

Advocacy

Local Initiative

Adaptation



COAST is implementing the project titled "Climate Justice Resilience Fund" for adapting climate change impact in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. The project is being implemented in 7 coastal districts from January 2018 to Sept 2022. COAST is doing advocacy by networking with local partners on several coastal protection issues, e.g. Sustainable coastal embankment & internally displaced management, improving livelihood of Climate Vulnerable fishermen and coastal afforestation, etc. Community awareness and educational programs are being continuously broadcasted through 8 Coastal Community Radios to raise awareness through providing information and education to women and adolescents. Initiatives have been taken to provide and expand Climate Adaptive Income Generating Techniques in the affected communities.

Civil Societies Demanded Inclusivity to the Gov't to Strengthen Country Interest in CoP-26

Civil society organizations (CSOs) urged an inclusive process from the government to strengthen country interest in the upcoming UN climate conference (Conference of the Parties, CoP 26). On October 21, 2021, a virtual seminar was held under the title 'COP-26: Government Position and Civil Society Perspectives'. The seminar is jointly organized by COAST Foundation, AOSED, CPRD, CDP, Clean and EquityBD.

Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP and the honorable Chair of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment Forest Climate Change was the Chief Guest, while Mr. Asheq Ullah Rafiq MP Cox's Bazar-2 was the Special Guest of the seminar moderated by Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST foundation. Apart from the Co-organizers Mirza Sawkat Ali, Director of Department of Environment, Mrs. Rabeya Begum, Co-Chair of CANSA-BD, Mohan Kumar Mondal of LEADERS, and Mr. Kawser Rahaman of Janakhanta spoke at the event. The key-note was presented by Syed Aminul Haque of COAST Foundation.

The speakers said in their speeches that the CoP 26 is crucial since it will take a main stock take on newly submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), establish the Loss and Damage Mechanism and providing \$100 billion in Green Climate Fund (GCF). In this context, Bangladesh's government should play a critical role in safeguarding the country's interests, particularly in protecting vulnerable people and reducing the effects of regular loss and damage caused by climate change.

Civil Society representatives raise their differential demands to the government delegation e.g. i. Continued revision of NDCs by developed and polluter countries based on their fair contribution and economic volume to keep global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius; ii. Developed countries must secure additional funding beyond the GCF to mitigate and adapt to loss and damage; iii. The GCF must streamline its funding process in both the readiness program and the project proposal preparation stages; and iv. Ensure appropriate technologies for MVCs through the CTCN [UNFCCC Climate Technology Centre Network] to support their resilience in both mitigation and adaptation contexts.



CSOs urged an inclusive process from the government to strengthen country interest in the upcoming CoP 26. Online Seminar, 21 October 2021

Campaign to Expand Climate Adaptation Techniques for Economic Empowerment

The short and long-term effects of climate change are already becoming apparent in the coastal areas of Bangladesh and are intensifying at an alarming rate. Coastal areas and surrounding rivers, canals, lowlands, and inadequate protective infrastructure are contributing to the increase in the level of disaster damage.

More than 80% of the people here are directly dependent on agriculture. The negative effects of climate change are directly and indirectly putting these natural resource-dependent Populations at greater risk, with frequent floods, tidal surges,



Promotional activities in the climate- vulnerable communities in the coastal areas of Bangladesh to reduce economic losses. 26 October 2021, Photo-Swopna Begum, CJRF.

Cyclones, droughts, and salinity manifestations leading to declining productivity and increasing loss. The COAST CJRF project is implementing community-level promotional activities and initiatives in the Climate Vulnerable coastal areas of Bangladesh to enhance the skills required to expand Climate Adaptation Income-Generating Activities to reduce the economic loss of vulnerable communities. These activities are being implemented through courtyard meetings with the participation of the affected communities.

Affected communities, especially women and adolescents, are gaining knowledge about safe drinking water, use of hygienic sanitation, Climate-Adaptive Income Generating farming methods such as Rangpur model, vegetable cultivation in sack method, triple F model (integrated method), and goat rearing by scaffolding method and so on. Taking the initiative to use it in practical life.



Women are now using tube well water instead of canal and pond water for in their daily work. Baraghop, Kutubdia- Photo: Parvez, TO, COAST-CJRF.

The safe water users ratio in coastal areas is increasing for awareness campaigns.

The ratio of safe water users is increasing day by day as a result of the continuous awareness activities of the COAST CJRF project at the community level. Which is helping to protect them from health risks. Salinity levels in tube wells, rivers, canals, and ponds are increasing due to tidal surges, coastal floods in the coastal areas of Bangladesh due to climate change and the drinking water crisis is intensifying in these areas.

The crisis is most prevalent in the coastal areas of the country. The use of saline water the incidence of various water-borne diseases including skin diseases, high blood pressure, and past health risks. The main victims are women, children, adolescents, and the elderly. The COAST CJRF project is conducting a series of outreach activities through courtyard meetings in different communities of Bhola district and Kutubdia Upazila of Cox's Bazar district to raise public awareness on safe water use to protect coastal communities from health risks.

The Issues of the campaign activities include; what is safe water? Where to get it, how water is contaminated, what happens when you drink contaminated water and how to make water safe?

Rukhsana Begum, a resident of Azam Colony, Baraghop Union, Kutubdia Upazila, said, "We have a problem with potable water here. Despite the difficulties, we now use safe water for all our daily activities. We didn't do it before because we didn't know how to purify water. Tahura Begum, a resident of the same village, said, around 80% of our villagers now use safe water.

Coastal women are now cultivating in bed system to restore the economic stability of the family

In tackling climate change, coastal women are practicing Climate-Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques to restore economic stability to their families. In the meantime, vegetable cultivation by bed method has already become widely popular among the coastal affected women.

The people of coastal areas are most at risk from the negative effects of climate change, extreme salinity in soil and water is turning cultivable lands into barren lands, local people are failing to cultivate other crops including vegetables.

However, instead of losing hope, women in coastal areas have now found alternative ways to earn a living using the bed method, reshaping their lives. They are now cultivating all kinds of vegetables like spinach, radish, cauliflower, cabbage, red spinach, chilly in different seasons.

They are now able to meet their daily food needs and earn money by selling the vegetables they produce in the local market which is helping to provide education and other expenses for their children. The project is working to expand climate-tolerant income-generating strategies in various affected communities in Kutubdia Upazila of Bhola and Cox's Bazar districts, the most affected coastal areas of Bangladesh. In addition to promotional activities, the above farming techniques are being distributed experimentally among coastal families.

Observing their income improvement, many women have already started cultivating vegetables in all these ways and are earning BDT 4,000-5,000 per month.



Inspired by the success of Climate-Adaptive Techniques, Nur Nahar Begum is now cultivating vegetables by bed method, Baraghop, Kutubdia. Photo: Parvez, CJRF

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Published and preserved from Project Office- Shyamoli, Dhaka

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