



# Extraordinary Stories of the Ordinaries



Livestock and Dairy Development Project  
Department of Livestock Services  
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock



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Stories of the  
Ordinaries**

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We remain steadfast in our collective commitment to building a nutrition-secure and self-reliant Bangladesh.

### Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP)

## FOREWORD

After achieving self-sufficiency in food, Bangladesh now stands at a historic turning point in ensuring nutritional security. The livestock sector is the lifeblood of our rural economy. With the objective of ensuring sustainable development in this sector and improving the livelihoods of marginal farmers, the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, is implementing the **Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP)**.

This success story booklet is not merely a collection of 30 stories; it is a vivid portrait of the triumphs and struggles in the lives of the project's beneficiaries. Here, we witness how Suruzzaman from Jamalpur overcame fodder scarcity through silo-pit technology; how Parvin Akhtar from Faridpur erased social stigma to build the "Village Milk" brand; and how Rokshana Begum from Rangpur built a yoghurt empire starting with just 150 BDT. Each story proves that proper training, technical support, and the strategic use of modest capital can lead a family from the darkness of poverty into the light of self-reliance.

Through the LDDP project, we have placed modern milking machines, feed mills, chilling centres, and value-added product technologies into the hands of our farmers. Consequently, we have not only increased the production of milk and meat but have also fostered thousands of new women entrepreneurs. These success stories are reflections of a prosperous future for Bangladesh. I believe these narratives will serve as a unique beacon of inspiration for millions of youth and marginal farmers across the country.

My best wishes go to all the indomitable farmers who are working tirelessly to change their own destinies while meeting the nutritional needs of our nation.

**Dr. Md. Mostafa Kamal**  
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## From Struggle to Self-Reliance: The Extraordinary Journey of Kawsar Jahan

When life hits a crisis, people either break or they rise. Kawsar Jahan's story is one of indomitable rising. In 2020, faced with her husband's sudden illness and an uncertain future for her two children— one of whom is autistic— this once-cloistered housewife dared to dream of becoming a farmer. Today, Kawsar Jahan is not just the pillar of her family but a lighthouse of inspiration for her entire community. She is a recognised 'Joyita' (a woman who has conquered hardships). Her journey is an epic of a destitute housewife transforming into a successful entrepreneur; she has become a symbol of courage for the women in her region.

Her journey began with just two indigenous bulls. Lacking experience and using unscientific methods, she had to watch one of her beloved bulls die before her eyes. The taunts and ridicule from neighbours stung like poison: "Can a woman really run a farm?" But Kawsar did not surrender. From cutting grass with her own hands to providing round-the-clock care for her cattle, she devoted herself entirely to the task. In those dark times, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) stood by her like a beacon.



After joining the 'Miazipara Beef Fattening Producer Group (PG)' in 2021, the course of Kawsar's life changed forever. She completed 13 different training sessions. The knowledge she gained regarding modern livestock rearing, nutrition, and market linkages transformed her disorganised backyard into a scientific operation. From the LDDP project, she received a grass chopper, Trolley, Pump Motor, Floor Mat, Shovel, Lactometer — tools that simplified her labour and made the farm hygienic and modern.

Today, there is no shadow of scarcity on Kawsar's farm. She currently manages 25 fattened bulls alongside a successful dairy unit with 5 cows. Her annual income has reached approximately 1 million BDT (10 Lakh). With these earnings, she secures her husband's medical treatment and her children's education. For her extraordinary success, she was honoured with the prestigious 'Joyita Award 2024' at the district level. Kawsar Jahan says with pride:



“ LDDP provided me with the knowledge and tools to become self-reliant. Today, I am not just supporting my family; I am showing the way to other women in the area. ”

Kawsar Jahan now aims to expand her farm further and establish her village as a model for sustainable modern animal husbandry. She has proven that with the right knowledge and an unbreakable will, neither social barriers nor family crises can block the path to success.



## Salma's Triumph: Success from Scratch

As the calls of local chickens echo through the mist-covered, serene landscape of Burichang at dawn, Salma's eyes reflect the dream of a vibrant future. Yet, this path was once filled with uncertainty. Today, Salma, a resident of Burichang Upazila in Cumilla, is no longer just an ordinary housewife; she has emerged as a successful entrepreneur whose journey inspires other women in her village to dream of self-reliance.

