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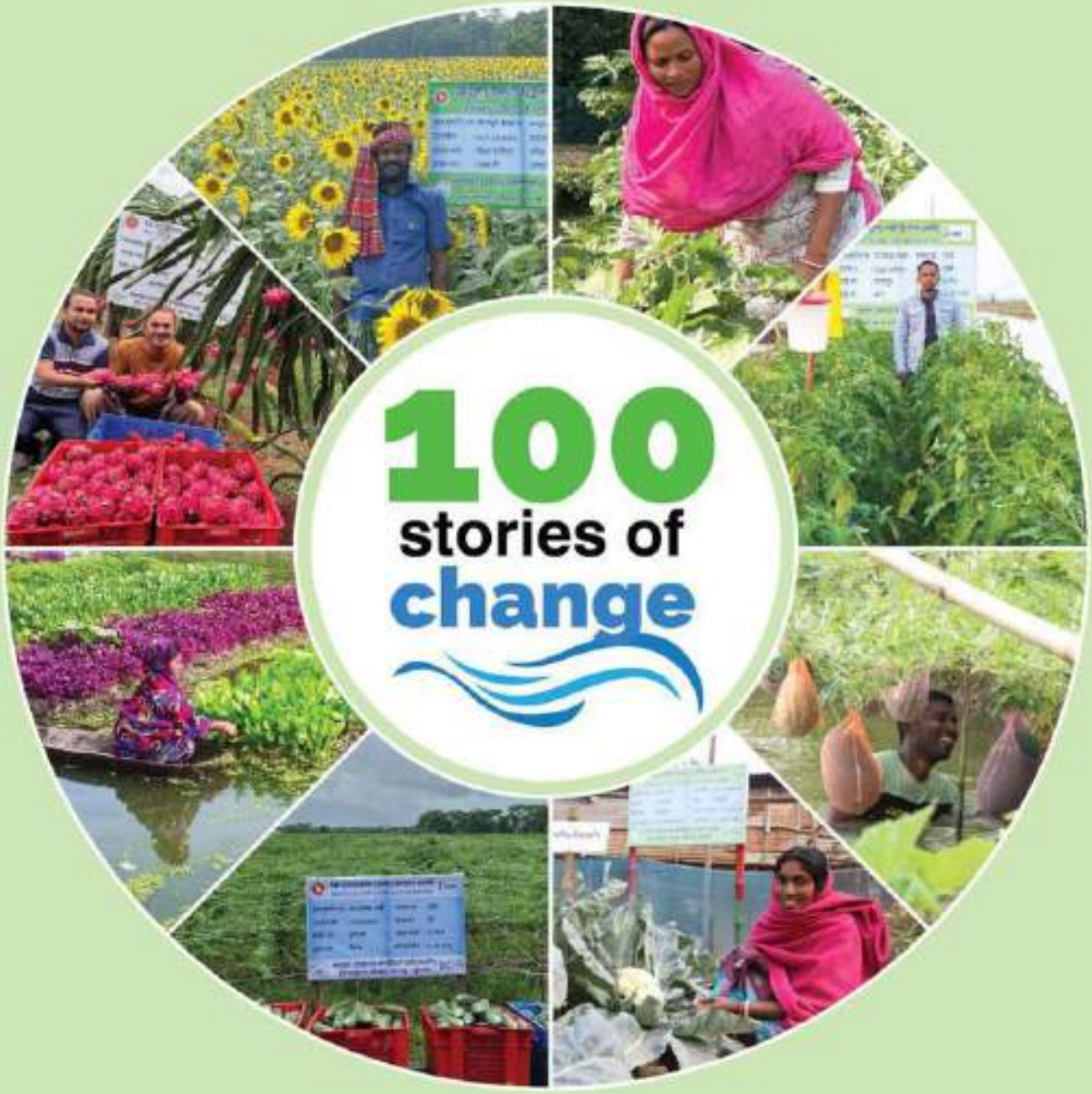
SACP
Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project



Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP)
Ministry of Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

100 stories of change

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Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP-RAINS)

Foreword

The economic development of Bangladesh is largely dependent on agriculture, but the poverty-stricken people of the southern coastal region are lagging behind in terms of food and nutrition security. In these areas, 19 districts, 103 upazilas, 250 unions, and remote coastal communities are facing multiple climate risks. The Government of Bangladesh, with financial assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and grant support from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), has been implementing the "Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP)" since 2018 under the leadership of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). In association with this, a sub-project titled "Diversified Resilient Agriculture for Improved Food and Nutrition Security (RAINS)" has been implemented by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), and Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

This initiative has been providing technological support to farmers for the dissemination of advanced agricultural technology. Through the introduction of climate-resilient diversified agricultural technologies, the RAINS project is playing a vital role in reducing the risks of smallholder farmers, improving nutrition security, and creating sustainable livelihoods.

The experience of implementing the SACP project over the past few years (2018–June 2026) shows that 14 districts, 103 upazilas, and 250 unions under the project are being directly supported by the RAINS project. The project's activities are being implemented under four components: DAE, BARC, BARI, BRRI, and BINA (component projects). Since RAINS is integrated with SACP, 19 districts of Bangladesh, 103 upazilas, and 250 unions are receiving diversified agricultural technological support.

Demonstrations of various technologies are being conducted in the field through this project. Farmers are receiving training and technical guidance from resource persons. Field demonstrations are being expanded to adjacent areas, enabling farmers to receive practical training directly from the field. In addition, diverse technologies are being demonstrated in the farmers' fields, strengthening their skills.

Agriculture is a multidimensional and resource-dependent sector. Agriculture is both a business and a way of life, so its expansion depends on coordinated initiatives from all stakeholders. The integrated initiative taken by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with IFAD, FAO, and GAFSP is very timely. The development and expansion of smallholder agriculture require proper direction and guidance in addition to technology. Sustainable agricultural production requires an integrated and participatory approach to deal with climate change, disasters, and resource constraints. Through Farmer Business Schools, project beneficiaries are being trained in agribusiness management. This initiative will play a helpful role in achieving food security and nutrition as well as establishing sustainable and profitable agribusiness.

I firmly believe that with the experience gained from implementing the SACP-RAINS project, our smallholder farmers will be able to conduct agribusiness more efficiently in the future. I sincerely thank all project officials, farmers, and stakeholders for their cooperation in implementing the project. I hope this initiative will continue to contribute to the overall agricultural development of Bangladesh.

Dr. Muhammad Emdadul Haque
Project Director, SACP
Department of Agricultural Extension
Ministry of Agriculture

Project Background

The Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with joint funding from the Government of Bangladesh and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder and marginal farmers in the climate-vulnerable coastal regions of southern Bangladesh. It is implemented through four agencies: the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) as the lead agency, along with the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC).

With over 40 years of engagement in Bangladesh's agriculture and rural development sector, IFAD supports SACP as a model integrated initiative. The project promotes the adoption of improved technologies for high-value crop cultivation in coastal areas, strengthens climate adaptation, and works to make agriculture a profitable and sustainable profession. It emphasizes increased crop productivity, sustainable post-harvest management, value addition, and improved market linkages through practical public-private partnership models.

Building on the lessons and achievements of SACP, an expanded initiative titled RAINS is being implemented in 60 upazilas across 14 districts from July 2023 to June 2026. The SACP-RAINS project is executed by four agencies: DAE, DAM, FAO, and GAIN, and operates under the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). The project aims to eliminate hunger, malnutrition, and poverty by strengthening agricultural development, nutrition outcomes, and rural livelihoods.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Bangladesh's economy. Although the country has achieved self-sufficiency in staple food production—particularly rice—it continues to pursue self-reliance in high-value crops. Bangladesh's favorable agro-ecological conditions offer strong potential for producing fruits, nutrient-dense vegetables, pulses such as mung beans, oilseeds including sesame, sunflower, and peanuts, and maize.However, limited access to modern technologies, information, finance, storage, processing, and efficient marketing systems has made crop production less profitable for many farmers. As a result, smallholder, marginal, and tenant farmers are gradually losing interest in cultivation, despite strong market demand. This supply-demand imbalance leads to price volatility and increases the cost of living.

By expanding high-value crop production and improving supply chains, the SACP-RAINS project contributes to stabilizing market prices and strengthening the national economy. Through access to finance, training, technology, improved storage, and efficient marketing, the project enhances food security, promotes dietary diversification, increases farmers' incomes, and creates employment opportunities—particularly for women and youth—thereby contributing to sustainable poverty reduction and a more self-reliant Bangladesh.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....

01

The Village That Learned to Dream: East Cecuria's Transformation through Farmer Business School (FBS)

In the tranquil folds of East Cecuria village, within Bailchari Union of Banshkhali Upazila of Chattogram District, life used to move to the rhythm of tradition. Known for its fertile lands and year-round cultivation of High-Value Crops (HVCs) like brinjal, bottle gourd, chili, and leafy greens, the village had the potential to flourish—but that promise often lay dormant. Despite cultivating large quantities of vegetables, local farmers followed conventional methods, sowing seeds by habit rather than strategy. They lacked exposure to market trends, access to structured planning, or an understanding of value addition. Crop cycles were decided more by inherited practices than informed decisions. Profits remained minimal, and frustration simmered silently across the fields. The bounty of nature was present, but the bridge to prosperity was missing. That bridge was built when SACP introduced the Farmer Business School (FBS) approach in the region.

All began with a call for a meeting—organized by the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO). Representatives from three to four farmer groups gathered, unsure of what to expect. The SAAO patiently explained the objectives and structure of the FBS program: a series of structured sessions designed to turn traditional farmers into agri-entrepreneurs by equipping them with practical knowledge, market understanding, and business acumen. What began as curiosity soon grew into genuine interest, and eventually, committed participation. Thus, East Cecuria FBS was formed with 25 eager farmers, including 17 men and 8 women. Each brought their own struggles and stories, but shared one aspiration: to change the way they farmed and lived.

The journey that followed was no ordinary training—it was "learning by doing." Across 13 sessions, the farmers engaged in practical, hands-on exercises that opened their eyes to new possibilities. They learned to track costs, analyse markets, grade their produce, explore safe food standards, and plan their farming as a business rather than a gamble. Control plots managed with old methods were compared against FBS-guided trial plots, and the difference was striking. The FBS plots yielded more, required fewer inputs, and fetched higher prices. For the first time, many farmers realized that science, planning, and business knowledge could reshape their future.

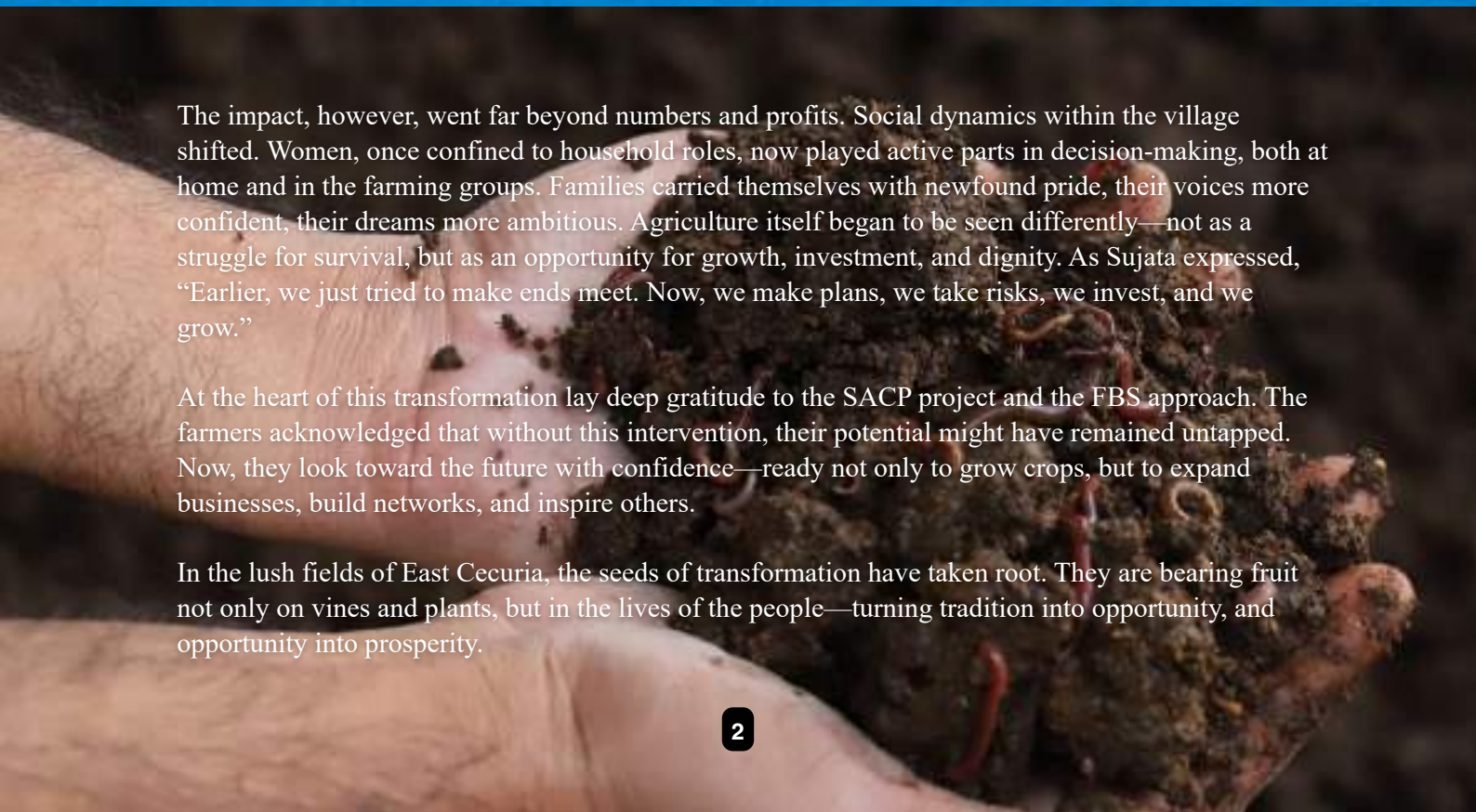
The program also integrated the Social, Environmental, and Climate Assessment Procedure (SECAP), ensuring that the farmers' new practices were sustainable and climate-smart. They learned how to select crop varieties resilient to changing conditions, adopt organic methods, manage surface water more efficiently, and reduce post-harvest losses. These lessons were not just technical—they were transformative, instilling resilience and confidence.

From within the group, new leaders began to emerge. Sujata, once hesitant to speak in public, became one of the shining stars of East Cecuria. Today, she owns five dairy cows, cultivates two acres of vegetables, produces vermicompost, and earns Tk 50,000–60,000 monthly. Once a quiet participant, she is now a role model for rural women. Another woman, Beauty Das, started her own vermicompost business, encouraging the community to embrace organic farming. Liton Das, who once depended solely on betel leaf farming, built a thriving business by collecting betel leaves from local growers and marketing them directly to Khatunganj. Meanwhile, Nikhil Das embraced modern brinjal farming techniques and now mentors' others in the village. Their journeys didn't stop with personal gains; they became teachers, motivators, and proof that change was possible.

The transformation of individuals soon translated into collective strength. All 25 members of the group began practicing advanced production planning, diversifying crops, and keeping detailed records of income and expenditure. With newfound confidence, they approached markets not as scattered individuals, but as an organized group with bargaining power. They applied for a matching grant under the SACP-DAM component and successfully procured a pickup van. This single step changed their market access dramatically: instead of relying on middlemen, they could now transport their produce directly to larger markets, ensuring better prices and reducing wastage. The pickup van became more than just a vehicle—it symbolized their journey from small-scale farmers to agro-entrepreneurs.

The ripple effect quickly spread beyond their own fields. Farmers from neighboring villages began visiting East Cecuria, curious to see how this transformation had happened. They saw the difference in income, in confidence, in lifestyle—and many decided to replicate the methods. East Cecuria FBS became a living classroom, a lighthouse for surrounding communities.

"Earlier, we just tried to make ends meet. Now, we make plans, we take risks, we invest, and we grow.



The impact, however, went far beyond numbers and profits. Social dynamics within the village shifted. Women, once confined to household roles, now played active parts in decision-making, both at home and in the farming groups. Families carried themselves with newfound pride, their voices more confident, their dreams more ambitious. Agriculture itself began to be seen differently—not as a struggle for survival, but as an opportunity for growth, investment, and dignity. As Sujata expressed, "Earlier, we just tried to make ends meet. Now, we make plans, we take risks, we invest, and we grow."

At the heart of this transformation lay deep gratitude to the SACP project and the FBS approach. The farmers acknowledged that without this intervention, their potential might have remained untapped. Now, they look toward the future with confidence—ready not only to grow crops, but to expand businesses, build networks, and inspire others.

In the lush fields of East Cecuria, the seeds of transformation have taken root. They are bearing fruit not only on vines and plants, but in the lives of the people—turning tradition into opportunity, and opportunity into prosperity.

Shilkup's Silent Revolution: How a Remote Village Became a Thriving Vegetable Hub through SACP's Integrated Approach

Tucked between hills and canals, Middle Shilkup village in Banshkhali Upazila of Chattogram has always been rich in natural assets—fertile soil, medium-high flatlands, and age-old farming traditions. Yet, for years, its most powerful resource—the Shilkup canal, a flowing stream of hilly water—remained underutilized. Despite having 25,000 decimals of cultivable land on both banks of the canal, the villagers could barely use a fraction of it due to water shortages and poor infrastructure.

Today, Shilkup stands transformed—a thriving vegetable hub, known across the region for its year-round production of high-value crops (HVCs). This change didn't happen overnight. It was the result of a well-coordinated, integrated intervention by SACP—bringing together the strengths of three key government departments: BADC (infrastructure development), DAE (technical support), and DAM (market access).

The turning point came when BADC undertook the Middle Shilkup Irrigation Scheme under the SACP. The canal that once flowed sluggishly through the village was excavated over a stretch of 5 kilometers, giving it new life and capacity. Alongside, 1,500 meters of buried pipe irrigation was installed to ensure water could be delivered directly to the fields. To connect both sides of the canal—now expanded and deeper—a foot over-bridge was constructed, easing transportation for farmers and ensuring access to both sides of the vegetable belt.
This intervention immediately unlocked the potential of the region. What was once fallow or under-cultivated land has now become a lush zone of agricultural activity.

Currently, over 22,000 decimals of land are under vegetable cultivation.Around 150 members of five SACP Water Users Groups (WUGs) benefit directly from this infrastructure. But the The ripple effect extends far wider—nearly 2,000 farmers in the surrounding community now use the canal's water and access its benefits. With renewed access to irrigation and better planning, farmers embraced modern cultivation techniques supported by DAE. A suite of advanced, climate-smart technologies began to take root, including high-value crop varieties, sex pheromone traps and yellow sticky traps for pest control, vermicompost and tricho-compost, balanced fertilizer use, and integrated pest management along with climate-resilient surface water management practices. The over-bridge didn't just connect land—it connected farmers to opportunity. They could now easily carry their produce to local markets and collection points, even during the monsoon season. Moreover, DAM, through matching grant components, provided mini pickup trucks and crates, enabling the producer groups to transport their produce directly to wholesalers in larger markets.
Shilkup is a powerful example of what happens when infrastructure, training, and market access come together. Locals call it the "positive umbrella effect" of SACP.

Through this initiative, BADC ensured sustainable water access, while DAE trained farmers on high-value crop production, planning, and post-harvest handling. At the same time, DAM facilitated access to markets, introduced crate-based transport, and negotiated fair prices for farmers.
This seamless collaboration gave rise to year-round cultivation of a wide variety of crops such as cauliflower, cabbage, bottle gourd, brinjal, chili, teasel gourd, snake gourd, radish, coriander, and even fruits like papaya, mango, and jujube

A few glimpses from last season tell the story: Mobarok Hossain, with just 50 decimals of land, cultivated cauliflower and a future – earning over Tk 2.3 lakh. Nur Mohammad's cabbage fields spoke of quiet triumph, bringing him more than Tk 1.6 lakh

Touhidul Islam, standing among rows of jujube trees, harvested not only fruit but fortune – Tk 3.6 lakh in profits. And Jasim Uddin, with 40 decimals of brinjal, turned his soil into Tk 2 lakh worth of pride.

Even the smallest plots – like those of Abdul Jabbar and Ajgar – now grow more than crops. They grow respect, recognition, and resilience.They reflect a consistent rise in productivity, better crop pricing, and reduced input costs—thanks to group-based planning and sustainable irrigation. Perhaps the most remarkable transformation has been in mindset.

Shilkup was once a place where farming meant growing only what tradition dictated.

Canal changed everything of Shilkup." The gratitude is palpable—not just for water, but for the tools, training, and trust that SACP brought with it.

Today, it is a village where farmers plan their production cycles based on market demand, use scientific tools such as pest traps and soil health kits to manage cultivation, maintain detailed records of costs, income, and profit, and ultimately think and act like entrepreneurs. Producer groups are now strongly connected with wholesale buyers, facilitated by SACP's marketing officers.

These market linkages have weakened the dominance of middlemen and empowered farmers to secure better prices through direct negotiation. The introduction of crates, pickup vans, and collective sales has further brought professionalism and efficiency to what was once an entirely informal sector.
Ask any farmer in Shilkup today, and they will tell you the same thing: "Canal excavation was a blessing. It changed everything." The gratitude is palpable—not just for water, but for the tools, training, and trust that SACP brought with it.

Local DAE and DAM officials continue to monitor and support the producer groups. The Water Users Groups meet regularly, share best practices, and plan upcoming crop cycles together. The result? Stability, income growth, and community pride.

Shilkup has become a model village—proof that with the right support, even the most modest farmers can transform into resilient, forward-thinking producers. A once-forgotten village is now writing a success story for others to follow.

Guarding the Land, Growing the Future: Haduar Char Crop Protection Embankment Transforms Farming and Lives

Nestled along the banks of the Bishkhali River in Ranapasha Union, within the heart of Nalchity Upazila in Jhalokathi District, lies a once-struggling agricultural community now flourishing with renewed hope. This transformation has been made possible by the construction of the Haduar Char Crop Protection Embankment—a 3.8 km long, climate-resilient structure built under the SACP by BADC. With the integration of two strategically placed 2-vent regulators, the embankment has not only protected the land from natural disasters but also opened the door to sustainable, year-round farming in a region long plagued by seasonal flooding, waterlogging, and soil salinity.

For years, the people of Haduar Char lived at the mercy of the river. Tidal surges and monsoon floods regularly submerged their fields, often destroying crops just before harvest. Saline intrusion degraded the soil, while the absence of proper drainage and irrigation left many farmers' lands fallow. Fields stayed waterlogged long after rains, making irrigation both unreliable and costly. Productivity fell to a single rice crop a year, and soil fertility declined due to prolonged waterlogging. Livestock perished during floods with no safe shelter, leaving families emotionally drained and trapped in economic uncertainty year after year.

In response, SACP introduced a bold and inclusive solution through the construction of the Haduar Char Crop Protection Embankment, a BDT 2.25 crore (22.5 million) investment designed to safeguard 120 hectares of fertile farmland and secure the livelihoods of more than 120 farmers.

Completed in June 2022, the structure now serves as a lifeline, shielding the area from devastating floods and granting farmers unprecedented control over their water resources.

The impact of the embankment has been swift and transformative. Farmers, once limited to a single rice crop, can now practice triple cropping and cultivate high-value crops such as watermelon, leafy greens, vegetables, lentils, and rice throughout the year. Reliable irrigation and drainage enable timely farming operations, while resilience against tidal flooding reduces crop loss and strengthens food security. The regulator system ensures efficient, cost-effective water management, and during sudden surges, the embankment also provides safe shelter for livestock, minimizing losses.

"Before, I could only grow one crop of rice a year. Now I grow watermelon, rice, vegetables, and lentils—and earn more than I ever thought possible," said Abdul Karim, a farmer from Haduar Char.

Another farmer, Rahima Begum, explained, "Water used to flood my land and ruin my crops. Since the embankment was built, my fields are safe, and I can farm confidently." A third farmer, Jamal Uddin, added, "Irrigation has become easier, faster, and cheaper. I save both money and time—and that means more productivity." These testimonials highlight a deep transformation—not just in the soil, but in the spirit of the farmers who now look toward the future with optimism.

The broader impact of the initiative is already visible, with over 120 hectares of once-vulnerable land now under productive cultivation. Farmers enjoy increased incomes, resilience, and food security, while the success has motivated neighboring communities to adopt similar resilience-building measures. Interest in crop diversification and value-chain engagement is also on the rise, creating new opportunities for better market access and sustainable growth.Looking ahead, the project aims to ensure sustainability through community-led maintenance of the embankment and regulator system, while promoting climate-smart cropping practices to safeguard productivity. Efforts will also focus on improving transport and logistics for access to distant markets and strengthening group-based marketing and value addition to enhance farmers' profitability and long-term resilience.

The Haduar Char Crop Protection Embankment stands as a model for what integrated rural infrastructure can achieve. It is not just an embankment—it is a boundary between despair and opportunity, a structure that not only holds back the floods but also ushers in prosperity. Through community collaboration, strategic planning, and adaptive water management, SACP has turned Haduar Char into a beacon of sustainable farming—where the soil is protected, the crops are abundant, and the people are empowered.

The 3.8 km embankment, reinforced to withstand seasonal surges, was complemented by two 2-vent regulators for efficient drainage and irrigation, while strong community mobilization ensured active participation at every stage.

N.K. Agro's Naimul Haque's success story of becoming an agricultural entrepreneur

Naimul Haque was working as a computer operator in a private firm at Chandanaish upazila under Chattogram district. However, he had a great interest in agriculture. His dream was to become an agricultural entrepreneur. In this situation, he contacted the agricultural office through the concerned SAAO two years ago. Seeing his interest, UAO put him in touch with the MF of the Marketing Department of SACP. His second life journey began. He received training on demand farmers Training (HVC) & business management skills through the DAE & Marketing Department of SACP. After the training, he started producing and marketing high-quality seedlings on a small scale such as Chilli, Papaya, Tomato, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, sweet tomato & snake gourd, etc. Seeing his interest, he was again provided with 05 days of nursery-related entrepreneurship development training conducted by DAM.

Naimul's dream grew even bigger and he found the assurance of realizing his dream of becoming an entrepreneur. After completing his training, he leased 100 decimals of land in the Gasbaria block for a one-time fee of Tk 2 lakh and a monthly rent of Tk 15,000 and built a permanent infrastructure. Now he has named his project N.K. Agro. His activities grew bigger. He started his business by getting a pesticide license from the UAO office. His project is basically divided into 05 sections.

“With the support of SACP, I did not just build a nursery—I turned my dream into reality. By combining quality seedling production, vermicompost, organic farming technologies, and agribusiness, N.K. Agro has become a trusted local brand. Today, I am not only working for my own success but also inspiring and guiding other farmers towards sustainable and profitable agriculture.”

— Naimul Haque, Agripreneur, Chandanaish

He built a poly-net house on 6 decimals of land. The process of producing seedlings of various types of high-quality vegetables (100000 nos.) and fruits (50000 nos.) is underway there so far. This is an ongoing process. He has spent BDT 70000/- on the construction of the poly-net house, BDT 50000/- on seeds & BDT 30000/- on labour & others. Till the date, he has sold saplings of Chilli with BDT 10000/-, Papaya with BDT 150000/- & Tomato, snake gourd, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, and sweet gourd with BDT 40000/- respe mctively from his poly-net house. It is expected that about 1 lac taka more saplings will be sold. This season, he earned a net profit of BDT 150,000

Land compost production has become an important initiative, as earthworm manure is highly effective in the cultivation of vegetables and fruits. This compost is produced on the farm, used in the owner's own projects, and also marketed under his own brand. Alongside this, cocopeat processing is taking place, with around four tons currently under production. The market value of this is approximately one lakh taka, and it is sold at 25 taka per kilogram in addition to being used for his own projects. To further promote sustainable agriculture, an Organic and Pesticide Sales Center has been established, where various organic technologies—such as yellow traps, blue traps, and sex pheromone traps—are made available under the same brand while also being applied on the farm itself. Moreover, a Crop Museum has been set up to showcase different varieties of vegetables and crops, allowing farmers to observe, learn, and adopt these practices in their own fields.

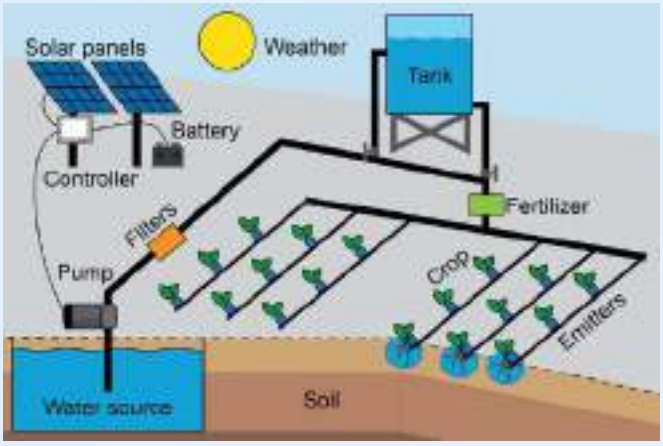
He hopes to cultivate mushrooms in the future because mushroom cultivation can be more profitable, as well as the public demand is too high. The UAO will send him to the Saver Mushroom Center next November/ December for training. He got the Crates, Knife & other instruments from SACP. He has applied for a vehicle (mini truck) to the SACP DAM Component for transporting goods through matching grant support. Farmers & small nursery owners are constantly visiting his projects. He shows & teaches them by hand how their work is being done. Various initiatives have been undertaken, including the construction of new poly-nets, business expansion, construction of vermicompost, etc. N.K. Agro is now a brand of Chandanaish and Naimul Haque has not only made a reputation as a successful entrepreneur but has also fulfilled his dream. He is grateful to the SACP project for fulfilling this dream.

Adaptive Trial on Solar Power Drip Irrigation System for year-round production in the Gher dyke

Farmers of Bharashimla village in Satkhira have long faced significant irrigation challenges, primarily due to the high cost of fuel, frequent unavailability of diesel, and the constant interruption of electricity supply. These difficulties have been further exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which is projected to increase salinity levels and further limit the availability of freshwater for irrigation.

The costs of irrigation in this area vary depending on the type of pump used. A 2022 report mentioned that a diesel price hike could add approximately Tk 1,200 to Tk 2,000 per bigha for irrigation, while a survey suggested irrigation costs could rise by Tk 700 per bigha after such a fuel price increase. For diesel-powered shallow tube wells, which irrigate much of this area, the 2022 fuel price hike added around Tk 4,200 per shallow pump for winter vegetables, a significant additional burden for farmers.

Previously, farmers relied mainly on electrical or diesel-powered irrigation pumps, but this came with several challenges: high fuel costs, environmental concerns, and the risk of saline water intrusion. The increasing dependence on groundwater extraction through tube wells and shallow machines—whether diesel or electricity operated—not only raised irrigation costs but also deepened reliance on fuel and electricity availability, while accelerating salinity problems in both soil and water.



Solar Power Drip Irrigation System

Although specific publicly available data for fuel costs in winter vegetable production during 2021 is not readily available, evidence suggests that these costs rose sharply in late 2021 due to the fuel price hike, particularly for land preparation and irrigation.

Irrigation costs that once stood at Tk 1,800–1,900 per bigha increased to Tk 2,200–2,300 per bigha.The 2021 fuel price hike had a clear impact on farmers. In November that year, diesel prices in Bangladesh rose significantly, directly raising the costs of tractor-powered land preparation and irrigation. One farmer reported that irrigation costs had jumped from Tk 1,800–1,900 to Tk 2,200–2,300 per bigha. s.

Diesel pumps, which typically consume two or three litres of fuel per hour, became increasingly costly to operate. As diesel prices continued to rise year after year, operating irrigation pumps became less affordable, while at the same time diesel engines released harmful emissions that contributed to both air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, causing negative environmental impact.

Moreover, the excessive pumping of groundwater through tube wells reduced the water table, further worsening salinity in the area. For all these reasons, diesel pumps were proving unsustainable in the long run.

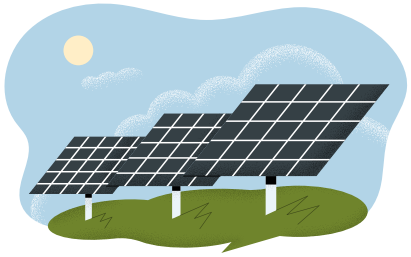
In response to these difficulties, farmers began demanding alternatives, particularly sustainable irrigation practices that could reduce costs and dependency on fossil fuels. Among the most promising solutions were solar-powered irrigation systems. Solar pumps, when combined with efficient water management techniques like drip irrigation or alternate wetting and drying (AWD), could significantly reduce dependence on diesel and electricity, cut fuel costs, and minimize environmental impacts. Technologies such as drip and sprinkler irrigation improved water-use efficiency, while AWD helped reduce water consumption without compromising crop yields.

One of the most significant steps in this direction has been the introduction of solar-powered pumps with drip irrigation under the SACP, implemented by BARI in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). The system has already achieved notable success, particularly in vegetable production within the Gher areas covering 30 bighas of land. The total installation cost of the solar pump was approximately Tk 15 lakh. The system was designed with a power capacity of 5,000 watts, a 0.5 cusec water flow, and operated by a 2-horsepower pump. The drip irrigation systems, developed with an emphasis on participatory learning and experimentation, have proven particularly effective in helping farmers adapt to changing environmental conditions and promoting climate-resilient agriculture.

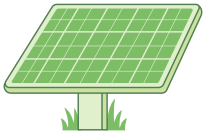
The activities surrounding the system were organized within a group consisting of 30 participants. This group operates through a committee structure, including a President, a Secretary, a Cashier, and 27 members. The committee holds a general meeting once every month, while informal meetings are conducted every Saturday. In these sessions, members discuss the challenges they face in agricultural production, ensuring collective decision-making.

For the farmers of Bharashimla union in Kaliganj upazila, the solar-powered drip irrigation system has been transformative. It has significantly boosted vegetable production and strengthened farmers' livelihoods by offering a cost-effective, reliable, and sustainable solution. Yields have increased, costs and labour requirements have declined, and farmers have been freed from the constant pressure of fuel price fluctuations. With irrigation costs reduced, many now have the flexibility to pursue other income-generating activities.

Gher areas covered 30 bighas of land.



power capacity
5,000 watts
water flow
0.5 cusec



Higher yields, reduced pesticide use and improved farmer livelihoods

Bharashimla irrigates
13 hectares of land
50,000 litres water Daily

30
Farmers involved

Farmers have shifted from cultivating just one crop to three crops per year across 30 acres of vegetable fields.

One crop → **3 crops** in a year

The technology has also enabled them to cultivate multiple crops per year, including off-season vegetables. Reliable water supply and the ability to manage irrigation precisely through drip systems ensure better crop growth throughout the year and higher yields. The savings from reduced irrigation costs, coupled with increased incomes, allow farmers to reinvest in other ventures such as livestock rearing, ultimately improving their overall standard of living. Farmers also spend less time managing irrigation, freeing up more time for other productive activities or family life.

Solar irrigation not only provides a clean and renewable energy solution but also fosters collaboration and community development, since solar pumps are often shared by multiple farmers. The system installed in Bharashimla irrigates 13 hectares of land, providing 50,000 litres of water daily and benefiting 30 farmers. With this, farmers have shifted from cultivating just one crop to three crops per year across 30 acres of vegetable fields.

Although fuel-based traditional irrigation systems are still widely used in the area, particularly during peak seasons, the benefits of solar-powered irrigation are increasingly evident. Farmers who adopted solar irrigation saw their costs drop by nearly half and their incomes rise, enabling them to expand into livestock and spend more time with their families. Yet during peak seasons, farmers relying on electricity or fuel remain vulnerable to short supplies, reinforcing the importance of renewable alternatives.

As Jakir Hossain, a member of the farmer group, put it: “Solar-driven irrigation models use less water to produce each kilogram of crops compared to other irrigation systems. If we consider our long-term benefits with the electricity demand and supply, switching to solar-based pumps should be a priority for building sustainable agricultural practices in this area.”

> Solar irrigation has completely changed how we farm. We can now grow crops throughout the year, including off-season vegetables, with lower costs and higher yields. It uses less water, reduces our dependence on fuel and electricity, and allows us to think long-term. For sustainable agriculture and secure livelihoods, solar-based irrigation should be the priority.”
>
> — Jakir Hossain, Farmer Group Member, Bharashimla

The solar-run drip irrigation system in Bharashimla shows clear potential as part of a broader strategy for sustainable agricultural development. Beyond ensuring a continuous energy supply for irrigation, solar technology also provides long-term environmental benefits by reducing degradation of land, water, and biodiversity. In this way, solar-powered irrigation not only transforms farming livelihoods but also strengthens resilience in the face of climate change, aligning with the global demand for renewable energy and sustainable farming solutions.

A remarkable Story of cultivating Dragon Fruit.

In the village of Doklakhali, located in Mirzaganj Upazila of Patuakhali district, lives a humble farmer named Habibur Rahman. What makes him remarkable is not the size of his land but the big dreams he planted on it. With determination and a passion for learning. His modest home, once built with wood and tin, has now become a center of agricultural innovation.

In 2021, Habib took a bold step by cultivating dragon fruit, a crop that was virtually unknown in the area. Many local farmers doubted its success, believing that the soil and climate of their region were unsuitable for such an exotic crop. But Habib, driven by courage and curiosity, decided to take the challenge. He received technical support and training from the SACP project and the Upazila Agriculture Officer, which helped him prepare both the land and himself for this new journey

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Habib carefully studied soil quality, weather patterns, and proper cultivation methods. With the project's guidance, he adopted modern irrigation systems, proper plant care techniques, and post-harvest handling methods that played a vital role in his farm's success. His effort soon paid off. From his dragon fruit farm, Habib harvested around 1,042 kilograms of fruit. At an average selling price of Tk. 120 per kilogram, his total revenue reached about Tk. 125,000. After covering production costs of Tk. 45,000, he earned a net profit of Tk. 85,000. This means that for every taka invested, he gained Tk. 2.50 in return. His break-even point was just 375 kilograms of dragon fruit, which he more than doubled, proving the profitability of his efforts even under uncertain conditions.

Encouraged by this success, Habib expanded his farm using an integrated approach. On one side of his land, he planted a coconut orchard that promised a steady income in the future. He also excavated a small pond where he started fish farming. These three ventures—dragon fruit, coconuts, and fish—have now become the three pillars of his farm. This diversified model ensures not only financial returns but also an efficient use of his land and resources.

The additional income from his farm transformed his family's life. Habib invested in his children's education, improved their living conditions, and even upgraded his wooden house into a more durable brick structure. With his earnings, he was able to meet all household expenses and plan for future crop cycles with confidence. His dream of providing higher education for his children is already becoming a reality, a testament to the far-reaching impact of his farming success.

Habib's journey was not without challenges. He often struggled with market exploitation by middlemen, locally known as faria and paikar, who dominated pricing and reduced farmers' profits. Excessive rainfall also posed threats, cutting short cultivation periods and lowering yields. Yet, with his training in climate-smart farming practices, integrated pest management, and organic methods, Habib managed to overcome many of these obstacles. He now advocates for stronger farmer cooperatives and adaptive strategies to shield farming from such shocks.

Farmers from neighboring villages now come to see his farm, eager to learn from his methods. He warmly welcomes them, shares his knowledge about dragon fruit cultivation, coconut farming, and fish rearing, and encourages them to embrace diversified farming. His initiative has inspired many local farmers who previously relied only on traditional practices.

The Story of Parul: Leading the Way in Organic Farming

Ms. Parul Begum and her husband, Mr. Rashid Khondokar, have emerged as shining examples of climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture in their village. As members of the SACP-RAINS project, they transformed their lives through vermi-compost production—an initiative that not only strengthened their household economy but also inspired many farmers in Kismatpur and nearby villages to turn toward organic practices.

Their journey began in 2021 when the Upazila Agriculture Officer introduced them to vermi-composting. With technical guidance, they set up three compost beds using bamboo, polythene sheets, and shade nets. To prepare the beds, they used cow dung from their six cows reared at home, while kitchen waste and crop residues from their household filled the rest of the need for raw materials. These resources, previously considered waste, were transformed into nutrient-rich compost with minimal financial input

At first, the couple experimented by applying the compost on their own vegetable plots. They cultivated crops such as tomato, cucumber, cauliflower, spinach, bottle gourd, chili, and turmeric. The difference was striking —the soil became healthier, the yields increased, and the vegetables tasted better. With their homestead gradually turning into a self-sufficient farm, they no longer needed to buy vegetables from the market, avoiding produce grown with chemical fertilizers. News of their success quickly spread in the community.

Farmers noticed the improved results, and demand for their compost rose steadily. Within a short period, Parul and Rashid sold vermi-compost worth BDT 60,000. Spread over four years, this amounts to around BDT 15,000 annually from compost sales alone. However, the real contribution is much larger. By using their own compost, they saved at least BDT 8,000 to 10,000 each year that would otherwise have gone into purchasing chemical fertilizers. At the same time, higher yields from their vegetable plots added an estimated BDT 20,000 to 25,000 worth of extra income annually. Their small nursery generated another BDT 10,000 to 15,000 through the sale of vegetable seedlings and fruit saplings like papaya, guava, and lemon.

Taken together, the compost sales, cost savings, higher crop yields, and nursery business contribute more than BDT 45,000 to 50,000 every year. This means that on average, the enterprise brings in around BDT 3,500 to 4,000 per month—a steady supplementary income that has made a real difference in their livelihood. For a smallholder family, this contribution is significant, ensuring stability in household expenses, covering education costs, and providing security during uncertain seasons.

As demand grew, they expanded their unit from three to twelve beds. During this expansion, Rashid often had to work outside, leaving Parul to manage the entire composting process. She watered the beds, maintained temperature and moisture, harvested the compost, and interacted with buyers. Her leadership was crucial in ensuring continuous production and high quality, and her role earned her respect across the community as an example of women's active participation in agricultural enterprises.

"We have turned our home into a farm. We no longer need to buy vegetables from the market, and we avoid crops grown with chemical fertilizers. When my husband is away for work, I manage everything on my own—from preparing the compost and planting seedlings. This work has become our livelihood and our strength."

Their initiative also created indirect employment. Local youths and neighbours sometimes assisted during peak production periods, while the six cows they maintained at home not only provided milk for household use but also ensured a continuous supply of raw material for composting. Farmers who purchased compost from them often bought seedlings as well, completing a sustainable cycle that benefited both sides.

The impact of their success is now visible across the community. Farmers in Kismatpur and surrounding villages are increasingly adopting vermi-composting, encouraged by Parul and Rashid's achievements. They no longer see organic fertilizer as a risky choice but as a profitable and environmentally friendly solution that improves crop yields.

Much of this success was enabled by the SACP project, which introduced the couple to innovative agricultural practices, income-generating strategies, and the potential of crop diversification. With proper guidance, they turned waste into wealth, proving that smallholder farmers can transform their lives and inspire others when given the right knowledge and support.

