



Organization: The South Asian Forum for Environment

Location: Sundarbans, Eastern India

Solution: HEAL: Sustainable livelihoods for flood-prone communities with hydroponic and aquaculture floating farms

Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (18 months)



SAFE in India works with communities to establish float-farms as a climate resilience agricultural practice - @SAFEINCH

In India, coastal erosion is threatening livelihoods. According to the government, 33.6% of the Indian coastline is vulnerable to erosion. Floating farming along inundated coasts and floodplains is an adaptive practice that enhances productivity and creates opportunities for women entrepreneurs.



Key achievements

- Sustainable agribusiness for 5,700 marginal households
- Trained 4,450 farmers and fishers in adaptive tech
- Restored over 50 ha of coastal farmland
- Established 12 Farmer's Schools and eight organic hubs
- Empowered women in agro-farming and leadership roles
- Enabled financial and social inclusion for 1,250+ women
- Engaged local community through partnerships for capacity building and market access
- Recognized globally for its impact and received the GEF Inclusive Assembly Challenge Award 2023 for successful replication across diverse socio-ecological contexts
- Global Centre for Adaptation ranked the solution among the Top 20 locally led adaptation interventions worldwide



Innovation

- Regenerative agriculture innovation promotes coastal sustainability
- Traditional knowledge merges with modern tech for resilience
- Floating farms built with local materials enhance food security
- Blended financing model with local banks and academic collaboration





Social impact

- Communities: 12,900+ households
- Gender Inclusion: Women lead community agro-farming, fish culture, and more, fostering equality



Adaptation benefits

- Resilience to climate flood risk
- Diversifying food production
- Implementing floating food farms in waterlogged areas



Replication potential

- Achieved self-sustainability through annual income from hydroponic/aquaculture systems, with potential for growth in subsequent years; successfully transferred and scaled technology in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka with replication requests from Vanuatu and the Philippines.
- Demonstrates potential for sustainable scalability, leveraging carbon advantages, and empowering local communities through financial inclusion and capacity building



Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA Grant: US\$235,000 (first grant: US\$125,000, scaling grant: \$110,000- under implementation- data still unavailable)
- GEF Assembly Challenge Fund: US\$85,000
- PwC Foundation CSR Grant: US\$27,000;
- Additional Income Generated: Net revenue of US\$10,970 was generated by the hydroponic/aquaculture systems during the last winter cycle

Investability

Revenue per year	Gross revenue from 500 float-farms per year is US\$146,000
Sustaining criteria	Includes credit linkage with local MFI, circular funding, integrated crop cycle planning, and direct marketing
Financial innovation	Utilizes circular funding, reinvesting 20 percent of returns for internal lending and blended financing (loan and seed fund)
Expected return	Anticipated annual returns range between 17 to 20 percent for horticulture products (from float-farms) post self-consumption, and 38 to 40 percent, including aqua farming product