Salma's journey began on a very small scale, armed with only 15-16 local chickens and a heart full of courage. However, courage alone is rarely enough to sustain a household. In the beginning, she stumbled frequently due to a lack of capital, insufficient technical knowledge, and a total lack of experience. Without proper care and disease management, her farm failed to yield the expected profits. But Salma was not one to give up easily.



To give her tireless efforts a sense of direction, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) stepped in. Through the local livestock office, she was selected as a high-potential farmer. This was the moment her life began to change. Under the project, Salma received intensive training on modern poultry farming, balanced feed management, disease prevention, and vaccination protocols. Beyond just theoretical knowledge, the project provided her with financial and technical assistance to build a modern, hygienic poultry shed. She was also provided with high-quality feed, waterers, and essential medicines.

Equipped with professional training and proper guidance, Salma completely overhauled her farm. With regular vaccinations and balanced nutrition, the mortality rate dropped significantly while production soared. Currently, her farm houses over 50 local and Fayoumi chickens. By selling eggs and chickens, she now earns an average of 10,000 to 12,000 BDT per month.

She did not just spend this income; she reinvested it wisely. Using the profits from her poultry, she purchased goats and is now securing large margins from selling them annually. Being able to provide nutritious food, better clothing, and an improved standard of living for her family has given Salma a newfound sense of confidence.

Salma's remarkable success has sparked a movement in her village. Inspired by her, other women are coming forward to establish their own small-scale farms. Salma is no longer just a housewife; she has become a 'consultant' for her community. Local women seek her advice to learn the strategies of becoming self-reliant.

Her dreams, however, do not end here. She plans to expand her farm further by installing an incubator machine to produce her own chicks, transforming her farm into a full-fledged hatchery. She wishes to illuminate the lives of other underprivileged women with the light of her experience.

The secret behind Salma's success lies in her ability to apply training effectively and the courage to turn knowledge into action. Through regular vaccination, maintaining hygiene, and reinvesting a portion of her earnings, she has built a sustainable business model. Salma says,



“The training and advice I received through the project have changed my life. Given the opportunity, a woman can truly carve out her own destiny.”

Salma of Burichang is now more than a successful farmer; she is a powerful architect of the rural economy. Her story proves that with proper government patronage and an indomitable will, one can reach the pinnacle of success even when starting with nothing.



## The Beacon of Padma's Banks: Farmer Mizanur Rahman

Long before dawn wakes the winding trails along the banks of the Padma in Bagha Upazila, Mizanur Rahman is already at work. While the world around him is silent, his farm is a hive of activity—cleaning, grooming, and meticulously monitoring his livestock. This vibrant version of Mizanur is a far cry from the man who, just a few years ago, was drowning in a sea of frustration. Despite back-breaking labour, success remained elusive. Today, Mizanur hasn't just transformed his own fate; he has become a symbol of trust for every dairy farmer in his region.



The fertile silt of Gorghari Union yields golden harvests, yet Mizanur's brow was once furrowed only with worry. His small dairy farm, which began with just five cows, was chaotic and unorganised. A lack of modern technical knowledge meant his cows produced far less milk than their potential. Adding to his woes were the sweltering heat and a complete lack of storage facilities. Unsold milk would often spoil, and he was frequently forced to sell his produce at a pittance to local sweet shops. Despite his gruelling efforts, his monthly profit was shrinking. There came a point when Mizanur considered quitting altogether.

At that critical crossroads, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) appeared as a blessing. Mizanur realised that success required more than just hard work—it required strategy and technology. Under the project, he received advanced training in dairy farm management, milk quality control, disease prevention, and the processing of dairy products.

The most game-changing support was the installation of a modern Milk Chilling Plant on his farm. This single step revolutionised his business model. Additionally, the project provided him with modern equipment, including milk cans, buckets, and precision thermometers. Mizanur recalls,



“Earlier, I would feel lost whenever a problem arose. Now, with the knowledge from the training and the guidance from livestock officers, I handle everything myself.”

Since adopting modern technology and practices, Mizanur has reached a new pinnacle of success. The transformation of his farm is nothing short of extraordinary:

- **Livestock Growth:** His herd has grown from 5 to 15 cows.
- **Yield Increase:** Average milk production has soared from 2.8 litres to 6.4 litres per cow.
- **Profitability:** His monthly net profit has jumped from 9,000 BDT to 18,500 BDT.
- **Value Addition:** He no longer sells only raw milk; he has built his own brand by producing high-quality yoghurt, ghee, sweets, and matha (buttermilk).