The story of Parul Begum and Rashid Khondokar is proof that sustainable farming is more than just an alternative—it is a pathway to healthier soil, stronger communities, and resilient livelihoods. Through determination, innovation, and the backing of the SACP project, they have become role models whose efforts continue to light the way for climate-resilient agriculture in Bangladesh

Robiul Islam: A Model Farmer Transforming Agriculture in Betaga

Mr. Robiul Islam, a 32-year-old farmer from Dhonpota village of Betaga union under Fakirhat upazila in Bagerhat district, is the son of Md. Ansar Ali.

He is a dedicated and hardworking individual who has been actively involved in agriculture for several years. He is a small and progressive farmer who cultivates only 100 decimal (1.00 acre) of cultivable land and practices a variety of high-value vegetables/fruits on his marginal land. He also leased another 300 decimal of land and started cultivating high-value vegetables and fruit like ash gourd, summer tomato, cucumber, brinjal, off season water melon and rock melon. Under SACP, he is a producer and a member of the Producer group with the Beneficiary Identification (BID) number of SACP 002.13.03. His household consists of three members, including his wife and children, and they rely primarily on farming as their main source of livelihood.

Prior to joining the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), Robiul Islam faced several challenges, including low crop yields, lack of access to modern agricultural knowledge, and insufficient market linkage. His farming was primarily subsistence-based with limited income to support his family.

Before engaging in the SCAP producer group he mainly cultivates only rice in the Boro season. After being selected as a SACP farmer, he received comprehensive hands-on training under the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). As a result, he learned good detail about modern cultivation practices regarding various high-value crops and fruit gardening. Also, he gathered knowledge on market management, post-harvest management and primary processing of high-value crops from other marketing-related training under the project.

Being guided by above this knowledge, in the last fiscal year (2022-23), he cultivated off season water melon (Variety: Black Beri King) with Rock melon in 50 decimal (0.50 acre) land with the input and technical support of the project and earned handsome income.

However, after being selected as a demo farmer, the Upazila Agriculture office provided him with necessary seeds, fertilizers, fencing and other supports to continue off season water melon (Variety: Black Beri King) with Rock melon demonstration under SACP. With all the technical and financial support from the project and his hard work Mr. Robiul Islam successfully grew the off season water melon and Rock melon which is the pioneer in Fakirhat upazila. He uses the organic pesticide, sex pheromone trap, yellow trap, and fruit bagging as a symbol of organic production.

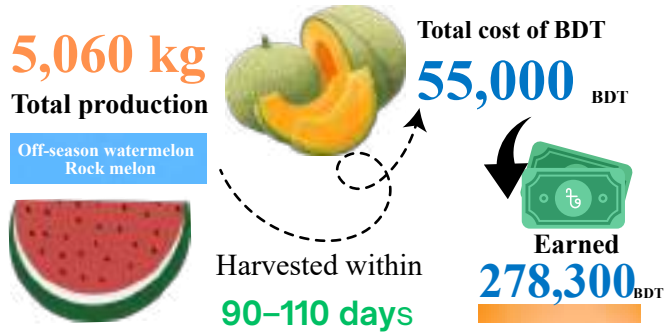
> **"I never thought I could grow watermelon in the off-season. With support from the SACP project, I learned how to do it properly. I spent less money, got good production, and sold everything at a good price. Now other farmers come to see my field and want to do the same next season."**
>
> **— Robiul Islam, Farmer, Betaga Union**

He planted water melon and Rock melon seedlings on 28/06/2023 in the financial year 2022-2023 and collected yield within 90-110 days only on 20/10/2023, and the production is near about 5060 kg. Robiul said, all of the off season water melon and Rock melon are sold in the dhonpota collection center and interested villagers of Betaga union. Buyers from Dhaka, Khulna and other districts are buying HVC (vegetable) from the collection point at the daily market price. Mr. Robiul sells his off season water melon and Rock melon at an average rate of BDT. 55.00 per kg. However, he earned BDT 2,78,300.00 by selling off season water melon and Rock melon. In total, he spent BDT 55,000.00 only for seeds, fertilizers, fencing, intercultural operation, etc. and net earned BDT 2,23,300.00 only. Maximum support he received from the SACP project, and besides, he turned it into an economically beneficial project with his contribution.

Observing the off season water melon and Rock melon demonstration nearby farmers became inspired to cultivate off season water melon and Rock melon from next season. His success has impacted the community of other farmers to cultivate the HVC. By this time the IFAD country director of Pakistan visited the Robiul Farm and also the FAO documentary team prepared a documentary on the Robiul success and posted the FAO website as a programme of World Food Day of 05 October 2023.

Robiul Islam adopted eco-friendly farming practices promoted by the SACP project, including proper spacing, organic compost use, and efficient irrigation techniques. These practices enhanced soil fertility, minimized pesticide use, and contributed to more sustainable farming in the area.
Robiul received technical guidance from the agriculture office to enhance farming efficiency. Project inputs reduced production costs. Training on marketing and post-harvest management enabled better income generation. Recognition as a demonstration farmer increased social status and leadership in the community.

For the future, Robiul plans to expand vegetable and fruit cultivation on more land and gradually adopt improved farming practices such as drip irrigation and mulching to reduce costs and increase productivity. He also aims to strengthen direct market linkages so that he can sell his produce at better prices and earn higher profits. Through these initiatives, Robiul hopes to create local employment opportunities and support other farmers in his community. He believes that with hard work, proper training, and timely guidance, even marginal land can be turned into a profitable farming venture. Robiul expressed deep gratitude to the SACP project, saying that its support has strengthened his skills, increased his confidence, and helped him move forward as a successful smallholder farmer.

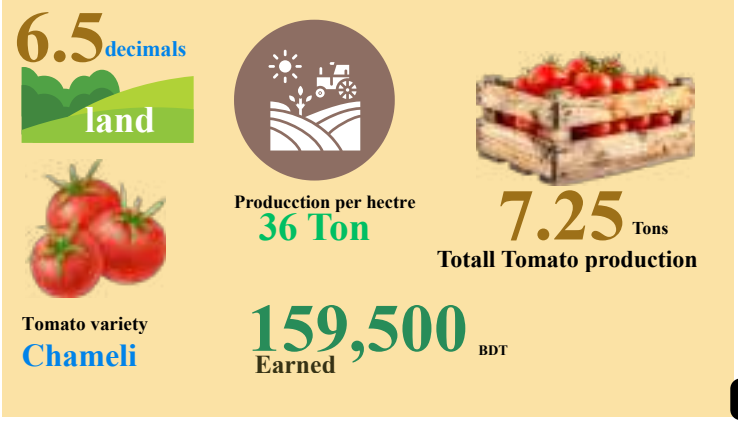


High-Valued Tomato Cultivation Transforms the Life of Abul Kalam

Md. Abul kalam is a 50-year-old farmer with education up to class five. He is the son of Late Kazem Ali Howlader and lives in Mojidpur village under Nilganj Union of Kalapara Upazila, Patuakhali district. Under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), Mr. Kalam is both a producer group member and a marketing group member, with a Beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 099.06.01.

Mr. Kalam is a smallholder farmer, owning only 66 decimals (0.66 acres) of land to support his family. To increase his family income, he also leases additional land to cultivate different types of high-value vegetables and crops. Agricultural farming in this area is highly challenging due to an acute shortage of cultivable land. Many lands remain fallow or are used for single-crop cultivation because of increased soil salinity during the dry (winter) season. As a result, green vegetables are scarce and expensive in the southern region, forcing local people to depend on imported vegetables from other parts of the country.
To address this issue, the SACP introduced high-value tomato cultivation in the area to create new income opportunities for local farmers. Inspired by this initiative, Mr. Kalam joined both a producer group and a marketing group to improve his income through the cultivation of high-value crops and better market linkages.

With the profits from tomato and chili sales, Mr. Kalam purchased 6.5 decimals of agricultural land. He also invested part of his earnings in his children's education and preparation for the next growing season. Based on his experience, it is expected that 5–10 neighboring farmers will adopt high-yielding tomato cultivation in the upcoming season, following his example.
Mr. Kalam's remarkable success has motivated his community to embrace high-value crop cultivation. Today, he is regarded as a local leader and role model, showing how innovative farming practices and proper support can transform the lives of smallholder farmers.



Before being selected as a demonstration farmer, Mr. Kalam received comprehensive hands-on training under the SACP, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Through this training, he gained in-depth knowledge of modern cultivation practices for various high-value crops, including tomato. He also received training on market linkages, post-harvest management, and primary processing of high-value crops. This knowledge enhanced his capacity for small-scale tomato production and helped him connect with potential markets.

In the fiscal year 2021-22, Mr. Kalam cultivated a high-yielding tomato variety (Chameli) on 50 decimals (0.50 acre) of land with technical and input support from the project. The Upazila Agriculture Office provided seeds, fertilizers, fencing materials, and other necessary resources to ensure successful production. With his hard work and the project's support, Mr. Kalam achieved remarkable results, producing 7.25 tons of tomatoes from just 50 decimals of land, which is equivalent to 36.0 tons per hectare.

"I cultivated high-yielding winter tomatoes using the Sarjan bed method and earned BDT 159,500 while spending BDT 40,000 during the last season.

Additionally, I expect to earn another BDT 40,000–50,000 from chili as an intercrop. I am grateful to the SACP project for providing timely training and input support.

---Md. Abul kalam, Farrmer, Kalapara, Patuakhali

The Mango Man of Kanchannagar
A Farmer's Story of Innovation and Inspiration

Kanchannagar village, nestled in the heart of Chandanaish upazila under Chattogram Distrcit, is now buzzing with the scent of ripening fruit and the hum of inspiration—thanks to one farmer's dream and determination. Now you can meet Mr. Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, a hardworking, courageous, and progressive farmer whose vision has turned once-neglected hills into a thriving hub of fruit production.

From a young age, Mr Amin held a deep passion for agriculture. His ancestral hills, though fertile, were overrun with weeds and left uncultivated. In FY 2019-20, under the guidance of Assistant Agriculture Officer and with the support of the SACP project and the Directorate of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Mr. Amin took the first bold step. He began high-value mango varieties on 50 decimals of land.

The results were nothing short of remarkable. In the third week of June 2023, the first batch of mangoes was harvested, followed by a second harvest in July 2024. With the support of agricultural experts and the application of climate-smart techniques, the fruit yield was impressive—450 kg in the first harvest and a staggering 4,800 kg in the second. The beautiful appearance and strong market demand of his mangoes brought in a total income of BDT 3,15,000.

While his total production cost amounted to approximately BDT 2,79,000, the return brought significant changes to Amin's life and livelihood.

Encouraged by his success, he expanded his fruit orchard, planting mangoes on 250 additional decimals and introducing other high-value fruits such as Katimon mangoes, Malta, oranges, DragonHe applied to get a mini truck from SACP Project through Dam part, through which his garden fruits can reach Chittagong very easily. He can also benefit from rent.

Currently, Amin's orchard is thriving with a diverse range of fruits. It has 200 mango trees, 30 Malta trees, and 80 dragon fruit plants that form the core of his cultivation. Alongside these, he has also planted 10 orange trees, 10 sapota plants, 10 Thai guava trees, and 20 pomelo trees, creating a vibrant and productive orchard that promises year-round harvests What makes Amin's story even more powerful is the ripple effect it has created in his community. Farmers from nearby areas, inspired by his success, have begun converting their own fallow lands into fruit gardens. Amin has become a mentor, encouraging his neighbours to become agri-entrepreneurs and adopt sustainable farming techniques.

He proudly shares that his orchard has elevated his family's socio-economic condition and given them a prosperous life. He aims to make a big Agro-farm someday. The Department of Agricultural Extension and the SACP project take pride in Amin's achievements, recognizing his role in transforming agriculture in the hills of Chandanaish. With dreams rooted deep and branches reaching high, Amin Ahmed Chowdhury stands as a living testament to what vision, hard work, and the right support can achieve in Bangladesh's evolving agricultural landscape

Shared Resources, Bigger Harvests: The CFC Effect in Sathkhira

The Common Facility Center under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) in Sultanpur village, Bharasimla Union, Kaliganj Upazilla, Sathkhira District, stands as a remarkable example of rural transformation. Established on 1st July 2023 on a 720-square-foot plot of land owned by Md. Abdul Sobur Biswas, the center serves as a hub for 50 farmers—32 men and 18 women—under the guidance of an operational committee of 18 members, 10 men and 8 women. The total investment included Tk. 1,55,000 from SACP and Tk. 1,43,000 contributed by the farmers themselves.

The Common Facility Center (CFC) is one of the most significant structure-based activities under SACP, designed to empower farmers with practical knowledge and skills in sustainable agricultural practices. It provides a platform for participatory learning, experimentation, and market linkage activities, resulting in increased yields, reduced pesticide use, and improved livelihoods. The center encourages group discussions among members to address technical and marketing challenges, collect produce, manage post-harvest processes such as cleaning, washing, grading, and packaging, and collectively negotiate better prices with market players, thereby strengthening their bargaining power and profitability.

The center is led by President Md. Abdul Sobur Biswas, a 61-year-old smallholder farmer, and General Secretary Md. Abdul Khalek Gazi, both embodying the struggles and aspirations of small-scale cultivators. After being selected as beneficiaries, they, along with other members, received comprehensive hands-on training on high-value crop production, climate-resilient techniques, and vermicompost production through SACP and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The CFC began with a simple meeting organized by the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO), bringing together representatives from several farmer groups. Initially uncertain, the farmers quickly became engaged as the SAAO explained that the program aimed to transform traditional farmers into agri-entrepreneurs through practical knowledge, market understanding, and business skills. This curiosity turned into participation, and the Bharasimla CFC was formed, bringing together 18 committed farmers who shared a common goal: to change the way they farmed and lived.

The CFC's approach is experiential and participatory, focusing on "learning by doing." Farmers attended structured sessions covering sustainable production, input selection, cost tracking, market dynamics, value chain analysis, post-harvest handling, safe food production, and entrepreneurship. Social, environmental, and climate assessments were integrated to ensure resilience and inclusivity. Through this program, farmers learned to establish market linkages, negotiate with buyers, understand safe food standards, improve grading and sorting, keep detailed records of income and expenses, manage surface water for irrigation, select climate-appropriate crops, and reduce post-harvest losses.

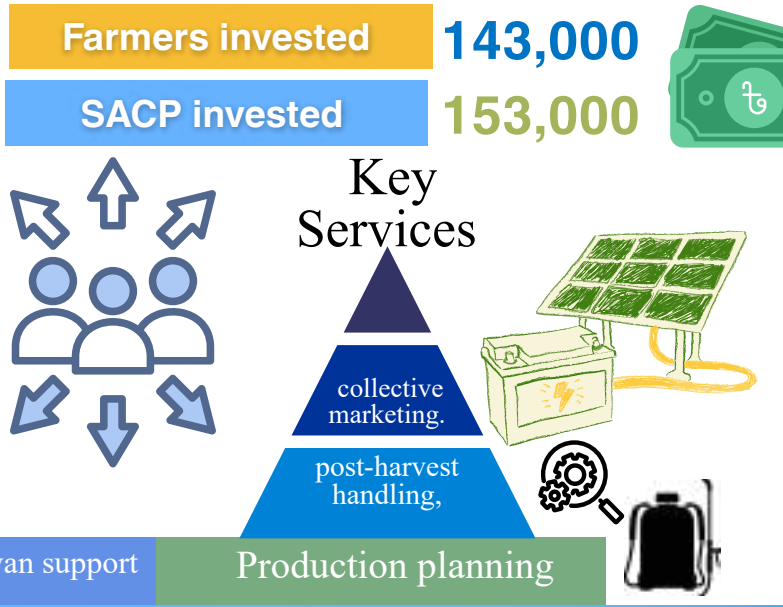
Abdur Razzak expanded from betel leaf farming into a thriving business, marketing directly to wholesale hubs in Sathkhira. Debprasad adopted modern brinjal farming techniques and now mentors fellow farmers. These individuals have evolved from smallholders into entrepreneurs, change-makers, and local leaders.
The collective growth of the CFC has been equally impressive.

All 18 members now practice advanced production planning, cost-benefit analysis, and crop diversification. Market linkages have strengthened, bargaining power has increased, and the group has gained visibility in the local value chain. Encouraged by their success, the group applied for a matching grant from SACP-DAM to procure a pickup van for transporting produce, symbolizing their evolution from subsistence farmers to agro-entrepreneurs. Neighboring farmers visit to learn from their achievements, motivated by the group's income improvements and lifestyle changes.

Members aim to establish the CFC as a comprehensive Agricultural Information Center and Agri-Business Hub, addressing production and market challenges while serving as a model for sustainable agriculture. As the president notes, before the CFC's establishment, farmers had no proper post-harvest facilities and managed their activities at home or in the open, compromising food safety.

Training at the CFC emphasized modern production practices, including high-value crops, market management, post-harvest handling, vermicompost production, and environmentally friendly techniques such as biological pest control, crop rotation, mulching paper, and pheromone traps. Motivational meetings and continuous training ensure that farmers remain engaged and adopt improved agricultural practices, sustaining the benefits of the project.

The CFC also functions as an agricultural information hub, providing access to machinery and resources at minimal charges and sometimes generating income through rental services. Profits are shared equitably among members and maintained in a joint bank account managed by the president, secretary, and cashier, currently exceeding Tk. 200,000.



Farmers Involved: 50 farmers (32 men, 18 women)
18-member management committee.

Joint bank savings exceed Tk. 2.0 lakh; applied for pickup van support

Impact: Stronger market linkage, higher bargaining power, and improved incomes

Successful Case Study of Hybrid Tomato Cultivation in the Field of Mohammed Saiyed

Mohammed Saiyed, a 46-year-old progressive and hardworking farmer from Santoshpur Union under Sandwip Upazila in Chattogram, has become a shining example of how dedication and innovation in agriculture can change lives. Though his formal education ended at class ten, his commitment to farming has made him a respected figure in his community

Saiyed lives in a large joint family of 18 members in a spacious eight-room pukka house. Within this household, his immediate family includes his wife, one son, and two daughters. His son and elder daughter are twins, both eight years old and currently studying in class two, while his youngest daughter is just three years old.Farming is his main occupation, supported by livestock and poultry rearing. On his 300 decimals (3 acres) of cultivable land, he grows rice, fruits, and seasonal vegetables. Alongside crops, he maintains 10 cows and about 30 ducks and chickens, which not only ensure household nutrition but also provide supplementary income.

Saiyed's farming journey took a transformative turn when he became involved witht SACP. He joined as a member of the Producer and Marketing Group (BID No. 189.30.1), where he received repeated rounds of hands-on training under the guidance of the Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) and Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers (SAAOs). The training exposed him to modern farming practices, high-value crop cultivation, market management, and post-harvest processing. These interventions gave him the confidence to shift from traditional low-yielding crops to more profitable, market-driven agriculture.

Armed with new skills, Saiyed decided to demonstrate the cultivation of hybrid tomato (variety: Bhahuboli) during the 2023–24 rabi season. He allocated 50 decimals (0.50 acre) of his land for the crop and, with project support, received quality seeds, fertilizers, mulching film, trellis materials, and technical assistance. Working closely with SAAOs, he followed modern practices with diligence, and within 90 to 120 days the crop matured, resulting in a rewarding harvest.From this half-acre of land, Saiyed harvested 1,500 kilograms of tomatoes.

He sold them at Tk. 75 per kilogram, earning a gross income of Tk. 112,500. His production costs—including seeds, fertilizers, mulching film, trellis, fencing, irrigation, and labour—amounted to Tk. 75,000, leaving him with a net profit of Tk. 37,500. This was a significant achievement, as it proved to him and others the profitability of high-value crops.

Rather than spending his earnings on immediate consumption, Saiyed invested wisely. From his profit, he leased 80 decimals (0.80 acre) of land for three years to expand his cultivation, while the remaining money went toward household needs, particularly the education and well-being of his children. His decision reflected a forward-looking vision for sustainable growth.

Saiyed's livelihood system is now diversified and resilient. His household benefits from rice, vegetables, and fruit crops grown on both owned and leased land, while his 10 cows provide milk for family use and local sale. Around 30 ducks and chickens contribute eggs and meat, ensuring food security and regular cash flow. His family enjoys the comfort of their pukka home, though sanitation facilities are modest with a semi-pit toilet. In terms of marketing, he faces no difficulty selling his produce, which is easily purchased by local wholesalers (paikers).

The impact of his success has spread beyond his household. Inspired by Saiyed's demonstration, a neighbouring farmer named Mahafujur Rahman cultivated hybrid tomatoes on 70 decimals (0.70 acre). Mahafujur harvested 2,000 kilograms of tomatoes, selling them for Tk. 150,000. After covering his production cost of Tk. 100,500, he earned a net profit of Tk. 49,500. This ripple effect demonstrates the multiplier impact of SACP-supported demonstration farmers: one farmer's success encourages many others to adopt improved technologies.

Today, Mohammed Saiyed has become a respected leader in his community. Farmers from his village and nearby areas visit him for advice on crop management, marketing, and reinvestment strategies. He openly shares his experiences, telling others, "By following proper guidelines and adopting modern techniques, farmers can easily achieve higher yields and profits." His leadership and generosity have positioned him as an agent of change in Santoshpur Union.

Cauliflower Cultivation: A Life-Changing Fortune of Nazmul Hossain

In West Debpur village under Mohamaya Union, Feni District, the fields tell a story of transformation, and at its heart stands 53-year-old Nazmul Hossain. Despite not owning any farmland, Nazmul has carved a successful path in vegetable cultivation through sheer determination, resilience, and a forward-looking approach that has earned him respect among local farmers.

Nazmul lives with his four-member family—his wife, a son, and a daughter—both of whom are pursuing higher education. His son is in B.A. second year, and his daughter is in B.A. third year. Beyond their studies, they actively assist their father in farming operations, helping with harvesting and packaging vegetables. The family resides in a modest tin-shed house with tin fencing, relying on a motorized pump for safe drinking water and practicing good sanitation. To supplement the household income, Nazmul also rears 70 chickens, providing eggs, meat, and extra earnings.

Farming is Nazmul's sole occupation, and he cultivates crops on three acres of leased and sharecropped land, dedicating two acres to vegetables including tomato, cauliflower, and cabbage. His transformation as a farmer began with active participation in the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) under the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). As a registered member of group SACP238.17.02, Nazmul's keen interest in high-value crops, particularly cauliflower, and the suitability of his land led to his selection as a demonstration farmer.

From SACP he received high-quality Snow White cauliflower seeds, fertilizers, ploughing support, technical training, and regular field visits from the Upazila Agriculture Officer and the Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer.

This guidance boosted his confidence and technical skills, and he frequently maintains close contact with DAE officers to stay updated on crop management

In the 2023–24 rabi season, Nazmul cultivated 50 decimals of leased land for cauliflower, investing Tk. 25,200 to cover lease payments, labor, irrigation, fertilizers, compost, and pesticides. Following advice from SAAOs, he employed balanced fertilization, organic compost including vermicompost, proper intercultural operations, and natural insecticides, committing himself to producing safe, high-quality vegetables. He proudly emphasizes that his cauliflower is "one of the safest vegetables for human consumption."

The harvest exceeded expectations. From the half-acre plot, Nazmul gathered 6,072 kilograms of Snow White cauliflower, selling it at Tk. 22 per kilogram. With a total gross income of Tk. 121,440 and production costs of Tk. 25,200, he earned a net profit of Tk. 96,240.

This success brought immense satisfaction to his family and reinforced the viability of high-value vegetable cultivation. Selling mainly to local markets and wholesalers reduced marketing challenges, and being among the first cauliflower growers in Mohamaya allowed him to capture favorable prices.

Nazmul's farming model involves his family directly, particularly during harvesting and packaging, which also minimizes labor costs. His poultry further contributes to household nutrition and income. While he faces seasonal price fluctuations and occasional irrigation challenges, Nazmul remains optimistic and reinvests part of his profit to lease additional land for future cultivation.

A Field of Fortune: Shamol's Story of Watermelon and Willpower

On the vast stretches of Charsharot village of Ichakhali union , under the golden haze of a Chattagram summer, a patch of land whispers a new story. It belongs to Shamol Chandra Das — a 32-year-old farmer with sun on his shoulders and hope in his eyes.

Shamol belongs to a large joint family of ten members, including his parents, brother, wife, four children, and close relatives. His two sons are the joy of his life: the elder is in class three, while the younger is just three years old. The family lives in a semi-pukka four-room house with access to safe water from a deep tube-well and proper sanitation facilities. Alongside crops, Shamol manages 30 ducks and chickens and rears two dairy cows. On his own 70 decimals of land, supplemented by leased and sharecropped plots, he runs a mixed farming system. Yet, it was watermelon that proved to be the real turning point in his livelihood.

His association with SACP opened new opportunities. As an active member of the Charsharot SACP Male Farmer Group-1, his interest in watermelon farming and the suitability of his land led to his selection as a demonstration farmer. With the project's support, he received improved seeds, fertilizer, compost, cash assistance, and regular technical advice. To complement this, Shamol himself invested Tk. 51,720 for leased land, labor, irrigation, pesticides, and other essential inputs. The mix of institutional support and his own determination set the stage for success.

The results were remarkable. From just 50 decimals of land, Shamol harvested 1,305 watermelons. Each piece sold at prices ranging between Tk. 95 and 110, earning him a total of Tk. 130,500. After deducting his investment, he made a net profit of Tk. 78,780 — a life-changing return from a half-acre plot. For his family, this income brought both happiness and security.

Marketing, often a challenge for small farmers, proved easier for Shamol thanks to his smart approach. By selling part of his produce directly to local wholesalers at the farm gate, he avoided transportation costs and time loss. He also sold in nearby markets, fetching slightly higher prices. This balance ensured that his produce was sold quickly and profitably without any marketing hassle.

The financial gains from watermelon have already reshaped Shamol's household economy. With his profit, he leased more land to expand cultivation and invested in food, education, and healthcare for his family. His confidence has also grown: he now plans to try other high-value crops such as mung bean, mustard, and chili, while also expanding his livestock resources.

His demonstration plot quickly became a source of inspiration in the village. Farmers and even local journalists visit regularly to see his methods in action. Many were particularly impressed with his use of pheromone traps, compost, and improved seed varieties. At least three nearby farmers have already adopted watermelon cultivation after observing his success.

Watermelon is a delicate crop that demands careful attention to soil, pest control, and market timing. Shamol took this challenge seriously, adopting modern practices recommended by DAE officials. He applied fertilizers in a balanced way, combining organic compost with chemical inputs to strengthen soil fertility.

hamol acknowledges that risks remain. The high upfront costs of leasing land and purchasing inputs, coupled with weather challenges like heavy rainfall, are ongoing concerns. Yet his close link with DAE officials and his willingness to innovate give him confidence to overcome these obstacles.

Today, Shamol Chandra Das is seen not just as a successful farmer but as a role model in Ichakhali Union. His story shows how modern agricultural practices, combined with project support and farmer determination, can turn farming into a profitable enterprise. From a modest half-acre plot, he earned Tk. 78,780 in net profit — but more importantly, he earned a future filled with possibilities.
In Mirsharai's fields, Shamol's watermelons are more than just fruits of the soil. They symbolize resilience, ambition, and the promise of a better life — not only for his family but also for the farming community around him.

Before, I thought this land would only help us survive. After getting seeds and guidance from SACP, I gained confidence. Now I can see with my own eyes that watermelon farming changed the fate of my family.

-Shamol Chandra Das, Farmer, Ichakhali

An Eye-Catching Yield of Jujube in Hasnain's Field

In the heart of Charfession Upazila of Bhola district, a young farmer named Mr. Hasnain, son of Md. Saiful Islam, has become a shining example of success through his dedication and resilience. At just 23 years old, this energetic and ambitious young man, educated up to the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) level, has emerged as a beacon of hope for smallholder farmers in his region.

He lives in Hajarigonj village under Hajarigonj Union with his parents, two brothers, and one sister. Both of his brothers and his sister are students, while his parents manage the household. Until recently, his family lived in a small tin-shed house with only two rooms, reflecting the modest means they had.

Since 2015, Hasnain had been engaged in seasonal vegetable farming on his 80 decimals (about 0.80 acres) of land. He experimented with different high-value crops, always striving to maximize output from his limited resources. However, the turning point in his farming journey came in November 2019 when the Upazila Agriculture Office, through the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), formed a producer group using PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal). Hasnain joined as a member, marking his formal engagement with the project. Later, he was selected as a demonstration farmer under SACP, with the Beneficiary Identification (BID) number SACP 069.40.13, becoming part of both the producer and marketing groups created under the initiative.

Before venturing into jujube cultivation, Hasnain received extensive hands-on training through SACP. These sessions equipped him with modern agricultural knowledge, including crop planning, market access, post-harvest handling, and primary processing. Inspired by the training, he decided to cultivate the Ball Sundari variety of jujube during the 2021–22 fiscal year. This variety was produced from mature grafted saplings, meaning that fruits could be harvested the very next year, ensuring faster returns. With support from SACP, he received seedlings, fertilizers, fencing materials, and other inputs for 50 decimals of land. Motivated, he added another 30 decimals from his own resources, planting a total of 80 decimals with jujube.

In his first season, Hasnain invested BDT 80,000 to cover expenses such as seedlings, fertilizers, mulching film, trellis setup, intercultural operations, and marketing. By the end of the season, he earned BDT 1,20,000 from sales, securing a profit of BDT 40,000. Encouraged by this initial success, he expanded his cultivation by leasing an additional 48 decimals of land, bringing his total jujube orchard to 128 decimals. This decision proved transformative. With production from the mature grafted saplings, his yield soared to around 5,833 kilograms.

At an average market price of BDT 120 per kilogram, his income reached BDT 7,00,000. After deducting input costs of BDT 1,00,000, his net profit stood at BDT 6,00,000. With such earnings, Hasnain invested in building a brick house for his family, replacing the old tin structure, and also supported the education of his younger siblings.The flourishing orchard did not just transform Hasnain's own life; it began to inspire many around him. Dozens of neighbouring farmers, motivated by his success, are now preparing to cultivate jujube in the upcoming season. Hasnain has become a respected agricultural leader in his village, with fellow farmers seeking his advice and guidance.

Of course, the journey was not without challenges. Initially, Hasnain struggled with limited capital, as well as doubts from some villagers who considered jujube a risky crop. Moreover, pest management and market uncertainties posed hurdles.

However, with the training and resources provided by SACP, along with his own determination, he overcame these difficulties by adopting integrated pest management practices, keeping proper records of his costs and earnings, and building strong market linkages through the project's marketing officers.

Looking ahead, Hasnain aims to establish himself as a resource person for his community, helping more farmers adopt climate-resilient practices and modern techniques. His vision is not just personal growth but to ensure that Charfession, once seen as a remote and struggling island, becomes known for its thriving high-value agriculture.

Imam Hossain: On the Path to Prosperity through Lemon Farming

Imam Hossain, a farmer from Datmara Union of Fatikchhari Upazila in Chattogram district, started his journey in lemon farming in 2012 without any formal training. A poverty-stricken family of 6, including his wife and children, lived in a dilapidated and broken house. It was difficult for him to pay for the education of his children.

There was no sanitary toilet and safe water system. With an investment of only 2,000 taka, he bought 300 seedlings and began cultivating lemons on one acre of land. For several years, his farming brought only a small profit despite his hard work.

At a critical point in 2020, he came into contact with a Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer and joined an organized farmers' group "Balutila Krishak Dal" under the SACP project. Through the Department of Agricultural Extension, Fatikchhari, he received training and guidance on modern lemon farming and marketing techniques. Applying this knowledge, he increased both his capital and land, and started cultivating lemons on five acres using grafted seedlings and modern methods. With regular advice from the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer, his year-round production of different varieties of lemons increased significantly, meeting the growing market demand.

By avoiding middlemen and delivering lemons directly to buyers and consumers, Imam Hossain retained the lion's share of the profit. In 2025, his lemon farm has expanded to 10 acres. After deducting all expenses, his annual profit from selling lemons and grafted seedlings amounts to about 6–7 lakh taka.
Encouraged by seeing his garden, 7 farmers in the area are currently cultivating the same type of lemon.
There is a serious shortage of irrigation water in the area. They solve the problem by adopting modern irrigation methods.
The dilapidated and broken house has now been improved. The children regularly go to school and college. Sanitary toilets and safe water have been arranged.
Through lemon farming, Imam Hossain has not only improved his own financial condition but also created employment opportunities for several young men and women in his village. Currently, 5 workers are working regularly in his garden.

As a result, the overall socio-economic condition of the area has improved. Inspired by his success, many other farmers in the village have taken up lemon farming, and Imam Hossain now provides them with technical advice and guidance.
Imam Hossain says: "With proper planning, hard work, and the application of modern technology, even a simple initiative like lemon farming can be transformed into extraordinary success."
His future plans are to expand the size of the lemon garden, grow more different types of crops and create employment for more unemployed people.

The Story of Two Educated Young Men Becoming Successful Agricultural Entrepreneurs

Abdul Halim and Osman Gani, two college-educated friends, are residents of Chikonkhil, a remote village in the border area of 1 No. Bagan Bazar Union, Fatikchhari Upazila, Chattogram. Both completed their postgraduate studies under the National University at Feni Government College—Abdul Halim in Economics in 2023 and Osman Gani in Management in 2024. However, their story is unlike that of ordinary youths in society.

In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic brought everything to a standstill, they returned to their village after leaving college. Initially considering how to pass idle time, they were inspired to take up farming. Subsequently, with the support of the SACP project and the Department of Agricultural Extension, Fatikchhari, the two friends received training on modern vegetable cultivation techniques suitable for the hilly fringe areas of Fatikchhari.

Applying the knowledge and technology gained from this training, they started vegetable farming on one acre of mortgaged land in their village. Encouraged by initial success, they gradually increased the mortgaged land and developed a 5-acre lush vegetable garden named Rupai Valley Agro Farm. Today, Rupai Valley Agro Farm has also become a hands-on training center for agricultural entrepreneurs across the country.
In 2024, the SACP project provided them with a pick-up van to expand their income and make vegetable transportation more efficient. The van is now being used regularly and effectively.

Currently, they are cultivating various fruits and vegetables throughout the year on 8 acres of land. Earning hundreds of thousands of taka annually, they have proven that agriculture is a promising industry. Their initiative has also created employment opportunities for several local unemployed youths. Agricultural entrepreneurs from home and abroad, government and non-government officials, as well as members of print and electronic media, regularly visit their farm and report on their project. Local farmers are now also inspired to apply these experiences and achieve success. Through the Department of Agriculture, their model has spread nationwide.

Recently, they were recognized at the national level as exemplary children of successful safe vegetable producers. They have also received honors at the district level in Chattogram. Leaving behind the pursuit of government jobs or opportunities abroad, their sole focus is now on cultivating and marketing fully green and healthy vegetable farms. Their mission is to provide the people of the country with pesticide-free, safe vegetables, and they are firmly committed to achieving it.

With the government emphasizing safe food production, the success of Rupai Valley Agro Farm in producing safe vegetables is excellent news for the entire nation. These two educated young men have achieved groundbreaking success in agriculture without chasing conventional jobs—a truly exemplary achievement.

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A tale of Masudur Rahman who challenges physical disability

In the Mukundapur village of Bishnupur union, Kaliganj Upazila, Sathkhira District a person who is Physically disabled but hard worker 48 years aged Md. Masudur Rahman (Jadu Bhai) has set an exemplary example by loving agriculture with his indomitable willpower and deep love for the soil and nature.He has a 05 member's family, including one son and two daughters and his wife.
Under SACP, he is a member of the producer group with the Beneficiary Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 022-19-11, Mobile no-01714572286, fathers Name-Md. Abu Musa. used to create garden-only country fruits varieties.

He has established himself as a successful agricultural entrepreneur with his passion, hobby and by using his talent, creativity and hard work. He has won praise from the entire area for his various fruit farming. His hobby of establishing garden has now become a great source of income.

He planned from the very beginning of his life, when he was a student of Higher secondary School. From then started to build some fruit gardens on two acres of land. In order to implement it according to the plan, he started collecting fruit seedlings of various species from different places.

With proper training, guidance from Upazilla Agriculture Officer and Sub Assistant Agricultural Officer, Md. Masudur Rahman came to know about G9 banana, a high-yielding variety, has seen significant success in Bangladesh with farmers experiencing increased profits. This success is attributed to the distribution of G9 seedlings, comprehensive training on cultivation and marketing, and establishing market linkages.

In 2023-24 I engaged with the SACP project, received 200 pc of G9 seedlings, required fertilizer, necessary guidance from UAO & SAAO, and started G9 banana garden."

"Said Md. Masudur Rahman

He invests total tk.35000 to banana garden, which is very reasonable. And he has earned more than tk.2,00, 000.He and her son also practice intercropping Cucumber and ginger with banana, earned tk.25000 through the year.
The success of G9 banana cultivation has generated significant interest among other farmers, indicating a potential for wider adoption.

He also said that the G9 variety is known for its high yield, enabling farmers to produce more bananas per unit of land compared to other varieties. Other Farmers feeling interest to cultivate G9 bananas because the variety have reported doubling their earnings, making it a more profitable venture.
Initiatives like the DAE and SACP project have played a crucial role by providing seedlings, training, and market access. The project has facilitated connections between farmers and suppliers, ensuring a sustainable supply chain for G9 banana seedlings.

The success of G9 banana cultivation demonstrates the potential of introducing high-yielding varieties and providing farmers with the necessary support and market access to improve their livelihoods. Here Masudur Rahman sets an example that physical disability is not a barrier to success in the agriculture sector.

For example, one farmer in Kaliganj reported a profit of Tk 0.25 million in the previous year, and expects even more this year due to higher market prices. Many farmers are shifting from other crops to banana cultivation due to its consistent demand and good price in the market,

Other farmers are adopting modern methods and taking advice from agricultural extension officials to improve their yields and practices. Young entrepreneurs are also getting involved in banana farming, indicating a growing interest in this sector. Farmers are also focusing on sustainable practices, including using their own methods for ripening and marketing.

Following Masudur Rahman, many cultivators of Bishnupur, Khushalia, Nalta, Bharasimla union felt interested to start G-9 banana cultivation and they hoped to get best production and reasonable priceHousewives Aftalun Begum, Khurshida Begum, Rahela and Sultana Pervin of the nearest village also started banana cultivation to eliminate their poverty.

The farmers of the other areas collect G-9 banana saplings from Masudur Rahman Jadu Bhai's banana garden. Momtaz Begum, Age-50, one of the marginal farmers of Mukundapur village, this year, she brought 50 decimal lands under banana cultivation. This year she cultivated bananas on two bighas of land and is expecting good production.

Some farmers are even selling their bananas directly from the farm or at local markets, cutting out middlemen and increasing their profits.
Now he is using his profit to repair his old building and invest in to increase fruit and vegetables production with the guidance of Upazila Agriculture Office. Now he is planning to increase the area of various fruit gardens.

G-9 is a new era in this area so farmers have doubts about its success. Also, it requires close monitoring about fertilizing, using pesticides, and management of gardens. It is a climate-smart and high-yielding variety which are focused on addressing challenges related to banana cultivation, such as environment-friendly the use of chemicals, infections, and climate change.

Kazi Mamun: Fulfilling Dreams through Integrated Farming

Kazi Mamun, a visionary young man from Paindong Union of Fatikchhari Upazila in Chattogram district, dreamed of establishing himself not by chasing jobs but by setting up an integrated farm. After completing his education, he decided to turn this dream into reality. His family consists of parents, 1 son, 1 daughter and wife.

In early 2020, with the support of a Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer, he became a member of a farmers' group "Dakshin Paindang Krishak-Krishani Dol" formed under the SACP project. This opened a new horizon in his life. He regularly participated in various modern agricultural training programs organized by the Department of Agricultural Extension, the Department of Fisheries, and the Department of Livestock, Fatikchhari.

Using the knowledge gained from these trainings, he began cultivating different improved varieties of fruits —such as mango, orange, guava, jujube, and malta—on five acres of his own land as part of his integrated farm. He also cultivated various vegetables, including beans, long beans, bottle gourd, and spices like ginger and turmeric. Later, alongside the orchard, he started fish farming in ponds, producing species such as rohu, catla, tilapia, kalbaush, and pangas. At the same time, he reared improved dairy cattle breeds like Red Chittagong, Jersey, Sahiwal, and Friesian.

As a result, the same piece of land generated crops, fish, milk, profit, and employment opportunities simultaneously.

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By 2025, his farm had expanded to 31 acres, producing delicious fruits, fish, and milk throughout the year. This made him self-reliant, brought prosperity to his family, and showed the local community a new path toward development. His initiative also created employment opportunities for several unemployed and underprivileged people. On an average, 8-10 workers work on his farm every day.

Within his means, he has built a unique and shining example of success. Mamun believes: "With hard work and dedication, success is possible even in the village. There is no need to run after the city—villages themselves can become centers of prosperity."

He expressed his gratitude to the SACP project and the Department of Agricultural Extension, Fatikchhari. Looking ahead, he plans to expand his orchard, fish farming, and livestock rearing on an even larger scale.
His future plans- "To establish agro-tourism in his garden"

With hard work and dedication some support , even a small farm in the village can bring prosperity, jobs, and hope.

You don't always need to go to the city—our villages can grow, thrive, and provide for our families.

-Kazi Mamun, Agroprenuer,Fatikchhari

Solar pump with drip irrigation system moves a community to sustainable irrigation efficiency

Uzzal Hossain 43 years aged Father-Kausar Ali Gazi, BID SACP 018-07-02 is fundamentally a smallholder farmer embodying only four bighas) of cultivable land. He has been living in the Shankarkati village, Kashimari Union of Shyamnagar Upazilla under the Sathkhira District with his six members family, one son, one daughter, wife and his family.

Before being selected as a demonstration farmer, he received comprehensive hands-on training on High Value Crop production under the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). As a result, he learned good detail about modern production practices regarding various Vermi-Compost and high-value crops. Also, he gathered knowledge on market management, post-harvest management and primary processing of high-value crops from another marketing-related training under the project.

Earlier in this area, farmers including Uzzal Hossain used electrical or diesel-powered irrigation pumps which faced some challenges including high fuel costs, environmental concerns, and the risk of saline water intrusion. The increasing demand on groundwater through tube wells and shallow machine (diesel engine/electricity operated) increased irrigation cost, dependency on availability of fuel or electricity supply, salinity in the soil and water, contributing to air pollution which have bad effects regarding environmental issues.

He discussed with DAE and BADC staff about the problems. In the last fiscal year (2020-21) dated on 27/07/21, BADC took the initiative to set up a solar pump with the necessary inputs and technical support by the project. After setting up solar pumps, combined with drip irrigation, have significantly boosted vegetable production and his livelihoods. These systems already offered a cost-effective, reliable, and sustainable irrigation solution, leading to increased yields, reduced costs, and more free time for farmers to pursue other income-generating activities.

The matter of costs to purchase diesel fuel, but solar-powered pumps are a realistic choice in the context of sustainable agricultural practices.Again groundwater level decreases due to excessive pumping from by boring tube wells is a major concern, especially in this area. As a result, salinity problems increase.

