

Success Story

Seeds Exchange to the Local School Farmers

The transformation of farmers has been remarkable after gaining knowledge from local schools, enabling them to take proactive roles in preserving and sharing indigenous seed varieties. Recently, they have been encouraging fellow farmers to exchange and distribute local seeds, strengthening seed sovereignty and agroecological resilience. As part of this effort, traditional rice seeds were recently distributed among farmers in Narchi and Shalukgari villages of Sariakandi, Bogura. The distributed varieties included Subash, Sonali Paijam, Ritu Paijam, Kalo Badsha Bhog, and Mal Shira—each known for its unique adaptability, taste, and resilience to local climate conditions. During the distribution, a PAR farmer from Noyapara village in Bogura explained the characteristics of these rice varieties, highlighting their nutritional benefits, pest resistance, and suitability for sustainable farming practices. Farmers received the seeds with great interest, recognizing their potential in ensuring food security and reducing dependency on commercial hybrid seeds. This initiative reflects the growing impact of community-led efforts in preserving traditional agricultural knowledge and fostering a self-sufficient farming culture.



Seeds Exchange Program

Local Rice Harvesting

After the Local School, participants from Shalukgari, Narchi, Harina, Chokibari, and Boithadanga villages in Sariakandi Bogura reached a consensus on the significant success of local seeds. They observed that the local rice seeds had a much higher germination rate—around 90%—compared to the packaged seeds, which only showed a 40% germination rate. This stark difference highlights the effectiveness of traditional seed varieties in local conditions, demonstrating their resilience and adaptability to the specific climate, soil, and farming practices of the region. The higher germination rates further reinforce the importance of preserving and promoting local seeds for sustainable agricultural practices and food security.



Local Rice Seeds Germination (90%)



Packaged Rice Seeds Germination (40%)



Farmers from Bogura have begun harvesting the local rice seeds.



The progress of local rice harvesting by farmers in Bogura and Satkhira has been improving

Overcoming Challenges and Advancing Agricultural Practices in Dhumghat Village, Satkhira

On December 2nd 2024, a discussion meeting was held at the residence of Sanatan Munda in Dhumghat village, where the Munda community from various villages of Shyamnagar Upazila gathered to share their ongoing struggles. These included the tragic murder of Narendranath Munda, incidents of violence against women, land grabbing, false cases being filed, and obstacles in harvesting rice. During the meeting, the PAR members presented these issues, highlighting the injustice they faced on a daily basis.

The chief guest was Associated Professor Samiul Azom Monir General Secretary of the press club Shyamnagar and other attendees offered valuable advice, emphasizing the importance of unity and collective action to tackle these challenges. Inspired by this encouragement, the community came together, overcoming their differences, and successfully harvested their Aman rice crop, ensuring it was stored properly. Additionally, they also embraced Boro rice cultivation as part of their efforts to improve agricultural productivity.

This case demonstrates the resilience and determination of the Munda community in Dhumghat, showing that despite facing social, economic, and legal hurdles, they can achieve significant progress through solidarity and shared purpose. By standing united, the community not only resolved immediate challenges but also strengthened their capacity to engage in sustainable farming practices, ensuring food security and fostering long-term prosperity for future generations.



Discussion on overcoming challenges and advancing agricultural practices in Dhumghat Village, Satkhira



PAR Farmers united and cut their crops

Exchange Visit with the Local Farmers organized by PAR Farmers

In 2024, PAR group members, led by PAR farmers, visited various villages in Bogura and Satkhira to share agricultural knowledge and promote agroecology. Although the meetings were shortened due to extreme heat and the rice harvesting season, the sessions focused on sustainable farming practices. The visit revealed strong interest among farmers in rice cultivation and organic fertilizers, though there was some initial resistance to adopting agroecology. The PAR team addressed these concerns by discussing the benefits of organic farming and the negative impacts of chemical fertilizers. The meetings concluded with farmers expressing interest in future collaboration and events. Key takeaways included the importance of better preparation, considering weather conditions, and maintaining ongoing engagement with the communities to support the widespread adoption of agroecological practices.



Exchange Visit by the PAR Farmers

Cultivation of Urad Beans by Patrakhola PAR Farmer Salam Gazi in Satkhira

Urad bean plants were recently planted by Patrakhola PAR farmer Salam Gazi, marking his first attempt at cultivating this crop. The decision to plant urad beans came after discussions within the participatory action research (PAR) group, which encouraged experimentation with diverse crops to enhance soil health and resilience. Salam Gazi carefully prepared the land following agroecological practices, avoiding chemical inputs and instead relying on organic methods. As this is his initial experience with urad beans, he is closely monitoring the growth process, hoping to learn from it and potentially adopt it as a regular crop in future growing seasons. The community is keen to observe the outcome, as successful cultivation could encourage other farmers in the region to diversify their crops, contributing to local food security and sustainable agriculture.



Salam Gazi and RIB's Documentation & Training officer visit the plot in Satkhira

Majhbari PAR Farmers Lead Exchange Training on BARI IMO Techniques: Strengthening Agroecological Practices and Farmer Solidarity

PAR farmers from Majhbari village recently organized an exchange training visit to Majhbari North side, where they provided hands-on training on cultivating BARI IMO (Improved Management of Organic inputs). During the visit, the farmers demonstrated the complete process of how to effectively apply BARI IMO practices in agroecological farming.

The training focused on showcasing the preparation and application of organic inputs, which are crucial for maintaining soil fertility and promoting healthy crop growth without the use of chemical fertilizers. The farmers walked participants through each step, from selecting organic materials to creating compost and applying it to the fields. They emphasized the benefits of using BARI IMO in improving soil health, increasing yield, and reducing environmental impacts.