Mizanur is no longer walking this path alone. He has organised 40 small-scale farmers in his area into a Producer Group (PG). He collects their milk, ensuring they receive a fair market price. His mission is now to empower others—conducting regular meetings, strengthening the group through collective savings, and inspiring neighbours to adopt modern technology. These farmers now see their own future through Mizanur's vision.

Mizanur's dreams remain ambitious. He aims to expand his herd to 25 or 30 cows in the near future. His ultimate goal is to establish a Mini Processing Unit to distribute his dairy products across the country.

Mizanur Rahman has proven that just as life on the Padma's banks persists despite the river's erosion, a marginal farmer can become a successful entrepreneur when empowered with modern technology. Mizanur is not just a dreamer; he is the



## A Touch of Success in the Lands of Scarcity

In the northern district of Kurigram, the sighs of the people often mingle with the waves of the Dharla and Brahmaputra rivers. Here, survival is a constant battle against river erosion and devastating floods. In this landscape, where poverty often follows like a shadow, lives Rina Begum—a woman of grit and determination. By overcoming every adversity, Rina has not only transformed her own fate but has also become a living example of how to achieve self-reliance by adapting to the environment.



For a long time, Rina Begum lived a life of profound uncertainty, struggling to make ends meet. Her only assets were a few cows, but their living conditions were dilapidated and unhygienic. Even a little rain would turn the shed floor damp and muddy, and the cows were frequently plagued by diseases due to mosquitoes and flies. Milk production was minimal. As her dreams began to fade, Rina realised that providing food for animals wasn't enough; they needed a safe and comfortable habitat. In the heat of those desperate days, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) appeared as a blessing.

Rina Begum was enrolled as a member of the project's Producer Group (PG). Under the close supervision of livestock officers, she learned the critical importance of a "Climate-Resilient Farm." With the project's support, a modern 5-cow shed was constructed at her home. This shed was more than just a structure of four walls; it was a unique blend of science and technology. Built on an elevated platform, it remained flood-proof, while its advanced ventilation system kept the cattle calm and healthy even during intense heat. Modern waste management and a proper drainage system ensured the farm remained clean and disease-free.

The precise application of technology led to an incredible transformation on Rina's farm. A cow that previously yielded only 7 litres of milk a day now produces 12 litres. The modern environment has significantly boosted the health and productivity of the livestock. Her monthly income, which was 13,000 BDT before the project, has now risen to 21,000 BDT. Furthermore, because the shed remains dry and clean, the incidence of complex diseases like Mastitis has dropped to zero.

Rina Begum is no longer just a farmer; she has evolved into a skilled mentor and consultant. Local women now gather in Rina's courtyard, eager to learn about waste management and the specialised care required for pregnant cows and calves. Rina smilingly teaches them the strategies for surviving and thriving in this era of climate change. Inspired by her success, many housewives in the area are now dreaming of standing on their own feet. Rina says with a proud voice,



“ I used to cry seeing the suffering of my cows. Now, thanks to this modern shed, they stay healthy and provide more milk. Being able to stand on my own two feet is the greatest achievement of my life. ”

Rina's dreams are now expanding. She plans to grow her farm further, keeping this sustainable and eco-friendly shed at the centre of her operations. In the erosion-prone regions of Kurigram, Rina Begum stands as a steadfast lighthouse, proving that with the right technology and an indomitable will, even the hostility of nature must surrender.



## Beyond Failure: Helal Uddin's Dream of Success

In the southernmost reaches of Bangladesh, where the Andharmanik River flows toward its mouth, a new light of hope is shining in Mithaganj Union of Patuakhali— the 'Daughter of the Sea'. A man who was once lost under the crushing weight of debt and constant financial loss has emerged as a bright star, thanks to the intervention of the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). This is the story of Helal Uddin—once a frustrated farmer, now a master of modern cattle fattening techniques.

For years, Helal Uddin attempted to rear cattle using conventional, traditional methods. However, with minimal knowledge of housing, feed management, and disease control, his farm became a centre of loss. Malnutrition, parasites, and frequent illnesses left his livestock frail and emaciated. Far from getting a competitive market price, the year-end losses were so devastating that he considered quitting the business altogether. The pressure of NGO loan instalments and the uncertainty of his family's future haunted him day and night.

