

Project Title:

"Empowering Women Farmers through Climate-Resilient Crop Production Training"

Project Summary:

This initiative provides **hands-on training for rural women** on cultivating **salt-tolerant and drought-resistant crops**, equipping them with skills to adapt to:

- ✓ **Coastal salinity intrusion** (affecting 1.2M hectares)
- ✓ **Northwestern droughts** (30% annual rainfall deficit)

The program focuses on **indigenous and scientifically improved crop varieties** while promoting **low-cost, eco-friendly farming techniques**.

Why Target Women Farmers?

1. Climate Vulnerability:

- 53% of Bangladesh's coastal farmland is **salt-affected** (SRDI)
- Drought reduces rice yields by **15-20%** in Barind region

2. Gender-Specific Barriers:

- Women operate **62% of smallholder farms** but access only **5% of extension services** (FAO)
- Female-headed households face **30% higher crop losses** during climate shocks

3. Untapped Potential:

- Training women boosts **family nutrition** (diverse crops) and **household income** (surplus sales)

Training Modules

Module	Skills Taught	Climate Adaptation Benefit
Salt-Tolerant Crops	Cultivating saline-resistant rice (BRRI dhan47), sunflower, sesame	Enables farming in 8-12 dS/m salinity
Drought Survival	Zero tillage techniques, mulching, short-duration pulses	Reduces water needs by 40%
Soil Health	Vermicomposting, bio char application	Rehabilitates degraded soils
Seed Sovereignty	Local seed preservation, community seed banks	Safeguards 15+ indigenous varieties

Expected Outcomes

For Participants (Per Cohort):

- **50 women trained** per upazila (6-month program)
- **1.5x higher yields** vs. traditional methods
- **\$25-50/month additional income** from surplus

Community-Wide Impact:

- **30% increase** in year-round crop production
- **60% less groundwater extraction** for irrigation
- **Establish 20 women-led demo farms** per district

Environmental Benefits:

- **Carbon sequestration** through salt-tolerant agroforestry
- **Biodiversity protection** via native crop varieties

Policy Alignment

Supports:

- **National Agriculture Policy 2018** (Climate Adaptation Chapter)

- **Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100** (Food Security Pillar)
- **SDG 2.4** (Sustainable food production systems)

Innovation Spotlight:

- **Mobile Soil Clinics:** Women test salinity/drought risk
- **Digital Farmer Field Schools:** WhatsApp-based mentoring

Conclusion

This program transforms women into:

- **Climate adaptation leaders**
- **Agricultural entrepreneurs**
- **Nutrition security guardians**

"When we equip women with climate-smart seeds and skills, entire communities harvest resilience."