

SUCCESS STORIES 2018

Area: BOGURA

Success on Multiple Cropping

Name: Mosammat Kulsum Begum

Address: Village: Baluartair, Union: Fulbari, Upazilla: Sariyakandi, District: Bogura

Mosammat Kulsum Begum was born in 1969. Her father was a farmer. That was the only source of their family income; total members of her family were 8. Because of it, she had to lead a miserable life. She couldn't continue her formal education. In 1988 she got married to Bojlur Rashid at same village. 10 years later her husband went abroad. So, all the agricultural responsibilities have come under her authority. Her husband has 4.5 bigahs (148 decimals) of agricultural lands. Since 2017 Kulsum Begum has been engaged with the activities of RIB as a PAR group member. She was regular in the PAR group meetings. She has learned about agro ecological farming and multiple cropping from group discussions and schools. That inspired her very much to conduct multiple cropping in 20 decimals of land in 2018. Other group farmers helped her in the land selection process. The reasons behind selecting this particular land were: fertility, irrigation facility and located beside the road which is frequently used by most of the farmers of this village to go to their agricultural land.

She collected seeds of local varieties of papaya, black gram, bottle gourd, bean, garlic, mustard, brinjal, pepper, ginger, onion and potato from the local sources and maintained multiple cropping methods according to Agro-ecology Manual. Besides she also planted pigeon pea (one type of pulse: locally known as Orhor daal) as companion plant to control the excess amount of companion non-crops or weeds (particularly mutha ghash: *Cyperus rotundus*) in the aisle. The fallen leaves of pigeon pea controlled the growth of mutha ghash, provided organic fertilizer to her land and the production of pulse added additional protein to her family. Other farmers, usually, apply herbicide to control excess companion non-crops. So the farmers of her village appreciated her multiple cropping and ecological technique to control weeds. They also requested for seeds of Orhor daal.

Kulsum Begum is very happy with her chemical-free vegetables. Besides she conserves the seeds of those crops and pigeon pea for next seasons. She also decided to increase the amount of land under agro-ecological farming.

Success on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) & local rice Cultivation

Name: Ful Miya

Address: Village: Baluartair, Union: Fulbari, Upazilla: Sariyakandi, District: Bogura

Ful Mia was born in 1974. His father was a farmer and had only 3 bighas (99 decimals) agricultural land, which was the only source of their family income. Total members of his family were 6. Because of it, he had to lead a miserable life. He couldn't continue his formal education more than class 4. But he has learned different methods of agriculture from his father. He is known as an expert and experienced farmer in his locality. He also engaged himself as day labor and rickshaw puller to maintain his family expenditure. Ful Miya has been engaged with the activities of RIB as PAR group member since 2017. He also participated in Residential school at Nilphamari and Exchange visit at Satkhira which helped him to understand the agro-ecology and sustainable farming.

In 2018 he decided to examine the local rice cultivation and collected seeds of Ranashile and Malshira varieties. Finally, he cultivated Ranashile in 7 decimals of land and Malshira in 1 decimal of land. The rice plot was situated beside a village-path which was frequently used by the farmers. He followed the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method during transplanting Malshira seedlings to save seeds and other resources. Usually, farmers plant 3-5 rice seedlings together during transplanting. But, according to the SRI method, young (14 days old) rice seedlings should be transplanted singly and spaced optimally widely (10 inches). In his experiment, Ful Mia found 24 rice plants from single seedlings while 19 rice plants were observed from 5 seedlings. More plants mean more rice. Neighboring farmers visited his field and appreciated his efforts. He didn't apply any chemical inputs in rice farming. According to him the taste of both rice are good. He is conserving seeds for next season. Some farmers of his village requested him for seeds for next Aman season.

Success on Local Rice Cultivation & organic fertilizer

Name: Ansar Ali

Address: Village: Noyapara, Union: Fulbari, Upazilla: Sariyakandi, District: Bogura

Ansar Ali is a farmer and he learned farming from his father. Earlier he had cultivated in his father's land, but now he operates his own land (2 Bigha: 66 decimals) and sharecropping land (6 Bigha). He is known as a successful farmer in his locality. In the year 2014, he joined with the initiatives of RIB as a PAR group member. Since then he started learning agricultural politics, agro ecological methods, and techniques of farming to save the environment from its declination. In

this learning process, exchange visits within the country (Satkhira and Nilphamari) and exposure visit in India helped him to gather experiences and for implementation of the experiences. From those visits, he understood the importance of cultivating and conserving local seeds.