Also diesel pumps are not sustainable in the long run due to rising fuel costs and environmental impacts.Considering the issues, he is asking alternative and sustainable irrigation practices, regarding cost such as solar-powered irrigation systems. efficient water management techniques, and exploring surface water irrigation options.

As Solar-powered pumps depend fully on sunshine, drip irrigation can significantly reduce dependency or electricity on diesel, lower fuel costs, and minimize environmental impact. Adopting technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation can further enhance water use efficiency. By using this technique it's easy to practice alternate wetting and drying (AWD), which can reduce water consumption without compromising crop yields.

It reduces excessive use of surface water which can help reduce the pressure on groundwater resources.Now the farmers of this group can cultivate multiple crops per year, including off-season vegetables, due to the reliable water supply, leading to higher incomes

Solar pumps eliminate the need for expensive diesel fuel, significantly lowering irrigation expenses and increasing profitability.

> "Solar pump with drip irrigation system is a sustainable solution for cost reduction that leads to profit maximisation."
>
> -Uzzal Hossain

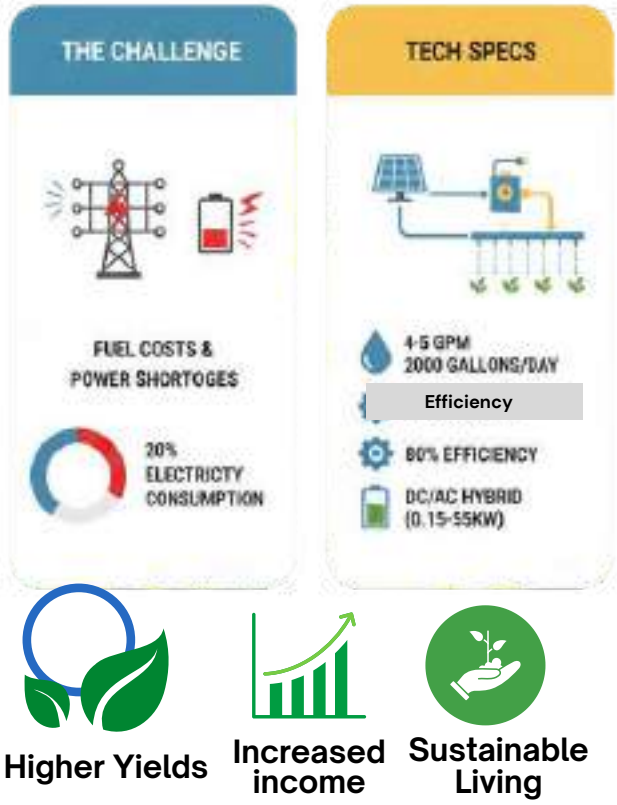
Consistent water supply and the ability to manage irrigation precisely with drip irrigation systems contribute to better crop growth and higher yields. Savings from reduced irrigation costs and increased yields allow farmers to invest in other ventures like livestock and improve their overall standard of living. The pumps can pump at the rate 4 to 5 gallon per minute in full sun for about 2000 gallon per day.

The 80% efficiency of the solar pump is produced by solar radiation, which helps to increase the service life of the pump by blending power input from solar panels, it's connected by DC and AC power, which supports inverters to extend from 0.15 to 55KW for larger irrigation.Overall, the adoption of solar pumps, combined with drip irrigation pipe systems and efficient excavation, has proven to be a transformative technology in this area's agricultural sector, leading to increased productivity, improved livelihoods, and sustainable agricultural practices.

However, farmers usually use irrigation pumps to supply adequate water for their crops where the fuel-based traditional irrigation system is still popular with most of the farmers in the country's agriculture. During the peak season of irrigation, about 20% of our total produced electricity is used by the farmers. As a result, there is a short supply of electricity in many areas of the country, especially at the time of irrigation.

Now the farmers are planning to increase their vegetable production area. So that they can utilize the maximum power of the Solar pump and be able to change their livelihood and economic status.

As part of sustainable agricultural development, the solar-run irrigation system has a high potential value in terms of previous sustainability benefits. In this development, the opportunity for solar power conversion into energy promotes the access of farmers to continuous energy supply which is significantly needed for an agricultural drive.



From Garments Worker to Successful Farmer: The Inspiring Journey of Md. Sazzad Hossen

Md. Sazzad Hossen is a 37 years old young man and progressive farmer from Basbuniha village in Kataliha Upazila of Jhalokathi District. His household consists of four members, including his wife and two children, and they rely primarily on farming as their main source of livelihood.

Mr. Sazzad became a member of 09 no. Basbuniha SACP Farmer producer group from 2019 and started modern agricultural activities through Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) with BID Number SACP 036.35.07. After considering his interest and qualifications Upazila Agriculture Office appointment as a Lead Farmer under SACP Project. He cultivates 220 decimals of agricultural land including his own 120 decimal and lease 100 decimal, where he primarily focuses on the production of high-value crops. Mr. Sazzad has become a promising example of a progressive smallholder farmer in his community.

Before joining SACP, Md. Sazzad Hossen faced a life filled with hardship and uncertainty. After the death of both his parents, he was forced to leave his village of Bashbuniha in search of work and a way to support his family. With only a Secondary School Certificate (SSC), he moved to Dhaka and took a low-paying job in a garment factory. Despite the difficult conditions, he tried to maintain stability for his young family after marriage and the birth of his two children.

In 2019, Mr. Sazzad joined the Farmers Producer Group and observing his enthusiasm and potential, the Upazila Agriculture Office selected him as a Lead Farmer.

He received practical training in modern cultivation practices through SACP, particularly in high-value vegetables. As a demonstration farmer, he received technical and financial support from the Upazila Agriculture Office. The project supplied him with high-yielding variety seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, fencing materials, essential agricultural tools and inputs for cauliflower cultivation

After receiving training and support, he cultivated the “White Mountain” variety of cauliflower on 50 decimals of land in the 2021-22 fiscal year. With 6,000 seedlings planted, he harvested 4,800 kg of cauliflower and sold it at an average rate of Tk. 32/kg, earning Tk. 153600. After deducting expenses of tk. 40000, he made a net profit of tk. 113600. Encouraged by this success, Mr. Sazzad expanded to cultivate other crops such as eggplant, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, spiny gourd, off-season watermelon, banana, and oil crops. His consistent profits enabled him to purchase land, renovate his house, and ensure financial stability for his family.

However, the rising cost of living and lack of long-term opportunities in the city pushed him to return to his ancestral village. Back home, he found himself without a source of income, limited agricultural knowledge, and a future that seemed uncertain. Though he had 120 decimals of own land available, he lacked the technical know-how and resources to use it effectively. At this point of despair, he turned to agriculture, seeking guidance from the local agriculture office to explore a new beginning.

> **I never imagined I could change my life through farming. The support from SACP and the Agriculture Office gave me the skills, confidence, and resources I needed. My wife has been my biggest support, helping me in every step. Today, I feel proud that I can provide for my family and inspire others in my village. Agriculture has given me a new identity.**
>
> -Md. Sazzad Hossen

Mr. Sazzad adopted eco-friendly farming practices promoted by the SACP project, including proper spacing, organic compost use, and efficient irrigation techniques. These practices enhanced soil fertility, minimized pesticide use, and contributed to more sustainable farming in the area.

Besides training and inputs, Mr. Sazzad gained leadership skills and recognition as a role model in his community. His designation as a Lead Farmer gave him opportunities to guide other farmers and participate in agricultural fairs and knowledge-sharing events organized by DAE and SACP. In addition, he gained valuable, practical knowledge on agricultural product marketing by participating in the Farmer Business School (FBS) program. Through this initiative, he learned how to determine appropriate pricing for his produce, analyze market trends, and identify the best time to sell for maximum profit.

As a result, the FBS program helped him effectively market his farm produce and improve his overall profitability. He actively participated in the Field Day programs organized under the project, where he was introduced to new crop varieties, modern farming technologies, and improved production techniques. These field-level demonstrations gave him firsthand exposure and inspired him to adopt new methods in his own farming, which led to better yields and reduced production costs.
For the future, Mr. Sazzad plans to further expand the cultivation of high-value vegetables and fruits by leasing additional land. In addition, he intends to strengthen collective marketing with fellow group members to secure better prices and ensure sustainable income growth for his family and community.

Turning the Soil, Changing a Life: The Remarkable Success of Farmer Badiul Alam in Brinjal Cultivation

In the heart of East Chechuria block, under Bailchari union in Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram, a farmer has transformed not just his own livelihood but also the mindset of his entire community. Mr. Badiul Alam, son of Late Fazal Karim, is now celebrated as a shining example of how modern agriculture, paired with the right guidance and hard work, can yield extraordinary success.

With the support of SACP and close technical assistance from the DAE, Banshkhali, Mr. Alam cultivated 50 decimals of high-value Lalita variety brinjal in the 2023–24 Rabi season. From seed sowing in September to planting in October and harvesting until March 2024, his journey was carefully nurtured with expert supervision—especially from Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO), who guided him every step of the way.

The results were surprising. Mr. Alam harvested 4,612 kilograms of brinjal over the season. At a wholesale price of BDT 30 per kg, he earned a total revenue of BDT 1,38,360, while his total expenses stood at just BDT 30,700. That meant a net profit of BDT 1,07,660—a life-changing amount for a smallholder farmer.

With his earnings, Badiul Alam leased 5 bighas of land, purchased a milk cow, covered the educational expenses of his children, paid for family medical costs, and even started saving in a bank—a sign of long-term planning and financial stability.

His success story has become a beacon for the local farming community. Fellow farmers, once hesitant about cultivating high-value crops like brinjal, are now inspired by his achievements and are coming forward to do the same. Mr. Alam is proud to serve as a mentor, regularly advising others and advocating for improved agricultural practices. Today, he is a respected figure in his village, a leader in innovation, and a vocal supporter of the SACP project's mission.

Badiul Alam said , " with the support of SACP, by following proper guidelines, I've built something meaningful. My family is happier, and my community sees me in a new light. The Department of Agricultural Extension, Banshkhali, shares this pride, as Mr. Alam's success reflects their commitment to uplifting smallholder farmers through training, demonstration, and the adoption of climate-smart and profitable crop varieties.

As Badiul Alam continues to grow his agricultural enterprise, his journey remains a testament to what's possible when opportunity meets hard work.

The success story of Mr. Jahangir Alam by using advanced agricultural technology to become an agricultural entrepreneur

Md. Jahangir Alam is a progressive farmer from Kashua village of Boroma union. He has been involving in agricultural work for a long time.

He is a member of Kashua SACP farmers group. Seeing his interest to Agriculture, the Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) provided him training on high value crops (Off Season Water Melon) under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) and gave him demonstration (50 decimal) in the fiscal year 2023-24. He got maximum profit from the bumper yield of that demonstration. Being profitable, he planned to produce off season water melon commercially.

Jahangir along with his friends decided together, they will lease the abandoned land where lease price is low and their main objective is that they will become agricultural entrepreneurs.

Mr. Jahangir is a group leader. Hasimpur union is hilly area. The land here is mostly uncultivated. Due to hilly area, there is one season of cultivation in a year. His purpose is to use the abandoned land besides the lease value of the land is low. So, advice of DAE, he leased 10 hectare (2470 decimal) of unused fallow land in Sayadabad village of Hasimpur Union & started farming. Not only that, he set up a vermin compost production plant on the advice of agriculture department.

Vermi-compost (organic fertilizer) is very useful and effective in vegetable and fruit gardens also for soil health. So can be used the produced fertilizer in his crops. by using advanced agricultural technology on the advice of local office. Such as HVC Improved Fruits Variety, Sex - Pheromone Trap, Yellow Sticky Trap, vermin compost used, Poly Mulching, Balanced Fertilizer dose, Fruits Bagging & Safe Food Production. But he faces some challenges examples Hilly area, shortage of water, insecticides, new technology used in new area, Communication hilly road.

Agriculture office (DAE) closely monitors and communicated with different wholesale fruit traders in chittagong city & Kaoran Bazar, Dhaka with MR. Jahangir Alam.

Along with EPZ in Anowara upazila and highly demanded in the local market too. Hence the orchard is in hilly soils, fruits are very tasty so demand is high compared to other regions.
Here they noted that, to date their Total expenses are Tk 38, 66,600/- (Tk 27, 86,600/- cost for off-season water melon production & rest of the fixed cost). He sold about 118750 kg wholesale at 30 taka per kg for a total income of 35,62,500/-. His net profit is 7,75,900/-. Only 5-6 months (excluding fixed cost), this is a great success to them.

In the Future they will take more land on lease, where they will commercially cultivate different types of vegetables, fruits garden, coffee plant, cashew nut etc. & employ the poor farmer, unemployed workers of the neighbourhood in his farm. Their desire is to bring these neglected hilly abandoned lands under the cultivation of various fruits and vegetables & children park, in a word to develop it as a mini tourist area.

They continue their activities with their dream. Besides, they want to contribute to the economy of the country. In this regard, they had a preliminary discussion with upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) through Upazila Agricultural officer. The Upazila administration welcomed them and assured full cooperation. They are grateful to the SACP project for fulfilling their dream.

Rahima Begum's Journey from Poverty to Prosperity Through Bitter Gourd Cultivation

Rahima Begum, a 30-year-old housewife turned marginal farmer, hails from Gulderhat village in Hajarigonj Union under Charfession Upazila of Bhola District, Bangladesh. Together with her husband, she has been working tirelessly to support their six-member family,

which includes four children—two daughters and two sons. Despite their hard work, financial hardship had been a constant struggle. Her Beneficiary ID is SACP-069-15-10, and her house was made of tin. She became a member of the SACP project after participating in the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) conducted by the Charfession Upazila Agriculture Office at the beginning of the project in November 2019.

Before connecting with the Charfession Upazila Agriculture Office, Rahima and her husband's income was insufficient to meet even the basic needs of their family.

However, with technical assistance and material support from the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), her life has changed dramatically. In the fiscal year 2024–25, Rahima and her husband cultivated bitter gourd on 50 decimals of land, equivalent to half an acre.

The project supported her by providing quality seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides, fencing nets, mulching paper, pheromone traps, and yellow traps. She also received training from the Charfession Upazila Agriculture Office on modern agricultural practices, pest control, and environmentally friendly farming techniques.

Rahima's dedication, combined with the project's support, resulted in a remarkable yield. Her total income from bitter gourd cultivation reached BDT 90,000, while her total costs—including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, labor, tools, irrigation, mulching paper, and fencing—amounted to BDT 35,000. This left her with a net profit of BDT 55,000, reflecting an impressive benefit-cost ratio of 2.57, meaning that every taka invested generated BDT 2.57 in return. The break-even analysis showed that she needed to sell around 652 kilograms of bitter gourd to cover both fixed and variable costs. Producing well above this threshold, Rahima secured a solid profit and financial stability for her family.

Despite her success, Rahima faced challenges in the market. Middlemen, locally known as Faria and Paikar, dominated pricing, preventing her from obtaining the best possible price for her produce, which remained at an average of BDT 30 per kilogram. Nevertheless, her family's own labor, combined with the project's support, allowed her to earn a respectable income.

Rahima's success has made her a local role model, particularly for women. Her efforts have inspired other women in the village to engage in agriculture and strive for economic self-reliance. The increased income has enabled her to send three of her children to school regularly, making education—especially for girls—more accessible.

Her family now consumes safe, homegrown vegetables, which has improved their overall nutrition and health. Villagers, particularly women, visit her farm to learn about high-value crop cultivation, pest management, and organic farming, spreading awareness and knowledge throughout the community.

Rahima's transformation aligns with broader sustainable development goals. Her increased household income contributes to reducing poverty, ensuring food security, and providing nutrition for her family. She invests in her children's education, challenges traditional gender roles as a woman farmer, and promotes inclusive economic growth. By using organic fertilizers, pheromone traps, and integrated pest management, she also contributes to sustainable agriculture and responsible production.

Rahima has used part of her income to lease an additional 60 decimals of land, increasing her total farming area to 110 decimals. She plans to diversify into other high-value crops and reduce dependency on middlemen by exploring direct marketing strategies through collective selling within farmer groups or via digital platforms.

Rahima Begum's story is a shining example of how marginal farmers, with proper guidance, training, and support, can overcome poverty and become change agents in their communities.

Her success is measured not just in monetary terms but in the hope, confidence, and inspiration she has instilled in others—especially women. With continued support and empowerment, many more like Rahima can contribute to building a resilient, sustainable, and equitable rural economy in Bangladesh

> **Through farming, I found my confidence and my future. Today I can educate my children, eat safe food from my own land, and inspire other women to stand on their own feet**
>
> **-Rahima Begum**

Md. Jalal Hawlader: Modern Brinjal Cultivation Bringing Prosperity

Md. Jalal Hawlader, a determined smallholder farmer from Chhota Tengra village in Patharghata Upazila, Barguna, has long struggled to support his family through traditional farming. Despite hard work, poverty and limited crop income kept him in financial hardship.

However, his fate changed in 2024, when the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) introduced modern vegetable cultivation techniques to his village. Seizing the opportunity, Jalal joined the Chhota Tengra SACP Farmers' Group, aiming to transform his farming methods and his family's future.

Jalal Hawlader, beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 126.33.04, is the sole earner for a family of five, including his wife and three children, who are all pursuing education. His commitment to providing a better life for his children motivated him to adopt improved agricultural practices and seek sustainable income sources.

Chhota Tengra is a coastal village affected by climate challenges, including salinity and erratic rainfall. Most residents are marginal farmers relying on seasonal crops and traditional methods.

Before project support, Jalal's family lived in a semi-pucca house with limited sanitation. With increased income from modern vegetable farming and cattle rearing, he has now renovated his house, installed sanitary latrines, and ensured access to clean drinking water, greatly improving his family's health and dignity.

"I used to think farming could only bring survival—not success. But after SACP training and support, I now see farming as a way to prosperity. My children's future looks brighter."

— Md. Jalal Hawlader, Chhota Tengra.

Jalal's engagement with SACP (RAINS component) began in 2024 when the Upazila Agriculture Office organized community mobilization and training sessions on modern vegetable farming.

He became a core member of a 25-member producer group, which included 20 men and 10 women, and actively participated in monthly meetings focused on savings, crop planning, and marketing strategies.

Through the SACP project and guidance from the Upazila Agriculture Office, Jalal received hands-on training on brinjal cultivation, Basanti Brinjal seeds, sex pheromone traps, organic pesticides and vermi-compost, irrigation tools and techniques, and technical guidance from the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer. This support began in early 2024, just before the vegetable growing season.

Jalal adopted several climate-smart and environment-friendly practices, including organic pest control (pheromone traps, neem-based sprays), use of vermi-compost instead of chemical fertilizers, efficient irrigation systems to conserve water, and integrated pest management (IPM). These methods reduced input costs, protected the environment, and improved crop quality.

The input cost was BDT 15,000, including seeds, labor, and organic inputs. He harvested approximately 1,200–1,500 kg of brinjal, selling at an average price of BDT 40–50/kg.

His gross income was BDT 50,000, with a net profit of BDT 35,000 from just 20 decimals of land. The low input and high output model proved sustainable and replicable.

In addition to the BDT 35,000 net profit from brinjal, Jalal also earns from cattle farming, bringing his total seasonal income to over BDT 70,000. This diversified income ensures stability even during crop price fluctuations.

Jalal's success has inspired at least 10–12 neighboring farmers to adopt Basanti Brinjal cultivation, use vermi-compost, shift to organic pest control, and join the producer group to access support and training. This peer influence is expanding the impact of the SACP project.

Jalal faced several challenges, including limited initial knowledge of modern cultivation, high salinity in soil, and lack of initial funds for inputs. These were overcome by participating in SACP capacity-building sessions, adopting salt-tolerant crops and raised-bed planting, forming a savings group within the producer organization, and using vermi-compost to improve soil fertility.

Jalal now plans to expand vegetable cultivation into seedlings and nursery business, cultivate new crops like Malta, short coconut, and improved wheat, invest in small-scale irrigation infrastructure, support his children's higher education, and become a local agri-entrepreneur and trainer.

Okra Cultivation Transforms a Young Farmer's Life

Sabuj Shikdar, 27 years old, son of Jagodish Shikdar, lives in Choto Andharmanik village, Mogiya Union, Kachua Upazila, Bagerhat district. . He is a dedicated and hardworking individual who has been actively involved in agriculture for several years. His household consists of 4 members, including his parents and younger sister, and they rely primarily on farming and small pesticide shops as their source of livelihood.

After completing a Krishi Diploma, he started crop cultivation on 200 decimals (2 acres) of land, where he primarily focuses on the production of high-value vegetables. He is enrolled in the SACP under BID Number SACP 014.28.03. With strong motivation and the desire to improve his family's living conditions, Sabuj Shikder has become a promising example of a progressive smallholder farmer in his community.

Before joining the project, Sabuj had limited knowledge of modern cultivation practices for high-value crops. His primary farming activities included small-scale vegetable production, and he had not previously achieved significant income or recognition from agriculture.

Without technical support, his capacity to expand or diversify his farming was restricted. Like many smallholder farmers in the region, he faced challenges such as limited market access, inadequate inputs, and lack of proper guidance, which kept him from achieving higher profitability. He mainly cultivated traditional crops like seasonal vegetables. Yields were low due to limited knowledge, poor land utilization, and inefficient irrigation and fertilizer management.

Additionally, irregular rainfall and seasonal changes posed risks to crop growth and yield. Without proper market linkages, he often struggled to get fair prices. Sabuj became a member of a producer group of SACP.

Total Investment	30,700 BDT
Net Profit	*1,43,800 BDT

Production duration: **50 days**

Total Production: **6980 kg**

Mr. Sabuj sold Okra (BDT.25-30/ kg) at local market and in Bagerhat town market with the help of lead farmers and farmers groups

The project provided comprehensive training on modern cultivation practices for high-value crops and fruit gardening, market management, post-harvest handling, and primary processing. He also received technical guidance for demonstration farming and inputs for Okra cultivation, including seeds, fertilizers, and fencing. With the technical support of the Upazila Agriculture Officer, AAO, AEO and SAAO, he cultivated BARI Dherosh-1, on his land.

He sowed the seed on 21.03.2022 in the fiscal year 2021-22 and harvested Okra within 50 days and the production is near about 6980 kg. Mr. Sabuj sold Okra (BDT.25-30/ kg) at local market and in Bagerhat town market with the help of lead farmers and farmers groups.

However, he earned a total BDT. 1,74,500.00 by selling Okra several times. In total, he spent BDT 30,700.00 only for seeds, fertilizers, stalk, fencing, intercultural operation etc. and net profit from his land BDT 1,43,800.00 only. Maximum support he received from the SACP project, and besides, he turned it into an economically beneficial project with his contribution.

As a result, Mr. Sabuj changed income, apart from taking a 100 decimal land lease contract for production of high value crops in next season. Observing the Okra demonstration by Mr. Sabuj nearby farmers became inspired to cultivate Okra from next season.

His success has impacted the community of other farmers to cultivate the HVC. Now he has become a leader in the area for his success.

Mr. Sabuj feels proud of him when villagers contact him for advice. Now he is a well-known person to the community, and this is possible only for the demonstration of Okra.

He spent his profit for livelihood, buying nutritious food and rest for next crops cultivation. He always invites the media and his well-wishers to publish his success and believes that other farmers could do better by following proper guidelines.

Sabuj applied proper agronomic practices learned from the project, reducing dependency on chemical fertilizers and promoting sustainable cultivation. Efficient use of land and inputs minimized environmental impact while maintaining high productivity.

Practices included proper spacing, crop rotation, and integrated pest management, contributing to soil health and biodiversity preservation.

Sabuj received technical guidance from the agriculture office to enhance farming efficiency. Project inputs reduced production costs. Training on marketing and post-harvest management enabled better income generation. Recognition as a demonstration farmer increased social status and leadership in the community.

How Sumi Hawlader Transformed Her Life Through Vermi Compost and Dreams of an Old Age Home

On a small plot of land in Chotobahirdia, Fokirhat a determined woman quietly turns soil into opportunity. Sumi Hawlader, 36, mother of two, faced a life-altering challenge when her husband left in 2021, leaving her to navigate both family and farming alone. With only an eighth-grade education and no steady income, she could have easily been overwhelmed. Instead, Sumi's courage and curiosity led her to explore modern farming techniques, setting the stage for a transformation that would inspire her entire community.

Sumi Hawlader is a smallholder and progressive farmer embodying only 10 decimal own cultivable lands and practiced different types of high-value vegetables in his marginal land. Unfortunately, her husband left her and her two children behind in 2021 due to unknown reasons. After that, he did not find any way to maintain the income of the family and took charge of the family.

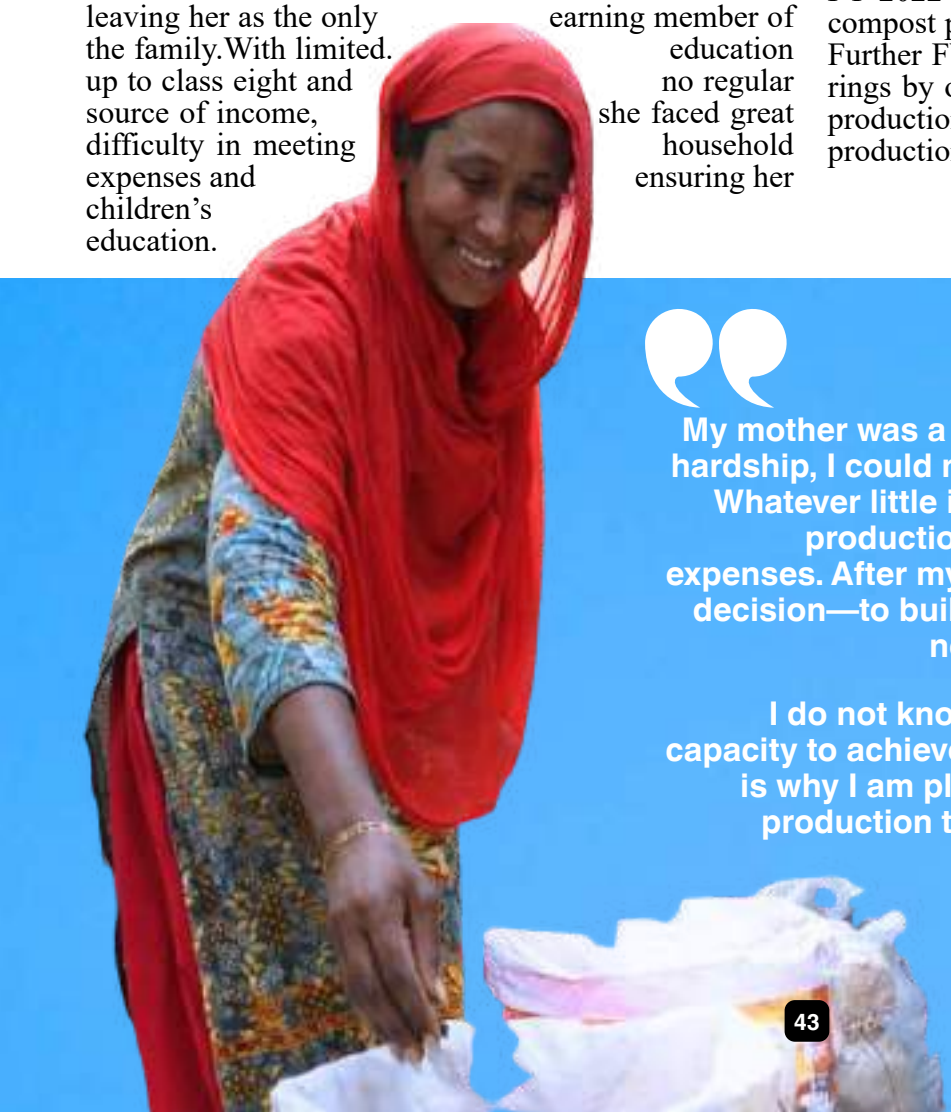
Before inclusion in the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), Sumi Hawlader was struggling with poverty and social challenges. In 2021, her husband abandoned her and their two children, leaving her as the only earning member of the family.With limited education up to class eight and no regular source of income, she faced great difficulty in meeting household expenses and ensuring her children's education.

She lacked access to modern agricultural information, training, or any institutional support. As a result, the land's productivity remained low, and there was no initiative to grow high-value crops or fruits. She had the willingness to contribute more but didn't have the knowledge, confidence, or resources to do so.

Her economic contribution to the family was minimal, and her potential as a farmer remained untapped.

Under the SACP, she is a producer group member with BID is SACP 001.24.19. She received hands-on training on high-value crop and fruit cultivation, particularly focusing on Vermi compost preparation and production. Being guided by above this knowledge, in the last fiscal year (2021-22), he set up a demo on Vermi compost through 06 rings with the input and technical support of the project and started earning from the first agricultural production by selling Vermi compost.

With all technical support from the project next year FY 2022-23 she added 14 more rings to his Vermi compost project due to the huge demand in the area. Further FY 2023-24 she also established another 30 rings by own arrangement for more Vermi compost production. Now her total Vermi compost production ring is 50 nos.



My mother was a cancer patient. Because of financial hardship, I could not afford her full medical treatment. Whatever little income I earned from vermicompost production, I used it to manage her treatment expenses. After my mother passed away, I made a firm decision—to build an old age home so that poor and neglected people do not suffer alone.

I do not know whether Allah will give me the full capacity to achieve this, but I want to keep trying. That is why I am planning to expand my vermicompost production to a larger scale—so that I can serve people and give back to society."

— Sumi Hawlader, chotobahirdia, Fokirhat
(Vermicompost Producer)

FYI- 2021-22	6 Rings
FYI- 2022-23	20 Rings
FYI- 2023-24	50 Rings

leased
52
decimals land

Purchased land for her future social project (an old age home)

After receiving support from the SACP, Sumi got strenth , experienced a meaningful shift —not only in her earning, but also in her confidence and role within the community. she had been facing lot of struggle being a widowed , single mother

What began as a small initiative gradually turned into a reliable source of income. In 2021–22, her monthly earnings from vermicompost production were around Tk. 2,000. By 2024–25, this figure had increased to Tk. 15,000–17,000, reflecting the steady growth of her enterprise.

Sumi now produces and sells vermicompost directly from her homestead. Farmers and institutions from Fakirhat Upazila regularly purchase her product, while buyers from nearby upazilas of Bagerhat and Khulna districts collect compost at a rate of Tk. 20 per kilogram. To meet market demand, she currently sells vermicompost in both 2 kg and 20 kg packages.

The increased income has enabled Sumi to lease 52 decimals of land, where she has started cultivating high-value crops such as tomato, cucumber, and ash gourd. Her vermicompost initiative has attracted the attention of distinguished visitors from different levels, an experience she considers a great honor. Inspired by her success, neighboring farmers have begun preparing vermicompost on a small scale and adopting organic vegetable cultivation practices.

Sumi's use of vermicompost has significantly reduced her dependence on chemical fertilizers, contributing to improved soil health and environmentally friendly farming. Her homestead garden and orchard further support sustainable land use and local biodiversity within a smallholder context.

Beyond meeting her family's daily needs, Sumi has been able to invest in her future and the welfare of others. She has purchased two khatas of land, where she plans to establish an old age home—an aspiration shaped by her own life experiences and sense of social responsibility. Today, she is widely recognized in her community as a successful woman farmer and an emerging local leader.

Alongside input support, Sumi received hands-on training under the SACP project on organic farming, pest management, post-harvest handling, and market linkage development. With assistance from Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers (SAAOs) and Marketing Facilitators, she successfully established market connections that supported the expansion of her vermicompost production.

Sumi Hawlader expresses deep appreciation for the SACP project, noting that the support went beyond technical training. It gave her financial stability, social recognition, and the confidence to stand on her own. Through vermicompost production and high-value crop cultivation, she is now able to ensure her children's education, support her household, and inspire other women in her community to pursue sustainable agriculture and self-reliance.

Transforming Dreams into Orchards: The Success Story of Rezaul Karim

Rezaul Karim, a young man from Paindong village of Fatikchhari Upazila in Chattogram district, has set a remarkable example in agriculture today. His family consists of mother, 3 brothers, 2 sisters, 1 son and wife. There was no provision of safe water and hygienic toilets. With a blend of modern agricultural technology, perseverance, and proper guidance, he has become a successful farmer and entrepreneur.

In 2020, he began his journey with only 20 bighas of land. His love for farming, hard work, and eagerness to try something new motivated him to start. With the support of the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer working in his area, he joined a farmers' group under the SACP project of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Fatikchhari.

Through this platform, he received opportunities for training on modern production and marketing techniques of high-value crops—such as mango, malta, dragon fruit, guava, jujube, lemon, cashew, coffee, and vegetables—as well as agricultural equipment (crates, scissors, pruning shears, sprayers, vermicompost separators, etc.).

With tireless effort, and by applying modern agricultural knowledge gained from training and continuous guidance from the department, he increased the production of high-value crops and, through higher income, expanded his farmland to 100 bighas.His orchard not only boosted his own income but also created employment opportunities for local laborers.

Currently, six workers (two women and four men) are employed there on a regular monthly salary, strengthening the rural economy. During peak farming seasons, this number rises even further. His success has inspired educated unemployed youths, encouraging them to take up agriculture as their main livelihood. Moreover, both domestic and foreign tourists now visit his orchard regularly.

Eager to share his knowledge and experience, Rezaul Karim has organized 25 farmers on his own initiative and provides them with regular training on modern production technologies for high-value crops. As a result, these farmers are now able to increase both their production and income by applying the knowledge gained. Presently 10 workers work regularly in his garden.There is a serious shortage of irrigation water in the area. He solves the problem as a challenge by adopting modern irrigation methods. Currently, safe water and hygienic toilets have been arranged.

Today, his main goal is not merely financial profit, but to establish a modern, eco-friendly, and organic farming system. He firmly believes that the development of agriculture can strengthen the economic foundation of Bangladesh. Rezaul Karim says: "If education, hard work, and modern technology are combined, agriculture can become the main driving force of the country's development. His future plan is to become an established agricultural entrepreneur by applying modern technology and proper management in agriculture".

Md. Khurshed Alom: A Young Student's Success with Sunflower Farming

Md. Khurshed Alom, a 25-year-old BA student from Char Lalmohan village in Lalmohan Union of Bhola District, Bangladesh, is proving that determination and smart farming can change lives. Coming from a family of five—his parents, one sister, and one brother—all dependent on marginal farming income, Khurshed carried the responsibility of supporting education expenses while pursuing his own studies. With little land and no steady employment, his family often struggled to make ends meet. His house, made of tin, has only two rooms, and his Beneficiary ID under the SACP project is SACP-057-7-16. He became a member of the project after participating in a PRA conducted by the Lalmohan Agriculture Office.

The turning point in his life came when Khurshed joined SACP. With training, high-quality inputs, and technical support, he chose to cultivate sunflowers on 50 decimals (0.5 acre) of land during the fiscal year 2024–25. The project provided premium sunflower seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, pest management support, and hands-on training covering everything from cultivation techniques to post-harvest processing and oil extraction. This comprehensive package not only helped him grow sunflowers efficiently but also added value by converting seeds into edible oil.

From his 50 decimals of land, Khurshed produced 360 kilograms of sunflower seeds. With 40 kilograms of seeds producing about 16 kilograms of oil, his total processing yielded approximately 128 kilograms of sunflower oil after accounting for minor losses. At the prevailing market price of BDT 200 per kilogram, his oil sales generated BDT 25,600. After deducting production costs of about BDT 10,000, he secured a net profit of BDT 15,600. The break-even analysis showed that only 50 kilograms of oil were required to cover costs, while he produced nearly 128 kilograms—almost two and a half times the break-even point. His Benefit-Cost Ratio of 2.56 indicated that for every taka invested, he earned 2.56 takas, confirming strong profitability and efficiency.

Khurshed's initiative has had benefits far beyond financial gains. His family now consumes pure, chemical-free sunflower oil, improving nutrition and health. The profit helps pay for his siblings' education, reducing the risk of school dropouts. As a young student-farmer, he has become a source of inspiration for his peers, showing that it is possible to pursue studies while engaging in profitable, modern farming. Neighbors and fellow youths frequently visit his farm to learn about sunflower cultivation and oil extraction, spreading awareness and encouraging replication in the community. His work contributes directly to agricultural sustainability and multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including poverty reduction, food security, better health, youth employment, and reducing reliance on imported edible oil.

Despite his success, Khurshed faced challenges. Market exploitation by middlemen, locally known as Faria and Paikar, limited the price he could get for his produce, and climate shocks, such as excessive rainfall, shortened his cultivation period and reduced yields. He overcame these challenges with careful planning, climate-adaptive farming techniques, and strong motivation. Reflecting on his journey, Khurshed said, "Thanks to the support of the SACP project, I have proven that sunflower can be a game-changer crop. If more Bangladeshi farmers grow oilseeds, we can reduce our reliance on imported oil and strengthen our economy. I encourage my fellow students and young farmers to engage in modern agriculture. It's possible to study and earn at the same time."

With just 50 decimals of land, Khurshed has not only secured a livelihood for his family but also created a model of sustainable, profitable farming that others in his village are beginning to follow. His journey reflects the untapped potential of rural youth in Bangladesh—when given the right training and support, they can drive both household and national progress. Looking ahead, Khurshed plans to expand his land, purchase a sunflower crushing machine, and become an entrepreneur in sunflower oil production, taking his initiative to a larger scale and inspiring more youth to embrace modern agriculture.

Fate Changed Through Cultivation of Australian Balsundari Plum by Fatikchhari's Nurul Alam

By cultivating the exceptional variety of Australian Balsundari plum (jujube), farmer Nurul Alam of Dharmapur village under Dattamara Union, Fatikchhari upazila, Chattogram, has achieved remarkable success. His high-yielding plum orchard has drawn the attention of many farmers in the upazila. He is the first person in North Chattogram to begin cultivating this variety of plum.Last April, farmer Nurul Alam invested BDT 120,000 to cultivate Balsundari plum on 60 decimals of land, planting a total of 400 saplings.

Within a single season, his orchard yielded remarkable results, generating sales worth BDT 270,000. The plums were sold at prices ranging between BDT 120 and 150 per kilogram, significantly exceeding returns from traditional crops. Reflecting on his achievement, Nurul Alam expressed pride not only in the financial success but also in the growing interest from fellow farmers who regularly visit his orchard to learn from his experience

I took the initiative to cultivate this special Balsundari plum after joining with SACP project. when I consulted with agricultural officers, they encouraged and assured me of their cooperation. With courage, I started plum farming and eventually succeeded.

Total investment
120,000 BDT

Total Revenue
270,000 BDT

Net Profit
1,50,000

Return on Investment (ROI)
125%

Land Used
60 decimal

Revenue per Tree
675 BDT

Each tree now bears heavy clusters of plums. To protect the garden from insect and bird attacks, I have put up mosquito nets around the orchard. The plum farming has created a huge stir in the area. Seeing my orchard, many local farmers have become interested. I also plan to plant plum saplings on the abandoned paddy fields adjacent to my orchard.

Nurul Alam, Farmer,Fatikchari

Md. Halal Uddin, Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer assigned to the Union, said:
"During the COVID-19 period, farmer Nurul Alam sought my advice about cultivating the Balsundari plum. I assured him of my full support. Later, I discussed his interest with the Upazila Agriculture Officer. The Officer advised me to include Nurul Alam in the SACP Project. Accordingly, I included him in the project. As part of it, he received 400 saplings of Balsundari plum, fertilizer, equipment, and other necessary support."

The success of this initiative was made possible through timely technical guidance and institutional support. During the COVID-19 period, Nurul Alam approached Md. Halal Uddin, Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer of the union, seeking advice on cultivating Balsundari plum. Recognizing the potential of the crop, the officer assured Nurul of full technical assistance and later consulted with the Upazila Agriculture Officer. Based on this discussion, Nurul Alam was included under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), through which he received 400 plum saplings along with fertilizer, equipment, and other necessary inputs

In our country, this plum is somewhat bigger than the local varieties and looks almost like an apple. By cultivating this unique plum, Nurul Alam has created a huge impact in the area. We, from the Department of Agricultural Extension, are giving him full support. This is undoubtedly a very promising initiative. Through this, young farmers from this and other regions will be encouraged to dream of becoming self-reliant.

-Md. Hasanuzzaman, Upazila Agriculture Officer,Fatikchari

From Hardship to Hope: Mojibol Jomadar's Brinjal Farming Success Story in Charfession

Mojibol Jomadar, a 42-year-old marginal farmer from Char Nijimuddin village in Char Madraj Union under Charfession Upazila of Bhola district, has redefined what small-scale farming can achieve in coastal Bangladesh. Living in a six-member household with his wife and four children—three daughters and one son—Mojibol faced persistent financial instability, relying only on seasonal work and lacking inherited landholdings. His house, made of tin, has three rooms, and his Beneficiary ID under the SACP project is SACP-067-35-14. He became a member of the project after participating in a PRA conducted by the Upazila Agriculture Office at the beginning of the initiative in November 2019.

In 2024, Mojibol was selected to participate in the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), facilitated by the Charfession Upazila Agriculture Office. With technical and input-based support from the project, he began cultivating brinjal on 50 decimals of land. The project provided high-quality seeds, organic and chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fencing nets, mulching paper, and both pheromone and yellow traps. These inputs enabled him to adopt Integrated Pest Management techniques, mulching for moisture retention, and modern spacing methods, ensuring better yields even in a challenging environment.

During the 80–90 day cultivation period, Mojibol produced approximately 4,318 kilograms of brinjal, which he sold at an average price of BDT 22 per kilogram. His total revenue amounted to BDT 95,000, while total costs—including inputs, labor, and land preparation—were BDT 35,000. This resulted in a net profit of BDT 60,000. His break-even quantity was around 1,590 kilograms, meaning his actual production exceeded this by 2,728 kilograms, roughly 172% higher. With a cost-benefit ratio of 2.71, every taka invested returned BDT 2.71, demonstrating strong profitability and efficient resource utilization.

Beyond personal and community benefits, Mojibol's journey aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals. His family has escaped extreme poverty, ensuring reliable income and access to nutritious food. Health and well-being have improved due to reduced pesticide use. His children can attend school consistently, while engagement in profitable farming and livestock management supports rural economic growth. Sustainable practices, including pheromone traps and mulching, exemplify responsible production, and adaptation techniques enhance resilience to climate-related challenges. Mojibol's success reflects effective partnerships between farmers and government-led agricultural development programs.

The profit had a transformative impact on Mojibol's family. He invested in his children's education, purchased a cow for fattening to generate additional income, and expanded his cultivated area by another 40 decimals for the next season. The family's nutrition improved significantly as they now consume fresh vegetables from their own farm, reducing dependence on the market and enhancing food security.

Mojibol's success has also inspired his wider community. Fellow farmers visit his farm to observe his brinjal cultivation techniques and use of modern inputs. Many are now motivated to adopt similar practices, realizing that even with low market prices, careful cost management and yield optimization can make farming profitable.