2024 was the year that changed Helal Uddin's destiny. On the advice of a local livestock officer, he joined a Producer Group (PG) under the LDDP. The project provided him with more than just nutritious feed, vaccines, and dewormers; it provided him with a "mighty weapon"—Training. The profound knowledge he gained in animal hygiene, scientific feed planning, and market linkages transformed him from an ordinary farmer into a visionary entrepreneur. With the support of the Upazila Livestock Department, he was able to connect directly with large-scale buyers and wholesalers.

There is no longer a trace of despair on Helal Uddin's farm. Thanks to modern care, his bulls are now healthy, robust, and vibrant. His economic transformation is nothing short of extraordinary. Previously, his annual income was a meagre 168,000 BDT. With the project's support, that figure has leapt to a staggering 520,000 to 620,000 BDT. With this surplus, he has completely cleared his previous NGO debts and constructed a hygienic, comfortable shed for his cattle. After reinvesting his profits, he now owns nine robust bulls.



Helal Uddin has not only changed his own fate but has become a role model for his entire region. Seeing his incredible success, other farmers in Mithaganj Union are now eager to seek LDDP services. Locally, Helal is now recognised as a 'livestock expert'. He advises other farmers on how planned animal husbandry can strengthen the rural economy. With a voice full of confidence, Helal says,



“ I used to rear cattle without following any rules, and there was no profit. Through LDDP training, I have learned to run a farm scientifically. Now, my goal is to produce my own feed and make this farm even more modern. ”

Helal Uddin has built a model modern shed with ample light and ventilation. His future plans are well-organised. His eyes are set on maintaining regular contact with wholesalers for Eid-ul-Adha and increasing his livestock count to establish a major 'Meat Hub' in his area. Like the steady waves of the Andharmanik River, Helal Uddin's progress has breathed new life into the hearts of every farmer along the coast.

# Anjana Barua: A Saga of Resilience and Success

Rajarkul in Ramu Upazila, Cox's Bazar, is a picturesque landscape where hills meet the plains. Here, Anjana Barua lived her life waiting for a new dawn. Managing a four-member family with her husband's limited income was a daily struggle. During those days of scarcity, Anjana often wondered— would her children's future always remain this uncertain? Today, having left that uncertainty behind, Anjana Barua stands as a proud and successful farmer of Ramu.



Anjana had an interest in livestock since childhood. Although she had an indigenous cow at home, she lacked access to modern technology or concepts of proper nutrition. Consequently, the income from that cow was negligible. However, Anjana believed that with the right training, it was possible to bring prosperity while still managing household chores. Her belief turned into reality in 2022 when she joined the 'Purba Rajarkul Dairy Producer Group (PG)' under the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). By joining the PG, Anjana didn't just learn how to rear cattle; she acquired the qualities of a conscious businesswoman. She received specialised training in:

- Improved livestock breeds and dairy management.
- Urea Molasses Straw (UMS), silage, and modern nutrition management.
- Eco-friendly and climate-resilient farm planning.
- Gender equality and ensuring family nutrition.

Anjana no longer relies solely on luck. By applying scientific methods to her farm, she has achieved remarkable results. Today, her herd has grown to a total of 12 cattle, including cows, heifers, and bulls. Her daily milk production has reached 60 litres. Thanks to regular vaccination, the disease rate is nearly zero. She actively utilises technologies like chopper machines, silage, and UMS. Anjana's hard work was officially recognised at the 'Livestock Exhibition 2024', where she won an award in the livestock category, making her an icon for local women. Her husband now assists her on the farm, and her children's education expenses are easily covered. In Anjana's words:



“Farming requires practical experience and proper guidance, both of which I received through the LDDP project. Now I am solvent, and I encourage others to follow this path.”

Anjana now dreams of expanding her farm even further. She plans to construct a modern scientific shed and move beyond just selling milk. Her goal is to produce dairy products like yoghurt and ghee, transforming her business into a full-fledged dairy brand.



## Life Transformed by the Touch of Technology

Sirajganj, known as the gateway to North Bengal, is home to Rezaul Karim— a man who started his dairy farm in 2018 with a heart full of dreams. However, there was a vast gap between his vision and reality. Just as his lack of modern knowledge and technology caused his dreams to fade, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) brought a revolutionary change to his farm. Today, Rezaul is more than just a farmer; he is a master of modern, technology-driven dairy entrepreneurship.