A patch of 15 decimals of his agricultural land is located beside the road (from village to agricultural land) which is suitable for rice cultivation. He decided to cultivate local rice in that land so that other farmers can observe the process and result. Finally, he cultivated 9 varieties of local rice (Kotokchur, Ranashail, Dadkhani, Ohona, Ritu paijam, Sonali Paijam, Subas, Aijong and Malshira) in that particular land without applying any chemical input. He collected these local varieties from different areas from 2014 to 2017, such as Kotokchur from his father-in-law's area at Gonokpara, Bogura; Ranashail, Dadkhani, Ohona from Tanore, Rajshahi; Ritu paijam, Sonali Paijam, Subas, Aijong and Malshira from Netrokona. After collecting those seeds he increased the number of seeds and now his wife helped him to conserve those seeds. However, he followed agro-ecological methods from preparing the land to harvest paddy. To prepare seedbed and land he used his own organic fertilizers and vermicompost. He started preparing vermicompost in 2 concrete containers according to his learning from Exposure visit at India in 2015. Later Upazila Agricultural Extension Office supported him. At present, he is producing vermicompost in six cement containers. Vermicompost is very effective for vegetable cultivation. His vermicompost plant is also appreciated by the neighboring farmers. He dug a hole in front of his land so that frogs, beneficial insects, and other aquatic organisms can stay, the farm-ecosystem will be more complex and the harmful insects will be controlled by beneficial organisms.

When paddy was ripened others farmer had visited his cropland and appreciated his efforts. Ansar Ali described them about the characteristics of each variety. Kotokchur rice is good for pop-rice (Khoi), Ranashile is an early variety, Ohona, and other rice are very tasty, less attacked by pest and these varieties don't require any chemical input. Last year two non-PAR farmers collected seeds from him and this year some other farmers including local Union Parishad Member requested for their desired variety. Finally, he had produced 131 kilograms of local variety paddy, from that 40 kg will be conserved as the seeds for him and other farmers and the rest will be consumed by his family.

Success on Multiple Cropping

Name: Md. Bayes

Address: Village: Noyapara, Union: Fulbari, Upazilla: Sariyakandi, District: Bogura

Md. Bayes learned agriculture from his father. His father was a day labor. Because of it, they had to lead a miserable life and he couldn't continue his formal education more than class 3. He got married to Shiri lived his own village. Besides his own cultivation, he also has been engaged with day labor, catching fish and business. From his income, he brought 7 decimals of agricultural land. Besides he is cultivating 2 bighas (66 decimals) of leased land and 2 bighas of mortgaged land. He has been engaged with the initiatives of RIB as PAR group member since 2017. Residential school and Exchange visit had inspired him to conduct multiple cropping. Earlier he knew the basics of multiple cropping but those visits and the Agro-ecology manual helped him to understand the process in detail (inter-cropping, relay-cropping etc.). In 2018 he decided to set up a demonstration plot of multiple cropping in a patch of 10 decimals of high land nearby a village road which is frequently used by the farmers of Noyapara. The land is suitable for different types of crops (vegetable, ropa aman paddy etc.) and his wife actively helped him in every step of farming.

Applying organic fertilizer he cultivated ten types of vegetables and leafy-vegetables of different plant-families in winter. He collected four types of plants from others while six were conserved by himself. He also added marigold plants within the crops which got the attention of the neighboring farmers and passer-by. He shared the reason with them that marigold keeps safe the crops from harmful insects and different pests. Besides he applied the extract of bishkatali and neem leaf as organic pesticides. Bayes didn't found any damage from insects or diseases. Neighboring farmers appreciated his efforts and he discussed the methods with them. He will continue conducting multiple cropping according to the Agro-ecology Manual and the crops will be changed in next season.

Area: NILPHAMARI

Success on Local Rice Cultivation & Organic Fertilizer Preparation

Name: Poresh Chandra Ray

Address: Village: Berakuthi, Union: Sonaray, District: Nilphamari.