Finding Fortune in Jujube: The Success Story of Russell Mridha

Russell Mridha, a 36-year-old farmer from Barguna, has become a symbol of resilience and success through high-value jujube cultivation under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP). Formerly engaged in project-based employment, Russell turned to agriculture when the COVID-19 pandemic left him jobless in 2019. With limited resources but strong determination, he started anew, and today he stands as a model farmer in his region.

An MSS graduate, Russell initially worked for the Feed the Future Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity (BANA) project. The job loss prompted him to consult the Upazila Agriculture Officer, and he began farming on 2.17 acres of leased land.

Though his first attempt with malta cultivation failed due to plant disease, Russell didn't give up. Encouraged by SACP's technical team, he shifted to Ball Sundari and other jujube varieties. In 2021, with support from the SACP under a cost-sharing model, he planted 250 Ball Sundari saplings provided by the project and 200 other varieties (Kashmiri Kul, BAU Kul, and Apple Kul) from his own investment. Despite the salinity-prone nature of the region, Russell's well-managed jujube orchard flourished.

His first harvest yielded only 200 kg, earning him BDT 26,000, but the second year brought a remarkable turnaround. With enhanced management and guidance from the local agriculture office, he harvested 9 metric tons of jujube in 2023–24, valued at over BDT 918,000. Production costs stood at around BDT 350,000, ensuring a solid profit. His fruits, especially Ball Sundari, gained a reputation for taste, appearance, and being chemical-free. On some days, Russell sold up to 350 kg directly to consumers. His farm became a local attraction for quality and organic production.

When I lost my job, I was worried about my family and my future. But I believed in my land and my own hard work. Day by day, I learned, struggled, and kept going. With the support and guidance from the SACP and the local agriculture office, I learned better farming practices and took proper care of my jujube orchard. Today, this garden has given me income, confidence, and respect in my community. If farmers get the right support and stay dedicated to their work, farming can truly change their lives.

— Russell Mridha

First harvest

200 kg

Income from first harvest

26,000 BDT

Second harvest (2023–24)

9 metric tons = 9,000 kg

Value of second harvest

918,000 BDT

Production cost: Around

350,000 BDT

Estimated profit

568,000 BDT

Russell's success not only improved his own livelihood—allowing him to support his children's education paid his all debt to banks —but also inspired his neighbours.

At least 20 other farmers and unemployed youths have taken up Ball Sundari cultivation, following in his footsteps. Russell is now seen as a model farmer and a rural youth leader, frequently consulted by others. In the future, he plans to expand his orchard and introduce off-season watermelon cultivation by intercropping with jujube. With expectations of 15 metric tons of yield next year, Russell envisions even greater returns.

Russell's story powerfully illustrates how the right combination of technical training, market access, and timely input support under SACP can transform smallholder farming into a sustainable enterprise. Through continuous learning, improved farm management, and his own determination, he has demonstrated that coastal agriculture—despite its challenges—can be both productive and profitable. His experience shows that when farmers receive proper guidance and opportunities, they can innovate, adapt, and thrive. Russell's success has not only strengthened his own livelihood but also created employment and inspiration for others in his community

Harvesting Prosperity: Abdur Rob Sikder's Journey with Hybrid Bitter Gourd

Mr. Abdur Rob Sikder, once a traditional subsistence farmer from Ghupkhali village in Bamna, Barguna, has emerged as a shining example of agricultural transformation through the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) under the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). His journey reflects innovation, resilience, and the power of timely support.

For years, Mr. Sikder cultivated vegetables on his 66-decimal plot of land primarily to meet household needs, struggling to make ends meet. In 2020, his life took a decisive turn when he joined an SACP-supported farmers' group. With regular guidance from the local Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO), he began to understand the science and strategy behind profitable vegetable farming.

During the 2023–2024 Rabi season, the SACP-RAINS project provided him with both financial and technical support to establish a 50-decimal demonstration plot of hybrid bitter gourd (variety: Niharika). Alongside quality seeds, fertilizers, fencing materials, and pesticides, he received practical training in modern techniques such as seedbed preparation, transplanting, irrigation, and pest management.

The investment amounted to about BDT 50,000, yet the return exceeded all expectations. From this single plot, he sold bitter gourds worth BDT 400,000, with prices reaching as high as BDT 100 per kilogram in the local market.

The impact of this income was transformative. With the profits, he purchased three cattle valued at BDT 210,000, secured additional land for future cultivation by mortgaging BDT 150,000, and cleared family debts while also supporting his daughter's marriage.

Beyond these tangible benefits, Mr. Sikder shared a portion of his harvest with relatives and neighbors, spreading goodwill and becoming a source of inspiration within his community.

Encouraged by his success, he has now diversified into cultivating other high-value crops such as ridge gourd, okra, and snake gourd. Using the Surjan method, he has ensured year-round productivity even under the challenging climatic conditions of southern Bangladesh.

His achievements have not gone unnoticed—fellow farmers are showing interest in adopting similar practices, and his story was featured in Barisal Times, where he was celebrated as a local agricultural champion.

Bitter Gourd Brings Prosperity to Jafor Ullah's Family

Mr. Md. Jafor Ullah, a 35-year-old progressive farmer from Uttar Sakuchia village in Monpura upazila of Bhola district, has become a shining example of how smallholder farmers can turn limited resources into remarkable success with the right guidance and support. With 3.20 acres (320 decimals) of cultivable land, he has long been engaged in growing vegetables, fruits, and even practicing fish farming, always trying to maximize returns from his marginal land. His family consists of six members—his parents, wife, one sister, and two brothers who work alongside him in the field. Until recently, the family lived in a modest tin house. His official engagement with the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) came when he enrolled as a beneficiary under the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) with the ID number SACP-078-12-04.

Through SACP, Jafor received hands-on training that introduced him to modern farming practices, efficient post-harvest handling, primary processing, and strategies to cultivate high-value crops. This knowledge inspired him to try something new. In the fiscal year 2020–21, with technical and financial support from the project, he ventured into cultivating the Tia variety of bitter gourd on 50 decimals of land. Equipped with training and inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, mulching film, fencing, and trellis support, he successfully grew the crop. His initial investment was around BDT 15,000, and by the end of the season he earned BDT 80,000, securing a net profit of BDT 65,000.

This success not only changed his financial standing but also gave him the confidence to expand. With his earnings, he first reinvested in his farm to improve soil health and buy additional inputs, while also supporting his family's needs, including better food security and the education of his younger sister.

By the following year, Jafor expanded his cultivation to a larger area and diversified into other high-value crops.

The technical guidance of SACP, coupled with his determination, allowed him to steadily increase production and profits.

The transformation in his farming practices and income did not go unnoticed. Many neighboring farmers, impressed by his results, began to adopt bitter gourd cultivation and other high-value crops after seeing his success firsthand. Over two dozen farmers in his community have since been influenced by his methods, marking a gradual but significant shift in the local agricultural landscape. Jafor's role evolved from being just a farmer to becoming a mentor and leader in his village. Farmers frequently seek his advice, and he willingly shares his experience to help others improve their livelihoods.

Yet, Jafor's journey was not without challenges. He had to contend with the dominance of middlemen—known locally as faria and paikar —who exploited market pricing, leaving farmers unable to capture the full value of their crops. Climate shocks posed another hurdle, with excessive rainfall shortening cultivation periods and reducing yields. He managed these obstacles by adopting climate-smart strategies taught through SACP training, diversifying crops to spread risks, and strengthening connections with marketing groups that could link him directly to wholesale buyers.

. His story demonstrates how engagement with projects like SACP, combined with determination and modern practices, can transform farming households. More importantly, it shows how one farmer's journey can inspire an entire community to embrace climate-smart, high-value agriculture, setting them on a path toward resilience and prosperity

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Sowing Dreams, Reaping Success: The Inspiring Journey of Sufiya Begum from Sandwip

In the village of Bauria Beribadh, nestled in Sandwip upazila of Chattogram, lives a woman whose story is rewriting the narrative of smallholder farming. At 42 years old, Sufiya Begum stands as a symbol of resilience, courage, and vision. A farmer by tradition, and now a leader by choice, she has not only transformed her own livelihood but also inspired many in her community to embrace modern, profitable, and climate-smart farming practices.

Sufiya was born into a farming family. Her husband, Abdul Karim, instilled in her a love for agriculture and encouraged her to nurture the soil with dedication. For generations, her family's livelihood depended on farming, mostly on leased lands, cultivating staple crops and vegetables to meet household needs. Despite limited resources, farming was always at the heart of her family's survival and dignity.

Owning no land of her own, Sufiya leased 3 acres of cultivable land for crop production. Alongside her husband and children, she cultivated brinjal, cabbage, tomato, gourd, cauliflower, and rice. Yet, challenges remained constant—low market prices during peak seasons, pest infestations, and rising input costs often eroded her hard-earned income.
Her journey took a decisive turn when she joined SACP as a member of a Producer and Marketing Group (BID No. SACP182.19.22). This engagement opened a new horizon for her, bringing training, knowledge.

Through SACP, facilitated by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Sandwip, Sufiya received hands-on training in modern agricultural practices, post-harvest handling, and market management. She learned the use of mulching films, trellising systems, integrated pest management, and improved soil health practices. For the first time, she understood the value of farming not just as a means of subsistence, but as a competitive and profitable enterprise.

Equipped with new skills and confidence, Sufiya decided to take a bold step in the 2023–24 rabi season. With DAE's support in the form of quality seeds, fertilizers, compost, fencing, Crates and cash assistance, she cultivated the high-yielding "Green Ball" brinjal variety on 50 decimals of land as a demonstration plot.

The results were extraordinary. By carefully following technical guidance and adopting modern cultivation methods, Sufiya reaped a bountiful harvest. In the early season, she sold 3,500 kilograms of brinjal at a price of BDT 75 per kilogram, earning BDT 262,500. Later in the season, she sold an additional 1,500 kilograms at BDT 50 per kilogram, generating another BDT 75,000. Altogether, her total gross return amounted to BDT 337,500. After covering the production cost of BDT 175,000, Sufiya was left with a net profit of BDT 162,500, a remarkable achievement for her efforts.For a smallholder woman farmer, this was a milestone achievement. With her income, she purchased a used power tiller, reducing future cultivation costs and ensuring timely land preparation. She also invested in household improvements and family well-being.

Success never goes unnoticed. Neighboring farmers, like Nur Uddin, observed her methods and were inspired to adopt them. Following her lead, Nur Uddin cultivated brinjal on 70 decimals of land and earned a profit of BDT 1,50,000. This ripple effect began to spread, as other farmers too gained confidence to try high-value crops and modern practices.

Sufiya's farm soon became a learning center where fellow villagers visited to observe her brinjal cultivation, ask questions, and seek advice. With support from her local Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO), she regularly encourages other farmers to adopt integrated pest management (including pheromone traps and careful pesticide use), better soil care, and improved crop planning.

Behind her professional success lies a strong family bond. Sufiya lives in a tin-shed house with four rooms, a separate kitchen, and a toilet with tube-well water. She has a large family of nine members—three sons and two daughters, along with her husband and elderly dependents. Two of her sons studied in a madrasa and are now engaged in agriculture, while her two daughters and younger son continue their education at the madrasa.

In addition to crop farming, she maintains a small homestead with 15 ducks, 5 chickens, and 5 cows (including calves and an ox), which contributes to household nutrition and supplemental income. For Sufiya, agriculture is not just a profession, but the lifeline of her entire household.

Like all farmers, Sufiya faces challenges. Brinjal cultivation often suffers from insect infestations and root diseases, threatening yield and quality. Market fluctuations pose another hurdle—prices are high in the early season but fall drastically during peak supply. However, her group membership provides some cushion by connecting her to reliable buyers (paikers) at the farm gate level.

Her strategy is simple yet effective: reinvest profits into farming by leasing more land, repairing the house, and purchasing essential machinery like tractors. By doing so, she ensures sustainability and continued growth.

Her success story embodies the spirit of inclusive agricultural development, showing that when women are empowered, entire communities prosper. From leased land to profitable ventures, from challenges to leadership, Sufiya Begum's journey is truly one of sowing dreams and reaping success.

I believe anyone can succeed with proper training, hard work, and support. SACP changed my life, and I want others to experience that transformation too.

-Sufiya Begum

Akbor Ali's Success in Bitter Gourd and Potato Farming

In the remote village of Kachua Khali in Poschim Char Umed Union under Lalmohan Upazila of Bhola District, Mr. Akbor Ali, a dedicated farmer and son of the late Sultan Ahmed, has transformed his fortunes through innovative farming practices. With support from the SACP, implemented by the Upazila Agricultural Office, Mr, Akbor has become a role model for other farmers in his area.

Mr Akbor cultivated crops on his 72 decimals of land, where he strategically grows bitter gourd as his main crop and potatoes as an intercrop. This smart intercropping technique has allowed him to make the maximum output of his land which ensure large income. His involvement with SACP provided him with essential training, technical guidance, and exposure to modern farming methods. These interventions helped him to make informed decisions about crop selection, cultivation techniques, and market linkages.

For bitter gourd cultivation, Akbor invested BDT 1,25,000 and earned BDT 1,50,000, securing a profit of BDT 25,000. The more impressive result came from his potato intercropping, where he spent BDT 1,50,000 but earned BDT 4,00,000, making a substantial profit of BDT 2,50,000. Combined, his total revenue reached BDT 5,50,000 against a total production cost of BDT 2,75,000, leading to a net profit of BDT 2,75,000.

Despite his success, Akbor faced various challenges common to coastal farmers. These included pest and disease attacks, unpredictable weather such as excessive rainfall or dry spells, and fluctuations in market prices. However, with proper planning and the continuous support from the SACP, he managed to navigate these difficulties and maintain profitability.

Several key factors contributed to Mr.Akbor's success. The technical training and resources provided by the SACP played a significant role in improving his cultivation techniques and understanding of market dynamics. His ability to diversify crops through intercropping, manage costs effectively, and stay informed about market trends allowed him to maximize his returns.

Mr. Akbor's story has had a ripple effect on his community. His success has encouraged neighbouring farmers to try intercropping and improve their agricultural practices. Many now seek his advice, and he has emerged as a local farming leader. This has led to increased interest in the government-supported agricultural projects, improved livelihoods, and a boost to the local rural economy.

Akbor Ali's story is a testament to the impact that proper support, innovative practices, and hard work can have on smallholder farmers. His journey highlights the potential for transformation when farmers are empowered with knowledge, resources, and encouragement. He has shown that sustainable and profitable agriculture is possible, even on small plots of land, and his success continues to inspire others in his community to follow a similar path.

A Golden Orchard of Dreams: Alamgir's Journey with Guava Cultivation

Md. Alamgir, a 51-year-old farmer from Geramara village of Korerhut union under Mirsharai upazila in Chattogram, has transformed his livelihood by venturing into commercial guava cultivation. For many years, Alamgir was engaged in traditional field crop production, mostly rice and seasonal vegetables. His income was low and uncertain, and he had little knowledge about fruit cultivation or agribusiness. His turning point came when he saw a new guava orchard established by a neighbouring farmer. Inspired by this success, Alamgir reached out to officials at the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) for advice. Through the SACP, he learned that commercial agriculture—especially fruit cultivation—could generate much higher income compared to his previous practices.

Alamgir lives in a seven-member family, which includes his wife, two sons, one daughter, and his father and mother. His elder son is studying in college, while the younger goes to a madrasha. Alamgir's family actively supports his farm activities, especially harvesting, packaging, and sorting guavas for market sale. They live in a brick-built house with moderate sanitation facilities. Thanks to his improved income, the family now enjoys better food security, education opportunities, and a higher standard of living.

In June 2023, Alamgir took a bold step by establishing a Golden-8 guava orchard on 50 decimals of land. To support him in this venture, DAE provided support-grafted guava seedlings, fertilizers and compost, plastic crates, cash assistance, and regular field guidance. With this support, Alamgir carefully prepared his orchard and applied modern management practices, including irrigation, pruning, organic fertilizer use, and integrated pest management. One of his most effective techniques is covering guavas with polyethylene bags. He explains, "It is quite impossible to keep guavas intact without polyethylene. Covering at the right time protects them from birds, pests, and diseases." He also pointed out that fruit flies remain a great threat to guava cultivation.

Alamgir invested about BDT 100,000 in establishing and managing his guava orchard. The farm has also generated around 150 man-days of employment, including both family labor and hired workers, particularly for harvesting, bagging, and marketing activities. In his first harvest, Alamgir collected about 480 kilograms of guavas, which he sold for BDT 21,600 at BDT 45 per kilogram in the local market. From his 400 guava trees, he expects a total production of 800 to 900 kilograms of fruits, which will bring in an additional BDT 40,000.

So far, combining his guava sales with seasonal vegetables such as tomato, green pepper, and coriander leaves, Alamgir has already earned approximately BDT 300,000.

Alamgir is highly satisfied with the Golden-8 guava variety because of its early fruiting capability, high yield potential, attractive size and shape, and strong market demand. He firmly believes that, if cultivated in a planned way, Golden-8 can be one of the most profitable fruit varieties for smallholder farmers. He also prioritizes safe food production methods. With guidance from the Upazila Agriculture Officer of Mirsharai, he has reduced reliance on chemical pesticides. Instead, he applies organic fertilizers and compost, ensuring that his produce is safer for consumers and healthier for the environment. He strongly believes that organic methods not only provide good yields but also help build long-term consumer trust.

Alamgir's orchard has already transformed his life. His net earnings far exceed his production costs, and with an investment of BDT 100,000, he has already earned BDT 300,000 from guava and vegetable sales. The orchard has created 150 man-days of employment, contributing to rural livelihoods. He has become financially secure and self-reliant, able to better support his children's education. His farm attracts many visitors, especially young people, who are motivated to start guava farming, and already two farmers have established guava orchards after visiting his garden. His improved income has also allowed his family to enjoy a better standard of living and food diversity.

Encouraged by his success, Alamgir plans to expand his guava orchard in the coming years, strengthen organic production practices, and explore value-added products such as guava juice, jam, and pickles for higher profits. He also hopes to share his experience with neighbouring farmers to inspire more adoption of high-value crop cultivation.

The Sweet Taste of Success: From Off-Season Watermelons to Opportunity

Md. Al-Amin Fakir is a 35-year-old male farmer from Kathipara village, under Kathipara Block, Magor Union, in Nalchity Upazila of Jhalokathi District. He is a dedicated and hardworking individual who has been actively involved in agriculture for several years. His household consists of two members, including his wife, and they rely primarily on farming as their main source of livelihood.
Al-Amin owns and cultivates 250 decimals of agricultural land, where he primarily focuses on the production of high-value fruits and vegetables. He is enrolled in the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) under BID Number SACP 046.31.10. With strong motivation and the desire to improve his family's living conditions, Al-Amin has become a promising example of a progressive smallholder farmer in his community. His commitment and enthusiasm led to his appointment as a Lead Farmer by the Upazila Agriculture Office, where he received critical support to further his agricultural ventures.

Mr. Al-Amin Fakir, the sole earning member of his modest, agriculture-dependent family, struggled for many years with financial hardship due to limited cultivable land and reliance on traditional farming methods. His income from cultivating seasonal vegetables and paddy was low and irregular, largely because of poor land utilization, inefficient irrigation, lack of access to quality seeds and fertilizers, and limited knowledge of modern agricultural practices. Climate uncertainty, post-harvest losses, and unfair market prices further worsened his condition, leaving his family unable to meet basic needs consistently and forcing him into periods of unemployment during the off-season.

Starting with 250 decimals of land, Al-Amin initially focused on cultivating high-value seasonal crops.

His breakthrough came when, in the fiscal year 2021-22, he was selected as a demonstration farmer under SACP. Al-Amin used the project's technical and financial support to cultivate off-season watermelon, a crop he had not grown before. With the guidance of Upazila Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Extension Officer, and SAAOs, he planted the Black Sweet009 variety of off-season watermelon on 50 decimals of land, receiving necessary inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and fencing.

The results were remarkable. By September 2022, Al-Amin had harvested his off-season watermelon crop and earned a profit of BDT 60,000. With an investment of only BDT 28,500 for inputs and other costs, this success proved that modern farming methods, when combined with dedication and hard work, can lead to substantial profits.

This success story did not go unnoticed. It inspired many fellow farmers in the region, who began to take an interest in cultivating watermelon, seeing Al-Amin's success as a model for economic transformation. His story was even featured in the media, which further spread the message that high-value crop cultivation could significantly reduce unemployment and poverty in rural areas.

Encouraged by his success with off-season watermelon, Al-Amin expanded his cultivation efforts, adding other crops like seasonal watermelon, papaya, and bitter gourd to his portfolio. Each new venture brought its own rewards, and by the fiscal year 2023-24, he saw even greater profits from seasonal watermelon cultivation, solidifying his position as a successful and innovative farmer.

After joining the SACP project, Md. Al-Amin Fakir adopted eco-friendly farming practices that improved soil health, increased productivity, and reduced environmental impact. He used biological pest control, mulching, organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and efficient irrigation. His success not only boosted yields but also inspired neighboring farmers to adopt similar sustainable methods.

Through the SACP project, Md. Al-Amin Fakir enhanced his technical farming skills, gained recognition as a model farmer, and improved his family's financial well-being. Training from the Farmer Business School helped him market his produce profitably, while Field Day programs introduced him to new technologies and high-yield practices.

His success not only reduced his own unemployment but also inspired other farmers to adopt commercial and sustainable farming.

"Thanks to the SACP project, I have learned how to make farming profitable. With technical support and proper training, I was able to earn a good income from off-season watermelon and other high value fruits and vegetables. This has changed my life. Now I am confident that high-value crop cultivation can be a strong tool to reduce unemployment in our village. I want to continue learning and helping other farmers grow like me"

– Md. Al-Amin Fakir, Farmer,Nalchity, Jhalokathi

From Agriculture cultivation to Grocery Shop: Abdul Mannan's Journey to Double Success

Abdul Mannan, a 43-year-old farmer from Raypasha village in Voyrobpasha union, Nalchity upazila, Jhalokathi district, owned only 120 decimals (1.2 acres) of cultivable land. He was a marginal farmer who practiced conventional farming methods and had limited knowledge of high-value crop cultivation. His earnings were minimal, and he often relied on traditional crops that offered low returns.

His journey toward prosperity began in 2020 when he joined the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) as a member of a Farmer Producer Group with BID Number SACP 042.19.01. Before joining the project, he had never cultivated broccoli and was unaware of its economic potential.

Prior to joining SACP, Abdul Mannan faced several challenges, including low crop yields, lack of access to modern agricultural knowledge, and insufficient market linkage. His farming was primarily subsistence-based with limited income to support his family.

Mr. Mannan was selected as a demonstration farmer under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) implemented by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). Prior to selection, he received hands-on training on good agricultural practices and high-value crop production.

After his inclusion, he was provided with necessary inputs including high-quality Hybrid (Early Green) broccoli seeds, fertilizers, fencing materials, and regular technical guidance from Upazila Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Extension Officer and Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officers (SAAOs). He cultivated broccoli on 50 decimals of leased land (a previously uncultivated madrasa ground) during the 2020–21 fiscal year.

Mr. Mannan successfully planted 1,800 broccoli seedlings and harvested 1,620 kg of broccoli between late January and mid-February 2021. He sold his produce at an average wholesale price of Tk. 35/kg, earning Tk. 56,700 in total. After deducting production costs of Tk. 22,000, he made a net profit of Tk. 34,700. This success encouraged him to diversify further into various high-value crops. With continued profits, he established a grocery shop near the market, managed by his own sons where his own vegetables and fruits are also displayed and sold.
Mr. Mannan's use of previously uncultivated land (leased madrasa field) for broccoli cultivation showcased the potential of converting fallow land into productive plots. His adherence to good agricultural practices—such as balanced fertilization, pest control, and crop rotation—contributed to more sustainable land use without degrading the local environment. His efforts set an example for eco-friendly, intensive cultivation in marginal lands.

Beyond the direct financial gains, Mr. Mannan experienced significant personal and professional growth. Through continuous training and hands-on support, he enhanced his technical knowledge of modern crop production practices.

The facilitation of the Upazila Agriculture Office improved his access to markets, enabling him to connect more efficiently with buyers. He also built strong networks with wholesalers from Jhalokathi and Barisal, which strengthened his marketing channels and ensured better prices for his produce.

Over time, his success brought him recognition as a model farmer in his locality. Most importantly, the experience gave him the confidence to experiment with new high-value crops and expand into additional business ventures.

Abdul Mannan plans to expand his grocery shop into a small farm-to-market business, selling a wider variety of high-value vegetables and fruits. He aims to source produce from local farmers, offer regular supplies to nearby markets.

Before the project, I had never even heard of broccoli. But with the training and support from SACP and the agriculture office, I dared to try it. The result changed my life. I earned a good profit and even started a shop with that income. Now, I plan to grow more high-value crops and inspire others to do the same.

– Abdul Mannan Farmer,Nalchity, Jhalokathi

Vermi compost farmer Champa Khatun is now a successful organic Agricultural Entrepreneur

Champa Khatun, a 43-year-old woman with education up to class eight, lives in Naldha Ukilpara village of Naldha Moubagh Union under Fakirhat Upazila. She married Mr. Sardar Lutfor Rahman 26 years ago, and the couple has two sons—one, aged 25, is pursuing his Master's degree at Khulna BL College, while the younger is 18. Champa is a smallholder and progressive farmer, owning only 30 decimals of cultivable land. She initially practiced growing high-value vegetables and fruits, while her husband, once an electrician, was forced to stop working six years ago due to eye problems, placing the burden of income generation on the family.

Champa became a member of a producer group under SACP with Beneficiary ID SACP-006.06.03.Before joining the SACP project, Champa faced multiple challenges, including low crop yields, limited access to modern agricultural knowledge, and poor market linkage. Her farming was primarily subsistence-based, generating insufficient income to support her family.

Her turning point came when she was selected as a demonstration farmer and received comprehensive, hands-on training on modern agricultural practices, including vermicompost preparation, high-value crop cultivation, fruit gardening, post-harvest management, and primary processing. With this knowledge and project support, she established a demonstration plot with six rings of vermicompost in 2021–22, marking her entry into agricultural entrepreneurship. Encouraged by her early success and technical guidance from the Upazila Agriculture Office, Champa expanded her vermicomposting to 14 more rings and adopted sack-based vermicomposting with 25 bags, a cost-effective method meeting growing demand.

To further increase production, she leased 74 decimals of land and cultivated high-value crops such as ash gourd, tomato, cucumber, sack-grown ginger, olkachu, and a seedless lemon orchard. By using vermicompost instead of chemical fertilizers, her vegetables and fruits gained popularity for their superior quality. She also diversified into value-added products, including pickles, and displayed her produce at local fairs, enhancing her reputation and securing fair market prices.

Currently, Champa produces around 800 kg of vermicompost per month, valued at BDT 12,000. Her annual gross income from all activities is approximately BDT 254,000, broken down as follows: BDT 144,000 from vermicompost, BDT 70,000 from vegetables, BDT 20,000 from fruits, and BDT 20,000 from pickle sales. With average annual expenditures of about BDT 80,000, she achieves a net annual income of BDT 174,000.

Champa's achievements have inspired neighboring farmers to adopt organic vegetable cultivation. She has emerged as a role model and local leader, frequently consulted for advice. Her success has improved her family's livelihood, supported her children's education, and elevated her social standing within the community.

Champa dreams of becoming a larger agricultural entrepreneur. She plans to establish an agribusiness showroom at the upazila level and eventually convert her house into a brick-built home. She attributes her journey and accomplishments to the technical guidance and motivational support provided by the SACP project. Champa Khatun's story exemplifies how dedication, skill, and institutional support can transform the life of a smallholder farmer and empower an entire community.

Malta Orchard that Changed Everything: A Journey of Innovation and Impact

Mir Ziaur Rahman, a 41-year-old progressive farmer from Gandotha village in Kawkhali Upazila of Pirojpur District, has emerged as a successful example of modern fruit cultivation in rural Bangladesh. His journey toward prosperity began in 2020 when he joined the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) as a member of a Farmer Producer Group. With a strong commitment to innovation, he began cultivating seasonal crops across 230 decimals of land.

Before joining the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), Mir Ziaur Rahman practiced traditional farming methods on his land. His agricultural activities were mostly limited to seasonal crops, and he lacked access to modern farming knowledge and technologies. This resulted in low productivity and inconsistent income. Without technical support, his capacity to expand or diversify his farming was restricted. Like many smallholder farmers in the region, he faced challenges such as limited market access, inadequate inputs, and lack of proper guidance, which kept him from achieving higher profitability.

He mainly cultivated traditional crops like seasonal vegetables. Yields were low due to limited knowledge, poor land utilization, and inefficient irrigation and fertilizer management.

Additionally, irregular rainfall and seasonal changes posed risks to crop growth and yield. Without proper market linkages, he often struggled to get fair prices.

In 2020, Mir Zia joined the SACP Farmer Producer Group and participated in comprehensive hands-on training provided by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). The training focused on modern cultivation methods and high-value crop production. Subsequently, he was selected as a demonstration farmer and received quality BARI Malta-1 saplings, fertilizers, fencing materials, and continuous technical assistance from the Upazila Agriculture Office and SACP experts. With these inputs, he established a 50-decimal Malta orchard on his own land. With project assistance, he was able to establish connections with local markets, ensuring better prices and timely sale of his produce. Project personnel conducted regular monitoring visits and provided timely suggestions and support, enabling better decision-making throughout the cultivation process.

Though initial fruiting started in 2021 with low yields due to young plants, by 2022 Mir Zia harvested approximately 2,500 kg of Malta fruits. Selling 2,130 kg at an average price of Tk. 80 per kg, he earned Tk. 170,500, while distributing the remainder to family and relatives. Malta production gradually increased every year. In 2023 and 2024, Approximately 7200 kg of malt was produced at an average price of 75 taka per kg and sold for 5,40,000 taka.

This marked a significant improvement in his farm productivity and household income. Encouraged by this success, he expanded into dragon fruit cultivation on adjacent land.

Transitioning from seasonal crops to permanent fruit orchards has promoted sustainable land use. These orchards improve soil fertility, prevent erosion, and enhance local biodiversity, contributing positively to the environment while ensuring farmers' livelihoods.

Beyond financial gains, the project empowered Mir Zia with modern agricultural knowledge and skills. His success story has inspired neighbouring farmers to adopt high-value crop cultivation, contributing to community-wide economic upliftment and job creation He actively participated in the Field Day programs organized under the project, where he was introduced to new crop varieties, modern farming technologies, and improved production techniques. These field-level demonstrations gave him firsthand exposure and inspired him to adopt new methods in his own farming, which led to better yields and reduced production costs. His success story was featured in local media, increasing his visibility and influence.

Ziaur's Malta orchard has also created significant employment opportunities in his village. Seasonal activities such as land preparation, weeding, pruning, spraying, harvesting, and post-harvest handling generate 100-120 man-days annually.

Ziaur plans to expand his Malta orchard by increasing the cultivated area and introducing improved varieties to ensure higher yield and better fruit quality. His vision is to establish Malta as a sustainable, high-value crop that not only boosts his own income but also creates more jobs and inspires young farmers to engage in commercial fruit farming.
"

Before joining the SACP project, I relied solely on seasonal crops, which brought irregular income and limited profits. After participating in the project, I learned modern fruit cultivation techniques and applied them in practice. By cultivating Malta and Dragon fruit, I have significantly improved my financial condition.

Now I realize that planned high-value fruit cultivation can benefit not just me but also other farmers in the community. I truly believe that this type of farming can play a vital role in reducing unemployment and strengthening the rural economy.

– Mir Ziaur Rahman, Farmer, Kawkhali, Pirojpur

Empowering Rural Women: Papri Boiragi's Journey from Housewife to Successful Farmer

Papri Boiragi, a 45-year-old housewife from Nanguli village, under Kawkhali upazila of Pirojpur district, is a shining example of how rural women can transform their lives through proper support and training. Married to Suvas Boiragi, she used to be engaged in small-scale household activities and only occasionally supported her husband in farming. With limited knowledge and no exposure to modern agriculture, she had never imagined herself as an independent farmer.

Her journey took a new turn in 2019, when she became a member of the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) with a Beneficiary Identification Number SACP 033.20.11.

Before joining SACP, Papri Boiragi was a typical rural housewife in Nanguli village, under Kawkhali upazila of Pirojpur district. While her family owned a small piece of agricultural land, she had little formal knowledge or active participation in farming.

Her role was mainly limited to assisting her husband, Suvas Boiragi, in some minor seasonal agricultural tasks.

The family's income was modest and primarily dependent on traditional farming practices, which were neither productive nor profitable. She lacked access to modern agricultural information, training, or any institutional support. As a result, the land's productivity remained low, and there was no initiative to grow high-value crops or fruits. She had the willingness to contribute more but didn't have the knowledge, confidence, or resources to do so. Her economic contribution to the family was minimal, and her potential as a farmer remained untapped.

Under SACP Papri became a member of a local producer group where she received hands-on training in high-value crop and fruit cultivation, with a particular focus on modern orchard management.

On 26 August 2019, she established a Malta orchard on 50 decimals of her own land. As a selected demonstration farmer, she was provided with sixty BARI Malta-1 saplings along with fencing materials, fertilizers, other necessary inputs, and ongoing technical assistance from the Upazila Agriculture Office.

In the second year of production, in 2021, Papri harvested 480 kilograms of Malta from her orchard. She earned BDT 43,200 at a market rate of 90 Tk per kilogram, while her total expenses over the first two years stood at around BDT 25,000. This marked a significant return, made possible through the timely input support and training from the SACP.

At present, Papri earns on average between BDT 50,000 and 60,000 annually from her Malta cultivation. She remains optimistic that her production will increase further as the orchard matures. Encouraged by her profit and the confidence she gained, she has expanded into cultivating vegetables, guava, mango, jujube, and dragon fruit. She has also established a vermicompost unit to produce organic fertilizer for her own agricultural use and to generate additional income.

Through the SACP project, Papri benefited in several other ways. She received hands-on training on organic farming, pest management, and post-harvest techniques, along with regular technical guidance from agriculture officers and Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers (SAAOs). By actively participating in producer groups, she strengthened her leadership and communication skills, while also gaining exposure to market systems that helped her secure better prices for her produce. The support she received to set up the vermicompost unit not only reduced her input costs but also created an extra source of income. Above all, Papri's journey boosted her confidence as a woman farmer and turned her into an inspiration for others in her community.

Papri is expands her Malta orchard, grow other high-value fruits and vegetables, strengthen organic farming with vermi-compost, and encourage other women farmers to adopt modern, planned cultivation for better income and community development.

I never thought that I could earn so much from fruits like Malta. The training and support from SACP changed my life. Fruits like guava, mango, Malta, and dragon fruit are helping many like me. If we focus on planned fruit cultivation on homestead and high land, we can meet local demand and improve our income. I now use organic compost from my Vermi plant, and I'm proud to be a woman farmer who inspires others in the village.

– Papri Boiragi,kawkhali,Pirojpur

Fatema Begum, Face of a successful Vermi compost entrepreneur

In the quiet lanes of Musapur village, Sandwip upazila, Chattogram, the story of Fatema Begum stands as a beacon of resilience. Once known simply as a widow struggling to provide for her family, today she is celebrated as a pioneering woman entrepreneur in vermicompost production —a journey that speaks of courage, determination, and the power of opportunity.

Fatema lives with her five-member family—two sons, a sister-in-law, and her grandson. Life tested her early when she lost her husband, yet instead of succumbing to despair, she stood firm. Her elder son now works in a pesticide company after completing a diploma in agriculture, while her younger son is training as an electrician after finishing his SSC. Their home, a modest semi-pukka four-room structure with good sanitation and a motorized tube-well, reflects both her hardship and her progress. Though she owns no farmland, Fatema leases land for vegetable cultivation and supplements her income by rearing three dairy cows and about 50 poultry birds.

The turning point in Fatema's life came when she was introduced to vermicompost farming. She had first heard about it in 2016, but it was through the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) that her journey as an entrepreneur truly began. Joining as a member of a producer and marketing group, she received training under the guidance of the Upazila Agriculture Office in Sandwip. The encouragement of SAAO Forid Uzzaman, who explained the economic potential of vermicompost, gave her the confidence to take her first step as a demonstration farmer in 2022–23.

She started modestly with six RCC rings, producing just 90 kilograms of vermicompost for her own fields. The results were immediate —higher yields, better quality crops, and visible improvements that caught the attention of her neighbors during a DAE field day. Soon, demand for her compost began to grow. Fatema invested Tk. 10,000 of her own money, expanding her production to 11 RCC rings and two chambers. Today, her enterprise produces about 5,000 kilograms of vermicompost annually, sold at Tk. 20 per kilogram. With a gross income of Tk. 100,000 and minimal costs of Tk.

She now earns a net profit of Tk. 88,000 each year. Beyond sales, Fatema uses her compost on her own leased fields, producing safe, chemical-free vegetables such as chilli, beans, cauliflower, peanuts, brinjal, okra, and leafy greens. These crops fetch higher prices in the market while saving her fertilizer costs. Her enterprise also generates about 60 man-days of employment annually, benefiting both her family and the community.

The transformation in her life is profound. With her earnings, Fatema has leased 40 decimals of land for vegetable farming, supported her family's education and healthcare needs, and secured her household's future. More than just improving her own life, she has become a role model for others. At least 10 farmers in her village have taken up vermicompost production after being inspired by her. Local farmers, teachers, and growers regularly purchase compost and vermi worms from her, and she is frequently consulted for advice on safe farming. Her leadership has been officially recognized as she was honored as a "Joyeeta"—a title for women who achieve self-reliance and success against the odds.

Halima Begum's From Struggle to Strength: A Journey of Courage, Resilience, and Rural Entrepreneurship

Halima Begum Munni, a 42-year-old resilient woman from Dubil village in Nalchity Upazila of Jhalokathi District, turned personal tragedy into an inspiring story of success.

After the death of her husband, Abdul Mannan Khan, Halima was left to care for her two sons and manage the household alone. With limited resources but unwavering determination, she stepped into the world of agriculture to secure her family's future.

In 2019, Halima came into contact with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and enrolled in the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), under BID Number SACP 046.14.21. Recognizing her enthusiasm and potential, the Upazila Agriculture Office appointed her as a Lead Farmer under the project. With 90 decimals of land, she began cultivating a variety of seasonal crops.

To improve her agricultural practices, Halima actively participated in SACP training programs on modern farming techniques, including crop management, soil health, pest control, and water use efficiency. Her dedication to learning quickly translated into improved productivity and confidence.

In 2021, Halima also engaged with the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM) , another vital component of SACP. Through this platform, she gained critical knowledge in post-harvest handling, food preservation, and market-oriented production. Her involvement did not go unnoticed.

The Upazila Agriculture Office discovered her exceptional skill in making traditional Bengali pithas, jellies and pickles. She was encouraged to pursue these crafts more seriously, not only as a cultural heritage but as a viable income-generating activity. She also began cultivating high-value vegetables to diversify her income sources.

Later in 2021, the SACP's Marketing Facilitator from DAM recognized her potential and arranged additional training on primary processing techniques, food safety and preservation, as well as basic marketing and entrepreneurship.To boost her confidence and visibility, Halima was given opportunities to supply traditional snacks during SACP training sessions. Her pithas and pickles were highly appreciated, earning her praise and new customers.

Encouraged by this recognition, Halima expanded her production and started marketing her products in local markets and community events. The Marketing Facilitator helped promote her work through official programs and meetings. Soon, she began receiving regular orders for local gatherings, official events, and private celebrations.

Today, Halima Begum is no longer just a widow struggling to survive—she is a successful rural entrepreneur. She runs a small but thriving home-based business, earning between 15,000 to 18,000 BDT per month. Her transformation has become a source of inspiration for many other women in her community. Some have joined her initiative, while others have started their own ventures in pitha and pickle production.

From Struggles to Stability: The Inspiring Success Story of Md. Nur Nabi

Md. Nur Nabi, a 62-year-old marginal farmer from Guldarhat village in Hajarigonj Union under Charfession Upazila of Bhola district, Bangladesh, has become a local role model through his successful cultivation of summer tomato. Once burdened by poverty, Nur Nabi now exemplifies how government support, proper training, and personal initiative can lead to sustainable prosperity.

He lives in a joint family of eight, which includes his wife, four school-going children—two daughters and two sons—and his elderly parents. With limited income sources and rising expenses, particularly for education and daily sustenance, his financial condition was previously very poor. Despite these constraints, he decided to lease 60 decimals of land for BDT 10,000 and venture into summer tomato farming. His modest house consists of three rooms made of tin. He became a member of the SACP project after participating in the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in November 2019.

Nur Nabi's success began when he received technical and material support from SACP, implemented by the Charfession Upazila Agriculture Office. The project provided him with essential inputs, including seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides, mulching paper, and fencing nets. Demonstrating his dedication, Nur Nabi invested his own resources to purchase pheromone traps, yellow sticky trapsand additional pesticides, ensuring that he could maximize the opportunity offered by the project.

Despite challenges such as excessive rainfall and pest attacks, he successfully protected his crop using integrated pest management techniques learned during SACP training. His tomato crop matured within 70–85 days, and the market response was encouraging. Nur Nabi earned a total revenue of BDT 150,000 against a total investment of BDT 60,000, resulting in a net profit of BDT 90,000. With an average selling price of BDT 80 per kilogram and an estimated production of 1,875 kilograms, he produced 150% above the break-even quantity of 750 kilograms.

The cost-benefit ratio of 2.51 indicates that every taka invested returned 2.5 takas, demonstrating excellent profitability and efficiency.

Nur Nabi prudently used his income to support his children's education, build a shed for livestock, reinvest in future agricultural production, and improve household nutrition by consuming fresh vegetables grown on his own farm. These actions ensured better health and dietary diversity for his family.

He faced two key challenges along the way: market exploitation by middlemen, locally known as Faria and Paikar, who forced farmers to sell at lower prices, and climate risks such as excessive rainfall, which shortened the cultivation season and limited potential profit. These experiences underscore the importance of stronger farmer cooperatives, direct marketing systems, and climate-resilient farming practices.

Md. Sarwar's Journey to Self-Reliance through Brinjal Farming

In the small coastal village of Ankujanpara, nestled in the Nishanbaria Union under Taltoli Upazila of Barguna district, life has never been easy. The village is no stranger to the harsh realities of nature—salinity, seasonal flooding, and fierce storms constantly challenge the resilience of its people. For generations, agriculture, the lifeline of the community, remained a risky endeavor, with smallholder farmers often struggling to make ends meet.

Among them was Md. Sarwar, son of Abdur Rahman Qari, and a beneficiary of the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), identified under B.I.D. number 122.11.01.

For years, Sarwar's life had been a delicate balancing act. He lived with his wife and two school-going children, carrying the full responsibility of feeding his family, ensuring their education, and meeting healthcare needs. Traditional farming methods on his limited land yielded little, and fluctuating market prices often left him discouraged. Economic hardship forced the family to compromise on essential nutrition and schooling. Hope seemed distant, and the dream of a stable livelihood appeared almost impossible.