Rezaul began his journey with 15 high-quality heifers, but the first few years were marked by extreme uncertainty. Lacking a proper understanding of vaccinations and deworming, his livestock suffered from frequent illnesses. High feed costs combined with poor management led to losses instead of profits. The COVID-19 pandemic made an already dire situation worse. Just as his interest in continuing the farm reached its lowest point, the LDDP project appeared as a blessing. Through the project, Rezaul received intensive training on scientific farm management. He mastered silage technology, high-yield grass cultivation, and the use of biogas, which allowed him to reduce costs while maximising production.

The true turning point for his farm was the acquisition of a modern Milking Machine through the project. This automated milking system brought a remarkable transformation. It eliminated the extra costs and time associated with manual milking. More importantly, it significantly reduced the risk of Mastitis and ensured high hygiene standards and milk quality. Rezaul shares,



“The milking machine and humidity meter have made my work effortless. Even in extreme heat, I can now provide proper care to my cows, ensuring consistent milk production.”

With the project's support, Rezaul's farm has evolved into a modern dairy hub. His herd has grown from 15 cows to a total of 40 cows, 25 calves, and 5 heifers. His monthly income, which was previously 60,000 BDT, has surged to 150,000 BDT. Rezaul has created employment for five staff members who manage the farm with precision. Furthermore, he cultivates Jara Grass on 17 bighas of land to ensure a steady supply of balanced nutrition.

Rezaul's future plans are ambitious. He aims to ensure an average of 17 litres of milk from every cow. By implementing modern marketing strategies and increasing the number of high-yielding cattle, he intends to transform his farm into one of the country's leading dairy models. In his words, "The LDDP project has changed my life. This success has given me the courage to live anew."

Rezaul is no longer walking this path alone. He has established a monthly savings fund with the members of his Producer Group (PG), paving the way for financial security for small-scale farmers. Inspired by his success, other farmers in the region are now eager to adopt biosecurity measures and scientific methods. Rezaul actively supports them by sharing his knowledge of Jara Grass cuttings and modern technology.



## The Odyssey of a Dairy Farmer's Transformation

Phulkocha is a village nestled in the Brahmaputra basin of Jamalpur. While the region is deeply rooted in agriculture, local farmers have long struggled with natural disasters and an acute shortage of animal feed. Amidst these challenges, Md. Suruzzaman launched a battle to change his destiny. Once a man who struggled to afford his two sons' education and daily household expenses, he is now the proud owner of livestock valued at 3.8 million BDT (38 Lakh). Today, Suruzzaman is not just a successful farmer; he is a 'technology mentor' in Phulkocha. Inspired by him, many local youths are now embracing silage production and high-yield fodder cultivation. He provides hands-on training to fellow Producer Group (PG) members on ensuring livestock nutrition even during adverse weather.



Suruzzaman initially survived by traditional farming and rearing indigenous poultry. However, the high cost of commercial feed and poor livestock management kept profits out of reach. Seeking a way out, he contacted the Melandah Upazila Livestock Office, marking the beginning of a new chapter. After joining the 'Phulkocha Dairy PG' under the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP), he mastered modern farm management techniques. By cultivating Napier grass on 18 decimals of land and using a 'Grass Chopper Machine' provided by the project, he now prepares nutritious feed in record time, saving both labour and money.

A major challenge for farmers is the availability of green grass during the dry season. Suruzzaman solved this by using the 'Silo-pit' method to preserve fresh grass as silage, ensuring his farm never faces a feed crisis. By utilising Urea Molasses Straw (UMS) and the services of the Mobile Veterinary Clinic (MVC), the mortality rate on his farm has dropped to zero.

Before joining the LDDP, Suruzzaman had 10 cattle; today, his herd has grown to 18 cattle, including 12 dairy cows. His daily milk production has reached 120 litres, generating a daily revenue of 7,200 BDT. Suruzzaman reflects:



“ At one time, providing food for my family was a constant war. LDDP gave me a new dream to live for. Today, I am not only funding my children's education, but I can finally sleep in peace. ”

Suruzzaman's journey is a shining example for the farmers of Jamalpur. He has proven that back-breaking labor alone is not enough; when combined with the right modern technology, any marginal farmer can transform into a successful entrepreneur.