Poresh Chandra Ray had cultivated 9 types of local rice, namely Ranashaile, Radhuni Pagol, Datkani, Kalo Badsha Vog, Jhingashaile, Ukoni Vog, Subash, Malshira and Begun Bichi in 5 decimals of land. He selected that land because of the fertility of the land and was situated beside the village. So that other farmers can observe the process. He collected the seeds of 8 types of rice from other PAR group members and 1 type from his sister's in-laws village. Tilling with the manual plow he applied organic fertilizer in the rice field. Besides he implanted bamboo sticks to invite birds to sit and eat insects. He also planted dhoincha trees and allowed panilong as non-crop species. Those plants provided nutrition to the soil. There were different big and small trees beside the land. He didn't apply any chemical inputs which is a common practice of local farmers. Md. Abul Fajal, the local Research Assistant, helped him in documenting the characterization of rice. Earlier his wife didn't appreciate his decision to cultivate local rice. But the low input cost, quality, productivity of some variety (malshira, kalo bashavog, and subash) and taste of those rice made her happy. She prepared cake from those rice. However, some of the farmers raised the issues of productivity and the availability of organic fertilizer. He told them about the challenges of high yielding and hybrid variety and the qualities of those local rice. Some farmers requested for seeds in next season. Finally, Poresh decided to continue cultivating local rice and conserved those seeds for next seasons. According to him, local rice should be cultivated by the farmers to retain rice diversity and other qualities.

Success on Multiple cropping & Local Rice Cultivation

Name: Kanon Bala

Address: Village: Berakuthi, Union: Sonarai, District: Nilphamari.

Kanon Bala, a woman farmer of Berakuthi, has been engaged with the activities supported by RIB as a PAR group member since 2017. She is an expert in conducting all types of agricultural activities. The group discussions and local schools inspired her to conduct multiple cropping in a demonstration plot to examine and disseminate. At first, she selected a suitable high land (2 decimals) and tilled that by the manual plow. Applying organic fertilizer she cultivated and harvested 18 types of local vegetables and leafy vegetables, so far, in inter-cropping and relay-cropping methods of multiple cropping for family consumption, according to the Agro-ecology manual. She kept some non-crop species in the field to enhance biodiversity. She didn't apply

any chemical inputs. Those inputs are very intensely used in her village and farmers often believe that farming isn't possible without those inputs. She shared the methods with her neighbors and friends. Her family members and other villagers appreciated the approach and she is continuing cultivation in this manner. She is conserving all the seeds, exploring more seeds and will planting according to the season. Thus the number of species and varieties will be increased. Besides, she cultivated four local rice varieties, planted local trees and preparing organic fertilizers. Other women farmers are also inspired by her success and requested for seeds.

Success on Local Rice Cultivation, Multiple Cropping & Organic Fertilizer

Name: Yunus Ali

Address: Village: Joychondi, Union: Sonarai, District: Nilphamari.

Yunus Ali, a well-known farmer of Joychondi, had cultivated 18 types of local rice to produce seeds in 2017 rain-fed Aman season. In 2018, he selected 8 varieties to cultivate from those and gave the seeds of 10 varieties to other group members to cultivate. He chooses Sonali Paijam, Kochudhela, Beto, Datkani, Aijong, Kalo badshavog, Ukunivog, Malshira rice due to the suitability of those varieties in his land. He cultivated local rice in 38 decimals of land (Malshira: 30 decimals, Ukoni vog: 5 decimals and Sonali paijam, Kochudala, Beto, Datkani, Aijong and Kalo badshavog: 3 decimals of land. The total land under local rice cultivation was divided in three patches. Two patches were selected beside village road to disseminate local rice cultivation. However, the lands of all patches were very fertile filled with earthworm and he applied his own organic fertilizer. He implanted bamboo sticks to invite birds to sit and eat insects. He also planted dhoincha trees and allowed panilong and other weeds as non-crop species to enhance soil nutrition and farm biodiversity. In a complex ecosystem, harmful insects are controlled by predators. However, those rice were less affected by the insects and diseases comprising other high yielding and hybrid rice in adjacent fields. The production of Malshira rice in 2017 was beyond his expectation though he is determined to alive the other varieties for next-generation farmers. He cultivated Malshira rice in 30 decimals of land and exploring interested consumers to sell. RIB staffs introduced him with Prakritik Bipnon Kendra. The other farmers of his villages also become inspired to cultivate local rice and requested for seeds. He conserved the seeds as per the seed conservation method taught by Dr. Debal Deb.