That hope began to flicker in late 2024 when Sarwar, through his membership in the Ankujanpara SACP Sabji Chashi Krishak Dal, a local farmers' group, became involved in the SACP project.

With the project's support, coordinated by the Upazila Agriculture Office and guided by Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer Md. Suman. Sarwar received the training and technical assistance that would transform his life. He was selected as a demonstration farmer for BARI Brinjal-12, a high-yield, climate-resilient variety ideal for his region.

Sarwar cultivated brinjal on 60 decimals of land. His investments were modest yet strategic: BDT 20,000 for land preparation, seeds, and fertilizer; BDT 10,000 for labor and irrigation; and BDT 5,000 for pest management and intercultural operations, totaling BDT 35,000.

The project equipped him with everything needed to succeed: high-quality seeds, fertilizers, intercultural materials, hands-on training, regular guidance from agriculture officials, and monitoring visits from project teams.

With the support arriving just in time for the 2024–25 Rabi season, Sarwar could sow his brinjal with confidence and implement best practices from the start.

The results were remarkable. The first harvest brought in 15 kg sold for BDT 1,200, followed by a second harvest of 32 kg for BDT 2,560. As the weeks passed, he earned BDT 60,000 from successive harvests.

Despite a slight decline in wholesale prices, he projected an additional BDT 20,000–25,000, bringing his estimated total income to BDT 80,000–85,000, and a net profit of BDT 45,000–50,000. This income not only met his family's needs but allowed him to save and reinvest in his farm.

Market prices fluctuated unpredictably. But through continuous support from the Agriculture Office, careful irrigation and salinity management, adoption of pest and disease control measures, and guidance on building market connections, Sarwar overcame these obstacles.

Encouraged by his achievements, Sarwar has ambitious plans for the future.

He aims to expand brinjal cultivation to over 1 bigha, experiment with high-value crops like capsicum and hybrid tomato, start a small vegetable seedling nursery, train fellow farmers as a community resource person, and collaborate with local officials to form a collective marketing group for better price control

The impact of Sarwar's success rippled through "Ankujanpara SACP Sabji Chashi Krishak Dal" farmers group. His thriving brinjal field became a model for neighboring farmers.

More than 10 local farmers visited his plot, eager to learn and replicate his success with BARI Brinjal-12 in the next season. Sarwar's journey inspired a wave of secondary adoption of modern farming methods, bringing renewed hope to the community.

Yet, the path was not without challenges. Salinity had initially made him fearful of crop failure, and his knowledge of new vegetable varieties was limited.

Successful Fruit Cultivation Through Joint Venture – Led by Abdul Momen

In Hathirkheda village of Baghan Bazar Union No. 1, located 50 kilometers away from the Fatikchhari Upazila Agriculture Office in Chattogram district, live Abdul Momen, Jamal Masrur, Rakibul Islam, and Idris Mia as ordinary farmers. At one time, they used to cultivate separately using local techniques and indigenous fruit varieties. From this, their income was meager, and they could barely manage their household expenses. They also had no social recognition.

In 2020, on the advice of the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer, they became members of a farmer group "Hatirkheda Krishak Dal" formed under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) and regularly participated in various training programs of SACP, where they learned modern methods of cultivating high-value fruits and vegetables.

Applying the knowledge gained from training, they jointly leased one acre of abandoned hilly land, cleared the forest, and established a malta orchard on 50 decimals of land. They named the orchard "Manjil Agro."

The following year, in 2021, with the advice and financial assistance of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Fatikchhari, they set up a demonstration plot of improved mango varieties on the remaining 50 decimals of land.

Two years later, the mango orchard began generating good income. With the earnings from the orchard, they leased another two acres of abandoned hilly land and established orchards of mango, dragon fruit, papaya, and year-round pink jackfruit.

At present, their orchard covers 15 acres. Currently, 5 workers work regularly in their garden.

With the support of the Upazila Agriculture Office, they also participated in SACP's training on the safe production of fruits and vegetables. In unison, they said:

"We have been able to produce pest-free mangoes by applying the fruit bagging technology in our mango orchard, and as a result, we received higher prices for our produce."

Every day, people come to their orchard and collect safe, poison-free fruits with their own hands. Seeing the success of their joint initiative, many other farmers in the area have been inspired to establish orchards. Inspired by their garden, 7 more farmers in the area are creating similar gardens.

There is a serious shortage of irrigation water in the area. They are solving the problem as a challenge by adopting modern methods of irrigation.

Their future plan- "Establishing an integrated agricultural farm on 20 acres of land"

They expressed their gratitude for the cooperation received from the Agriculture Department.

Success Story of Salauddin: A Marginal Farmer's Journey to Prosperity through Bitter Gourd Cultivation

Mr. Salauddin, a marginal farmer from Gojaria village in Paschim Char Umed Union under Lalmohan Upazila of Bhola District, Bangladesh, once struggled to meet the basic needs of his family. Owning only 50 decimals (0.5 acre) of cultivable land, his limited resources and lack of access to modern agricultural practices kept him trapped in a cycle of poverty for many years.

His household consists of four members, including his wife and two sons, and they live in a tin-roofed house. His Beneficiary ID under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) is SACP-059-10-13.

Salauddin's life changed when he became a beneficiary of the SACP through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) conducted at the beginning of the project in November 2019, implemented by the Lalmohan Upazila Agriculture Office.

Through the project, he received a comprehensive support package, including high-quality bitter gourd seeds, organic fertilizers, pesticides, a fencing net, a sprayer, mulching paper, and pheromone and yellow traps. In addition to these inputs, he received practical training and technical assistance on sustainable and climate-resilient farming methods, which enabled him to start bitter gourd cultivation on his modest plot.

With an investment of 62,500 BDT for inputs and cultivation activities, and applying the guidance he received, Salauddin achieved a production level that generated a gross return of 112,000 BDT, resulting in a net profit of 49,500 BDT. His break-even analysis shows that with fixed and variable costs of 62,500 BDT and an assumed selling price of 40 BDT per kilogram of bitter gourd, he needed to produce 1,562.5 kg to cover costs.

Salauddin's total production exceeded this quantity, confirming that he not only broke even but also secured a significant profit margin. His cost-benefit ratio of 1.79 indicates that for every 1 BDT invested, he earned 1.79 BDT, demonstrating remarkable returns under smallholder farming conditions.

The project's support has had significant social and sustainable development impacts. Salauddin employs organic fertilizers, pheromone traps, and bio-friendly pest control methods, promoting environmentally safe and sustainable agricultural practices that reduce chemical residues in food production. For SDG 13 (Climate Action), he adopted climate-smart techniques, such as mulching and integrated pest management, which contribute to water conservation, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and greater resilience to climate variability.

Salauddin's success has become a beacon of hope in his village. Many local farmers have been inspired by his achievements, and several neighboring farmers have started cultivating bottle gourd using similar methods and support. His field has become a demonstration plot, attracting regular visits from those eager to learn about the innovative and sustainable practices he follows. Salauddin's transformation from a marginal farmer into a role model underscores the effectiveness of grassroots agricultural support programs. He is now economically stable and respected in his community, actively helping disseminate knowledge and best practices.

Mr. Salauddin aims to expand his agricultural land and become an entrepreneur of high-value crops. His journey exemplifies the profound impact of targeted agricultural interventions on rural livelihoods, showing how economic stability, sustainable farming, and community upliftment can be achieved simultaneously. Salauddin's story offers a replicable model for other smallholder farmers across Bangladesh, aligning perfectly with the goals of sustainable development.

Collective Farming, Collective Progress: Chhota Tengra's Transformation

In the coastal village of Chhota Tengra, located in Patharghata Upazila of Barguna District, agriculture was once a subsistence activity, burdened by limited knowledge, low yields, and vulnerability to climate shocks. Farmers struggled with poor market access, outdated practices, and unpredictable income.

That began to change in 2024 when the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) intervened. With structured training, quality inputs, and technical guidance, farmers formed the Chhota Tengra SACP Farmers' Group, which soon became a beacon of progress in the region.

The group's president, Md. Jalal Hang, a dedicated smallholder farmer with the Beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number SACP 126.33.04, supports a family of five, including his wife and three school-going children. Previously, his income came from traditional farming and cattle rearing, which was barely enough to meet basic needs. Today, improved farming practices have enabled his family to invest more in education, nutrition, and healthcare, contributing to a much better quality of life.

The Chhota Tengra SACP Farmers' Group comprises 25 members, including 20 men and 10 women, representing the social and gender diversity of the village. Most members are smallholder or marginal farmers, dependent on agriculture as their primary livelihood. Through collective effort and knowledge-sharing, they are redefining farming as a sustainable and respected profession in the community. Before the project intervention, many group members lived in modest homes with basic sanitation.

With increased incomes, several farmers, including Jalal Hang, have improved their living conditions by constructing semi-pucca houses, installing sanitary latrines, and ensuring access to safe drinking water, leading to healthier and more dignified lives.

The group was formed in early 2024 through facilitation by the Upazila Agriculture Office under the SACP-RAINS initiative, aiming to promote collective farming, modern techniques, and income diversification in the vulnerable coastal region. Farmers were encouraged to meet monthly, share learnings, discuss savings, and jointly plan crop cycles and market strategies. From 2024 onwards, the group received training on modern vegetable cultivation, particularly brinjal and bitter gourd, along with quality seeds and organic inputs. Demonstrations, field visits, and technical support from agriculture extension officers were provided, and members gained access to irrigation machines and other farming tools, as well as market linkage support to secure better prices.

The group has adopted environment-friendly technologies such as organic composting, reduced chemical pesticide use, mulching, drip irrigation to conserve water, integrated pest management (IPM), and the use of irrigation machines for efficiency. These methods not only improved yields but also promoted climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture, which is critical for the coastal ecosystem.
Since engaging with the project, crop yields and incomes have significantly increased.

Farmers have diversified into crops such as sunflower, malta, short-variety coconut, and improved wheat, and the adoption of double and triple cropping systems has boosted land productivity. The group is now recognized as a model farming unit in the Upazila, and women's participation in farming and decision-making has improved. For example, President Jalal Hang invested BDT 15,000 for brinjal cultivation on 20 decimals of land and generated a gross income of BDT 50,000. Additional income from cattle rearing, combined with the crop revenue, resulted in a net profit of BDT 35,000, yielding a cost-benefit ratio of over 3:1, indicating excellent profitability. Similar returns were observed among other members, many of whom previously earned only subsistence income. The weekly earnings from vegetable sales now support school fees, healthcare expenses, nutritional food, and savings for reinvestment.

The group's visible success has inspired over 15 neighboring farmers to adopt similar methods, particularly for brinjal and bitter gourd cultivation. Farmers now frequently visit group plots to observe and learn, making Chhota Tengra a hub of peer-led knowledge transfer in the Upazila. At the start of their journey, the farmers faced multiple challenges, including a lack of knowledge on modern techniques, limited access to quality inputs, traditional mindsets resistant to change, and irrigation constraints. These obstacles were gradually overcome through continuous capacity-building and field demonstrations, the formation of a savings fund for group-based input purchases, access to irrigation tools under project support, and strong peer motivation reinforced by visible success stories.

The group envisions expanding vegetable cultivation to more land, establishing a nursery and seedling business, forming a marketing cooperative to reduce dependency on middlemen, and introducing post-harvest processing for value addition.

They are also determined to empower more women and youth through targeted training, ensuring that agriculture remains inclusive and forward-looking. The Chhota Tengra SACP Farmers' Group thus stands as a powerful example of how collective farming, modern techniques, and timely support can transform the socio-economic landscape of a coastal village. Through innovation, collaboration, and determination, they have not only improved their own lives but also inspired wider transformation in the community.

> **Earlier, we were farming just to survive. Now, with the SACP project's support, we farm to grow, earn, and inspire others. Farming has given our families dignity and our children a better future.**
>
> – Jalal Hang , Member,
> Choto Tengra Farmer's Group

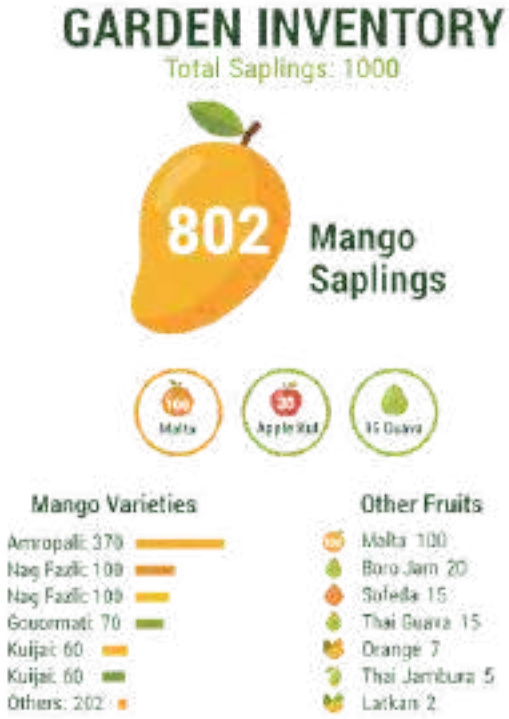
From Expatriate to Entrepreneur: Mr. Sohel's Journey of Building an Integrated Fruit Garden in the Hills

When Mr. Sohel returned to his homeland in 2019 after spending many years abroad, he had no idea that the world was about to change. The COVID-19 pandemic—what he calls the "corona time"—shut down opportunities to work overseas. Instead of dwelling on uncertainty, Mr. Sohel made a bold decision: he would stay in Bangladesh and build a new life through agriculture.

In search of guidance, he approached the Upazila Agricultural Officer (UAO) and, on the officer's recommendation, joined the Moradabad SACP Farmers' Group. His natural enthusiasm and aptitude for farming quickly caught the attention of the agricultural officials. In 2020, he received a one-day training session on fruit gardening and was supported with a demonstration mango garden covering 50 decimals of his ancestral hilly land.

The road ahead was not easy. The location posed several challenges, including a shortage of water, frequent wild boar attacks, and poor road connectivity. But Mr. Sohel was not one to give up. Drawing on the technical advice of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), he applied modern agricultural techniques to give his orchard the best chance of success.

He introduced high-value improved fruit varieties, used sex-pheromone traps and yellow sticky traps for pest control, applied vermicompost for soil enrichment, adopted mulching for moisture retention, followed balanced fertilizer doses, and practiced fruit bagging along with safe food production methods.



He planted 80 mango saplings and carefully tended to them despite the hurdles of the hilly terrain. His patience and persistence paid off.
By June 2023, the first harvest arrived, followed by another in July 2024. The results were outstanding. The mangoes, with their perfect shape and attractive color, drew high demand in the market, earning him both profit and recognition.

Inspired by this success, Mr. Sohel did not stop there. Together with the UAO, he devised a bigger plan. He leased 300 decimals of additional hilly land to expand his integrated fruit garden, planting a mix of mango varieties alongside other fruits, setting the foundation for a thriving and sustainable agricultural enterprise

Total cost of mango garden is so far (2020-2025): 12, 00,000/- (land Lease # 600000/- for 10 years, fence around, seedlings, fertilizers, irrigation, spray, labor and others). On the Other Hand, In the years 2023 & 2024, 340kg & 1700 kg mangos were sold at taka 65/kg & taka 60/kg respectively. Total income of Taka 1,25,000/-. this year till date (20-06-2025) 8,500 kg has been sold the price of which he got 5,80,000/-. This year expected to sell rest of the mangoes near about 1,50,000/-.

Besides we hope to be able to sell mangoes value 10,00000/- taka next year. The Agriculture Officer has contacted various wholesale fruit traders in Chittagong city coordinate with Mr. Sohel and the wholesale traders will be present in the garden during the fruit collection to purchase the fruits. Last year, he installed submerge (LLP) Tubewell in his house, this year he applied for mini truck with matching grant to transport fruits and other products from the mango sales.

Inspired by Sohel's garden, 6 nearby farmers have established mango garden of various varieties on about 500 decimals of land. Many people from different unions and other upazila of Chittagang came to visit this garden and impressed by seeing the beauty and growth of the garden. At present, Sohel is known as a model mango farmer in this area and outside of the area. His dream is to become a successful fruit grower in the future.

He will lease more land. Besides the mango garden, he will create different fruits garden such as Malta, Dragon, Guava, Sofeda, Apple kul etc. So that he can produce various type of fruits all the year round. Besides eating safe food & toxin-free fruits also he will profit by selling fruits. Now he says corona virus has been a blessing for him as a result of which he has become known as a model fruit farmer in the country without going abroad and is living with his family.

When corona stopped my dream of going abroad, SACP showed me a new path in agriculture—today, with their guidance and the support of the Agriculture Office, I have built a thriving fruit garden on my own land and found success at home

– Nurul Kabir Sohel, Chandanaish, Chattogram

Forkan Pada Achieves Success in Growing Thai Guava: A Story of Resilience and Prosperity

Md. Forkan Pada, with the beneficiary identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 105.37.20, is a 50-year-old smallholder farmer from Uttar Kalibari village in Gulishakhali Union, Amtali Upazila of Barguna District. He once lived a life of uncertainty. Like many in his coastal community, he battled poverty, low crop yields, and salinity-prone soil. Traditional farming methods gave little return, and supporting his family of five became increasingly difficult. But in the face of these odds, Forkan chose to reinvent himself. With courage and guidance from the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), he began a journey that would transform his life.

Forkan Pada lives with his wife, two sons, and a daughter, all of whom depend on his farming income. With dreams of giving his children better opportunities and ensuring food security for his family, he took a leap of faith into commercial fruit farming, hoping to secure a more stable and dignified livelihood.

Uttar Kalibari is a semi-coastal village where most households depend on subsistence agriculture, fishing, or day labor. Access to advanced farming methods, finance, and market connections has traditionally been limited. Forkan's success has begun to reshape the local mindset—showing that innovative, environment-friendly fruit farming can thrive even in challenging ecosystems.

Before his success, Forkan's family lived in a small, tin-roofed home with minimal facilities. Today, due to his increased earnings, he has renovated his house, installed a sanitary latrine, and ensured access to safe drinking water, significantly improving his family's health and living standards.

In 2021, Forkan was introduced to the SACP through local Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer. Encouraged by the project's focus on high-value crops and climate-smart farming, Forkan joined the B.I.D. SACP 105.37.20 Producer Group. This was the first step in a journey toward transforming his 50 decimals of land into a thriving Thai Guava orchard.

Forkan received 150 Thai Guava-5 saplings, organic fertilizers, fencing materials, hands-on training in cultivation, bagging, and pest management, as well as guidance in market linkage and post-harvest handling. This support was provided in 2021–22, and technical follow-up continued regularly.

Forkan adopted sustainable practices to ensure high-quality, chemical-free produce. He used organic fertilizers and compost, natural pesticides like neem extract, and applied fruit bagging techniques to reduce pest attacks and improve quality. He used minimal chemical input, promoting safer consumption and better shelf life. His approach not only satisfied consumer demand for chemical-free produce but also preserved the local environment and soil health.

Before the project, Forkan's farming was limited to seasonal crops with poor returns. After the intervention, he became a model guava farmer, producing nearly 10 tons of guava annually. His orchard attracted local traders, allowing direct garden-to-market sales. He repaid a BDT 70,000 loan from Krishi Bank within the first year of full harvest. His children now attend school regularly, and his family enjoys a balanced diet and better healthcare. Forkan now walks with pride in his village as a symbol of success and self-reliance.

His initial investment was BDT 70,000 (loan) along with his own savings. The annual maintenance cost was BDT 100,000, covering fertilizer, bagging, labor, and upkeep. His orchard now produces nearly 10 tons of guava per year.

Inspired by his success, at least 10 neighboring farmers have begun planting Thai Guava. Forkan regularly hosts field visits, shares knowledge, and motivates unemployed youths to view farming as a viable business, not just survival.

Forkan faced several challenges throughout his journey. Salinity-prone soil was managed with raised beds and organic matter. A lack of knowledge in fruit farming was addressed through project training and close mentoring. Financial constraints were solved through a Krishi Bank loan and project cost-sharing. Market risks were avoided through direct buyer engagement facilitated by the Agriculture Office.

Selling the guava at BDT 50 per kilogram directly to traders, Forkan earns an annual gross income of BDT 500,000. His net profit is approximately BDT 400,000. This consistent, high-margin return has given Forkan financial freedom, allowing him to reinvest and secure his family's future.

Forkan plans to expand his orchard with more high-value fruits like dragon fruit and BAU Kul. He also aims to establish a nursery for Thai Guava saplings, train local youth and women in organic fruit cultivation, form a marketing cooperative for fair pricing and wider reach, and advocate for eco-friendly farming practices to preserve soil and water quality.

Md. Forkan Pada's transformation from a struggling farmer to a prosperous Thai Guava entrepreneur is a powerful example of what's possible with vision, training, and timely support.

His story proves that agriculture can be a business of hope, dignity, and lasting prosperity—even in the most challenging coastal environments.

> **Farming used to be my burden. Now, it's my pride. With the support of SACP and the right knowledge, I've proven that even in the coastal belt, success grows with hardwork and mordern techniques.**
>
> **— Md. Forkan Pada**

Vermi-Compost Entrepreneur: Abdur Rahim's Journey to Sustainable Farming

Md. Abdur Rahim, a lifelong farmer from Padma village, Patharghata Upazila, in Barguna District, spent years cultivating paddy, vegetables, and seasonal crops. Despite his dedication, he faced declining soil fertility, rising costs of chemical fertilizers, and falling crop yields. These challenges not only impacted his income but also shook his confidence in farming as a sustainable livelihood. Searching for a solution, Rahim found new hope in organic farming—a shift that would redefine his future.

Md. Abdur Rahim, beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 131.08.01, lives with his wife, two sons, and one daughter. His family's income depended solely on farming, and with increasing production costs, it became hard to cover education expenses and household needs. Today, thanks to his success with vermi-compost, he proudly supports his children's schooling, healthcare, and family nutritional needs, offering a more stable and secure life.

Padma village is located in a coastal belt where most farmers rely on small-scale, traditional agriculture. The region is prone to soil degradation due to overuse of chemicals and environmental stresses. Most villagers are engaged in farming, fishing, or day labor, with limited exposure to eco-friendly or income-generating innovations.

Before his success, Rahim's house was modest, with basic tin roofing and earthen floors. With increased income from compost sales, he has renovated his home, constructed a semi-pucca toilet, and improved overall sanitation. These changes have contributed to a healthier environment for his family.

In late 2022, Abdur Rahim participated in a training session organized by SACP through the Upazila Agriculture Office. The session focused on vermi-composting, sustainable agriculture, and the importance of organic inputs. Motivated by the concept, Rahim decided to test vermi-composting on a small scale at home, marking the start of his journey as an agri-entrepreneur.

Rahim received the following support from the SACP. Training and hands-on demonstration on vermi-composting methods, technical guidance from agricultural officers, continuous monitoring and encouragement, and exposure visits and participation in agriculture fairs. This support began in late 2022 and has continued regularly through field-level mentorship.

Rahim uses vermi-compost rings made from low-cost, locally available materials. His practices include organic waste recycling, use of red worms (Eisenia fetida) for composting, zero chemical inputs, and the use of compost in both vegetable and rice fields. This sustainable approach has helped improve soil health, increase yields, and reduce environmental harm, setting a model for climate-resilient farming.

The impact of project support was significant. Initial composting with 4 rings led to the production of 100 kg in 75 days. There were positive results in vegetable and paddy fields, with visibly healthier crops. He expanded to 15 compost rings, producing 500–600 kg/month. His increased recognition as a local entrepreneur and mentor led to the use of his facility as a training and demonstration centre.

The initial setup cost for 4 rings was approximately BDT 5,000. The current monthly operating cost for labor and maintenance is BDT 3,000–4,000. His monthly revenue is BDT 18,000–22,000, with a payback period of less than 3 months for the initial investment.

Rahim earns a net profit of BDT 15,000–20,000 per month, apart from improved yields in his own fields. His income is steady, sustainable, and low-risk, with increasing demand from local farmers and market linkage support from the Upazila Agriculture Office.

Rahim's success has inspired 10–12 neighboring farmers to start their own vermi-compost production. He mentors them actively, sharing practical tips, helping set up their rings, and promoting a community-driven organic movement.

Rahim faced several challenges: lack of initial knowledge about composting, community skepticism about organic methods, and limited access to quality worms and ring materials.

These were overcome by participating in SACP training sessions, getting ongoing advice from extension officers, demonstrating success through his own crop results, establishing a reputation, and gaining peer trust.

Rahim wants to brand his vermi-compost for packaging and district-wide sale, start online sales to reach a wider market, expand to 50 rings to meet growing demand, build a community compost hub for collective farming use, and train youth and women to create employment and promote organic farming.

Md. Abdur Rahim's journey from chemical dependency to organic leadership is a powerful example of what training, innovation, and persistence can achieve. Through the SACP project, he not only improved his farm but became a change-maker, showing that sustainable farming is the future.

His story is a testament to the fact that small efforts, when guided by knowledge and passion, can lead to big transformations—for families, communities, and the environment.

I did'nt know Chemical fertilizers were draining both my land and money. SACP shows me how to grow more with vermi-compost and fresh fruits, keeping the soil healthy .

— Md. Abdur Rahim, Padma Village

Shahadat Matubbar: Transforming Vegetable Cultivation Through the Sarjan Method

Sardarpara Union of Taltali Upazila is a village surrounded by rivers on two sides and the sea on one side. The soil along the Andharmanik River is highly saline, making crop cultivation challenging. Md. Shahadat Hossain, locally known as Shahadat Matubbar, has a degree-level education and a family of five, including three children who are currently studying. He owns 1.6 acres of cultivable land.

Ten years ago, Shahadat's house was a modest tin-shed structure, with limited sanitation. Over time, his increased income from vegetable farming allowed him to renovate his home, install safe drinking water facilities, and build a sanitary latrine, ensuring improved living conditions for his family.

Shahadat Matubbar's direct engagement with the SACP(Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project) began when the BADC component supported vegetable farming initiatives in the village.

With technical assistance and irrigation equipment support from the Upazila Agriculture Office, he and other farmers gained the tools and training needed to expand cultivation throughout the year.

Starting in 2012, Shahadat received training on the Sarjan method (raised bed farming), irrigation support from BADC under SACP (pumps, barip pipes), technical guidance from extension officers, encouragement to form collective groups and cooperatives, and access to demonstration plots and exposure visits. This support allowed Shahadat to apply climate-resilient techniques to combat salinity and waterlogging.

Shahadat promoted and practiced the Sarjan cultivation method—a raised-bed system that prevents saline intrusion and waterlogging, use of mulching and composting, drip irrigation using low-pressure pumps and barip pipes, crop rotation and multi-cropping for soil health, and avoidance of harmful chemical overuse, shifting towards integrated pest management (IPM).

These environmentally sustainable practices ensured higher yields and reduced crop loss.

Before intervention, only Aman paddy was grown once a year, and farmers faced low income and poor nutrition. After intervention, more than 250 farmers now cultivate over 200 acres of vegetables. Three to four crops are cultivated annually. The annual crop value exceeds BDT 5 crore. Children in every household now attend school. A Village Development Cooperative Society was formed, providing interest-free seasonal loans. The intervention brought about a complete socio-economic transformation in the village.

Pre-intervention income from only paddy was around BDT 15,000–20,000 per acre per year. The current cost for vegetable farming per acre per year is approximately BDT 1.2–1.5 lakh (including seeds, irrigation, labor). The gross return per acre per year is BDT 3–4 lakh, while the net profit per acre per year is around BDT 2–2.5 lakh. The shift to high-value crops drastically improved profitability.
Shahadat himself earns more than BDT 5–6 lakh annually from diversified vegetable cultivation on his 1.6 acres. Beyond this, his leadership in organizing farmer groups and developing transport systems for direct market access adds value to the entire community's income.

Shahadat's initiative has directly inspired over 250 farmers in the surrounding areas. These farmers now apply the Sarjan method, cultivate multiple vegetables, and access regional markets using their own transport. Every year, more new farmers join the collective—demonstrating wide-scale replication and sustainability.

Once we could barely grow enough to feed ourselves. Now, vegetables from our village feed markets across the country. The Sarjan method and SACP support turned our despair into hope."

— Md. Shahadat Matubbar, Sardarpara.

Shahadat faced several challenges, including saline soil and seasonal waterlogging, lack of awareness about alternative cultivation methods, poor irrigation infrastructure, and limited access to markets and transport. These were addressed by introducing raised-bed (Sarjan) farming to combat salinity, forming farmer groups for knowledge sharing, receiving irrigation pumps and pipes through BADC, and building a community transport system for direct sales, eliminating middlemen.

Shahadat aims to expand the area under vegetable cultivation to 300+ acres, launch a processing center for sorting, packaging, and storing produce, register a vegetable producer cooperative officially, explore export opportunities for hybrid and organic vegetables, and introduce agri-training programs for youth and women to encourage employment and entrepreneurship.

Agriculture in the Surrounding Area has Seen Major Improvements Due to the Common Facility Center (CFC)

For years, the farmers of Kabirhat upazila faced daunting challenges after harvest. Fruits and vegetables spoiled quickly due to lack of storage facilities, while the absence of local processing units meant little scope for value addition. Most were forced to sell immediately after harvest at low prices, leaving them vulnerable to middlemen. Despite adopting improved irrigation and production methods, post-harvest losses, poor marketing systems, and financial constraints limited their earnings and discouraged further agricultural investment.

In 2024, under the guidance of the Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officer (SAAO), progressive farmer Md. Deloar Hossen and others came together to establish a Common Facility Center (CFC) in Falahari village. The initiative provided access to modern agricultural machinery such as tractors and spice grinders, storage and packaging materials, and training on crop handling and marketing. Farmers also benefited from improved market linkage support, ensuring they could reach wider markets and secure fairer prices.

The CFC members jointly opened a savings account in a commercial bank, depositing monthly contributions to invest in shared agricultural tools. This collective financial planning helped them secure long-term sustainability while reducing individual risks.

The CFC brought transformative change to the farming community. Farmers began saving considerable time and labor by using shared modern equipment for land preparation, harvesting, and processing. Post-harvest losses decreased significantly thanks to improved storage and packaging, while product quality and shelf life improved. Direct access to markets reduced dependency on intermediaries, leading to better pricing and higher profits.

With stronger financial stability, farmers could now reinvest in their farms, support their families more confidently, and explore crop diversification. The collective approach also strengthened community bonds, making agriculture more profitable and sustainable.

"The establishment of the CFC has brought remarkable improvements to our farming practices. It has given us access to modern tools and facilities, reduced post-harvest losses, and helped us secure better prices. It has truly empowered us as farmers and strengthened our agricultural community."
The success of the CFC has inspired neighbouring farmers to follow similar practices. Non-member farmers have shown growing interest in using post-harvest technologies, group savings, and collective marketing.

Advanced Jujube Cultivation Transforms Siddik Ullah's Life

Md. Siddik Ullah, a 44-year-old farmer from West Charjobber village of Subarnachar upazila, Noakhali, once struggled with financial uncertainty. Despite years of cultivating vegetables, rice, spices, and fruits, his reliance on traditional methods often brought losses. With irregular earnings, he found it difficult to provide for his six-member family, run a small grocery shop, or maintain stability in his household. Farming, once his lifeline, was close to being abandoned.

Everything changed in April 2024 when Siddik Ullah came into contact with the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) through the local Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer.

Motivated by curiosity, he attended training at the Upazila Agriculture Office, where he was introduced to modern jujube cultivation techniques.

> **Modern jujube farming practices, particularly Bharot Sundhuri and Ball Sundhuri varieties, have supported me nutritionally, financially, and socially—helping me achieve stability and recognition in my community."**
>
> – Md. Siddik Ullah,Subarnachar, Noakhali ,

He learned about improved varieties such as Bharot Sundhuri and Ball Sundhuri, along with scientific practices like mulching, pruning, pest management,and efficient irrigation.Encouraged by the technical guidance, Siddik Ullah cultivated jujube on 50 decimals of land. The results were transformative.

With lower costs and higher yields, his income rose sharply. For the first time, he was able to invest in his farm, secure his children's education, and ensure proper care for his elderly parents.

The impact went beyond his own household. Inspired by his achievements, more than 250 farmers from the surrounding area joined training sessions where Siddik Ullah shared his knowledge. His leadership helped start a youth-led movement in the village promoting sustainable jujube cultivation. Farmers began adopting the modern techniques he practiced—spreading resilience, profitability, and innovation across the region.

Today, Siddik Ullah is recognized as a progressive farmer whose success reflects the strength of modern agricultural practices supported by SACP. His story shows how adopting improved farming methods can bring wealth, joy, and elevated social status, turning despair into prosperity.

Economic Assessment of Jujube Varieties

Name of Indicator	Ball Sundhuri	Bharot Sundhuri
Production Cost	693,775	653,775
Production	45.32	43.32
Gross Return	179,525	189,525
Gross Margin	1,115,750	1,215,750

Agriculture in Nearby Areas Flourishes through Common Facilitator Center (CFC) of Subarnachar

When the Common Facilitator Center (CFC) was established in Falahari village, East Char-Bata union, Subarnachar upazila on 3 February 2022, it marked a turning point for local farmers. Led by president Abul Kashem the center began its journey on just four decimals of land with an investment of Tk. 7.5 lakh.

For years, farmers in this coastal belt struggled with post-harvest losses, lack of storage, weak market connections, and dependence on middlemen. Traditional support systems focused only on crop production, leaving gaps in storage, processing, and marketing. As a result, many farmers were forced to sell their produce immediately after harvest—often at very low prices.

The CFC filled this gap. With support from the project and local agricultural officers, farmers gained access to modern technologies—tractors for land preparation, spice grinding machines, storage and packaging materials, and improved market linkages. A joint savings account was introduced, where members contribute monthly and reinvest collectively in essential equipment.

The results have been remarkable. Farmers report significant reductions in post-harvest losses, better quality produce, and higher earnings from fairer market prices. Shared equipment has saved time and labor, allowing farmers to focus on crop quality and planning. Through collective decision-making and fair profit-sharing, the CFC has created both financial and social empowerment.

The impact has spread beyond its members. Farmers from surrounding areas, inspired by this success, are now adopting post-harvest technologies, joining group savings schemes, and seeking improved market access. Encouraged by this momentum, the CFC plans to expand into value-added processing, advanced storage, and wider knowledge sharing, ensuring sustainable growth for the entire community.

The Common Facilitator Center is no longer just a facility—it is a model for how collective effort, technology, and fair systems can transform agriculture and farmer livelihoods in coastal Bangladesh.

> **The CFC has given us access to modern tools and market facilities. Our losses have gone down, profits have gone up, and we feel more confident as a farming community.**
>
> Abul Kashem, President, Char-bata CFC, Subarnachar

Dulal Bala achieves success in growing BARI Malta-1

Mr. Dulal Bala, a 45-year-old farmer from Sonauta village, Kathalia upazila, Jhalokathi, has been a member of the SACP Farmer Producer Group since 2019. His household consists of four members, including his wife, children, and mothers; they rely primarily on farming as their main source of livelihood. He is a small and progressive farmer who cultivates only 250 decimal of cultivable land and practices a variety of high-value crops on his marginal land. Under SACP, he is a member of producer group with the Beneficiary Identification (BID) number of SACP 036.14.02

Before joining the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), Dulal Bala practiced traditional farming methods on his land.

His agricultural activities were mostly limited to seasonal crops, and he lacked access to modern farming knowledge and technologies. This resulted in low productivity and inconsistent income. Without technical support, his capacity to expand or diversify his farming was restricted.

Like many smallholder farmers in the region, he faced challenges such as limited market access, inadequate inputs, and lack of proper guidance, which kept him from achieving higher profitability.

He mainly cultivated traditional crops like seasonal vegetables. Yields were low due to limited knowledge, poor land utilization, and inefficient irrigation and fertilizer management. Additionally, irregular rainfall and seasonal changes posed risks to crop growth and yield. Without proper market linkages, he often struggled to get fair prices.

In 2019, Dulal Bala joined the SACP Farmer Producer Group and participated in comprehensive hands-on training provided by DAE. The training focused on modern cultivation methods and high-value crop production.

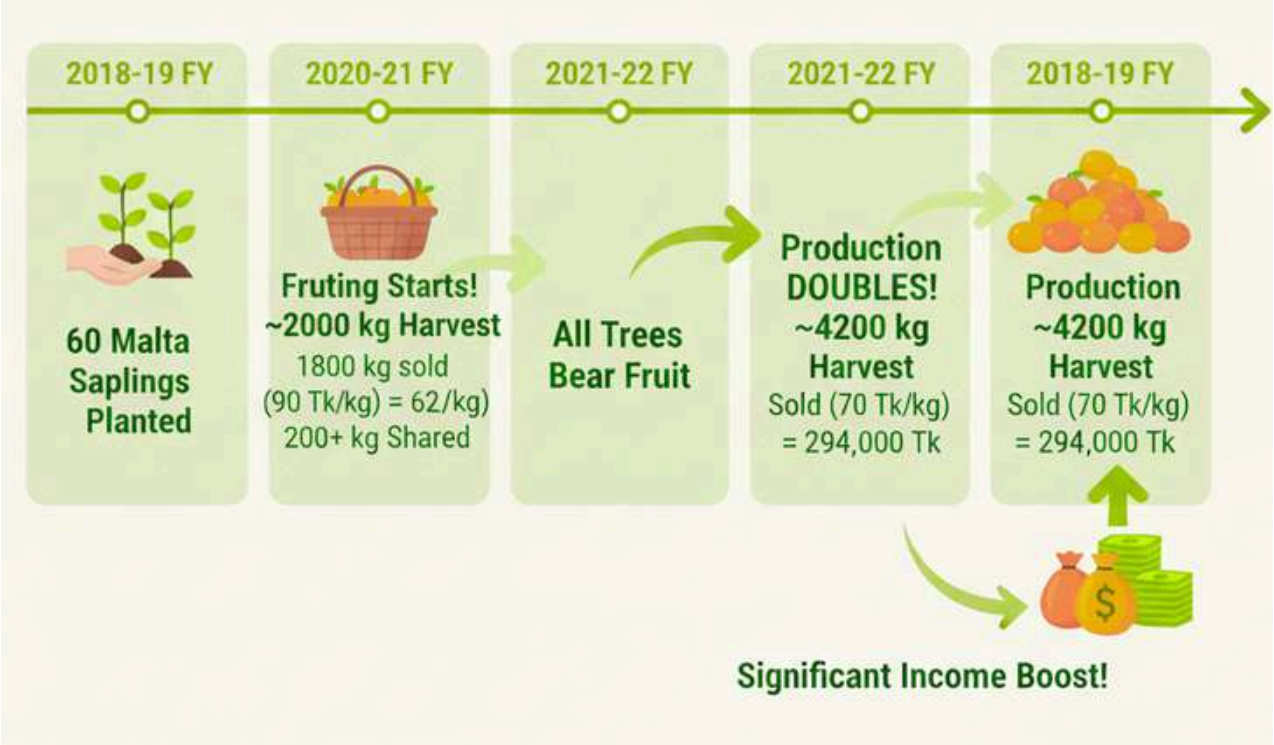
Subsequently, he was selected as a demonstration farmer and received quality BARI Malta-1 saplings, fertilizers, fencing materials, and continuous technical assistance from the Upazila Agriculture Office and SACP experts. With these inputs, he established a 50-decimal Malta orchard on his own land. With project assistance, he was able to establish connections with local markets, ensuring better prices and timely sale of his produce. Project personnel conducted regular monitoring visits and provided timely suggestions and support, enabling better decision-making throughout the cultivation process.

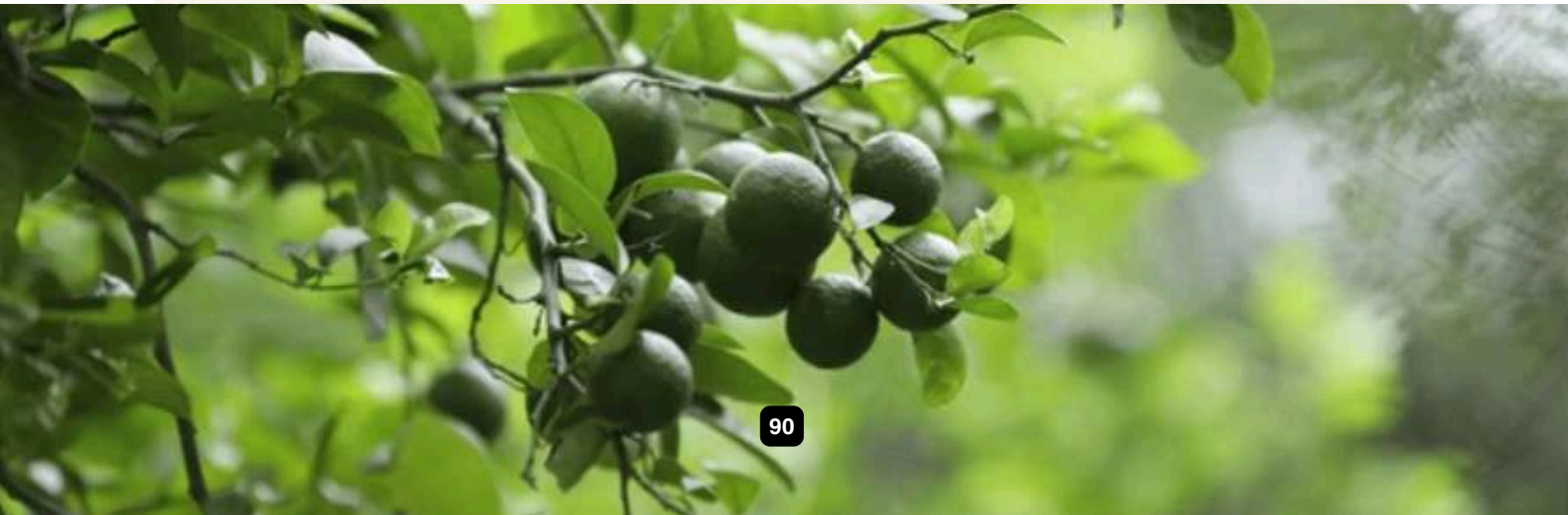
He planted 60 no's Malta saplings on 2018-19 FY. Fruiting started from the 2020-21 financial year and all trees in his garden bear fruit in 2021-22 financial year. 2020-21 to 2021-22 FY he got approximately 2000 kg of fruit from his garden which sold 1800 kg for 162000 tk as an average of 90 taka per kg in the local market and more than 200 kg he distributes to his family and relatives. Malta production gradually increased every year. In 2022-23 to 2024-25, approximately 4200 kg of malt was produced at an average price of 70 taka per kg and sold for 294000 taka. This marked a significant improvement in his farm productivity and household income.

Encouraged by his success, Mr. Bala expanded his Malta and other fruits such mango, lemon fruit cultivation on adjacent land. His achievements inspired other local farmers to adopt high-value crops like Malta, guava, dragon fruit, and jujube, creating opportunities for increased income and employment in the community.

