost 6 kg of ginger, improving their household nutrition, while she sold the produce twice in the local market. Although the income was modest, it made a meaningful difference. With her earnings, Firoja bought school dresses for her two daughters. Seeing their happiness filled her with pride.

But life has not been easy for Firoja. In the coastal village of Kaukhali under Rangabali, her family survives on a very limited income from her husband's irregular day labour. Her husband is deaf, making it difficult for him to find consistent work. With two young daughters and no savings to fall back on, Firoja also works as a day labourer during seasonal agricultural activities, including watermelon cultivation.

Their 1,200-square-foot homestead offered limited opportunities for income generation.

Yet Firoja refused to accept vulnerability as her destiny.

Under the RHL Project, she received support to cultivate ginger in geo-bags, a climate-adaptive farming method suitable for coastal areas affected by salinity and limited land. With grant support of BDT 2,690 and a small personal contribution, she planted 20 bags of ginger in May 2025.

Firoja cared for the plants every day, watering them, checking the soil and protecting them from pests. For her, the plants represented hope for a more secure future. Surma Begum said, "With my husband's disability and irregular work, it has always been difficult to manage our household expenses. When I started growing ginger in the geo-bags, I cared for the plants every day with great hope. After harvesting, we were able to use some for our family and sell the rest, which brought much-needed income. I used the earnings to buy school dresses for our two daughter and seeing them happy made all the effort worthwhile. This support has given me confidence that even with our struggles, we can improve our future through hard work."

Surma Begum, President of Hellal Peada Bari CCAG, said, "Families like Firoja's, facing challenges such as disability, can reduce vulnerabilities through alternative IGAs like ginger cultivation in geo bags. With limited land and small investment, they can improve nutrition and generate income for children's education. Women's leadership in cultivation strengthens household resilience while building confidence, dignity and sustainable coping capacity."

Encouraged by her experience, Firoja has decided to cultivate ginger again. Her story shows how a small, climate-adaptive livelihood intervention can create meaningful opportunities for vulnerable families and strengthen women's dignity and resilience.

Inspiring Story - 3



From a Struggle for Food to a Harvest of Hope

At 22, Rumana Akter has discovered how a small livelihood opportunity can make a meaningful difference in a family's life.

A housewife from Shyamnagar, Satkhira, Rumana lives with her six-member family. Her husband, a driver, was the family's only earner, earning around BDT 15,000 a month against expenses of about BDT 14,000. With little room for savings or unexpected costs,

Rumana often felt financially dependent and uncertain about the future.

As a member of the Dhumghat Hasharchok Shapla CCAG, she was selected for ginger cultivation. With project guidance, she planted ginger in 20 sacks on 8 May 2025, receiving BDT 1,400 in project support and contributing BDT 150 herself.

On 20 January 2026, Rumana harvested ginger from all 20 sacks. She sold 12 kg for BDT 2,220 and kept 2.5 kg for family consumption. After cultivation costs, she earned around BDT 1,480 in net profit, which she used to pay her children's tuition fees.

"Now I can contribute to my family and pay my children's tuition on time. I feel more confident and hopeful about my future," Rumana said.

Her success has also earned her respect in the community, with neighbors seeking her advice on ginger cultivation. What began with 20 sacks has given Rumana more than an income. It has given her confidence to shape her family's future.

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