Yunus Ali also cultivated 23 types of local vegetables and leafy plants in 8 decimals of land according to the inter-cropping and relay cropping system mentioned in Agro-ecology Manual. The selected land is suitable for vegetable cultivation and he will continue multiple cropping throughout the year. The species and varieties will be changed according to the season. He applied organic fertilizer and took steps to enhance agro-biodiversity by incorporating different

non-crops species and to keep the soil moist. He is conserving the seeds and sharing with the farmers. He is rearing different types of domestic animals and birds (cow, goat, duck, chicken) and preparing different types of organic fertilizer including vermicompost. He is practicing Hajol, learned in first Residential School at Netrokona, to increase local chicken production. He has planted local trees and took steps to stop killing birds in association with other group members. Neighbors and local farmers appreciated his efforts and requested for local seeds.

Success on Multiple cropping

Name: Hazera Khatun

Address: Village: Joychondi, Union: Sonarai, District: Nilphamari.

Hazera Khatun is a woman farmer of Joychondi village. She has been engaged with the activities supported by RIB as a PAR group member since 2017. From The regular PAR group discussions and local schools, he learned the scientific techniques and issues of multiple cropping. She cultivated 15 types of local vegetables and leafy plants in 5 decimals of land. She followed the techniques mentioned in the Agro-ecology manual and didn't use any chemical inputs. She applied her own organic fertilizers and prepared organic pesticide to keep her crops safe. She shared the methods with her neighbors, friends and other women farmers as they appreciated her efforts. She and her family members are very happy with her safe and nutritious crop production. She is conserving those seeds and will continue multiple cropping throughout the year.

Success on Multiple cropping

Name: Mojnu Rahman

Address: Village: Joychondi, Union: Sonarai, District: Nilphamari

Mojnu Rahman, a member of Joychondi PAR group, become sensitized about the demerits of chemical dependent modern rice variety and become interested in cultivating local rice, through the group discussions and school sessions. So he prepared 6 decimals of land by power tiller and applied organic fertilizer to conduct agro-ecology. He cultivated six varieties of rice in that patch of land as a demonstration plot which is situated beside the village road, according to the decision of PAR group meeting. His house also situated near the land, so it was easy to carry organic fertilizers and regular observation. He followed different agro-ecological techniques from the Agro-ecology manual. Finally, he harvested different rice separately and conserved seeds for next season when the area under local rice will be increased. He decided to continue cultivating local rice to protect those from extinction. He also planted different local trees, started mulching, conducting multiple cropping and preparing organic fertilizers.

Success on Local Rice Cultivation, Multiple Cropping & Organic Fertilizer

Name: Golok Odhikari

Address: Village: Bonghsipur, Union: Ishwaripur, Upazila: Shamnagar, District: Satkhira

In our ecosystem, all organisms are important and necessary. That was the learning of Golok Odhikari from the regular PAR group meetings at Bonghsipur. So he started conducting agro-ecology. According to him, local variety crops do not require any synthetic or chemical inputs which are harmful to the animal kingdom and environment as well. In 2018, he collected and cultivated 11 types of local rice: Talmugur, Gobindovog, Ghunshi, Lalpaijam, Charulota, Shornolota, Ritupaijam, Sonalipaijam, Patnai, Jiuti and Kalojira. The total amount of land under local rice cultivation was 24 decimals including the demonstration plot of 7 decimals. He followed the techniques of agro-ecological farming according to the Agro-ecology Manual. According to him the less amount of rainfall in the last aman season affected the rice plant growth and production. Proper rainfall will enhance growth and productivity. However, he didn't apply any chemical inputs. Rather he applied home-made organic fertilizer, pesticides, and implanted bamboo sticks. Out of his eleven varieties, one variety was destroyed due to an overflow of rainwater but he was satisfied with the rest. He has collected the seed again for next season. He has documented all the major characteristics of those rice in association with Choitnna Kumar Das, Research Assistant, according to the template of Characterization of rice provided by RIB. It will be helpful to conserve seeds and maintain the purity of each variety. He also made chira (flattened rice) for family consumption. His family liked the taste of those rice. His friends and neighboring farmers visited his plot and appreciated his efforts though they were doubtful regarding the production. But he focused on environmental and other qualities, merits and shared the issues with them.