Mr. Bala said that transitioning from seasonal crops to permanent fruit orchards has promoted sustainable land use. These orchards improve soil fertility, prevent erosion, and enhance local biodiversity, contributing positively to the environment while ensuring farmers' livelihoods. Mr. Bala, received technical guidance from the agriculture office to enhance farming efficiency. Project inputs reduced production costs. Training on marketing and post-harvest management enabled better income generation.

Mr. Dulal Bala's dedication to modern farming practices and successful Malta cultivation demonstrates how high-value crop farming can improve income, inspire the community, and promote sustainable agriculture. In the future, he plans to expand his orchard, introduce more high-value fruit varieties, and share his knowledge with other farmers to increase local production, reduce unemployment, and support rural development.





Success Story of Mosarrof: From Marginal Farmer to Rural Role Model

Mosarrof Hossen, a dedicated smallholder farmer from Gajaria village in Paschim Char Umed Union under Lalmohan Upazila of Bhola district, has transformed his life through modern and sustainable farming practices.

Living in a three-room tin house with his wife and four school-going children, Mosarrof faced persistent challenges common among marginal farmers in his region, including limited access to quality inputs, knowledge gaps, and financial constraints.

His Beneficiary ID under the SACP project is SACP-059-36-25, and he became a member of the producer group after participating in a PRA conducted by the Lalmohan Agriculture Office at the start of the project.

In the fiscal year 2024–25, Mosarrof was selected as a beneficiary of the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), funded by IFAD, which aims to empower smallholder farmers by increasing productivity and promoting sustainable agriculture. With project support, he cultivated bitter gourd on 50 decimals of land.

The SACP project provided him with high-quality seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides, fencing nets, a sprayer, mulching paper, and pheromone and yellow traps, enabling him to adopt integrated pest management techniques. Hands-on training in Good Agricultural Practices, pest control, and efficient input use further strengthened his capacity to manage the farm effectively.

Mosarrof's farming results were remarkable. From his 50 decimals, he produced an estimated 2,618 kilograms of bitter gourd, which he sold at an average price of BDT 55 per kilogram, earning a total revenue of BDT 144,000.

His total cost of cultivation, including inputs, labor, and other expenses, was BDT 68,500, resulting in a net profit of BDT 75,500. The break-even quantity was approximately 1,245 kilograms, meaning his actual production exceeded this target by more than double, securing strong profitability even under challenging conditions. With a cost-benefit ratio of 2.10, every taka invested returned 2.10 takas, highlighting the efficiency and success of his venture.

Despite these achievements, Mosarrof faced barriers such as market exploitation by middlemen (Faria and Paikar), which limited his ability to capture full market value, and climate shocks like excessive rainfall that shortened the cultivation period. Support from project personnel, including timely market price information, helped him mitigate some of these challenges and make informed decisions.

The impact of Mosarrof's success extended well beyond financial gains. He invested in his children's education, improved home infrastructure, purchased furniture, and reinvested in future agricultural production. His achievements quickly gained recognition in the village, inspiring other farmers to visit his fields, observe his techniques, and consider modern, sustainable farming methods.

Mr. Mosarrof is planning to expand his cultivation, continue adopting climate-smart practices, and explore ways to secure better market access, ensuring continued growth and stability for his family.

Jakir Hossain: Turning Dragon Fruit Cultivation into a Promising venture

Jakir Hossain lives in Hatempur village, Patharghata Upazila, Barguna district, a region where traditional agriculture has provided only modest returns. Faced with soil salinity and limited crop options, his family often struggled with low income.

After watching some farmers grow dragon fruit (kul) and seeing examples online (on YouTube), Jakir decided to try something new. His first dragon fruit tree was planted as a hobby in his own courtyard. The success of that inspired him to scale up with support from the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP).

Jakir, holding the beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number 131.23.21 under SACP, lives with his wife and three school-going children. His success with dragon fruit has enabled him to contribute more reliably to family needs, invest in his children, and plan for a better future. He now cultivates dragon fruit on 50 decimals of land, with about 150 dragon fruit trees planted on that land with assistance from the Upazila Agriculture Office and SACP.

Hatempur is a coastal region and subject to environmental challenges like soil salinity, floods, and unsuitable conditions for many fruit crops. However, high-value fruits such as guava, mango, jujube, and now dragon fruit are proving viable.

The community is mostly composed of smallholder farmers eager for income-generating alternatives. Before this venture, Jakir's family lived under poor financial conditions.

With the additional income from dragon fruit and seedlings, his ability to afford better housing repairs, improved sanitation, and other household improvements has increased, though specific details like latrine or safe water were not fully documented.

Jakir Hossain lives in Hatempur village, Patharghata Upazila, Barguna district, a region where traditional agriculture has provided only modeJakir joined an SACP farmer group under the guidance of the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) of Patharghata Upazila. He was selected as a demonstration farmer after receiving training under SACP.

While YouTube videos and other farmers' experiences influenced his interest, the formal training and support came through SACP and the Agriculture Office. Over the past two years, he received training in dragon fruit cultivation techniques, support from the Upazila Agriculture Office, and saplings or tree cuttings —initially a few and later more, up to 150 trees. He also benefited from technical guidance for orchard establishment, pest and disease control, and post-planting care.

Faced with soil salinity and limited crop options, his family often struggled with low income. After watching some farmers grow dragon fruit (kul) and seeing examples online (on YouTube), Jakir decided to try something new. His first dragon fruit tree was planted as a hobby in his own courtyard. The success of that inspired him to scale up with support from the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP).

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Hatempur is a coastal region and subject to environmental challenges like soil salinity, floods, and unsuitable conditions for many fruit crops.

However, high-value fruits such as guava, mango, jujube, and now dragon fruit are proving viable. The community is mostly composed of smallholder farmers eager for income-generating alternatives.

Before this venture, Jakir's family lived under poor financial conditions. With the additional income from dragon fruit and seedlings, his ability to afford better housing repairs, improved sanitation, and other household improvements has increased, though specific details like latrine or safe water were not fully documented.

Jakir joined an SACP farmer group under the guidance of the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) of Patharghata Upazila. He was selected as a demonstration farmer after receiving training under SACP.

While YouTube videos and other farmers' experiences influenced his interest, the formal training and support came through SACP and the Agriculture Office.

Over the past two years, he received training in dragon fruit cultivation techniques, support from the Upazila Agriculture Office, and saplings or tree cuttings—initially a few and later more, up to 150 trees. He also benefited from technical guidance for orchard establishment, pest and disease control, and post-planting care.

Shah Alam: Pioneering Modern Vegetable Farming in Chhota Tengra

Md. Shah Alam, a dedicated farmer from Chhota Tengra village in Patharghata Upazila, Barguna district, has always relied solely on agriculture to support his family. Despite enduring long-standing poverty and economic hardship, he remained determined to uplift his family's living standards.

For years, he practiced traditional farming with minimal returns. However, a turning point came in 2024, when the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) introduced modern vegetable farming techniques in his area. That was the beginning of Shah Alam's journey toward agricultural transformation.

Shah Alam, with the beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number 126.33.03 under SACP, is the sole earner for his four-member household. He lives with his wife and two sons, both of whom help him in the field alongside their schoolwork. His family depends entirely on the income generated from farming and livestock rearing. He cultivates 20 decimals of leased land for vegetable farming. Despite the small landholding, he has maximized productivity using modern cultivation practices and technology provided through the SACP initiative.

Chhota Tengra is a coastal village within Patharghata Upazila of Barguna, an area frequently affected by salinity, cyclones, and seasonal flooding. Most farmers here are smallholders or landless, facing constant threats to productivity due to climate vulnerability and lack of access to modern agricultural knowledge.

Shah Alam's home, though modest, has seen improvements in living standards due to his increased income. The family now has better access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation facilities, and hygienic living conditions, compared to earlier times when such basic needs were difficult to afford.

Shah Alam became engaged with the SACP project in early 2024, as part of a 25-member farmer group comprising 20 men and 5 women. With support from the Upazila Agriculture Office, he attended training sessions and group meetings, where he learned about season-based crop planning, saving strategies, and collective marketing techniques. His enthusiasm and leadership were quickly noticed by project officials.
During 2024, Shah Alam received technical training on modern vegetable farming, specifically for brinjal and tomato cultivation.

He was provided with quality seeds and planting materials, as well as inputs like vermi-compost, mulching paper, and organic pesticides. He also received guidance on using sex pheromone traps for eco-friendly pest control, and benefitted from regular advisory visits from Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers (SAAOs).

Shah Alam applied several environmentally friendly practices promoted by SACP. These included using vermi-compost to improve soil fertility naturally, applying mulching paper to conserve moisture and control weeds, deploying sex pheromone traps for pest management instead of harmful chemicals, and adopting integrated pest and nutrient management (IPNM) practices. As a result of these modern techniques, Shah Alam reported higher yields, better-quality vegetables, and increased market demand for his produce.

His farming approach shifted from subsistence to semi-commercial, and he also diversified his income through a cow farm, further stabilizing his household economy.

The success of his agricultural ventures also boosted his children's education, improved access to healthcare, and enhanced overall family nutrition.

From just 20 decimals of land, Shah Alam made an initial investment of BDT 35,000 in brinjal and tomato cultivation. He earned a total revenue of BDT 90,000, resulting in a net profit of BDT 55,000 and an impressive return on investment (ROI) of 157%. This high return encouraged him to reinvest in livestock feed and expansion, additional agricultural inputs for the next season, and educational expenses for his sons.

As a result of Shah Alam's visible success, at least eight farmers from his community have adopted new practices, including the use of sex pheromone traps, mulching paper, organic compost, and the SACP model of brinjal and tomato cultivation. They frequently consult him for practical advice and farming techniques.

Of course, the journey was not without challenges. High pest infestation in vegetables was a major issue, which Shah Alam overcame by adopting pheromone traps and organic pesticides. Limited land availability was countered by maximizing yield through modern input management. To address his lack of technical knowledge, he participated in regular training and field visits. For market access, he joined group marketing plans that were discussed and developed during monthly meetings.

Shah Alam aims to start a vegetable seedling nursery business and experiment with high-value crops like capsicum and cucumber. He also wishes to promote organic practices and become a local model farm, eventually training interested farmers to build a sustainable farming community around him.

Md. Shah Alam's story reflects how determination, combined with proper guidance and innovation, can uplift a smallholder farmer's life. His transformation from traditional to modern farming under the SACP project not only improved his own household but also sowed the seeds of inspiration across his village. Shah Alam is no longer just a farmer—he's a catalyst for agricultural change in Chhota Tengra.

Ramesh Dhopa: A Model High-Value Vegetable Grower

Ramesh Dhopa is a farmer from West Boloibunia, Ramna Union, Bamna Upazila, Barguna District. Although he does not own any land, he has a strong interest in learning modern agricultural techniques. With support from the Smallholder Agriculture Competitiveness Project (SACP–RAINS), implemented by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), he utilized demonstration plots and leased land to cultivate high-value vegetables, particularly hybrid cabbage, transforming marginal income into significant returns.

Ramesh (B.I.D. No: 118.25.23) lives with his wife and six-year-old granddaughter, the daughter of his eldest child, and bears full responsibility for her care and education. With no major assets, his livelihood depends entirely on farming, perseverance, and informed decision-making.

For his hybrid cabbage venture, he cultivated a 50-decimal demonstration plot. He also grows snake gourd during the Kharif 1 and Kharif 2 seasons on leased or shared land. In his area, most farmers own very small plots or no land and face challenges such as unpredictable weather, high input costs, and limited access to quality seeds and knowledge. Despite limited information about his previous living conditions, his increased income has clearly improved his family's housing, nutrition, healthcare access, and overall stability.

Ramesh joined the SACP farmer group (Group Code: SACP 118.25.23) after being encouraged by the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO). Through the group, he received formal training, demonstration plot access, inputs, and technical support.

He was trained in high-value vegetable cultivation, especially hybrid cabbage, and received support for land preparation, intercultural operations, Atlas 70 hybrid cabbage seeds, and both organic and chemical fertilizers during the 2023–2024 seasons.

He adopted modern and environmentally sustainable practices, including the use of hybrid seeds, balanced application of organic and chemical fertilizers, proper seedbed preparation, careful seedling management, timely transplanting, efficient irrigation, and early pest and disease control under extension guidance. He diversified cropping across Kharif 1, Kharif 2, and Rabi seasons to reduce risk and ensure year-round income.

From his 50-decimal cabbage plot, Ramesh harvested 11,250 kg (225 kg per decimal), earning BDT 225,000 with an investment of BDT 45,000 —resulting in a net gain of BDT 180,000. Additionally, his snake gourd cultivation during Kharif seasons required investments of BDT 5,000–7,000 and generated profits of BDT 10,000–15,000, improving his annual cash flow. His success strengthened his reputation, improved income stability, and made it easier to lease land and reinvest in farming.

His demonstration plot has inspired several other farmers in his union to adopt hybrid cabbage and other high-value crops.

Despite challenges such as landlessness, disease risks, high input costs, seasonal uncertainties, and market fluctuations, he overcame them through leasing land, improved seedling practices, early pest management, careful budgeting, hybrid varieties, crop diversification, and likely group-based marketing support.

Purba Buramjumdar SACP Krishak Samity: From Small Savings to Agricultural Success

Located in Purba Buramjumdar of Kaunia Block, Buramjumdar Union under Betagi Upazila in Barguna District, the Purba Buramjumdar SACP Krishak Samity has grown into a model of agricultural success, driven by small savings and strong community organization.

The group was formed on 8th January 2021 with 25 members, each contributing 500 Taka per month, which allowed them to accumulate 1,50,000 Taka in their first year. Over time, the group expanded to 30 members, and their initial capital of 12,500 Taka has now grown impressively to 5,25,000 Taka.

Under the leadership of Md. Bashir Ullah Bashar, the Krishak Samity partnered with BADC Barisal as contracted farmers for moong seed production during the 2021–2022 financial year.

Through this initiative, they successfully sold 26 tons of moong seeds, earning 3,00,000 Taka. Motivated by this achievement, the group expanded further, supplying 10 tons of Aman paddy seeds to Jhalakathi in 2022–2023 and earning 1,20,000 Taka.

These consecutive successes established a strong foundation for the society and encouraged its members to continue diversifying their agricultural activities.

In the 2022–2023 financial year, the group cultivated 200 acres of moong and 30 acres of paddy.

They are also preparing to launch commercial vermi-compost production, further enhancing their agricultural ventures. Beyond cultivation, the society has organized watermelon demonstration exhibitions and holds monthly meetings, fostering collective planning, training, and knowledge sharing among members.

All financial transactions are conducted transparently through their account with Agrani Bank.This disciplined financial management, combined with consistent technical support and guidance, has earned the group recognition from various quarters, including the Deputy Director of BADC Barisal, the IFAD team, and officials from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Khamarbari, Barguna.

Members have benefited from seed distribution programs, hands-on training, and expert advice, which have improved their technical knowledge and strengthened their economic resilience.

From modest beginnings based on disciplined savings, teamwork, and the adoption of modern agricultural practices, the Purba Buramjumdar SACP Krishak Samity has emerged as a dynamic and self-reliant agricultural group. With ongoing initiatives in seed production, crop cultivation, and vermi-compost manufacturing, the society is building sustainable income streams and making a meaningful contribution to the local agricultural economy.

Modern Watermelon Cultivation Transforming Lives

Md. Kabir, a smallholder farmer from Badurtala village under Patharghata Upazila of Barguna district, once lived under the shadow of poverty. With traditional methods and limited access to resources, farming offered little security. But Kabir held onto hope and worked hard to support his family. His fortunes began to change in 2024, when the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) introduced modern watermelon cultivation to the area, marking a turning point in his life and the lives of many others.

Kabir, beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 131.40.13, lives with his wife and son. As the sole breadwinner, Kabir juggled both family responsibilities and farm work. His son, though still in school, actively supports farm activities in his spare time, showing early signs of becoming the next generation of agri-entrepreneurs.

Kabir cultivates 50 decimals (0.5 acres) of land, which he fully dedicates to modern watermelon farming during the appropriate season. In addition, he utilizes surrounding land for cattle rearing and is exploring additional crops.
Badurtala village is a coastal and agriculture-dependent community in Patharghata, Barguna. Salinity, natural disasters, and low cropping intensity were once common challenges. Most farmers here used to rely on single-season paddy cultivation and had limited income diversification.

Before the intervention, Kabir's home was modest with limited amenities. Today, his increased income has allowed him to upgrade his house, build a sanitary latrine, and ensure access to clean drinking water. His family now lives in better conditions, with improved health and hygiene.

Kabir's involvement with the SACP began in early 2024 when the Upazila Agriculture Office formed a 25-member farmers' group in Badurtala under the RAINS initiative. Kabir was selected as group chairman for his leadership skills and commitment. He began attending monthly meetings, training sessions, and planning workshops that reshaped his approach to farming.

With SACP support in 2024, Kabir received advanced technical training on watermelon farming, high-quality seeds and eco-friendly pest management tools, irrigation machinery and equipment demonstrations, and participation in exhibitions and knowledge exchange events. This support was crucial in introducing Kabir to climate-smart, high-return farming practices.

Kabir adopted improved seed varieties suitable for saline-prone regions, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) using pheromone traps and organic pesticides, efficient irrigation systems to conserve water, crop rotation and multi-cropping to maintain soil fertility, and low chemical inputs, focusing on sustainability and environmental safety.

Before SACP, Kabir cultivated traditional low-value crops, faced unstable income and poor savings, and underutilized his land with limited cropping. After SACP, high-value watermelon cultivation was introduced, group-based learning and planning improved outcomes, 2–3 crops became possible yearly due to irrigation and planning, and household finances and community respect grew stronger. There has also been increased youth engagement and rising interest in agriculture in the area.

Kabir's total investment was BDT 45,000, including land preparation, inputs, and labor. He earned a gross return of BDT 85,000 from 50 decimals, resulting in a net profit of BDT 40,000 per cycle. The benefit-cost ratio was approximately 1.89:1, meaning the financial return was nearly double the investment, enabling sustainable income flow.

Besides a net profit of BDT 40,000 from watermelon farming, Kabir also earns additional income from cattle rearing, contributing to better household resilience, savings, and future investment in agricultural expansion.

Kabir's success has inspired at least 15 neighboring farmers to adopt modern watermelon farming techniques, including the use of high-quality seeds, group planning, and irrigation. Many have already expressed interest in joining or forming new groups under SACP guidance. Kabir is planning to expand watermelon farming to 1 acre next season, start a vegetable seedling nursery for group members and local sale, try out Malta, khat coconut, and improved wheat varieties, promote youth involvement through on-field demonstrations, and formally register the farmer group as a producer cooperative.

Kabir faced several challenges, such as poor irrigation during dry seasons, market linkage limitations, initial skepticism from other farmers, and pest attacks in earlier stages. These were addressed by project-provided irrigation equipment to resolve water issues, training on market access and cost planning to improve income, Kabir's visible success which encouraged peer adoption, and use of IPM tools to manage pests without harming the soil.

Agriculture was once uncertain, but with training and teamwork, I turned my land into a source of hope. Now I dream of expanding and helping others grow too.

— Md. Kabir, Chairman, Badurtala Farmer Group.

Somir Adhikari finds fortune in vermi-compost production

Forty-five-year-old Somir Adhikari son of Gaurango Adhikari, hails from Kismoth Chailabunia village in Mirzaganj Upazila, Patuakhali.

He is a pioneering vermi-compost producer and user, supported by the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Somir lives with his wife, son, and daughter. Under the SACP, he is both a producer and a marketing group member for High Value Crops (HVCs), with Beneficiary Identification (B.I.D.) number SACP 079.38.04. Additionally, he serves as a lead farmer for the South Amragachia block under the project

As a smallholder farmer, Somir owns 100 decimals of land and leases 120 decimals, which he uses to support his family. His 21-year-old son is pursuing a degree, while his 15-year-old daughter is in the 10th grade.

The family's education expenses are entirely dependent on his income from agricultural activities. Somir cultivates a wide range of high-value fruits, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables, including cauliflower, tomato, brinjal, broccoli, papaya, mung bean, groundnut, off-season watermelon, mango, and lemon, to generate additional income. To reduce production costs, he primarily relies on family labor to cultivate his homestead and marginal lands.

However, he noticed that excessive use of chemical fertilizers was significantly increasing production costs and gradually reducing soil fertility. Upon discussing this issue, the Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) advised him to start producing and using vermi-compost through SACP support. Inspired by this guidance, Somir decided to establish a vermi-compost unit in his homestead.

Before being selected as a demo farmer for vermi-compost production, Somir received hands-on training under SACP. Through this training, he gained detailed knowledge about vermi-compost production, processing, preservation, and safe usage. He also received separate training on packaging and marketing, which prepared him for commercial-scale production and sales.

In fiscal year 2020-21, Somir constructed two concrete vermi-houses (each 3.0 feet in diameter and 1.5 feet in depth) in his homestead area, with a total investment of BDT 10,000, largely subsidized by SACP. He started production on September 20, 2020, after completing the structures.

The project provided essential support, including partial construction costs, shed materials, earthworms, and other necessary inputs to establish the small-scale technology. Initially, Somir released 0.50 kg of earthworms into the two vermi-houses. In the early stages, he harvested vermi-compost every 90 days, but as the earthworm population multiplied, the harvesting interval decreased to 45–60 days.
Recognizing the benefits of this technology, Somir gradually expanded his vermi-houses from two to six. At present, he harvests 50 kg of vermi-compost per house per cycle, completing six harvest cycles annually.

I am very happy that with minimal effort, I can produce my own vermi-compost and no longer depend on costly chemical fertilizers during peak production periods.

– Somir Adhikari

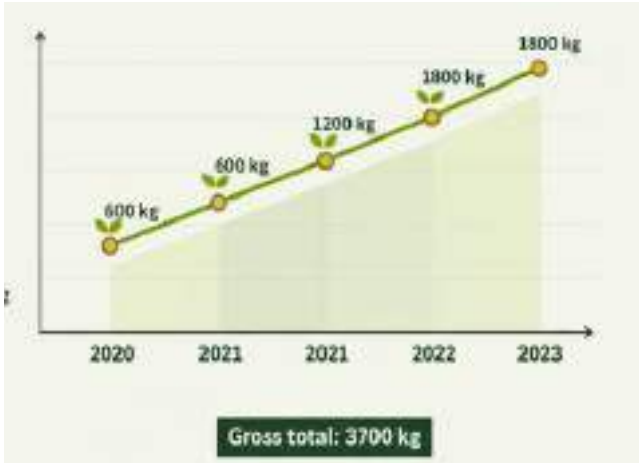
Production and Earnings from September 2020 to December 2022, Somir produced 1,900 kg of vermi-compost, valued at BDT 28,500. During this period, he sold 1,350 kg at BDT 15/kg, earning BDT 20,000, and sold earthworms for an additional BDT 5,000. The remaining vermi-compost was used on his own farm to cultivate high-value vegetables and other crops.

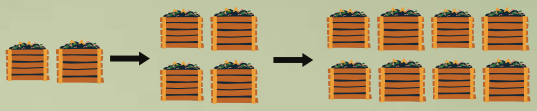
Each vermi-house requires 120 kg of half-decomposed cow dung as feedstock, yielding approximately 50 kg of finished vermi-compost (40% conversion rate) per cycle. According to Somir, the production cycle duration depends on the density and health of the earthworms.

By consistently applying vermi-compost, he successfully reduced his chemical fertilizer usage by 50%, which significantly lowered production costs while improving soil health and fertility. Although he did not generate net profits during the first year due to initial setup costs, his earnings have increased substantially in subsequent years, as there are no additional cash investments required beyond routine maintenance.

Somir has personally experienced higher crop yields and improved soil conditions after using vermi-compost. He observed that soils treated with vermi-compost have become looser, more fertile, and better at retaining moisture.

His success has inspired many others in the community. Around 200 farmers from his and neighboring villages have visited his demonstration vermi-house to learn about the process. Moreover, 15 farmers have started their own vermi-compost production units, with Somir providing earthworms free of cost to help them get started.





Ring increased over the years

Today, Somir is recognized as a Model Farmer and local leader, serving as a source of inspiration for others. He is proud that his hard work has made him self-reliant and reduced his dependence on chemical fertilizers
.
Somir dreams of engaging the younger generation in agriculture, showing them that farming, when done with innovative and sustainable practices, can be both profitable and environmentally friendly.

Abdul Quader's Story: Turning Small Plots into Big Dreams

In the coastal village of Gulderhat, life was a constant struggle for Abdul Quader, a 40-year-old marginal farmer. For years, he labored on small plots of land, trying to provide for his wife and four children—two sons and two daughters—while barely meeting basic needs. Living in a tin-roofed house with three rooms, each season brought uncertainty, and dreams of a better future seemed distant. Abdul Quader became a member of the SACP project after conducting a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) through the Upazila Agriculture Office. His Beneficiary ID is SACP-069-2-18.

Everything changed when he joined the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), implemented by the Charfession Upazila Agriculture Office. The project offered hands-on training, technical guidance, and a package of essential inputs, including high-quality okra seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides, fencing nets, mulching paper, and pheromone and yellow traps for pest management. With these tools, he adopted modern, sustainable farming practices that dramatically improved productivity.

In the fiscal year 2024–25, Abdul Quader cultivated okra on just 50 decimals of land. Despite challenges from middlemen controlling local market prices, his meticulous care and application of SACP training paid off.

By the end of the season, he earned BDT 100,000, while his total investment was only BDT 30,000, netting a profit of BDT 70,000, a life-changing sum for his family. The break-even production for his okra crop was around 600 kilograms, and since he sold approximately 2,000 kilograms, he exceeded the break-even point by more than three times, reflecting strong profitability.

The impact on his household was immediate. His children were able to continue their education uninterrupted, and he expanded his cultivation by another 100 decimals for cucumber farming. His family now enjoyed fresh, home-grown vegetables, improving both their nutrition and food security. Abdul Quader also began planning for long-term sustainability, reducing dependence on local brokers and taking control of his agricultural future.

His success quickly attracted attention from neighbors and fellow farmers. People from the village visited his farm to observe modern techniques, learn about pest management, organic fertilizers, proper spacing, and post-harvest handling. Inspired by his achievements, many began adopting similar practices and cultivating high-value crops, turning Abdul Quader into a local mentor and role model.

Despite his success, Abdul Quader faced major challenges. Middlemen continued to dominate local markets, often preventing farmers from receiving fair prices, and excessive rainfall occasionally damaged crops, reducing potential profits. He recognized that climate-resilient farming practices and direct marketing channels were crucial to overcoming these challenges.

Thanks to the SACP project, he can ensure his children's education, provide for his family, and dream bigger than ever before. From a life of uncertainty to one of opportunity, his journey demonstrates how knowledge, support, and perseverance can transform not just a farm, but an entire community. His future plan is to become a pioneer in agriculture in his area, build a brick house, and perform Hajj.

A Spectacular Harvest: Shahabuddin's Jujube Journey

Shahabuddin, a 30-year-old MA graduate from Purba Char Umed village under Romagonj Union, Lalmohan Upazila, Bhola District, has transformed his modest plot of land into a beacon of agricultural innovation.

The son of Md. Selim manages 70 decimals of cultivable land, experimenting with high-value crops while carefully balancing the risks and rewards of small-scale farming.

As a member of the SACP Producer and Marketing Group, with Beneficiary ID SACP-060-04-25, Shahabuddin received technical guidance and resources that set the stage for his remarkable transformation.

Before becoming a demonstration farmer, Shahabuddin underwent comprehensive training through the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), gaining knowledge in modern cultivation techniques, market management, and post-harvest processing.

With this expertise, he planted Jujube (Ball Sundari variety) on his 70-decimal field in the 2023–24 fiscal year. Equipped with seedlings, fertilizers, fencing, and technical support from SACP, he managed the entire process meticulously, turning his farm into a thriving demonstration plot.

By January 2025, the results were extraordinary. Shahabuddin earned BDT 500,000 from the harvest while investing just BDT 250,000 in seedlings, fertilizers, labor, and marketing. Not only did he recover his costs, but he also generated a net profit that allowed him to repay debts and lease additional land for the next season.

With a break-even production of approximately 2,083 kilograms, he sold around 4,167 kilograms of Jujubes, exceeding the break-even point by a wide margin. His Benefit-Cost Ratio of 2 indicated that for every taka invested, he earned two takas in return.

This success marked a turning point in Shahabuddin's approach to farming. He began experimenting with intercropping and careful market timing, treating his land both as a laboratory and a business. Local farmers, impressed by his meticulous methods and high yields, often visit to observe his practices. However, Shahabuddin focuses less on accolades and more on refining his techniques, constantly seeking ways to push the boundaries of smallholder farming.

He dedicates early mornings to inspecting trees, experimenting with spacing, and learning how to achieve the best flavor from his Jujubes. He reinvested his profits into new seedlings and rented more land, quietly expanding his operations.

Despite his achievements, Shahabuddin faces challenges. Middlemen dominate local markets, preventing farmers from receiving fair prices, while excessive rainfall occasionally damages crops, reducing potential profits.

He recognizes that climate-resilient farming practices and crop insurance are essential to managing these risks.

Neighbors have noticed not only the change in Shahabuddin's farm but also in his approach to challenges. Instead of giving advice, he lets his work speak. Visitors see dense, healthy Jujube trees and a farmer learning, adjusting, and improving season by season.

Turning Coastal Challenges into Agricultural Success

Where rivers weave through the land before meeting the vast Bay of Bengal, Md. Ruhul Amin has quietly rewritten his destiny. At 42, he has faced the harsh realities of life in Rangabali —a region constantly tested by floods, cyclones, and rising soil salinity. Growing up with limited education and scarce resources, Ruhul Amin had tried various ways to make a living, including watermelon cultivation, but the results were never enough to lift his family out of hardship. His house, made of tin and wood, reflected the modest means of his household. As a member of the SACP Producer and Marketing Group with Beneficiary ID SACP-088-13-03, he found an opportunity to change his life.

Everything changed when the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) reached his village. Guided by the local Agricultural Extension Office, Ruhul Amin learned to cultivate vegetables using the raised-bed—or "kandi"—method. He received hybrid seeds, organic and chemical fertilizers, a spray machine, cash support, and technical training. Applying these modern practices to half an acre of his land, he planted bitter gourd and bottle gourd, carefully tending to the crops while minimizing the use of chemical pesticides.

By the end of the season, his efforts had transformed his productivity. From an investment of BDT 45,000 covering seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, labor, tools, irrigation, mulching, fencing, and transport, he earned a total income of BDT 130,000, generating a net profit of BDT 55,000.

His Benefit-Cost Ratio of 2.89 indicated that for every taka invested, he earned nearly three takas in return—a clear sign of profitability and efficiency. Beyond the financial gain, Ruhul Amin's vegetables were healthier, grown with less water, minimal chemicals, and sustainable methods that respected the environment.

Despite his success, Ruhul Amin faced market challenges. Middlemen, locally known as Faria and Paikar, continued to dominate pricing, limiting the returns for his produce. The average selling price remained around BDT 40 per kilogram, constraining potential revenue. Nevertheless, through his own labor and the support of the project, he secured a respectable income and a stable livelihood for his family.

The impact extended far beyond his household. With increased income, Ruhul Amin ensured that his three children could attend school regularly, making education more accessible in his community. His family now consumes safe, homegrown vegetables, improving nutrition and overall health. Many villagers, especially women, visit his farm to learn about high-value crop cultivation, pest management, and organic practices. His achievements have inspired others in Gondadula to adopt the raised-bed method, experiment with new tools, and follow sustainable agricultural practices. Participation in field days and farmer business training further expanded his knowledge, enabling him to market his produce more effectively.

Siddiqure's Journey from Poverty to Prosperity Through Bottle Gourd Cultivation

Siddiqure Rahman, a 43-year-old advanced farmer from Tiakhali Union under Kalapara Upazila, is today regarded as a prominent figure in his community. Educated up to class eight, Rahman has shown exceptional dedication and hard work in his agricultural journey. When the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) was launched in November 2019, he became a member through the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) process conducted by the Kalapara Upazila Agriculture Office. At that time, his house was a modest tin structure, reflecting the humble beginnings from which his success story would emerge.

Rahman manages 120 decimals (1.5 acres) of cultivable land, where he grows a diverse range of high-value vegetables and fruits alongside rice. His association with SACP has been transformative, particularly as a member of the project's producer and marketing group (BID no. SACP-100.7.13).

Through the training and support provided by the project, Rahman learned improved farming techniques, marketing strategies, and modern approaches to production, which allowed him to make significant progress as a farmer.

Before being selected as a demonstration farmer, Rahman had the opportunity to receive hands-on training that covered modern farming methods, high-value crop cultivation, market management, post-harvest handling, and primary processing. Equipped with this knowledge, he decided to cultivate hybrid bottle gourd during the kharif season of 2024–25, starting on 5 May 2024, using 50 decimals (0.50 acre) of his land.

Building on this confidence, he also cultivated bitter gourd on another 50 decimals of land within the same fiscal year.

The SACP project provided him with critical support for his agricultural ventures, including quality seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides, fencing nets, mulching paper, pheromone traps, and yellow traps. With these resources and his own commitment, Rahman was able to achieve impressive results. By the end of the season, his total income amounted to BDT 105,000.

His production costs came to BDT 50,500, which included BDT 15,000 for seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, another BDT 15,000 for labor (including family labor), BDT 8,000 for tools, irrigation, mulching paper, and fencing, BDT 7,000 for transport, and BDT 5,000 for miscellaneous expenses. After deducting these costs, Rahman was left with a net profit of BDT 54,500—an achievement that marked a significant step forward for his household.

However, the journey was not without challenges. Rahman struggled with marketing his produce due to the dominance of middlemen, locally known as faria and paikar. As a result, he could not always secure the best prices for his vegetables, with the average selling price for bitter gourd remaining stuck at BDT 30 per kilogram. This limited his potential earnings, though the family's reliance on their own labor and the project's timely support helped him overcome these obstacles and still achieve respectable profits.

Beyond financial gains, Rahman's success has had profound social impacts. His increased income has enabled him to send his three children to school regularly, contributing to better educational opportunities for rural children, including girls.

His family's diet has also improved, as they now consume safe, homegrown vegetables that ensure better nutrition and health.

More importantly, Rahman's achievements have made him a source of inspiration in his village. Many neighbors, particularly those who were once less motivated to farm, now visit his fields to observe his methods and learn about high-value crop cultivation, pest management, and organic farming.

His successful adoption of high-yield varieties and climate-smart practices has earned him recognition and admiration. He openly shares his knowledge and experience with fellow farmers, encouraging them to follow proper guidelines and apply modern farming techniques.

Rahman strongly believes that with determination, training, and the right support, many other farmers can replicate his journey and achieve similar success. His story stands as a powerful example of how innovation and dedication can transform not only a household but also an entire community.

Sujon Golder is a role model among the farmers as Jujube Cultivator

Mr. Sujon Golder, a 34-year old man of Protapur Biskhali village in Gopalpur union under Kachua upazila of Bagerhat district, is a progressive farmer. Mr. Sujon searched for a job for his better life but he did not get any good job. Finally he got a job in Polli Scanchay Bank as a field worker but salary was very poor.

But he has been interested in gardening since childhood. In order to increase the family income and build a better life, he started contacting the upazila agriculture office to set up a good variety of fruit garden. He is a small and progressive farmer who cultivates only 100 decimal (1.00 acre) of cultivable land and practices a variety of high-value crops on his marginal land. Beneficiary Identification (BID) number is SACP 012.16.15

Prior to joining the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), Sujon faced challenges such as limited market access, inadequate inputs, and lack of proper guidance, which kept him from achieving higher profitability.

Before being selected as a demonstration farmer, he received comprehensive hands-on training under the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP). As a result, he learned in detail about modern cultivation practices regarding various high-value crops and fruit gardening.

Also he gathered knowledge on market management, post-harvest management and primary processing of high-value crops from another marketing-related training under the project.

Being guided by above this knowledge, in the last fiscal year (2022-23), he cultivated Jujube (variety: Bal Sundori) in 50 decimal land with the input and technical support of the project and Apart from the help of the Agriculture Office, he also cultivated the same variety in 50 decimal of land with his own funds

However, after being selected as a demo farmer, the Upazila Agriculture Office provided him with necessary saplings, fertilizers, fencing and other support to continue the Jujube demonstration under SACP. With all the technical and financial support from the project and his hard work Mr. Sujon successfully accomplished this difficult task.

He planted the saplings dated 02.07.2023 in the fiscal year 2022-23 and began harvesting Jujube within 2023-24. As his produce is very attractive, he sells it at an average of 80 taka per kg wholesale price. The total amount of Jujube produced by him is 8750 kg and the total income is BDT. 7.0lac.

His total cost to cultivate 100 decimal lands for saplings, fertilizers, stalk, fencing, intercultural operation etc. about BDT. 2.0lac. Total profit of more than 6to15 months in Jujube farming is around BDT. 5.0 lac and finally Jujube production gradually increased every year. Maximum support he received from the SACP project, and besides, he turned it into an economically beneficial project with his contribution.

Spending BDT 4.0 lac from his income, he purchased another 30 decimal of land. Observing the Jujube demonstration by Mr. Sujon nearby farmers became inspired to cultivate Jujube from next season.

Sujon Golder adopted eco-friendly farming practices promoted by the SACP project, including proper spacing, organic compost use, and efficient irrigation techniques. These practices enhanced soil fertility, minimized pesticide use, and contributed to more sustainable farming in the area.

He received technical guidance from the agriculture office to enhance farming efficiency. Project inputs reduced production costs. Training on marketing and post-harvest management enabled better income generation. Recognition as a demonstration farmer increased social status and leadership in the community.

Mr. Sujon expressed his gratitude to the SACP project for providing training and technical support that changed his life. He plans to further expand his jujube orchard, adopt modern technologies, and inspire more farmers in his area to cultivate high-value crops. His vision is to establish a model orchard that ensures sustainable income, supports his family expenditure, and creates employment opportunities for others in the community.

He also extended his orchard near about 100 decimal by purchasing land and leasing land. His success has impacted the community of other farmers to cultivate jujube cultivation. Now he has become a leader in the area for his success.

Mr. Sujon feels proud of him when villagers contact him for advice. Now he is a well-known person to the community and this is possible only for the demonstration of Jujube. He spent his profit for livelihood, children's education, buying nutritious food and rest for next crops cultivation. He always invites the media and his well-wishers to publish his success and believes that other farmers could do better by following proper guidelines.

Mohin Uddin Case: Quality Management Supports the Growth of More Abundant and Healthier Crops

Md. Mohin Uddin, a 45-year-old farmer from Charhasan village of Subarnachar upazila, Noakhali, once struggled with financial hardship. With only 35 decimals of cultivable land, he depended on traditional vegetable farming, livestock rearing, and a small grocery shop. But year after year, crop failures left him unable to cover household expenses, support his children's education, or expand his farm.

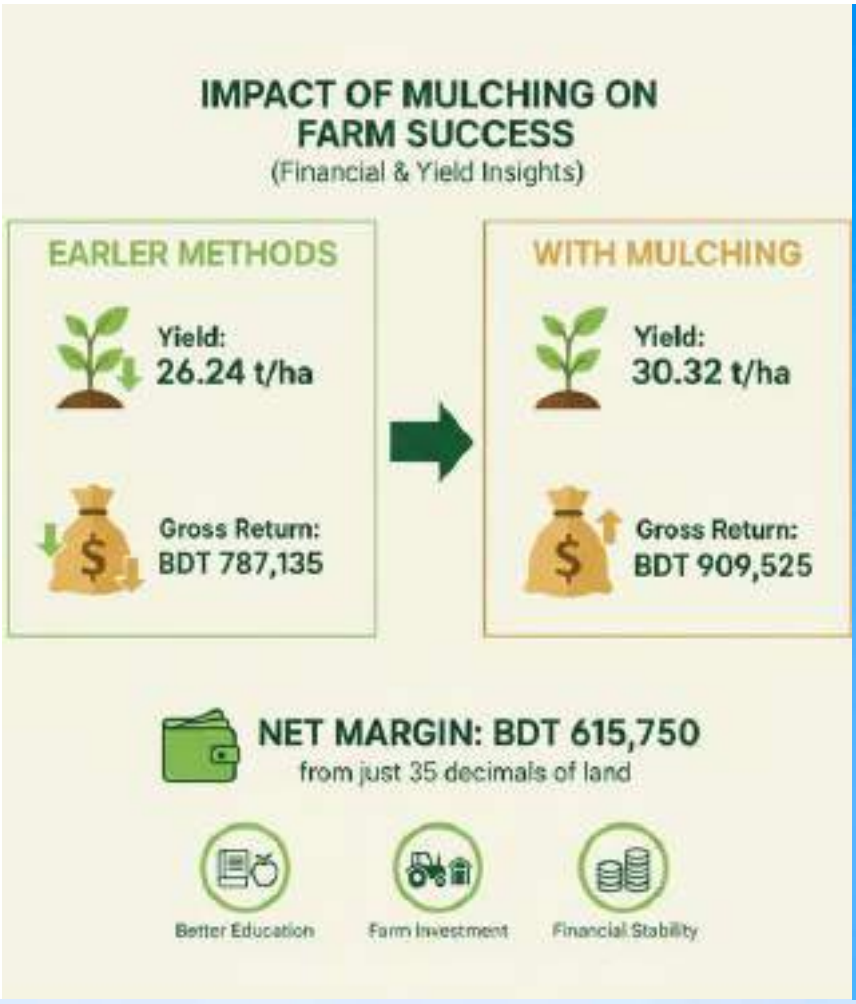
Everything changed when he came in touch with SACP. Guided by the Chief Scientific Officer, Mohin Uddin received training on plastic mulching technology for cultivating BARI Begun-12. He learned step-by-step methods to improve productivity and cut costs. With project support, he started mulching-based brinjal farming—and the results were transformative.

Compared to his earlier methods, mulching increased yield from 26.24 t/ha to 30.32 t/ha and boosted his gross return from BDT 787,135 to BDT 909,525.

After deducting costs, his net margin reached BDT 615,750 from just 35 decimals of land. With this steady income, Mohin Uddin now ensures better education for his children, invests in farm improvements, and enjoys financial stability.

Beyond his own success, Mohin Uddin has become a community leader. He encouraged nearly 150 neighboring farmers to adopt mulching for BARI Begun-12, sparking wider acceptance of the technology. His efforts have also inspired a youth-led movement for sustainable brinjal farming.

Mulching process not only improved productivity and reduced weeding costs but also conserved water, protected soil health, and reduced dependency on chemical inputs. With additional SACP support—such as irrigation training, post-harvest handling, and transport facilities—farmers in the region are gaining better market access, reduced losses, and higher profits.



The improved mulching techniques for BARI Begun-12 have supported me nutritionally, financially, and socially, helping me achieve stability and recognition in my community."