## The Project That Rewrote Monjila's Life Story

In the Bangala Union of Ullapara, Sirajganj, Monjila Khatun lives in a small house built on government land. Once, the cries of extreme poverty were her daily companion. The crushing weight of debt and the constant demands of creditors haunted her every moment. For Monjila's family of four, scarcity followed them like a shadow. Her husband worked as a labourer on others' lands, while Monjila, burdened by loans, started a small farm with 40 ducks. However, lacking any concept of modern poultry management, she faced obstacles at every turn. Disease outbreaks would kill her ducks, and egg production was minimal. Her dreams were repeatedly sinking into a pit of failure—but can the darkness of poverty truly hold back someone with eyes set on the sky?

Today, Monjila is not just a successful farmer; she is a living lighthouse for rural women's empowerment. The woman who once lived in fear of creditors has now torn through the web of debt. She is providing a quality education for her children and serving as the primary financial strength for her husband.



In 2021, through the local livestock office, Monjila was selected as a member of the 'Ghona Duck Producer Group (PG)'. Intensive training through the project taught her the art and science of modern duck farming. She mastered disease prevention protocols, timely vaccination, and the importance of balanced, protein-rich diets. Beyond training, the project provided her with feeders, waterers, high-quality feed, and essential deworming medicines. This support breathed a magical new life into Monjila's farm.

The touch of the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) has transformed Monjila's small initiative into a massive enterprise. The farm that began with 40 ducks now houses 600 vibrant ducks. She collects approximately 450 eggs daily. Her monthly income, which was a meagre 5,000 BDT, has surged to 30,000 BDT. With her earnings, she has leased a 30 decimal pond and purchased 6 decimals of land near her house to build a beautiful, modern farm. Monjila's future plan is to expand this farm further and use her technical knowledge to convert it into a modern hatchery.

Monjila Khatun's story proves that given the opportunity and proper guidance, the rural women of Bangladesh can paint the grey horizons of their lives with the golden colours of success. She has not only taken charge of her household but has also become a role model for the women in her entire region. Local women now seek her advice on extra care for ducks during winter or on identifying the right vaccines for specific diseases. Inspired by her success, many villagers now buy eggs from her farm to hatch ducklings and build their own self-reliance. In Monjila's words:



“LDDP didn't just teach me how to rear ducks; it taught me risk management and marketing strategies. Now, I manage my entire business from home using my mobile phone.”



## New Horizons: From a Dairy Farm to a Brighter Future

In Nayanagar, Jamalpur, life is shaped by the silt of the Brahmaputra River and the eternal struggle of its people. Among them is Shabbirullah, a young man once known only as the son of a sharecropper. Destined to toil on others' lands like his father, Shabbirullah has instead become a living legend in his village. Today, the 32 cattle on his farm are not just assets—they are monuments to an indomitable spirit.

Shabbirullah's transformation began when he joined the 'Malancha Dairy Producer Group (PG)' under the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). He didn't just learn to rear cattle; he mastered the science of modern farming. He now knows how to produce hydroponic fodder without soil, create high-nutrition silage and Urea Molasses Straw (UMS), and convert waste into fuel using a biogas plant. Shabbirullah has evolved from a struggling farmer into a "model entrepreneur" for several surrounding villages. Under his guidance, local small-scale farmers are now investing in high-yielding breeds. By delivering milk directly to sweet shops and consumers, he has bypassed middlemen, ensuring maximum profit for himself and his community.



To escape the grip of poverty, Shabbirullah initially bought a single heifer for 70,000 BDT upon the advice of a local livestock officer. The beginning was gruelling; a lack of modern knowledge meant frequent disease outbreaks on his farm. With expenses outweighing income and his back against the wall, the LDDP project arrived like a breath of spring. Under the project's wing, his herd grew from 12 to 32 cattle, with a current market value of approximately 5.9 million BDT (59 Lakh). His daily milk production now reaches 100 to 120 litres, generating a monthly income of over 200,000 BDT.



Walking into Shabbirullah's farm, one encounters a perfectly disciplined environment: elevated dry floors, ample ventilation, and scientific waste management. He cultivates high-yield Napier grass on 2 bighas of land and uses a 'chopper machine' to process fodder, significantly reducing waste. In his own words:



“Earlier, due to a lack of technology, I never received a fair price for milk. Now, my income has doubled. Diseases are almost non-existent, and proper nutrition has improved the fertility of my cows.”