This exchange training not only empowered the local farmers with practical knowledge but also fostered collaboration and solidarity between the PAR groups from different areas, enhancing their collective ability to promote sustainable agriculture practices in their region.



PAR Farmers addressing the villagers about the making of BARI IMO

Report on BARI IMO Application in Majhbari Uttar Para, BOGURA

Following the 25-day preparation period after the 6th PAR (Participatory Action Research) meeting in Majhbari Uttar Para, women farmers have started applying BARI IMO to their tomato, bottle gourd, and bean plants. This eco-friendly and organic solution aims to enhance plant growth and resistance to pests and diseases, reflecting the community's commitment to agroecological practices.

During the application process, it was observed that Nargis, one of the participating women farmers, encountered an issue with her bean plants. The leaves were affected by mosaic virus, a common plant disease that causes yellowing and mottling patterns on the foliage, leading to stunted growth and reduced crop yield. Upon noticing this problem, agricultural experts provided Nargis with necessary guidance on managing the mosaic virus through organic methods. This included recommendations for regular monitoring, the removal of infected leaves, and ensuring the plants receive proper nutrition through continued use of BARI IMO.

The initiative highlights the effectiveness of organic solutions like BARI IMO in promoting sustainable farming practices, even in the face of challenges such as plant diseases. The proactive approach of the women farmers, along with the technical support from agricultural advisors, ensures that crops remain healthy and productive, contributing to the overall success of the agroecological movement in the region.



BARI IMO used in Majhbari Uttar Para, Bogura by farmers

Safe and Biodiversity-Based Agriculture Discussion at Ishwaripur Bazaar in Satkhira

A local initiative led by youth members organized a discussion on safe and biodiversity-based agriculture at Ishwaripur Bazaar. The event aimed to raise awareness about sustainable farming practices that prioritize ecological balance and the health of consumers. Participants included farmers, local traders, agricultural enthusiasts, and community members who were keen to learn about the benefits of adopting agroecological methods.

During the discussion, the youth organizers highlighted the importance of reducing reliance on chemical pesticides and fertilizers, advocating for organic farming techniques that protect soil health and enhance biodiversity. They emphasized that using natural pest control methods and organic compost can not only produce healthier crops but also support the local ecosystem. Practical examples of successful implementations of such practices in nearby villages were shared, demonstrating how safe agricultural methods could lead to improved crop yields and market opportunities for farmers.

The session concluded with an open dialogue where farmers expressed their challenges and concerns regarding the transition to organic farming. The youth organizers provided insights and resources to help farmers understand how to integrate biodiversity-friendly practices into their existing farming systems. This event represents a step towards creating a more sustainable and resilient agricultural community by promoting knowledge exchange and collaboration at the grassroots level.



Youth Engagement in Safe and Biodiversity-Based Agriculture at Ishoripur Bazar at Satkhira

Celebrating International Women's Day-2024

In celebration of International Women's Day 2024, a vibrant energy filled the villages of Satkhira and Bogura. PAR farmers, a powerful force for rural development, joined hands with enthusiastic youths to mark the occasion. The theme for this year, **"Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,"** resonated deeply, prompting the organization of rallies and discussions in both areas. Bogura's youth took the initiative, organizing a rally within their village. This wasn't just a celebratory rally; it served as a platform to raise awareness about critical gender justice issues faced by women in their community. The villagers actively participated, engaging in meaningful dialogue about creating a more equitable future. Over in Satkhira, the festivities unfolded in Dhumghat Munda village. Here, the rally and discussion were graced by the presence of prominent figures. Local journalist Ranojit Barman served as the chief guest, lending his voice to the cause of women's empowerment. Villagers from Bongshipur and Patrakhola were invited as special guests, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. Biplob Ghosh, a dedicated youth member, delivered a powerful message. He emphasized that this International Women's Day wasn't just about celebrating achievements; it was a call to action. "Everyone," he declared, "needs to become more conscious of their own rights, and the rights of the women in their communities." This resonated with the audience, sparking a commitment to create lasting change.

By amplifying the voices of both established figures and enthusiastic youth, these celebrations in Satkhira and Bogura served as a potent reminder: investing in women truly is the key to accelerating progress for all.

Photographs



Rally was held at Dhumghat Munda Para, Satkhira and Noyapara Bogura



Farmers and women, Journalist were actively participated at the discussion in Satkhira

World Water Day Observed in Bogura and Satkhira with Focus on Youth Engagement

Youths and Participatory Action Research (PAR) farmers came together in Bogura and Satkhira to celebrate World Water Day. Rallies and discussion meetings were organized to raise awareness about water conservation and pollution prevention. Rally participants, particularly young people, displayed slogans and banners urging the public to save water and protect it from contamination. Youths from Nayapara and Baluartair villages, along with PAR farmers from Majhbari village, actively participated in these events. In Bogura, the focus was on the importance of the four rivers - Jamuna, Korotoa, Bangali, and Shukdoho - for the environment and the impact of climate change. The Majhbari youth group collected water samples from those rivers and stored them in glass bottles. The discussion meetings addressed the critical role water plays in our lives, explored methods for conserving it, and highlighted the dangers of water pollution. The events were supported by Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) in collaboration with Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung South Asia, showcasing their commitment to promoting ecological and social justice.

Photographs



A human chain was formed at Patrakhola to raise awareness about the importance of safe drinking water.



Rally was held at Patrakhola, Satkhira



The Majhbari youth group collected water samples from Jamuna, Korotoa, Bangali, and Shukdoho rivers and stored them in glass bottles.



Discussion session was led by the Majhbari Youth group