– Md Mohin Uddin

Summer Tomato Cultivation – A New Journey of Aminul Haque

Aminul Haque, a 55-year-old farmer from Raipur village under Durgapur Union of Mirsharai upazila in Chattogram, lives with his family of four members, including a son who is employed in the private sector. His household is well established, residing in a brick-built house with four rooms, access to motor-pump water supply, and good sanitation facilities. Alongside crop cultivation, the family also maintains livestock such as ducks and chickens, with Aminul currently rearing about 30 of them. Recently, with the profits from his farming, he purchased dairy cows, further diversifying his sources of income.

Despite not owning agricultural land, Aminul's passion for farming drove him to pursue cultivation through lease arrangements and sharecropping. His determination and willingness to adopt modern agricultural technologies made him an ideal candidate for SACP and DAE, who selected him as a demonstration farmer for summer tomato cultivation. Traditionally, tomato is grown in winter in Bangladesh, but Aminul bravely accepted the challenge of cultivating it during the hot and humid summer season, a period marked by heavy rainfall, high temperatures, and pest infestations.

With guidance and technical support from SACP and DAE, Aminul began cultivating grafted tomato seedlings (BARI HYV-08) on five decimals of leased land. From the project, he received grafted seedlings, mulching paper, pheromone traps, and technical advice.

Beyond this, he invested about Tk. 20,100 of his own money for land lease, labor, pesticides, and other inputs.

This combined effort of project support and personal commitment enabled Aminul to step confidently into the relatively new and risky field of summer tomato cultivation. Aminul's cultivation practices reflected both scientific guidance and practical ingenuity.

He used mulching paper to conserve soil moisture, control weeds, and reduce soil-borne diseases. Pheromone traps helped him control harmful insects without relying heavily on chemical pesticides. Large plastic crates, provided by the project, reduced post-harvest damage and ensured tomatoes reached the market fresh. With the help of the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO), he followed a balanced fertilizer application plan and adopted integrated pest management, combining natural insecticides with careful monitoring to minimize losses. He also improved drainage by maintaining channels that protected his crop from seasonal heavy rainfall.

These practices allowed him to overcome the usual barriers of high temperature, waterlogging, and pest attack, which often discourage farmers from growing tomatoes in summer.

The results of Aminul's efforts were highly rewarding. From his five decimals of land, he harvested 460 kilograms of fresh tomatoes. By selling directly at the nearby wholesale market instead of relying on middlemen, he secured an average price of Tk. 150 per kilogram, earning Tk. 69,000 from his harvest. This net income far exceeded his expectations, especially considering the risks associated with summer cultivation. The high demand and strong market price for tomatoes during the off-season brought significant financial relief and happiness to Aminul and his family.

His demonstration plot soon became a learning site for the local community. Many farmers visited his field, and three of them have already started their own summer tomato cultivation after witnessing his success.

Journalists also visited his farm to observe the technologies and outcomes of grafted seedlings (BARI HYV-08). His practical success convinced his neighbours that summer tomato cultivation is not only possible but also profitable. Aminul himself acknowledged the vital role of continuous consultation with DAE officers, especially in matters of balanced fertilizer use, intercultural operations, and pest management. His confidence has inspired other farmers in Raipur and nearby villages to explore summer tomato farming as a new source of income.

The profits from tomato cultivation have allowed Aminul to purchase dairy cows, improve his family's food security and nutrition, and maintain a more stable livelihood despite not owning land. Tomato farming has given him confidence to continue lease farming, while supplementing household expenses with steady profits. His achievements have also raised his standing in the community, where he is now seen as a progressive farmer and a symbol of resilience and innovation.

While encouraged by his achievements, Aminul is realistic about the challenges ahead. Seasonal heavy rainfall reduces flowering and fruit setting in tomato plants, while high summer temperatures can stress plants and lower yields. To address these, Aminul plans to expand cultivation on additional leased land, construct poly sheds to protect plants from heavy rainfall and regulate temperature, strengthen drainage systems to prevent waterlogging, and continue practicing climate-smart agriculture with support from DAE.

The journey of Aminul Haque highlights how modern technologies, institutional guidance, and farmer determination can turn challenges into opportunities. From being a landless farmer working on leased land, Aminul has established himself as a profitable summer tomato grower, earning Tk. 69,000 from just five decimals of land. His story demonstrates that smallholder farmers can achieve remarkable changes when provided with the right technology, training, and market access. With his vision of expanding through poly shed farming and climate-smart practices, Aminul is not only a successful farmer today but also a forward-thinking agricultural entrepreneur of tomorrow.

Tomatoes, Hope, and the Quiet Resilience of Uzzal Mojumder

When you walk past the small tomato field in Hazishorai village of Mirsorai upazila of Chattogram District, there's something unusual in the air — not just the scent of ripe tomatoes, but a quiet energy. It comes from a man with soil-stained fingers and a proud, sun-warmed smile: Uzzal Mojumder.

At 50, Uzzal has proven that summer tomato farming can change a farmer's life. With determination, training, and support from SACP under DAE, he has transformed his livelihood and earned respect across his community.
Uzzal lives in a four-room pucca house with his wife and two sons. His elder son is 21 and studying at the Honors level, while his younger son, aged 11, is in Class Five. The family enjoys good sanitation facilities and access to safe drinking water from a motorized tube well. Beyond tomato farming, Uzzal has built a model of integrated agriculture: he produces vermicompost, rears 30 ducks and chickens, and maintains seven dairy cows along with eight goats.
His journey with summer tomatoes began when he connected with the local Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) under SACP. Inspired by his enthusiasm and the potential of his land, he was selected as a demonstration farmer.

In the summer of 2022–23, Uzzal cultivated five decimals of land with BARI HYV-08 grafted tomato seedlings. With demo support that included seedlings, fertilizer, mulching paper, technical guidance, and cash assistance, he invested a total of Tk. 36,475 in lease money, labor, pesticides, and shed management. Following the advice of DAE, he applied good agricultural practices such as mulching paper to control weeds, protective sheds with polythene to guard plants from rain and heat, pheromone traps for insect control, balanced fertilizer use, and improved irrigation.

He even used plastic crates supplied by SACP to reduce post-harvest damage and improve market returns.

The results exceeded expectations. At his first harvest, Uzzal sold 663 kilograms of tomatoes at Tk. 125–130 per kilogram, earning Tk. 86,615. By the end of the season, his total harvest reached 1,400 kilograms, which sold for Tk. 170,000. After deducting production costs of Tk. 70,000, he made a net profit of Tk. 100,000. His farm activities also created about 80 man-days of work, benefiting local laborers in addition to his own family. Selling his tomatoes through the SACP-established Common Facility Center (CFC) near his village further reduced marketing hassle, ensured fair prices, and connected him directly with wholesale buyers.

This success has boosted his confidence. Uzzal now knows that high-value crops can provide a secure and profitable future. With his earnings, he has already invested in two female calves to strengthen his livestock base. His tomato field has also become a learning spot, attracting visits from farmers and journalists curious about his innovative methods. As a leader, he actively shares his knowledge, encouraging others to adopt improved farming practices.

Challenges remain. Heavy rainfall and extreme heat threaten his crops, and proper nursing, shed management, and drainage are essential. He also relies on continued technical follow-up to sustain high yields. Yet, these hurdles have not slowed him down.
Looking ahead, Uzzal plans to expand his tomato farming to more land and continue selling through the CFC to secure fair prices and wider market access. At the same time, he wants to further strengthen his integrated farming system with livestock, poultry, and organic inputs. He also advocates for safe and sustainable farming methods, promoting pheromone traps and organic compost to reduce chemical use.

From a five-decimal plot, Uzzal has turned hard work and opportunity into Tk. 100,000 in net profit. His story is more than just one farmer's success — it is proof that with the right support and innovation, smallholder farmers in Bangladesh can achieve prosperity. In Hazishorai, Uzzal Mojumder's field doesn't just grow tomatoes; it grows hope, confidence, and inspiration for an entire community

Organic Fertilizer and Biological Pest Control Transform Md. Abu Taher's Bitter Gourd Cultivation

Md. Abu Taher, a 40-year-old farmer from East Razurgao village in Sundulpur Union, Kabirhat Upazila, Noakhali, once struggled to make ends meet. Supporting a family of six, including his wife, children, and parents, he relied on traditional vegetable cultivation, livestock, and occasional day labor. Despite his hard work, repeated attempts at growing seasonal fruits and vegetables using chemical fertilizers and pesticides often ended in loss, leaving him unable to meet basic household needs, pay for his children's education, or invest in his farm. Financial instability threatened to push him away from vegetable cultivation altogether.

His fortunes began to change when he learned about the SACP project through the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) and visited the Upazila Agriculture Office. There, the Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) introduced him to the cultivation of Korolla (bitter gourd) using organic fertilizers and biological pest control. Motivated by the potential economic and environmental benefits, Md. Abu Taher enrolled in the training and began cultivating the high-yield Glory variety on 50 decimals of land.

By implementing organic practices, proper mulching, and timely management techniques, Md. Abu Taher achieved remarkable success. His gross return reached BDT 1,309,525 per hectare, with a gross margin of BDT 815,750 per hectare, providing him with consistent income, financial stability, and independence.

These methods not only increased yields but also reduced input costs, improved produce quality, and promoted sustainable farming practices.

Md. Abu Taher's success has inspired his community. He actively encouraged other farmers to adopt high-quality Korolla cultivation using organic fertilizers and biological pest control, organized training sessions benefiting over 100 farmers, and played a leading role in fostering a youth-led movement for sustainable farming. Through his efforts, farmers in the area are now increasingly motivated to embrace innovative, environmentally friendly, and resource-efficient agriculture.

The broader SACP initiative has further supported these transformations. By providing infrastructure such as Common Facility Centers (CFCs), Farmer Business Schools (FBS), mobile irrigation units, and transport vehicles, the project has enabled crop diversification, improved market access, reduced post-harvest losses, and strengthened climate resilience. Women and youth have been empowered to participate actively, with over 30% of training participants being women.

Md. Abu Taher said, "These methods not only increased my yield but also reduced my input costs and improved the quality of my produce." His story exemplifies how organic practices and biological pest control, coupled with project support, can transform farming livelihoods, improve economic security, and promote sustainable agricultural development in rural communities.

Tandra Haldar: A Role Model Tomato Cultivator on the Bank of Gher

Tandra Haldar (28), daughter of Mr. Subodh Haldar, is a young and progressive farmer from Zobai village of Gojalia union in Kachua upazila of Bagerhat district. She lives in a family of five members, including her parents, grandmother, and younger brother, and their primary source of livelihood is farming.

Although she owns only 50 decimals (0.50 acre) of cultivable land, Tandra has made the best use of it by practicing modern farming and cultivating high-value vegetables and fruits. As a marginal farmer, her determination and innovative approach have set her apart from many others in her community. She is a member of a producer group under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), with Beneficiary Identification (B.I.D.) number SACP 011.27.22.

Before joining the project, Tandra faced several challenges, such as low crop yields, lack of modern agricultural knowledge, and poor market linkage. Her farming was mainly subsistence-based, generating very little income to support her family.
Selected as a demonstration farmer under SACP, Tandra received hands-on training on modern cultivation techniques for high-value crops, fruit gardening, market management, post-harvest handling, and primary processing. With technical guidance and support from the Upazila Agriculture Office, she gained the confidence to take on tomato cultivation at a commercial scale.

The project provided her with quality seeds, fertilizers, fencing, and other necessary inputs. With this support and her hard work, Tandra started tomato cultivation on her land during the 2022–23 fiscal year.

She sowed the seeds of the Hybrid Bipul Plus tomato variety on 25 September 2022, transplanted the seedlings on 22 October 2022. From her 50 decimal plot, Tandra harvested nearly 8,000 kg of tomatoes. She sold her produce in the local and Bagerhat town markets with assistance from the Upazila Agriculture Officer. Selling tomatoes at Tk. 25–40 per kg, she earned a total of BDT 216,950.00. Her total expenditure, including seeds, fertilizers, stakes, fencing, and intercultural operations, was BDT 48,000.00. This left her with a net profit of BDT 168,950.00, a remarkable achievement for such a small plot of land. Encouraged by this success, Tandra expanded to cultivate other crops such as bitter gourd, bottle gourd, ash gourd and cucumber.

With her earnings, Tandra has improved her family's livelihood, invested in nutritious food, and saved funds for future crop cultivation. She dreams of expanding her farming activities and believes that other farmers can also achieve success if they follow proper guidelines and adopt improved practices.

Tandra's success has inspired many neighboring farmers to adopt tomato cultivation. Her demonstration plot became a learning hub, and she is now recognized as a local leader in vegetable farming. Villagers seek her advice, and she feels proud to share her knowledge and experiences.

Tandra's adopted eco-friendly farming practices promoted by the SACP project, including proper spacing, organic compost use, and efficient irrigation techniques. These practices enhanced soil fertility, minimized pesticide use, and contributed to more sustainable farming in the area.

SACP project has changed my life. With proper training and support, even a small piece of land can generate big success. I want to continue improving my farming and guide others.

– Tandra Haldar

Improved Tomato Farming Brings Happiness to Salauddin Miah with Increased Income

Md. Salauddin Miah a 35-year-old farmer with education up to eighth grade, lives in Amlibaria village under Baliatali union of Kalapara, Patuakhali district, with his wife and three children. He is the son of Late Shamser Ali Miah. Under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), Salauddin is both a producer group and marketing group member with Beneficiary Identification (B.I.D.) number SACP 089.30.14. Mr. Salauddin is a smallholder farmer with only 100 decimals (1.0 acre) of owned land to support his family. To increase household income, he also cultivates various high-value vegetables and crops on leased land.

Agricultural farming in this area is challenging due to a severe shortage of cultivable land. Many lands remain fallow or are used for only single crop cultivation because of increased soil salinity during the dry (winter) season. As a result, green vegetables are scarce and expensive, forcing local people to depend on vegetables imported from other parts of the country.

To address this issue, the SACP project introduced high-value tomato cultivation in the area with the goal of creating new income opportunities for local farmers. Inspired by this initiative, Mr. Salauddin joined both the producer and marketing groups to boost his earnings through high-value vegetable cultivation and improved market linkages.

Before being selected as a demonstration farmer, Salauddin received comprehensive hands-on training under SACP, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Through this training, he gained practical knowledge of modern cultivation techniques for high-value vegetables and crops. Additionally, he received training on market linkages, post-harvest management, and primary processing, which helped him improve production quality and marketing strategies.

These trainings significantly enhanced his skills in small-scale tomato production and connected him to a reliable marketing network.In the 2021-22 fiscal year, Salauddin cultivated high-yielding tomato varieties (Chameli) on 50 decimals (0.50 acre) of leased land with input and technical support from the project. The Upazila Agriculture Office provided him with seeds, fertilizers, fencing materials, and other essential inputs to ensure successful tomato production. With his hard work and guidance from agricultural extension workers, Salauddin achieved remarkable results, producing 6.40 tons of tomatoes from 50 decimals of land—equivalent to 32.0 tons per hectare.

Reflecting on his success, Salauddin shared, “I cultivated high-yielding winter tomatoes following modern technologies and earned BDT 152,000 (@ BDT 23.75/kg) while spending only BDT 32,000 during the last season.

With the profits, Mr. Salauddin reinvested in agriculture by leasing additional land to expand high-value vegetable cultivation. He also used part of his earnings to improve his family’s nutrition, support his children's education, and purchase inputs for the next growing season. In addition, he has started fish rearing on leased land to diversify his income sources.

Salauddin’s success has encouraged neighboring farmers. It is expected that at least 10 farmers will adopt high-yielding tomato or other high-value crop cultivation techniques inspired by his example in the upcoming season. Today, he is seen as a local leader and role model for modern, profitable agriculture.

I am sincerely thankful to the SACP project for providing valuable training and timely input support. This assistance has greatly contributed to the success of our efforts. I am hopeful that the success of this high-value tomato demonstration will motivate other farmers to adopt these improved technologies in the coming season.

A Young Farmer's Rise: How Khondokar Tareque Turned Hillside Land into a Thriving Jujube Enterprise

In the hilly terrain of Sadhanpur Union in Banshkhali, Chattogram, where access is difficult and opportunities are often limited, a young man has quietly reshaped the idea of what rural success can look like. Md. Khondokar Tareque, an HSC graduate, did not follow the conventional path of seeking employment elsewhere. Instead, he chose to stay rooted in his community and pursue a long-held dream—to build prosperity through modern agriculture.

His journey began in 2022, at a time when the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic had left many disoriented and struggling to find direction. For Tareque, however, this period became a turning point. Inspired by online content on jujube cultivation, he envisioned transforming unused land into a productive orchard. With guidance from the local Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer and support from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), he was introduced to the SACP project and enlisted in a producer group. Recognizing his enthusiasm, the project facilitated training and provided a demonstration plot of 50 decimals in his mother's name.

Starting modestly with 80 jujube saplings, Tareque invested around BDT 40,000. Within less than a year, his orchard yielded returns of approximately BDT 105,000. This early success not only validated his efforts but also strengthened his confidence. Rather than stopping there, he expanded. Leasing additional land near his home, he planted 400 saplings of improved varieties such as Kashmiri, Apple Kul, Balsundari, and Thai Apple. The scale of his ambition grew rapidly, matched by increasing financial returns.By the 2023–24 fiscal year, his income had risen to around BDT 5 to 6 lakh.

The following year marked another leap. He leased more land, propagated his own saplings, and expanded his orchard to a total of 12 bighas, with nearly 960 trees under cultivation.His production reached an impressive level, generating approximately BDT 17 lakh in revenue against a cost of 5 to 6 lakh taka. What began as a small experimental effort had evolved into a commercially viable agricultural enterprise.

Tareque's success did not come without challenges. The hilly landscape posed logistical difficulties, particularly in transporting produce to markets. The surrounding environment remained unpredictable, with threats such as wild animals, including elephants, occasionally disrupting farming activities. Despite these obstacles, he adapted through careful planning and continued support from agricultural extension services. The SACP project further strengthened his capacity by providing advanced training in nursery development and facilitating market linkages with wholesale buyers in Chattogram, including demand from areas such as EPZ in Anowara.

Today, his orchard is widely recognized in Banshkhali. He has diversified into livestock, including goat rearing and cattle fattening, and has begun selling saplings to nearby farmers, creating an additional income stream.

His influence extends beyond his own land. Tareque has become a local reference point for aspiring farmers. His orchard attracts visitors, and his willingness to share knowledge has encouraged others to follow a similar path. In Sadhanpur Union alone, around 60 farmers have reportedly initiated jujube cultivation after observing his success.

Like a Golden Touch: How Vermicompost Transformed the Life of Farmer Md. Abul Khayer.

Md. Abul Khayer, a 42-year-old farmer from Charmajid village in Charbata Union, Subarnachar Upazila, Noakhali, once faced financial instability and uncertainty. Supporting a family of four, he relied on crop cultivation and livestock rearing, but his income was inconsistent and insufficient to meet basic household needs, fund his children's education, or invest in his farm. Limited resources prevented him from buying essential items such as clothing, furniture, and medicines, and his agricultural activities struggled to reach their potential.

His life began to change when he learned about the SACP project through the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer. Encouraged by curiosity and opportunity, he visited the Upazila Agriculture Office and met with the Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO), who introduced him to the vermicompost initiative. The UAO explained the production process, training opportunities, potential for regular income, and the environmental and economic benefits of vermicompost. Motivated, Md. Abul Khayer participated in the training and established a vermicompost unit at his home. He constructed six compost chambers, filled them with cow dung, and introduced earthworms to start production.

The results were transformative. Prior to vermicompost adoption, Md. Abul Khayer had no steady monthly income. With his compost unit, he now earns BDT 15,000–20,000 per month solely from compost sales, providing financial stability and independence. Using his own vermicompost, he cultivates vegetables year-round, ensuring nutritious food for his family and generating additional income from surplus produce.

The organic compost has improved yields, reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers, and enhanced overall farm productivity..
Md. Abul Khayer's success has inspired his community. He actively encourages neighbors to start vermicompost production and has supported training programs for around 100 small-scale farmers. His efforts have sparked a youth-led movement for sustainable vermicompost farming, contributing to agricultural innovation and local economic development.

Vermicomposting has multiple environmental and sustainability benefits. It diverts organic waste from landfills, reducing methane emissions and mitigating climate change. It improves soil structure, aeration, water retention, and nutrient cycling, while supporting beneficial microbes and pest suppression. By reducing chemical fertilizer use, it prevents pollution and enhances long-term soil health. Organic matter in vermicompost also sequesters carbon, strengthening climate resilience and promoting circular, regenerative farming practices.

The broader SACP initiative has amplified these impacts. Support from Common Facility Centers (CFCs) and Farmer Business Schools (FBS), along with mobile irrigation units and transport vehicles, has facilitated crop diversification, better market access, post-harvest management, and inclusion of women and youth in training programs. Over 30% of participants have been women, reflecting meaningful social empowerment.

> **Vermicompost has enabled me to earn a steady monthly income, transforming my life like a miracle.**
> **It has also improved my soil fertility, increased crop yields, and reduced my dependence on chemical fertilizers.**
>
> **– Md. Abul Khayer**

Vermicompost Transformed Farmer Md. Ayiub Ali's Life, Turning a Dream into Reality

Md. Ayiub Ali, a 34-year-old farmer from Falahari village in Norottompur Union, Kabirhat Upazila, Noakhali, once faced a challenging life with no steady monthly income. Supporting a family of seven—including his wife, two sons, and three daughters—he relied sporadically on the sale of crops, goats, or cattle, which made it difficult to cover household expenses, fund his children's education, purchase medicines, or invest in his farm. His life took a transformative turn when he learned about the SACP project through the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer. Intrigued, he visited the Upazila Agriculture Office, where the Upazila Agriculture Officer introduced him to the vermicompost initiative, explaining the training, production process, expected monthly income, and environmental and economic benefits. Motivated by this opportunity, Md. Ayiub Ali completed the training and established a vermicompost unit at his home, constructing six compost rings, filling them with cow dung, and introducing earthworms to begin production.

The impact was immediate and profound. Previously unable to earn a consistent income, he now generates BDT 12,000–15,000 per month solely from compost sales, providing financial stability and independence. Using his own vermicompost, he cultivates vegetables year-round, meeting his family's nutritional needs while selling surplus produce. This has improved greenhouse yields, reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers, and enhanced overall farm productivity

Inspired by his success, Md. Ayiub Ali encouraged neighbors to adopt vermicompost production and supported training initiatives for around 150 small-scale farmers, sparking a youth-led movement for sustainable agriculture in his community.

Vermicomposting has multiple environmental benefits: it reduces waste and greenhouse gas emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills, improves soil health and water efficiency, cuts chemical fertilizer use, prevents pollution, sequesters carbon, and supports circular, low-impact farming practices. The broader SACP project—through Common Facility Centers, Farmer Business Schools, irrigation and post-harvest management training, and provision of transport such as vans and trucks—has further enabled crop diversification, market access, climate resilience, value addition, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Transportation support has allowed extension agents and farmer groups, including women and youth, to reach more communities, while efficient collection of crop residues and organic waste has strengthened circular farming practices.

> **Using vermicompost has improved my soil fertility, increased crop production, and reduced my dependency on chemical fertilizers. Producing and selling vermicompost has become an additional source of income for me.**

Superior Seeds and Timely Management Transformed Md. Belayet Hossen's Life

Md. Belayet Hossen, a 35-year-old farmer from Uttompur Lamchi village in Kabirhat Upazila, Noakhali, once lived with financial uncertainty. Supporting a family of four—including his wife, daughter, and mother—he relied on sporadic sales of crops, livestock, and operating a small grocery shop, which left him with an unstable income.

Repeated losses from traditional fruit cultivation discouraged him and limited his ability to meet household needs, fund his child's education, maintain his shop, or invest in his farm. His situation began to change when he learned about the SACP project through the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer. Motivated, he visited the Upazila Agriculture Office and met the Upazila Agriculture Officer, who introduced him to modern techniques for cultivating Glory watermelons.

The officer explained the training, production process, income potential, and economic and environmental benefits of adopting superior seeds and timely management practices. Encouraged by this guidance, Md. Belayet Hossen enrolled in the training and began cultivating the high-yield Glory variety on 35 decimals of land.

The results were remarkable. Through improved seeds and careful management, his production increased significantly, yielding up to BDT 815,750 per hectare per season, which greatly enhanced his financial stability and independence.

The SACP project's integrated support, including Common Facility Centers, Farmer Business School training, mobile irrigation units, and transport via vans and trucks, further amplified these impacts. Farmers gained better market access, diversified crops, adopted climate-smart water management practices, reduced post-harvest losses, and enhanced social inclusion, with over 30% of trainees being women. Md. Belayet Hossen reflected that the use of improved seeds and timely practices in cultivating the Glory variety of watermelon has improved his nutritional, financial, and social well-being, granting him greater stability and recognition within his community while promoting environmentally friendly and sustainable farming practices.

The adoption of mulching, moisture conservation, weed suppression, and soil temperature regulation techniques not only increased productivity but also reduced reliance on chemical inputs. Inspired by his success, he actively encouraged around 250 fellow farmers to adopt these methods, organizing training sessions and sparking a youth-led movement promoting sustainable watermelon cultivation.

Seed Village: Empowering Farmers and Enhancing Agricultural Sustainability under SACP

Within the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), the Seed Village initiative has emerged as a transformative program for farmers in Bangladesh. Located in Mukundapur village, Bishnupur Union, Kaliganj Upazilla, Sathkhira District, the Seed Village was established on 1st August 2021 on a 2,500-square-foot plot of land owned by Md. Ashek Iqbal.

The village is organized around a strong operational committee of 30 members—18 men and 12 women—with a total membership of 500 farmers, including 320 men and 180 women. The committee includes a president, Ashek Iqbal, a secretary, Abdul Malek, a cashier, Mampi Bala, and 27 other members. They meet formally once a month and informally every Sunday to discuss agricultural challenges and make collective decisions, ensuring equal participation and decision-making rights among members.

Seed Village focuses on group-based, sustainable vegetable production and community-oriented seed cultivation. Farmers in the village produce seeds for a variety of crops, including vegetables such as brinjal, tomato, cabbage, and gourd, as well as staple crops like rice, wheat, and mustard. For example, Mampi Bala, a women farmer, has been producing vegetable seeds for three years, earning a significant income by selling directly to the community. By preserving seeds, farmers ensure access to quality seeds for their members, strengthen the seed value chain, and generate income through seed sales, both locally and to seed companies, eliminating middlemen and maximizing profits.

Through the collaboration of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh Agricultural Development Cooperation (BADC), and the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM), Seed Village has created strong networks and market linkages. Farmers receive technical support, training, and guidance on seed processing, including drying, threshing, pre-cleaning, cleaning, size grading, treating, quality testing, packaging, and labeling. These practices not only maintain the quality of the seeds but also enable farmers to sell their products at fair prices.

Participation in Seed Village has empowered women and men alike. Women involved in seed production have gained increased income, reduced dependency, and greater decision-making power within their households and communities.

Group-based seed production promotes sustainability by preserving local varieties, reducing reliance on external sources, and fostering long-term food security. Active ownership by members ensures that knowledge and skills are continuously applied and passed on.

SACP have supported these farmers through Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS), on-demand training, demonstrations, and farmer exchange visits. These activities allow farmers to learn from each other, adapt techniques to their specific contexts, and disseminate improved practices across the community.

Future initiatives aim to establish local seed preservation facilities, enabling farmers to store and exchange local seed varieties, while collaborations with government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and private companies are expected to scale up the initiative further.

Seed Village under SACP has proven to be a highly successful model for enhancing food security, boosting farmer livelihoods, promoting sustainable agriculture, and empowering communities. By combining technical support, participatory learning, and market linkages, it has created a resilient and self-reliant farmer network capable of meeting both current and future agricultural challenge

Jashamoti Rani is a successful tomato cultivator

Jashamoti Rani, 46 years old woman. The wife of Kinshuk Mondal has one son and daughter in law (wife of her son). She is a small, and progressive farmer cultivating only 66 decimals (02 bighas) of cultivable land and practices a variety of high-value vegetables or fruits on her marginal land.

Jashamoti Rani lives in a very salinity prone and remote area, Shankarkati village of Kashimari union in Shyamnagar Upazila of Sathkhira district. Under SACP, she is a member of the producer group with the Beneficiary Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 018.07.14. She reads up to class 05, below SSC, but highly experienced in agriculture.

Before being selected as a demonstration farmer, she received comprehensive hands-on training under the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) under the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

As a result, she learned in detail about modern cultivation practices regarding various high-value crops and fruit gardening. Also she gathered knowledge on market management, post-harvest management and primary processing of high-value crops from another marketing-related training under the project. Being guided by this knowledge, in the last fiscal year (2021-22), she cultivated tomatoes in 50 decimals (0.5 acre) land with the input and technical support of the project.

However, after being selected as a demo farmer, the Upazila Agriculture Office provided her with necessary seeds, fertilizers, fencing and other supports to continue dragon fruit demonstration under SACP.

With all the technical and financial support from the project and her hard work Jashamoti Rani successfully accomplished this difficult task. With the technical support of the Upazila Agriculture Officer, AEO and SAAO, she cultivated Hi-tom variety tomato on her land. She sowed the seed in seedbed on 15.09.2021. She transplanted this tomato seedling in the prepared land on 10.10.2021 in the fiscal year 2021-2022 and harvested the tomato within 90-120 days on 15/12/2022 and the production is about 6000 kg.

Jashamoti Rani sells Tomato (35-40tk / kg) at local market and in Sathkhira town market with the help of Shyamnagar Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO). However, she earned total BDT. 2,00,000.00 by selling Tomato several times per year still now. In total, she spent BDT 35,000.00 only for seeds, fertilizers, stalk, fencing, intercultural operation etc. and net profit from is BDT 165000.00 only. Maximum support she received (Seeds, fertilizer, net etc) from the SACP project, and besides, she turned it into an economically benefited project with her condition.

Observing the tomato demonstration by Jashamoti Rani nearby farmers became inspired to cultivate Tommato from next season. Her success has impacted the community of other farmers to cultivate the HVC. Because she overcame the challenges of the effect of salinity by using vermicompost fertilizer and poly mulch paper.

Jashamoti Rani feels proud of her when villagers contact her for advice. Now she is a well-known person to the community, and this is possible only for the demonstration of Tommato.
She spent her profit for livelihood, children's education, buying nutritious food and rest for next crops cultivation. She always invites the media and her well-wishers to publish her success and believes that other farmers could do better by following proper guidelines.

Johur Gazi is a successful eggplant cultivator

Johur Gazi, 56 years old man, education level class 05(below SSC). He is a small, and progressive farmer cultivating only 100 decimals (1 acre) of cultivable land and practices a variety of high-value vegetables or fruits on his marginal land. Johur Gazi lives in the very salinity prone coastal belt Shankarkati village of Kashimari union in Shyamnagar Upazila of Sathkhira district. Under SACP, he is a member of the producer group with the Beneficiary Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 018.07.22.

He belongs to a small family including one son, one daughter and his wife before being selected as a demonstration farmer, he received comprehensive hands-on training under the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) under the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). As a result, he learned in detail about modern cultivation practices regarding various high-value crops and fruit gardening. Also he gathered knowledge on market management, post-harvest management and primary processing of high-value crops from another marketing-related training under the project. Being guided by above this knowledge, in the last fiscal year (2021-22), he cultivated eggplant in 50 decimals (0.5 acre) land with the input and technical support of the project and earned handsome income.

However, after being selected as a demo farmer, the Upazila Agriculture Office provided him with necessary seeds, fertilizers, fencing and other support to continue dragon fruit demonstration under SACP. With all the technical and financial support from the project and his hard work Johur Gazi successfully accomplished this difficult task. With the technical support of the Upazila Agriculture Officer, AEO and SAAO, he cultivated eggplant on his land.
In the first year he sowed the seed in seedbed on 18.09.2021.

He transplanted this eggplant seedling in the prepared land on 13.10.2021 in the fiscal year 2021-2022 and harvested eggplant within90-120 days on 20/12/2021 and the production is near about 6000 kg. Johur Gazi sells Eggplant (25-30tk / kg) at local market and in Sathkhira town market with the help of Shyamnagar Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO).

However, he earned a total BDT. 2,20,000.00 by selling Eggplant several times per year still now. In total, he spent BDT 38,000.00 only for seeds, fertilizers, stalk, fencing, intercultural operation etc. and net profit from his earning BDT 1,700,000. Maximum support he received from the SACP project, and besides, he turned it into an economically beneficial project with his contribution.

Now every year he is earning 4-5 lacs by selling various high value vegetables like Offseason watermelon, Summer Tomato, Eggplant, bitter guard etc.

Observing the techniques to overcome salinity problem by using vermicompost fertilizer, organic pest control management, using of Poly Mulch Paper, sex pheromone Trap, yellow card etc. to cultivation of high value crops by Johur Gazi nearby farmers became inspired to cultivate Eggplant, bitter guard and watermelon from next season. His success has impacted the community of other farmers to cultivate the HVC. Now he has become a leader in the area for his success. Johur Gazi feels proud of his when villagers contact his for advice. Now he is a well-known person to the community, and this is possible only for the demonstration of Eggplant, Off session Water melon and bitter guard.

He spent his profit for livelihood, land purchasing and leasing, buying nutritious food and rest for next crops cultivation. He always invites the media and his well-wisher to publish his success and believes that other farmers could do better by following proper guidelines.

> **If anyone want to profit from Agriculture should cultivate High Value Crops**
>
> – Johur Gazi

From Salinity to Sustainability: How Hasibul Hasan Built a Green Enterprise

In the salinity-prone village of Kushalia under Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira district, 30-year-old Hasibul Hasan is quietly reshaping the future of farming.

A smallholder farmer with only 82 decimals of cultivable land, Hasibul once relied entirely on traditional agriculture to support his wife, son and daughter. Like many families in the coastal belt, his livelihood was vulnerable to drought, soil degradation and the creeping effects of climate change.

For years, low productivity and uncertain income defined his reality. That began to change when he became involved with the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) under the Ministry of Agriculture. Selected as a beneficiary (BID: SACP-026-29-17), Hasibul received hands-on training in vermicompost production, along with guidance on climate-resilient, high-value crops, market management and post-harvest handling.

The training introduced him to vermicomposting — a method of converting organic waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer using earthworms. With technical support from the Department of Agricultural Extension in Kaliganj, he established a small vermicompost production unit on 10 September 2021. At first, the shift was not easy.

There were uncertainties about the market, and mastering a new production system required patience and experimentation. Yet with consistent project support and his own determination, the venture began to flourish.
Hasibul started selling compost at 14–15 taka per kilogram. As his stock of earthworms multiplied, he diversified further, selling earthworms at 850–950 taka per kilogram. Over time, he invested approximately 2,50,000 taka into expanding production and marketing. The returns have been significant. To date, he has earned nearly 3,50,000 taka, and his annual income now exceeds 3,00,000 taka.

What began as a survival strategy has grown into a small but impactful enterprise. Hasibul now employs three local workers, creating income opportunities for neighbours who once faced similar hardship. Farmers in the area increasingly seek his compost, recognising its ability to improve soil fertility, retain moisture and gradually reduce salinity. In a region where soil health is fragile, vermicompost has become more than a product — it is a climate-smart solution.

Today, Hasibul is widely known in his community as an entrepreneur rather than a subsistence farmer. Inspired by his success, more than 20 local farmers, including women, are exploring vermicompost production and other eco-friendly agricultural practices. He continues to share his knowledge openly, encouraging others to adopt sustainable techniques that protect both income and environment.

With growing confidence, Hasibul is now investing in Tricho-compost production, aiming to expand into more profitable and climate-smart technologies. His journey reflects the broader transformation possible when training, technical support and determination intersect.

Vermicompost is an environment-friendly and profitable technology. It increases soil fertility and helps reduce salinity. Thanks SACP for helping me to be an enterprenuer

– Hasibul Hasan

Started compost sales at 14–15 BDT/kg later diversified into earthworm sales at 850–950 BDT/kg.

Ziaur Rahman Sheikh: Experience with High-Value Brinjal and Tomato

Ziaur Rahman Sheikh, son of Md.Momin Sheikh, , 39 years old a progressive smallholder farmer cultivating 125 decimals (1.25 acres) of land. Living in Bagdriala village under Dhalbaria Union of Kaliganj Upazila in Sathkhira District, he practices the cultivation of various high-value crops and fruits on his marginal land. As a member of a producer and marketing group under the SACP, his Beneficiary Identification (BID) number is 24.05.08.

In the fiscal year 2023-24 he cultivated brinjal on 50 decimals (0.5 acres) of land with input and technical support from the project.

After being chosen as a demonstration farmer, the Upazila Agriculture Office supplied him with seeds, fertilizers, fencing, and other necessary supports to establish the brinjal demonstration. With both technical and financial backing from SACP, along with his own hard work and support from his wife, he successfully carried out the initiative. Guided by the technical advice of the Upazila Agriculture Officer and Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers, he cultivated two varieties of brinjal on his land. Seeds were planted during the 2023-24 fiscal year, and within only 80 days —on 15 September 2024—he began harvesting.

He produced a significant quantity of brinjal, which he sold locally, earning BDT 89,000. Although much of the support came from the SACP project, it was Ziaur's dedication and labor that turned the effort into an economically rewarding venture.

Ziaur Rahman Sheikh chose to cultivate brinjal and Tommato on 100 decimals (0.4 hectares) of land. His total production cost, including the cost of inputs such as seedlings, fertilizers, and poly mulching, amounted to approximately 1,80,000 BDT.

However, the adoption of modern agricultural practices paid off significantly. By harvesting early and selling his brinjals at the right time, he was able to secure a high market price. Ziaur Rahman Sheikh sold his brinjals & Tomato for 5 taka more per kilogram than the price at which other farmers were selling their produce.

As a result, his total income from brinjal cultivation amounted to around 3,20,,000 BDT, more than double his initial investment, demonstrating the profitability of adopting advanced farming techniques.

The positive impact of poly mulching and the high-value crop production did not stop at Ziaur Rahman Sheikh financial success. Inspired by his success, many farmers in the area started taking an interest in high-value crop cultivation and poly mulching.

He actively shared his experiences and guided other farmers on how to implement poly mulching and cultivate high-value crops effectively. His willingness to mentor and support others has contributed to a shift in the local farming community, where more farmers are now adopting modern techniques to increase their agricultural output and profitability.

Through the SACP project, Ziaur Rahman Sheikh has proven that with the right guidance, support, and willingness to embrace new ideas, farmers can break free from the limitations of traditional farming and unlock their potential for greater success. His journey is an inspiring example of how innovative farming practices, such as poly mulching, can lead to not only improved financial outcomes but also greater sustainability in agriculture.

He is using his profit to increase the cultivable land,food, clothe, education and repair work os his house. He want to increased his land and planning to cultivate more high value crops in future.

Mung Bean Cultivation: Impact of SACP Intervention

The SACP intervention has brought a transformative shift to mung bean cultivation across the coastal regions of Bangladesh. In areas long challenged by limited access to modern agricultural practices, the introduction of high-yielding varieties such as BARI Mung-1, BARI Mung-6, and BINA Mung-8 has opened new possibilities for smallholder farmers. What began as a targeted agricultural support initiative has evolved into a broader movement toward productivity, sustainability, and income growth.

A total of 1,105 farmers, all general beneficiaries of the SACP-RAINS project, have taken part in this initiative. Spread across 11 districts and 30 upazilas in the coastal belt, these farmers were carefully selected from regions where agricultural systems required modernization and improved resilience.

Through structured support and practical guidance, they were equipped with the knowledge and resources necessary to adopt more efficient and sustainable farming practices. The intervention combined financial assistance with technical innovation. Each farmer received 10,000 Taka to support land preparation, ensuring that fields were properly readied for cultivation.

Demonstration initiatives introduced them to modern, high-yielding mung bean varieties, replacing lower-performing traditional seeds. At the same time, farmers were trained in the balanced use of fertilizers and improved pest management practices. Traditional methods often involved excessive or inappropriate pesticide use, particularly to combat pod borer infestations. Through targeted training, farmers learned judicious pesticide application, proper roughing techniques, and more effective pest control strategies, resulting in healthier crops and reduced losses.

A key element of the intervention was the introduction of vermicompost. By encouraging the use of organic fertilizers, the project reduced farmers' dependency on chemical inputs while enhancing soil fertility. Healthier soils translated into stronger plants, improved yields, and better-quality mung beans. This shift toward organic soil management reinforced the project's emphasis on long-term sustainability.

Before the intervention, most farmers relied on conventional practices, including local pesticides and irregular sowing and harvesting schedules. Limited awareness of balanced fertilization and scientific crop management contributed to comparatively lower yields.

The project's training and field demonstrations replaced these outdated methods with modern techniques, empowering farmers with practical knowledge that directly improved productivity.

Market access has also been central to the project's success. Through collective selling initiatives and partnerships with organizations such as Grameen Euglena, farmers gained entry to premium markets. Grameen Euglena procures mung beans, sorts them according to grain size, and manages market processes to ensure fair pricing. With pulses like mung beans in high demand, farmers are now able to secure stable and competitive prices, further strengthening their incomes.

The results have been significant. Farmers have experienced a 25.7 percent increase in yield per acre and an average income rise of 31.5 percent. Importantly, 82 percent of participating farmers have continued mung bean production in subsequent years, demonstrating both the sustainability and long-term viability of the intervention.

Overall, the SACP-RAINS initiative has reshaped mung bean cultivation in Bangladesh's coastal districts. By combining improved seed varieties, modern farming techniques, organic soil management, and strengthened market linkages, the project has not only increased productivity but also enhanced livelihoods. Its continued success highlights the critical role of integrated agricultural support in building resilient farming communities.

Seed Village in Char Martin: Blessing for Farmers

In Char Martin Union of Kamalnagar Upazila under Lakshmipur district, a Seed Village has been established where 150 project farmers and nearly 100 non-project farmers are benefiting directly or indirectly. With an investment of around 2.2 million BDT, this initiative has truly opened a new horizon for the local farming community.

The Seed Village, developed under the BADC's SACP project, aims to empower farmers to produce quality seeds on their own, reduce dependency on external sources, and ensure timely availability of good-quality seeds. As a result, farmers are not only becoming self-sufficient in seeds but also gradually enjoying financial benefits.

Previously, marginal farmers had to rely on cold storage facilities for seed preservation, which was costly. With the establishment of the Seed Village, such expenses have been reduced by almost half, lowering production costs while increasing farmers' incomes. In addition, they are receiving support in canal re-excavation, LLP pumps, and training for sustainable farming practices.

Abdul Gani, a farmer from Char Martin, shared that he now preserves his seeds in the Seed Village and has greatly benefited from it. He emphasized that not only project farmers but also non-project farmers can access these facilities, which has made the Seed Village a trusted resource for the entire union.

Farmers of Char Martin are producing and preserving quality seeds by themselves and using them in cultivation, bringing about a revolutionary change in agricultural production. Alongside, they are learning sustainable methods of seed production, which is not only boosting their incomes but also contributing positively to food security and self-reliance in the region.