The once-sorrowful son of a sharecropper has truly transformed Nayanagar (meaning 'New Town') on the banks of the Brahmaputra into a modern settlement. Shabbirullah has proven that with talent and the right technical support, even a house of clay can be transformed into a palace of success.

## A Feed Mill: Key to Social and Economic Freedom

Kamarpukur in Nilphamari district is a place steeped in tradition, but today it is home to a new kind of revolution. Abdur Razzak, a farmer who began his journey with just five cows, has become a household name and a symbol of trust for hundreds of farmers in the region. Amidst a market flooded with expensive, low-quality, and adulterated animal feed, Razzak has created a safe haven where both livestock health and farmer profitability are guaranteed.



When Abdur Razzak first started his dairy farm, his greatest concern was animal nutrition. The conventional feed available in the market was not only overpriced but also lacked essential nutrients and carried the risk of adulteration. Despite spending heavily on feed, his cattle showed poor growth, and his losses continued to mount. Razzak realised that without control over nutrition, sustaining a farm would be impossible.

He took the initiative to manually prepare Total Mixed Rations (TMR) and silage. However, making feed by hand was physically exhausting and incredibly time-consuming. His innovative spirit caught the attention of local livestock officers. Through the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP), he received a grant of 1 million BDT (10 Lakh) to establish a 'Small-Scale Feed Mill'.

With the grant, Razzak purchased and installed crushers, mixers, and pellet machines, founding his enterprise, 'Asha Agro Feed'. What used to take a whole day of manual labour to produce in small quantities is now transformed into high-quality, balanced pellets in just 30 minutes.



The economic shift has been staggering:

- **Income Growth:** Before the feed mill, his monthly income was 50,000–60,000 BDT. Today, it has soared to nearly 200,000 BDT.
- **Farm Expansion:** By lowering feed costs and ensuring superior nutrition, his herd has grown from 5 to 9 cows.
- **Net Profit:** His direct farm income has tripled, rising from 20,000 BDT to 60,000 BDT.

His initiative has brought peace of mind to local farmers. Razzak now dreams of expanding his small mill into a full-scale industry that will create employment for many unemployed youths. His ultimate mission is to eradicate the curse of adulterated animal feed from Nilphamari and build a sustainable, safe livestock sector. 'Asha Agro Feed' has truly become a new beacon of hope for dairy farmers across North Bengal. In Razzak's words:



“The small-scale feed mill has made my life easier. I want every farmer to have access to the right nutrition at an affordable price.”

## Milk Chilling Point: A Cold Revolution in the Scorching Sands

In the village of Baish Para in Roumari Upazila, Kurigram, survival means wrestling with nature. In this vast char (river island) region of the Brahmaputra, livestock is the primary asset for the people. However, the scorching sun and miles of unpaved roads were once the greatest enemies of dairy farmers. Pure milk collected in the morning would often spoil before reaching the urban markets, or farmers were forced to sell it for a pittance at local village stalls. Md. Firoz Miah has conquered those days of despair through the 'mellow' magical touch of the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP).

Firoz Miah had been rearing cows for a long time, but the communication network in the Brahmaputra char was a nightmare. Transporting milk to the city by van or boat took hours. In the sweltering heat, the milk would frequently turn sour or curdle. Watching his hard-earned produce go to waste was a daily occurrence for Firoz. Facing financial ruin and mental exhaustion, he was on the verge of closing his farm when the LDDP introduced a modern technological solution to his area.

Under the LDDP, a 'Milk Chilling Point' was established in Firoz Miah's locality. This was more than just a piece of machinery; it was a lifeline for the farmers of Baish Para. Firoz received specialised training in milk purity testing, quality control, and collection management. Now, the fear of spoilage is a thing of the past. Immediately after milking, the produce is stored at a specific temperature in the chilling machine, which preserves its quality for a long duration.



The establishment of the chilling point brought a tide of prosperity to Firoz Miah's farm. There is no longer a desperate rush to the market. Because the milk is safely chilled, large processing mills and confectionery shops now send vehicles directly to the char to collect it.