Golok Odhikari is also cultivating more than 15 local vegetables, spices, and leafy plants in inter-cropping and relay-cropping system. He is practicing the techniques to enhance farm biodiversity. He is preparing organic fertilizers including the vermicompost with the local earthworm.

Success on Local Rice Cultivation & Organic Fertilizer

Name: Abdur Razzak

Address: Village: Bonghsipur, Union: Ishwaripur, Upazila: Shamnagar, District: Satkhira

Abdur Razzak is a well-known farmer of his locality. He has been engaged with the activities supported by RIB since 2017. Internalizing the slogan 'save yourself', he started collecting and cultivating local variety crops, as those varieties do not require any chemical inputs. In 2017 he collected and produced seeds of eleven types of aman-season rice. From those varieties, he selected four types (Charulota, Patnai, Kutepatnai and Talmugur rice) for own cultivation in 2018 in 18 decimals of land and distributed other varieties to other known farmers according to their demand and land type. He closely monitored the cultivation process of those distributed varieties to ensure the aliveness. He only used own organic fertilizers and practiced agro-ecological methods to enhance biodiversity.

He documented all the major characteristics of those rice in association with Choitnno Kumar Das, Research Assistant, according to the template of Characterization of rice provided by RIB. He prepared chira (flattened rice) from all four types of rice for family consumption. Besides he conserving those seeds and determined to increase the amount of land under rice cultivation in next year. Some farmers of his village also requested for seeds and his known farmers who cultivated local rice in 2018 also decided to continue.

Abdur Rajjak also practicing inter-cropping and relay-cropping and so far cultivating and conserving 19 types of crops (vegetables, spices and leafy). He is preparing organic pesticides and fertilizers including vermicompost with the local earthworm.

Success on Seed Conservation

Name: Shopon Mondol

Address: Village: Dhumghat, Union: Ishwaripur, Upazila: Shamnagar, District: Satkhira

Seed is life and the main element of agriculture. Discussing the agrarian issues and challenges in PAR group meeting, the affection of collecting seeds of Shopon Mondol was increased many folds. The learning from Exchange visit, Residential and Local Schools inspired him to collect and conserve more seeds to save them from extinction. According to him, seeds are mysterious and every seed has its own unique characteristics. But the seed diversity is under threat due to chemical dependent monoculture practice. Now he is preserving 480 types of seeds while the

number was 50- 60 in December 2016. That stock contains crops, non-crops, medicinal, timbers, fruits, flowers etc. Some of those lost their ability to germinate as he doesn't have enough land or resource to preserve those alive. But he is trying to keep most of those seeds alive by disseminating those seeds among the other farmers. He is also famous for preparing organic pesticides. Peoples from his and nearby villages come to collect organic pesticides from him. He received training on organic pesticides before joining PAR group but started preparing those pesticides seriously after become sensitized through regular PAR group meetings. He is practicing multiple cropping with local variety to produce safe food and preparing organic fertilizer.

Success in Multiple Cropping & Organic Fertilizers

Name: Maloti Rani Munda

Address: Village: Dhumghat, Union: Ishwaripur, Upazila: Shamnagar, District: Satkhira

Maloti Rani has been engaged with the activities of Dhumghat PAR group since 2017. Her husband works in a brick field and used to stay outside Dhumghat most of the time of the year. So she conducts and looks after all the agricultural activities in their family land. Learning the techniques she practiced agro-ecology in 18 decimals of land. Following the multiple cropping methods, she cultivated more than 29 types of spices, vegetables, pulses, and leafy vegetables and one local rice. The local schools and regular group meetings helped and inspired her to learn and conduct the methods. Other crops and non-crops will be incorporated according to the seasons. She is conserving and exchanging those seeds with the neighboring farmers. She is also preparing organic fertilizer including vermicompost with local earthworm and organic pesticides. With other farmers, she enlisted the name and use of locally available non-crops and farm biodiversity. She and her family members are satisfied with chemical-free crop production. In 2017 her husband wasn't happy with her engagement in PAR activities, but the crop production changed his mind. He also appreciates her knowledge gained from the PAR discussions and activities and occasionally helps in conducting agro-ecology.

