

Combating the Climate Change using climate-adaptive livelihoods: A story from MOYNA, a Women Livelihood Group



Members of MOYNA (an Women Livelihood Group) weeding the sesame field

'Moyna' is one of the groups consisting of 25 women beneficiaries from Kocha village, 8 no. ward under Bajua union of Dacope upazila, Khulna. Most of group members are uneducated and belong to extreme poor families. After getting the training from project, MOYNA has cultivated the Sesame, one of the climate resilient agricultural livelihood the GCA is promoting. Through extensive sensitization the group got convinced to cultivate sesame instead of their popular choice- watermelon, as a high profitable item in the region. DSK organized field level training facilitated by Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer of Upazila Agriculture Office, Dacope Upazila. Under supervision and guidance of Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer and staffs of DSK, MOYNA started sloughing land, using fertilizer, weeding seeds, removing weeds, required level of irrigation and continuous nursing. Two months' journey with passionate desires the group got the smiling result.

Among many of southern-costal belt of Bangladesh, Bajua union of Dacope upazila in Khulna district is known as one of the most disaster-prone regions. Various natural disasters, salinization and drought are the most acute problems in this area. So, the community cannot maintain their livelihood in a sustainable way and need to switch between multiple livelihood options or adapt various livelihoods at a time which can help them to diversify their income sources. Through GoB and Green Climate Fund (GCF) finance along with technical support by UNDP, GCA project promoting five climate adaptive resilient livelihood options that are being implemented among 185 women Livelihood groups in Dacope Upazila, Khulna by Dustho Sastho Kendro (DSK), a responsible party NGO of project GCA.

The sesame flowers bloomed finally with a hope to have more than 220 Kg crops from their Sesame field which will have a monetary value 16200 taka in the market. With the full confidence MOYNA, the WLG is planning to take lease more 1.5-acre land for next cycle of Sesame cultivation.

The cultivation technology is already paying off for MOYNA, who sees it as a blessing that has fundamentally altered their way of life. The members of this group are educating their family and friends about the advantages of using sesame cultivation technology to help them understand how

this technology can support them escape poverty by ensuring sustainable livelihoods and improving food security that is climate resilient.



"We have done it, surely we will do!! Just few steps left to harvest the crops at home! We must win together."

- Ashima Thandar, the Moyna group leader, spoke the words above With a lovely smile on her face

Group "Moyna" is indelibly thankful to the GCA project and, most importantly, the government of Bangladesh and UNDP for introducing them to this climate adaptive alternative livelihoods and providing support, which has been a tremendous help in their life.

How project GCA is contributing to diversifying the climate adaptive livelihoods

Project GCA aims to reduce the climate vulnerability of women by addressing their adaptive capacity from multiple levels. That is, as a project "Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with climate change induced salinity" is designed in such a way that supports women to have access to resources, ability to pursue adaptive livelihoods and provides institutional support and capacity building which has fundamentally shaped all of the activities and outputs of the project.

The project promotes climate-resilient livelihood options among the targeted beneficiaries in five project upazilas of Khulna and Satkhira districts through facilitating the formation of Women Livelihood Groups (WLGs) that are acting as peer-to-peer support groups to empower women to identify, plan for, and implement climate-resilient livelihoods through awareness raising, skills development, knowledge transfer, and investments into livelihood assets.

Project is enabling value-chain and market linkages development to spur adoption, sustainability, and scale of these alternative, resilient livelihoods. The beneficiaries are getting the capacity building training to implement climate risk reduction strategies through improved last-mile dissemination of early warning systems and continually adapt and safeguard their livelihoods and assets as climate risks evolve.

Finally, the project aims to go beyond the categorization of women as a "vulnerable" group, or simply as beneficiaries of the project, but rather recognizes women's essential contributions as leaders and agents of change in the face of a changing climate and resource constraints.