Improving the Fortunes of Sharecroppers by Cultivating Tomatoes

Md. Nasir, a farmer from Mohammadpur village under Mohammadpur Union of Chatkhil Upazila in Noakhali district, has transformed his livelihood through tomato cultivation under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP). Before being included in the project, Nasir had limited opportunities as a smallholder and sharecropper, but with training and support he turned into one of the most successful demonstration farmers in the area.

In the fiscal year 2022–23, Nasir cultivated hybrid tomato varieties—Bahubali on 50 decimals and Vipul+ on another 50 decimals —on his land with seeds, fertilizers, fencing, crates, and technical guidance provided by the Upazila Agriculture Office under SACP. Supported by JMRS Hashne Mah Jabin and SAAO Md. Sarower Hossain, he was able to adopt modern cultivation practices and proper crop management.

The results were remarkable: he harvested about 80 maunds of tomatoes and sold them at favourable prices—between Tk. 80–120 per kg in mid-summer and Tk. 30–60 in early winter. From this harvest alone, Nasir earned around Tk. 2,50,000 in 2023. With another 60 maunds of tomatoes still standing in the field, he expected additional sales worth Tk. 50,000–80,000, particularly as prices would rise during Ramadan.

Nasir's wife played an important role in his success, assisting him in the field and in marketing. Together, they managed to transport and sell 4–6 crates of tomatoes daily in the local market, all provided by the project. Nasir also diversified his cultivation with crops such as snake gourd and bottle gourd, and between June 2022 and February 2023 he sold vegetables worth about Tk. 6,00,000. His active participation in the Farmer Business School under SACP gave him essential knowledge in crop planning, marketing, and post-harvest management.

The financial benefits significantly improved his household well-being, from meeting family needs to investing in future cultivation. Nasir's journey from a marginal farmer to a successful commercial tomato cultivator is a testimony to how project support, coupled with hard work, can change lives.

His success in 2022–23 earned him the opportunity to continue as a demonstration farmer in 2023–24, and his story has inspired many neighbouring farmers to adopt improved tomato varieties and modern farming practices.

Vertical Expansion of Agriculture: Md. Shohag's Journey Toward Modern and Profitable Farming

Md. Raisul Islam Shohag is a young farmer from Hatpukuria Ghatlabag, Union: Ghatlabag, Upazila: Chatkhil, District: Noakhali. After receiving training under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), he learned in detail about modern cultivation practices for high-value crops and fruit gardening. When he stepped out of the training hall, an idea struck him—he would expand agriculture vertically on his father's small piece of land in a planned way.

Acting on this vision, Shohag started cultivating hybrid gourd on 50 decimals of land with the technical and input support of the project.

He soon became the gourd demonstration farmer for SACP, showing the effectiveness of modern methods. His efforts paid off when he harvested about 40 maunds of gourd, selling them at BDT 40–50 per kg. Alongside this, he cultivated tomatoes, harvesting nearly 2 tons in the Rabi season with another ton still waiting in his field.

These achievements highlighted how strategic farming can increase both yield and income.

Shohag's success was supported by post-harvest facilities provided by the project. Using crates supplied by SACP, he safely carried his gourds and tomatoes to market, while the provision of a van solved his long-standing transportation problem. This not only reduced losses but also ensured fair market prices. Technical support from Md. Arif, Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer, and guidance from the Upazila Agriculture Officer in Chatkhil, further strengthened his capacity.

Beyond his vegetable farming, Shohag also embraced organic agriculture. In 2021, he established a vermi compost demonstration under SACP. Since then, he has been producing organic fertilizer regularly and selling it at a fair price to fellow farmers of the project. This initiative has helped him generate additional income, while also supporting the wider farming community by reducing dependency on chemical fertilizers.

Md. Shohag is recognized as a progressive and resourceful farmer in his area. His journey—from a traditional cultivator to a model farmer combining vegetable production, market access, and organic input supply—reflects how training, innovation, and project support can transform rural livelihoods. As he himself notes, through SACP's support and guidance, farming for him is no longer a struggle, but a sustainable and profitable journey.

Md. Ripon Mia: From Marginal Farmer to Agripreneur through SACP

Md. Ripon Mia is a farmer from Char Lawrence village under Char Lawrence Union, Ward 03 of Kamalnagar Upazila in Lakshmipur district. Since 2019, he has been associated with the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) as one of its most progressive farmers.

Over the years, Ripon Mßia has received multiple demonstrations of high-value crops such as broccoli, summer tomatoes, winter watermelon, and cauliflower, which have significantly transformed both his farming practices and livelihood.

When he first joined the project, Ripon cultivated around 3 acres of land. With technical guidance, demonstrations, and financial support —including a tractor received through the SACP matching grant—he has now expanded his farming operations to approximately 15 acres of land. This remarkable growth reflects not only his hard work but also the strong impact of project interventions

In the fiscal year 2022–23, Ripon cultivated broccoli on 50 decimals of land with the inputs and technical assistance provided by the project. From this harvest, he earned about Tk. 2,50,000, becoming the first-line broccoli producer in Kamalnagar Upazila.

Alongside broccoli, he practiced intercropping by growing cauliflower, sugarcane, and radish, ensuring additional income and efficient land use. From cauliflower alone, he sold produce worth around Tk. 80,000, while sugarcane from the same plot remained in the field for future sales.

In addition, Ripon was one of the pioneers of off-season watermelon cultivation in Kamalnagar. In 2021–22, with full support from the Upazila Agriculture Office—including seedlings, polythene, and cash inputs—he cultivated watermelons in June and earned around Tk. 2,00,000. Similarly, in 2020–21, he received a demonstration of the improved tomato variety Bizli, from which he earned Tk. 2,50,000. These successes demonstrate his ability to adopt new technologies and diversify production with excellent results.

Over the last five to six years, Ripon has consistently expanded his farming portfolio. He not only cultivates high-value crops but also operates a nursery, producing crop seedlings and flower saplings, and has established an agricultural input and product shop at Karaitala Bazar in Kamalnagar. This entrepreneurial step has further strengthened his income sources and positioned him as a service provider for other farmers in the community.

By the fiscal year 2024–25, Ripon Mia's efforts had culminated in an extraordinary achievement: he sold crops worth about Tk. 20,00,000 since June, a scale of income that was unimaginable when he started with just 3 acres of land.

His journey from a smallholder with limited land to a large-scale agripreneur stands as a model of how technical support, modern practices, and determination can transform rural livelihoods. Inspired by his story, many neighboring farmers are now motivated to adopt high-value crops and modern agricultural technologies for better income and improved living standards.

Success Story of Sultan Gazi: From Bitter Gourd Farmer to Rural Role Model

In Kumirmara village of Niljong Union under Kalapara Upazila, Patuakhali, Sultan Gazi was once a farmer working hard on small plots of land with limited resources. Providing for his six-member family, including his wife and two sons—one pursuing honors and the other in higher secondary—was a constant struggle.

The family lived in a modest three-room tin house, where income was uncertain and heavily dependent on traditional farming methods. Despite his determination, Sultan often found it difficult to achieve stable yields or secure fair prices for his crops.

Sultan's fortunes began to change with the launch of the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

He became a member of the project's producer group through a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) conducted by the Kalapara Agriculture Office. His Beneficiary ID was SACP-099-7-19, officially marking his entry into a journey of transformation.

In the fiscal year 2024–25, Sultan was selected as a demonstration farmer under SACP. On May 10, 2024, he started cultivating bitter gourd on 50 decimals (half an acre) of land with full technical and input support from the project. He received high-quality seeds, chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides, mulching paper, a sprayer, pheromone traps, yellow sticky traps, and fencing nets. Alongside these inputs, he participated in hands-on training sessions on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), pest control, and efficient use of inputs—knowledge that proved vital in improving shis farming capacity..

The results exceeded his expectations. Sultan harvested approximately 2,982 kilograms of bitter gourd and earned BDT 164,000 from sales. His total cost of production was BDT 55,500, leaving him with a net profit of BDT 108,500. The benefit-cost ratio of 2.98 meant that for every 1 taka invested, Sultan earned nearly 3 takas in return—a clear indicator of highly profitable farming. Even under adverse conditions, such as excessive rainfall that shortened his cultivation period, Sultan remained well above his break-even point of 1,010 kilograms of bitter gourd. Quick drainage of rainwater prevented waterlogging damage, allowing his crops to thrive despite the climate shock.

While his achievements were remarkable, challenges remained. Market exploitation by middlemen—known locally as faria and paikar—kept him from securing the highest possible prices for his produce. Climate variability also posed ongoing risks. However, the project supported Sultan with regular market price information and climate-adaptive farming strategies, ensuring he could still maximize returns within these constraints.

Beyond the numbers, Sultan's story carries a deeper impact. With his earnings, he invested in his children's education, expanded agricultural production, and made home improvements, including buying new furniture. His use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—through sex pheromone traps, sticky traps, and organic fertilizers—helped minimize chemical pesticide use, ensuring environmentally friendly production. This not only protected soil and biodiversity but also set an example of sustainable farming for his community.

Sultan's success has elevated his social status. Neighbors now see him as a leader and regularly visit his farm to learn about mulching, IPM, and high-value crop cultivation. His improved decision-making power, leadership skills, and confidence have inspired many others to embrace modern agricultural techniques. As he proudly reflects on his journey, Sultan Gazi's story demonstrates how knowledge, innovation, and the right support can transform the lives of smallholder farmers in Bangladesh's coastal area

Farming for the Future: How SACP is Empowering Communities through FBS

Minoti Rani's (Father –Sree Jitendranath Gain Bid no-SACP 020-26-23, Mobile no- 01925-926260) and Manisha Rani Gain (Father-Poritosh Kumar Gain, BID no-SACP 020-27-25, story will be being just one example of how the FFBS approach helps in transforming agriculture and livelihood level at the southern region of Bangladesh.

The name of the FFBS is "Chandipur Farmer Field Business School", Nurnagar union under Shyamnagar Upazilla, Sathkhira district. The FFBS was set up on the date of 15.12.2024.

Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS) is one of most significant programs in SACP which have achieved notable success by empowering farmers with practical knowledge and skills in sustainable agricultural practices, leading to increased yields, reduced pesticide use, and improved livelihoods. The FFBS approach, which emphasizes participatory learning and experimentation, has proven particularly effective in adapting to changing environmental conditions and promoting climate-resilient agriculture.

The program was organized within a group consisting of 25no.s participants, divided into five teams and every team had a team leader. Its total duration is 13 weeks, a three-hour session held in every week, every session was facilitated by a session day leader selected by other members. A total of twelve classes and one field day were completed within the FFBS program.

Minoti Rani and her husband were a traditional farmer, engaged in an unplanned way in agricultural activities. They have no proper ideas about the market system and even have no well documentation of loss & profit. Sometimes they find that the production cost is higher than the selling price. So they have a bitter experience about loss in marketing.

The Upazilla Agricultural Office organized a FFBS at her village under this program; she was selected as a member of this group mentioned earlier.

On the session various type of issues were discussed such as concept of Agri-Business, High Value Crop (HVC), HVC production process & planning, production cost management, Market analysis, Market information collection, discuss with different market actors by motivational visit at local and nearest big market, Climate resilient technology (Vermin-Compost, Mulching paper, sex pheromone trap, yellow card, alternative water management etc) & climate smart agriculture, Nutrition and food safety issues, homestead gardening, vegetable production process, value chain activities, business plan and development, find out profit margin, record book keeping ,crop harvest time and post-harvest technology & management, buyer mapping.

By setting up trail plot management of cultivation activities and ensuring hands-on practice capable of access to high-quality seeds, variety selection, cultivation and increased production. Initiative of Good Agricultural Practice helps in sustainable farming promotion, The FFBS prepare the smallholder farmers empowering to maximize the potentiality of their cultivable land.

Though there are many negative speeches about agriculture, FFBS have changed the concept of agricultural activities in a significant way. By this program farmer became to know about The agricultural activities improved in a practical process, crop diversity, selling product by market analysis, how to decrease production cost, online marketing, food security, improving their practice about maintaining the nutrition for their family, and it decreases their anxiety on market price which are fluctuating with market production.

Nowadays their income has increased 20% within the period, the production cost decreases by 10 % and selling price increases by 5%. Because they are using improved technology like mulching paper, sex pheromone trap, yellow card, vermin-compost instead of chemical fertilizer.

we should produce our crops with proper planning regarding market demands, considering production cost, price and market place”

– Manisha Rani Gain, Member, Chandipur FFBS

Mordern Technique of tomato Cultivation Brings Financial Growth for Abdul Mannan

Md. Abdul Mannan from Baroi Para village, Ghatlabag Union under Chatkhil Upazila of Noakhali, stands as a shining example of how modern agricultural practices, when supported with the right guidance and resources, can transform a farmer's livelihood. Like many smallholder farmers, Abdul once relied on traditional farming methods that often limited his earnings. But his journey took a new direction when he attended training sessions organized under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP).

Through these trainings, Abdul gained in-depth knowledge of advanced farming techniques, particularly in cultivating high-value crops and fruit gardening. The training not only enhanced his understanding but also reshaped his outlook on how agriculture could be practiced more scientifically and profitably. With fresh determination, he stepped out of the training hall with a vision: to apply these modern methods on his father's small piece of land in a planned and systematic way. With technical guidance and input support from the project, he began cultivating Hybrid Tomato (Dipali) on 50 decimals of land.

The results of his efforts were remarkable. From tomatoes alone, Abdul earned around BDT 1,20,000 by selling in the local market. But his story did not end there.

Alongside tomatoes, he cultivated paddy, potatoes, and a variety of seasonal vegetables, generating an additional BDT 2,50,000 during the last Rabi season.

A major factor behind his success was the timely support he received from the project. He was provided with fertilizer, seeds, cash assistance, scissors, and crates that played a crucial role in maintaining crop quality. The crates, in particular, helped him handle and transport tomatoes without damage, ensuring that he could sell them at higher prices in the market. Abdul takes pride in showing that all of his marketing crates came directly from the SACP project, a testament to how targeted support can make a real difference in a farmer's daily life.

Currently, Abdul has about 60 mon of standing crops in his field, which he plans to sell in the coming months. With tomato prices generally rising during Ramadan, he hopes to earn an additional BDT 60,000–80,000 from his harvest. Beyond the numbers, however, lies another inspiring aspect of his journey—family involvement.

His wife works alongside him in harvesting, packing, and selling vegetables. Together, they manage the entire process, from the field to the market, which not only strengthens their family bond but also increases their efficiency.

Abdul Hannan achieves success in growing Ball Sundari jujube

Md. Abdul Hannan is 38 years old man educated by Master Degree. Mr. Hannan, son of Hasan Molla, lives in the Poschim Sonakhali village under Atharogachia union of Amtali, Barguna district, with his wife, parent and two children. Under the SACP, he is a producer as well as marketing group member with Beneficiaries Identification (B.I.D.) number of SACP 103.21.03. Mr. Hannan is a smallholder farmer having 250 decimal (1.0 hectare) owned land for running his family. In addition, he cultivated different types of high value fruits and vegetables in leased land for more family income.

Due to the salinity of the soil and land in this region, it is not possible to cultivate many kinds of crops and fruits like other parts of the country. So, commercial potential has been created for some of the useful fruit crops in the region. Many fruits are now doing well in the soil and climate of the coastal region. In particular, fruits like guava, mango, malta, dragon fruit, jujube, etc. have been helpful in changing the fortunes of many farmers.

In order to meet the local demand by producing fruits, it is necessary to give importance to planned fruit cultivation in homestead land and high land. Due to insufficient production and high price in this area, there is a scope of growing more fruits.

Under the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP), introduced high value fruit cultivation to this area with the goal of generating a new source of income for local people. However, Mr. Hannan joined SACP producer group as well as marketing group to increase income opportunities through high value fruits/crops cultivation and market link. Before being selected as a demonstration farmer, he received comprehensive hands-on training under the Smallholders Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). As a result, he learned good detail about modern cultivation practices regarding various high-value fruits/crops. Also, he gathered knowledge on market link, post-harvest management, and primary processing of high-value crops from another market-led training under the project. The training facilitated Hannan's knowledge of best practices in jujube production and linked him to marketing channel.

In the fiscal year (2020-21), he established jujube orchard by Ball Sundari variety in 50 decimal (0.50 acre) own land with the input and technical support of the project and earned handsome income in 1st year of jujube production. The Upazila Agriculture office provided him 300 saplings and necessary fertilizers, fencing & other supports.

I cultivated new variety of jujube named Ball Sundari following all modern technologies and earned BDT. 100000.00 at the rate BDT. 50.00/kg with spending of BDT. 50000.00 in the first year of the orchard, thanks to SACP project providing training and timely input support. I hope that the orchard will continue fruitful production for three years. I would be benefited from the orchard with worth BDT. 200000.00 and BDT. 240000.00 against production cost of BDT. 25000.00 and BDT. 30000.00 in 2nd and 3rd year, respectively where the yield will 4000 Kg and 4800 Kg, respectively. I will extend Ball Sundari jujube orchard in leased land from next year,"

– Md. Abdul Hannan

With project support plus his additional investment and hard labour, Mr. Hannan successfully performed this job. With the technical assistance and input supports from Upazila Agriculture Office, he produced 2000 Kg Ball Sundari jujube from 50 decimal land (10.0 ton/hectare) in first year of production.

Mr. Hannan has experienced economic and personal changes in a very real way. Hannan said. He was also said that total yield has been sold to Bepari from his orchard.

With the profits from selling jujube, Mr. Hannan used most of profit for expansion of high valued jujube, malta and vegetable cultivation and other amount used to education of children and increase of nutritious foods for family. His success has impacted the community of other farmers to cultivate Ball Sundari jujube. Now he has become a leader in the area for his success.

High educated Hannan's thoughts are very progressive. He believes, by working at farmland one can employ others rather than looking for job in this highly competitive market. With hard work and by working on his own, a farmer can become successful. He eagerly wants the young generation to get involved in the farming sector.

Tomato Village of Fakirhat: From Waterlogging to Abundant Harvests

Seventeen kilometers from Bagerhat, in the remote village of Dohar Moubhog under Fakirhat Upazila, life once revolved almost entirely around shrimp cultivation. The village, low-lying and vulnerable to heavy rainfall, endured waterlogging for most of the year, especially during the monsoon. Large stretches of land remained unsuitable for crop production. Rows of shrimp ghers defined the landscape, and farming families depended heavily on shrimp and integrated fish culture for survival. For generations, cultivating vegetables and cash crops seemed like an unattainable dream.

The shift began around 2016, when a handful of determined farmers decided to experiment with vegetable cultivation on the raised dykes of their ghers. What started as a small attempt gradually showed promise. Crops such as cucumber, bitter gourd, and leafy greens began to thrive. Encouraged by these early successes, the momentum grew stronger in 2020 when the Smallholder Agriculture Competitiveness Project mobilized 75 farmers into three groups in the Moubhog block.

Through systematic training on high-value crop cultivation, soil management, and climate-adaptive agricultural practices, farmers were introduced to tomatoes, cucumbers, off-season watermelon, and other profitable crops. With technical guidance and essential inputs, Dohar Moubhog slowly transformed into what locals now proudly call the “Tomato Village.”

One of the most remarkable dimensions of this transformation has been the leadership of women. Shibani Tarafdar, who cultivates early-season tomatoes on her own land as well as on leased plots, described her journey with quiet pride. She explained that she manages 60 to 70 percent of the farming activities herself, as her husband works outside the village and leaves home early in the morning. After completing her household responsibilities, she spends the entire day in the tomato fields. The income she earns now supports her three children’s education and covers essential family expenses. For her, tomato farming has fundamentally changed their lives.

Other women farmers, including Bina Roy, Sadhana Roy, and Subhashini Devi, are equally engaged in tomato cultivation. They independently manage irrigation, fertilizer application, and pest control. Through early tomato production, they are able to earn between BDT 1.5 to 2 lakh during the winter season alone. In addition to tomatoes, they grow cabbage, cauliflower, red spinach, and other vegetables, ensuring that their families no longer rely on a single source of income.

Despite impressive progress, challenges remain. Flooding damaged many tomato fields this year, threatening the harvest. Yet resilience defines the spirit of the farmers.

Sunity Roy shared that although many of her plants were destroyed by floodwaters, she did not lose hope. She replanted new seedlings at the base of the damaged plants and is confident that the upcoming harvest will compensate for the losses. For her and many others, tomato farming has become a symbol of hope even during difficult times.

The tomato boom has also stimulated local trade. The Rupsa River flows alongside the village, providing a convenient transport route to nearby markets. From there, tomatoes travel onward to Dhaka and other major districts. Small collection centers and trading points have begun to emerge within the village itself. Local trader Sangram Tarafdar explained that many farmers prefer selling directly from their fields to avoid transport difficulties. He collects tomatoes from their land using his van, stores them at his collection point, and later sells them to buyers who arrive from Dhaka with trucks and pickups. This system benefits both farmers and traders by reducing costs and simplifying logistics.

Institutional support has played a crucial role in sustaining this transformation. The Upazila Agriculture Officer of Fakirhat, Mr. Sakhawat Hossain, noted that climate change has posed serious challenges to agriculture in the region. Through the SACP-RAINS initiative, farmers received seeds, fertilizers, essential tools, and hands-on training on climate-smart agricultural practices. The focus was on applying the right methods at the right time to ensure resilience and sustainability. Dohar Moubhog now stands as a compelling example of what can be achieved through proper technology, institutional backing, and farmer determination. Women, in particular, have emerged as key drivers of this change, turning the village into a vibrant hub of high-value crop production.

Today, nearly 80 percent of the village's gher dykes are covered with tomato cultivation during the winter season. Fields once defined by stagnant water now glow with shades of red and green. Families enjoy greater financial security, women have gained economic independence, and previously fallow land has been brought into productive use.

The story of Dohar Moubhog is not merely about agricultural success; it is a testament to resilience, innovation, and collective effort. From struggling with waterlogging and limited opportunities to building a sustainable and diversified farming system, the villagers have rewritten their future. Their journey demonstrates how agriculture, when strengthened by knowledge, technology, and community spirit, can uplift an entire region.

Bumper Harvest on the Dike: The Story of Aminur, the Returnee from Abroad

It was the year 2010. Driven by the dream of changing Aminur Rhaman's life, Father name-Ruhul Amin, Bid no-SACP 022-17-21, 37 years aged, 05 members, one son, one daughter and his wife left for Singapore in search of better opportunities. Hailing from a modest family in Mukundapur Village, Union-Bishnupur of Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira, Aminur believed that hard work abroad would one day turn his fortune around. But reality had something else in store.

In a foreign land, amid unfamiliar faces and relentless hardship, his hopes slowly began to fade. Eventually, he returned home to Bangladesh, exhausted but not defeated.

After his return, relatives and neighbours advised him to start a small shop or a local business. But Aminur had something different in mind.

Satkhira is known for its countless fish farms, stretching as far as the eye can see. Aminur decided to start afresh by cultivating fish in one of those ponds. But he didn't want to stop there. He began thinking—why not use the embankments surrounding the fishponds too?

One day, a Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer from the local Bharashimla Block suggested that he grow vegetables—and even off-season watermelon—on the pond dikes using trellis-based (macha) cultivation. That single suggestion changed the course of his life.

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Aminur's success is not just about higher income; it reflects a strategic shift toward integrated and climate-smart farming. By utilizing the pond dikes for high-yield watermelon cultivation while continuing fish farming in the water body, he maximized every available resource.

This dual approach reduced risk, ensured diversified income streams, and improved overall productivity. Instead of depending on a single crop, he created a balanced system where land and water worked together to generate sustainable returns.

I never imagined that growing vegetables on pond dikes could be this profitable

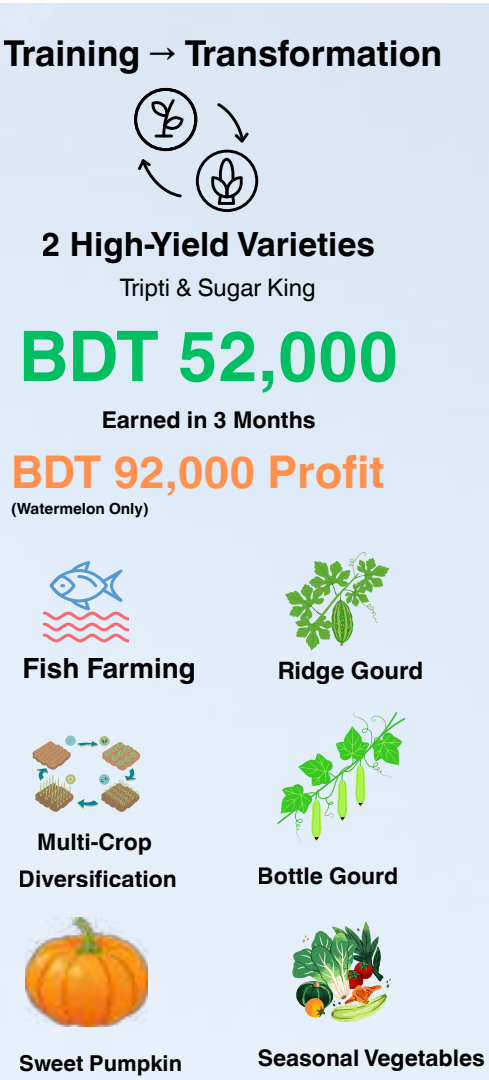
**"Now, many young people from the area come to me for advice.
I share whatever knowledge I have. When agricultural officers visit, I discuss new ideas and innovations with them as well.**

– Aminur Rhaman

Aminur took training and learned modern farming techniques. At the beginning of 2024, he started cultivating high-yield varieties of watermelon—'Tripti' and 'Sugar King'—on the pond dikes. Within just three months, he earned BDT 52,000 from selling watermelons alone. In addition, he made a profit of BDT 92,000 from fish farming. Over the year, he also cultivated ridge gourd, bottle gourd, sweet pumpkin, and various other vegetables. The overall income far exceeded his expectations.

Today, Aminur is no longer just a fish farmer. He is an innovative agriculturist who has rewritten his own story through courage and modern farming. His success has sparked interest among many young people in his community. Inspired by his journey, they are now looking at pond dike farming as a viable path to stability and growth.
Now he spent his profit for purchasing nutritious food, cloth, new house construction etc.

Aminur now plans to lease more ponds. His dream is to transform the embankments around them into thriving gardens of seasonal and off-season vegetables.
What once seemed like a failed return from abroad has now become a story of hope and resilience. Aminur has proven that with the right guidance and modern agricultural practices, it is possible to rebuild one's life—and inspire a whole community in the process



Empowering Rural Women Through Sustainable Agriculture: The Story of Bibi Rahela from Bhola

Bibi Rahela, a housewife and marginal farmer from Soto Manika village in Kutba Union under Borhanuddin Upazila of Bhola, improved her family's income through cucumber cultivation with support from the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness project (SACP), implemented by the Borhanuddin Upazila Agriculture Office.

Living in a climate-vulnerable coastal area, she had limited income opportunities. Her husband's pesticide business contributed only minimally to household expenses. To support her family, she decided to cultivate cucumber on her 100 decimals (approximately 1 acre) of land. Although she had limited experience, she took the initiative and began commercial production.

Through the SACP project, she received high-quality cucumber seeds, organic and chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fencing nets, a sprayer, mulching paper, pheromone traps, and yellow traps. She also received training on sustainable cultivation methods, integrated pest management, and post-harvest handling. These inputs and technical guidance enabled her to adopt improved and environmentally responsible farming practices.

Her total investment was approximately 100,000 BDT, including 25,000 BDT for seeds and fertilizers, 15,000 BDT for pesticides and traps, 20,000 BDT for mulching and fencing, 30,000 BDT for labor and irrigation, and 10,000 BDT for transportation and other costs. From cucumber cultivation, she earned 300,000 BDT in gross income, resulting in a net profit of 200,000 BDT.

Her break-even point was 100,000 BDT, equal to her total cost. Since her total revenue reached 300,000 BDT, she exceeded the break-even level early in the selling period. Her benefit-cost ratio was 3.0, meaning she earned 3 BDT for every 1 BDT invested.

With the profit, she invested in her children's education, reinvested in agricultural production for the next season, and repaired her house. Her success encouraged other women in the village to explore farming as an income-generating activity.

Her experience shows that with training, inputs, and technical support, small-scale farming can generate sustainable income and strengthen women's economic participation.

Before this, I depended mostly on my husband's income. Now, through cucumber cultivation, I can contribute equally to my family. From one acre of land, I earned 300,000 BDT in sales and made a net profit of 200,000 BDT. With proper training and support, I learned that farming can truly change our future."

From Poverty to Progress: The Story of Md. Kabir of Badurtala

Md. Kabir, 43, from Badurtala village under Patharghata Upazila in Barguna, is the sole earning member of his family. Farming is his only source of income. His family consists of three members, and his only son supports him in farming alongside his studies. Despite working hard, Kabir's financial condition had long remained fragile, and poverty was a constant reality for the household.

A significant change began in 2024 under the Badurtala SACP project, where modern watermelon cultivation was introduced under his leadership as president. The group consists of 25 members, including 20 men and 5 women. With support from the Upazila Agriculture Office, the members received advanced training on vegetable cultivation and modern production techniques.

They hold monthly meetings to prepare savings plans, seasonal cultivation strategies, and product marketing plans, ensuring coordinated and organized farming activities.

After receiving technical training from the Upazila Agriculture Office, Patharghata, Kabir and his group adopted modern methods of watermelon cultivation. They later expanded into bitter gourd production and began receiving quality seeds from the project.

Through improved management practices, they were able to earn 85,000 BDT by investing 45,000 BDT on 50 decimals of land, in addition to income from their cattle farming activities. The adoption of irrigation machines further improved productivity, enabling better use of cropland and expansion into new areas.

The increase in income has had visible impacts on Kabir's family life. He is now able to spend more on his children's education, medical treatment, and better clothing. His standard of living has improved significantly. In the community, he is now recognized and respected as a successful farmer. Many local farmers seek his advice on modern cultivation practices, especially for watermelon and bitter gourd.

Looking ahead, Kabir plans to expand into larger agricultural ventures, including vegetable seedling and seed production. He has also expressed interest in cultivating new crops such as malta, hybrid coconut varieties, and improved wheat.

From a Six-Figure Salary Abroad to the Soil: The Agricultural Turn of Rukun Uddin

In the village of Dholiapara in Chanpur, under Narayanhat union of Fatikchhari, Chattogram, a 40-kani stretch of land is wrapped in green. Rows of papaya trees hang heavy with fruit; watermelons sprawl across the earth; banana plants stand tall; cucumber seedlings push through the soil. The farm, named Ruhama Fruit and Agro, belongs to Rukun Uddin — a man who once earned a six-figure monthly salary working abroad.

A graduate of sociology from the University of Chittagong, Rukun left Bangladesh in 2012 to pursue further studies in Cyprus. To support himself, he worked part-time in a restaurant, earning the equivalent of around one lakh taka per month. It was a stable income and a promising future. But the pull of home remained strong.

Back in Fatikchhari, he started cultivating papaya, banana, cucumber, and watermelon on four kani of family-owned land. The beginning was far from smooth. Without formal agricultural training, he struggled with technical challenges and rising costs. Profits were limited.

"There were times I felt discouraged," he said. "The expenses were high, and returns were slow."

Determined not to give up, Rukun sought guidance from the Upazilla agriculture office, participated in training programmes at home and abroad, and studied agricultural materials extensively. By 2018, he expanded operations significantly, planting several thousand saplings. Although yields improved, large-scale commercial success was still some distance away.

The turning point came in 2021. That year, total transactions reached four lakh taka. His produce began reaching markets beyond Fatikchhari — including Feni, Chattogram city, Hathazari and Raozan. In 2022, despite a lower yield, sales climbed to around 15 lakh taka. In 2023, the figure rose to 18 lakh, and by 2024 it reached 25 lakh taka. After expenses, Rukun now earns roughly one lakh taka per month.

His journey challenges the conventional narrative that success lies only in overseas employment. Instead, it reflects a growing generation willing to reimagine agriculture — not as subsistence labour, but as entrepreneurship.

Papaya Cultivation Bringing Prosperity: The Success Story of Teacher Shahjahan

Raised in a rural environment, Mr. Shahjahan is a teacher by profession. He is a resident of Amuchiya union, Boalkhali upazila under the district of Chattogram. Even after becoming a teacher, his interest in agriculture was strong. Holding on to the inherited land, he wanted to be self-reliant. Since then, he always dreamed of becoming self-reliant. Various crops have been grown on the land at different times. He was particularly fond of orchards. In continuation of this, Mr. Shahjahan became a member of the SACP project. His BID No. SACP.134.34.03. Seeing her enthusiasm, he was given Papaya Demonstration Variety Red Lady by the SACP.

Then Training on papaya cultivation is provided under project. He planted 600 saplings on his fallow land (50 Decimal). Under the advice of the Department of Agriculture, he started cultivating the garden and get success in that. Seedlings begin to bear fruit within 6-7 months of planting. Each papaya weight about 2-7 kg. He attracted everyone's attention by cultivating this papaya garden. He said that by cultivating papaya, unemployment can be eliminated in a short period of time and become self-reliant.

About 80 thousand taka have been spent on the 50 decimal land for preparing the land, planting, fertilizing, irrigation, weeding, Transportation cost and labor wages. He also said that it is more profitable to sell ripe papaya than raw papaya.

Raw papaya was sold at 15-20 taka per kg from the garden, while ripe papaya was sold at the rate of 50-60 taka per kg from the garden.

Local traders are collecting papaya from the garden and selling it in various shops and markets. So far about 1650 kg of papaya has sold around taka 1 lakh. He expects to sell about 2 lakh takas more from his garden. He spent 30000 taka from his income to build a latrine and bought a pump machine for irrigation with 25000. With which the garden can be easily for irrigation.

Many farmers in and around his team were inspired and approached him after seeing the success of his papaya garden. He is encouraging papaya cultivation to them by giving advice as best he can. It is possible to succeed in agricultural work if hard work and goals are faithful. If educated youths like Shahjahan come forward in this profession, it would be easy to achieve food and nutrition security in the country.

Along with that, employment opportunities will increase. Shahjahan Mia thanked the Department of Agriculture and the SACP project for giving him the opportunity to grow a garden in Papaya & also to fulfill his dream.

Transforming Waterlogged Land into Opportunity: The Integrated Farming Journey of Md. Minarul Haque

Md. Minarul Haque of Sarowatli village in Boalkhali upazila is a courageous, enterprising and progressive farmer.

He had a keen interest in agriculture since childhood. Get involved in grocery business first by-passing Bachelor of Arts (BA). But as the business did not run very well in the village, he became attracted to agriculture. Their family was going well. This time he is fully focused on his dream of becoming an agricultural entrepreneur.

Family wise they had 6 acres of land including homestead & Pond. But the land is under water for most of the year, so it always falls. So, he required protection in the Department of Agriculture on how to use their lands properly. On the advice of the agriculture office, to prevent water from leaking in from the outside, corridor has been arranged on all four sides and betel, lemon and banana trees have been planted on all four sides.

Get advice on fish farming in ponds, cattle farming and rearing at home. He started working accordingly. His fortunes began to change when the SACP project was launched in 2019.

Under the project, Farmer's production group was formed in his village, and he became the president of this group. Through the project, he received training in fruit, vegetable, orchard gardens and vermicompost. The beginning of his struggle.

His journey began by planting 80 Balsundari tree saplings under the SACP project. But this journey was full of challenges. In 2022, he spent 37 thousand tk and sold 1 lakh 3 thousand tk. After that, he did not look back. He started with 80 kul saplings, but now he has 600 large trees in his garden (Balsundari, Bharat Sundari, Kashmiri and Apple Cool). Besides He also planted improved varieties of guava, malta, mango seedlings and various vegetables.

He leased the land of his brother and sister and planted orchards on about 4 acres of land on the advice of the Department of Agriculture. So now his total farm area 10 acres. At present his farm has 300 Amrapali saplings, 100 guava saplings, 300 betel saplings, 100 malta saplings, 100 kul saplings, 120 coconut saplings, 300 lemon saplings, 60 papaya saplings and banana orchards. Inside there is a pond of about 20 decimals. Grow vegetables in the middle of the garden trees and all year round.

Keeping budding entrepreneurs in mind, he has created, taught and sold quality grafted seedlings at the side of the garden. This year the bumper yield of Kul, total sales of 451000/-, cost only 62000/-. 100/- per kg directly from the garden. Besides, he has opened an online page in the name of 'M/s Haque Agro Farm'. Where in different parts of the country they are selling through online orders through their own packaging. Fruits and vegetables are being produced from this integrated agricultural farm throughout the year.

In this year Kul will be sold for around Tk 2 lakh, vegetables sold for around Tk 5,000 and rest meets the nutritional needs. He has ponds, cows, goats, and poultry at home and earns a lot of money by selling surplus. This surplus money they add to the cattle farm. Now he has 10 cows and 1 man on his farm. He and her son work on the farm all the time. Through the SACP project he was given a demonstration of vermicompost.

At present, in his demonstration, set up 10 rings his demonstration and gets per month a total 4-5 mounds of compost fertilizer. After uses in his fruits and vegetables garden in these 2 years he has sold tk. 40000/-. On the other hand, it requires less chemical fertilizers and non-toxic vegetables and fruits. Which is very helpful for health?

This integrated agriculture farm has been visited by various TV channels, researchers, school college student teachers and small scale agricultural entrepreneurs. There are picnics, motivational visits to farmers, many are visiting gardens and gardening in their own land.

A total of 5 people including his 2 sons and 2 permanent laborers are working regularly throughout the year. Besides, about 7-8 people work regularly here during the season. Good planning, relentless / systematic work and application of advanced technological techniques are the keys to success and change in fortunes. Minarul Haque is living proof that success and change of fortune can be achieved through planning, relentless / systematic work and application of advanced technology skills. So far, this integrated farm earns near about 40 lakh tk excluding all expenses.

Finally, Minarul's house is full of integrated farm management technology. In a word, his house is a model of “Akti Bari Akti Khamar”. His farm is now known as "M/S Haque Agro Farm." He is very happy. His wife, son always helps him.

In a word, he doesn’t have to buy anything other than pulses, oil, salt, sugar and spices. His farm is inspired by the farmers of the group and the villagers they have started gardening in their house as like as Mr. Minarul. School & Collage students and Teachers also visited his farm. He advised his neighbors to be Agri-entrepreneurs like him. SACP Information expressed its thankfulness to DAE, especially for using the new technology and techniques of HVC Vegetables, Fruits Garden & Vermicompost production in the SACP project, maintaining their interrelation between different components of the farm as well as increasing their income.

Moments of Transformation

Visual glimpses of change driven by SACP interventions

Watermelon demonstration, Mirzaganj, Patuakhali

Bitter gourd demonstration, Mirzaganj, Patuakhali

Mango Garden demonstration, Mirzaganj, Patuakhali

Mango Garden demonstration, Mirzaganj, Patuakhali

Visit by the IFAD Mid-Term Review Mission and the Director General to Malta and Jujube Demonstration Plots Supported by the Project in Fatikchhari, Chattogram

As a special initiative, inputs for homestead vegetable cultivation were distributed among 26,000 households

Canal re-excavation under SACP

Canal re-excavation activities under SACP have been successfully implemented across multiple locations, including Chan Mia's Canal in Jahanpur Union of Char Fasson, Bhola; Khejur Tala Canal and Haldar Bari Canal in Shauljalia Union of Kathalia, Jhalokathi; and Baijjeli Canal in Abdullahpur Union of Fatikchhari, Chattogram. These interventions have significantly improved water management, enhanced irrigation facilities, and contributed to increased agricultural productivity and resilience in the surrounding communities

Enhancing Productivity through Canal Re-Excavation

Following canal re-excavation under the SACP project, the improved water flow and restored canal systems have created new opportunities for farming communities. In areas such as Kathalia in Jhalokathi, Char Fasson in Bhola, and Kaliganj in Satkhira, farmers are now utilizing canal banks and installing trellis structures over the canals to cultivate vegetables. This post-excavation transformation has enhanced year-round crop production, ensured better use of available space, and contributed to improved livelihoods and climate-resilient agricultural practices

Contribution of Re-Excavated Canals to Crop Production under SACP-BADC Component

Following canal re-excavation under the SACP project through the BADC component, significant improvements in crop production have been observed in different regions. In Mollabari Canal of Kathalia upazila in Jhalokathi and Boyati Canal of Char Fasson upazila in Bhola, farmers are now cultivating vegetables along the canal banks and using trellis structures over the canals. These practices have enhanced land use efficiency, increased year-round vegetable production, and contributed to improved livelihoods

Construction of buried pipeline under SACP

Paschim Dakshin Eoazpur Water User Group, Char Fasson, Bhola.

Farm Water Management Interventions

Project interventions have improved farm water management and irrigation. Footbridges enhances connectivity and helps farmers manage water more efficiently

Transporting harvested vegetables to the market using crates provided by the SACP

Cultivation and marketing of Manipuri variety kakrol, Fatikchari, Chittagong

Pond excavation with solar pump set




Eshtablishment of Dugwell


Field visit by IFAD team at Satkhira

Field visit to rainwater harvesting systems and seed village initiatives

Artesian well constructiont

Under the project, Artesian well construction is being carried out in Lord Allahabad and Rosangiri unions of Bashkhali, Chattogram. Through this initiative, the local people are gaining access to safe and easily available water, which is helping them meet their daily needs. Additionally, by ensuring water supply for agricultural and household purposes, their quality of life is improving.

Pond excavation and construction of a solar-powered pump system at Kaliganj, Shatkhira




Rain water Harvesitng




Rainwater harvesting initiatives under the project are helping communities conserve and utilize water more efficiently. By storing rainwater at the local level, farmers are gaining improved access to water for irrigation, reducing dependency on external sources and enhancing climate resilience.

Establishment of seed village initiatives under the project

Rangabali, Patuakhali

Fakirhat, Bagerhat

Mirzaganj, Patuakhali

Barguna, Patharghata

The establishment of the seed village has enabled farmers to properly store their produced seeds. Located within the fields, it eliminates transportation challenges for storage, ensuring farmers' access to quality seeds

Homestead Vegetable Gardening at Kalapara, Patuakhali




Homestead vegetable garden demonstration, Mirzaganj, Patuakhali




Homestead vegetable garden demonstration








Farmer-to-farmer exchange visit Fatikchari, Chittagong


কৃষি উপকরণ বিতরণ


অন ডিমান্ড কৃষক প্রশিক্ষণ
তারিখ: ২০/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রি.
কলাপাড়া, পটুয়াখালী

From farm to market

SACP's activities have been featured on the United Nations' official Facebook page. From farmer empowerment to sustainable agriculture and innovative practices—our work is gaining global recognition.

Farmer’s Field Busiess School

Common Facility Centre

Climate resilient Proven Technology

Climate Resilient Proven Technology

Poly mulching

Under the proven technological package, crop production techniques using mulching are being implemented, which are water-efficient and environmentally friendly.





Integrated pest management in vegetable production using the raised bed method


কৃষির সাথে থাকুন
কৃষকের পাশে থাকুন।

Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP)
Ministry of Agriculture

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