Success in Multiple Cropping

Name: Arun Dutta

Address: Village: Jhiury, Upazila: Anwara, District: Chattogram

Arun Dutta has been engaged with the activities of Jhiury PAR group since 2017. He is a famous vegetable farmer. The discussion on regular group meeting inspired him to conduct chemical-free farming. From the middle of 2017, he started examining chemical-free cultivation. In 2018 he cultivated local bean and bottle gourd in 20 decimals of land. Earlier he applied at least one and a half kilograms of urea and other chemical fertilizer in each decimal of vegetable cultivation land. Besides he applied different types of industrial pesticides to protect crop for pests. But in 2018 he didn't apply any industrial inputs in that 20 decimals of land. He applied own organic fertilizers and pesticides and followed other agro-ecological principles. As a result, the crop production was not as high as chemical cultivation and the crops were not good looking. While he took those crops to sell at the local market the customers were not interested to buy. Then he told customers the fact that those crops were produced organically. Later some customers become interested and the crops were sold quickly. Moreover, he cultivated three types of local rice in Aman season. He is preparing organic fertilizer including vermicompost and organic pesticides with local ingredients. The neighboring farmers were worried about production and curious with his agro-ecological farming. They regularly visited his field to observe the results. He will continue cultivating local crops without applying industrial inputs to save the environment and human health for both family consumption and commercial purpose.

Success on Local Rice Cultivation

Name: Khokon Dutta

Address: Village: Jhiury, Upazila: Anwara, District: Chattogram

Khokon Dutta is a PAR group member of Jhiury village. He was quite different from other farmers, as he used to cultivated local variety rice by his own interest. But he had used chemical fertilizer and pesticides during rice production. Inspired from the group discussion he cultivated Rai Chikon rice without applying any industrial chemical inputs at 25 decimals of land in 2018. The neighboring farmers were astonished by observing ecological crop production. Earlier they laughed and criticized Khokon for not applying chemical fertilizers. He applied his own prepared organic fertilizer and pesticides and followed agro-ecological principles. Some of the neighboring

farmers have shown their interest to cultivate local rice without chemical inputs. He documented the characteristics of seed and conserved those seeds to cultivate next year and to exchange with other farmers. He is also cultivating other local crops for family consumption.

Success on Local Vegetable & Rice Cultivation

Name Md. Akter

Address: Village: Gundip, Upazila: Anwara, District: Chattogram

Md. Akter is a farmer of Gundip village and has been engaged with PAR activities since 2017. Inspired by the regular group discussions and school sessions he started agro-ecological farming and continued in 2018. In 2017 he cultivated ten types of local rice 160 decimals of land. In 2018 he collected 3 more varieties and cultivated organically total 13 types of rice in 200 decimals of land in aman season. Besides, he cultivated khirai (local type of cucumbers) in 52 decimals of leased land by following agro-ecological methods. While the other farmers used to apply heavy chemical in vegetable farming, he only applied his own organic fertilizers and pesticides to protect the environment and produce safe food. He was satisfied with the overall khirai production. Even the owner of the agricultural land provided the land in free of cost for one season as he conducted organic cultivation. He earned BDT 40,000 by selling khirai in the local market. Besides he consumed and distributed khirai to his relatives and neighbors. Neighboring farmers were inspired to reduce chemical inputs by observing his success. He is preparing organic fertilizers and pesticides and conserving seeds for next seasons.

Success on Local Rice Cultivation & Multiple Cropping

Name: Salahuddin

Address: Village: Gundip, Upazila: Anwara, District: Chattogram

Farmer Salahuddin is a PAR group member of Gundip village. Through the group meeting and school sessions, he has learned the agro ecological methods of farming. He selected 50 decimals of land to conduct Agroecology practically in 2018. He collected the seed and cultivated Rai chikon and Kuara Belon (good for puffed rice) rice in 30 decimals and four types of local vegetable and other leafy plants in 20 decimals of land. He didn't apply any chemical inputs in that patch of land. He applied his own organic fertilizers and followed agro-ecological techniques. But he is satisfied with the production of those crops and decided to continue.