With zero wastage and fair market prices, Firoz's income has increased by 30–40%. His centre now serves as a hub where 20–25 other farmers regularly deposit their milk. With a smile, Firoz says,



“ I used to be constantly worried about selling milk. It would turn sour before I even reached the market. Now, with the chilling machine, we store it easily and sell it at a good price. This project has truly changed our lives. ”

Firoz Miah no longer worries about preventing losses; he is now focused on building savings. His children's education and healthcare costs are now secured. Following this success, he plans to increase his herd size, dreaming of building a massive, modern farm right in the heart of the river islands to create jobs for the unemployed youth of the char. The milk chilling point of Baish Para has proven that with the right technology and market linkages, even the most inaccessible regions of the Brahmaputra can be transformed into profitable dairy hubs. Today, Firoz Miah stands as the hero of a 'Mellow Revolution' to hundreds of farmers across the riverine islands.



## Kumkum's Dream Now Spans the Horizon

In the village of Battali, within the Anwara Upazila of Chattogram, the flow of the Shankha River is as constant as the scarcity that once defined Kazi Kumkum's household. When she began her journey in 2017 with a single Friesian cow, her only dream was to secure two square meals a day. However, when the meagre income from raw milk could barely cover the cost of fodder, her dreams seemed destined to wash away with the tide. Today, Kumkum stands as a proud icon of Anwara, having transformed not only her own life but the lives of ten other women in her community. She has proven that with the right technology and innovative thinking, a simple housewife can become a leader in the modern dairy industry.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, when markets were shuttered, Kumkum faced the nightmare of unsold milk. Making yoghurt or ghee by hand was an exhausting and time-consuming process. Due to a lack of proper resources, her farm's expenses far outweighed its returns. It was at this critical juncture that the Upazila Livestock Officer stepped in as a saviour. Following his advice, Kumkum joined the 'Battali Dairy Producer Group (PG)' under the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). In 2021, the project provided her with a 'Milk Cream Separator' machine. This single piece of equipment revolutionised her entire business model. The technology to quickly and accurately separate cream from milk opened the doors to a massive market for high-value dairy products. Instead of selling raw milk, she began producing ghee, yoghurt, curd (chhana), and sweets.

The strategic use of technology has brought an incredible transformation to Kumkum's life. Under modern management, milk production per cow has increased from 4 litres to 10 litres. She is now the owner of 8 cows. Her monthly income has surged from 15,000 BDT to approximately 50,000 BDT. Together with her husband and family, she has opened her own shop. The taste of her pure, homemade ghee, curd, malai, and chomchom is now famous throughout Anwara. In Kumkum's own words:



“ Sell dairy products, not just milk, and build a successful life—this slogan has changed my destiny. With my profits, I have even built a home made of brick. ”

Watching Kumkum Akhtar, other farmers in her Producer Group are now eager to produce value-added dairy products. Keeping health-conscious consumers in mind, she packages her products without any harmful additives, giving her a unique brand image in the local market. Kumkum's vision now knows no bounds. She aims to increase her herd to 100 cows, targeting a daily milk production of 1,000 litres. Her ultimate goal is to bring 50 more women into this procession of success.



## Smiles Restored: The Impact of Milking Machines

Habilasdwp in Patiya, Chattogram, is a region of immense livestock potential. However, for a long time, the shackles of traditional farming methods limited the profits of local farmers. Abchar Uddin Md. Russel, a young farmer from Dakshin Hulain village, broke these barriers by embracing modern technology. Where his farm once faced losses due to udder infections (Mastitis) and labour shortages, today, the mechanical hum of milking machines signals a new era of prosperity.



Before 2022, Russel owned 20 dairy cows, but his farm was far from harmony. Due to manual milking, 8 to 9 cows would suffer from severe Mastitis every month. The cost of medical treatment devoured all potential profits. On top of that, he had to pay a significant amount monthly for additional labourers to handle the milking. As the burden of loss threatened to sink his business, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) emerged as a guiding light. After the formation of the 'Habilasdwp Dairy Producer Group (PG)', Russel's approach to farm management changed radically. Through project training, he learned to run a farm scientifically. However, the most significant shift occurred when he received a Milking Machine through the PG. This single piece of equipment brought an almost magical impact to his farm.

The synergy of project training and modern technology has brought a revolutionary change to Russel's enterprise:

- **Herd Growth:** His herd has expanded from 20 to 50 cattle.
- **Production Surge:** Daily milk production has leapt from 140 litres to 520 litres.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Monthly medical expenses have dropped from 60,000 BDT to 20,000 BDT, while labour costs decreased from 120,000 BDT to 80,000 BDT.
- **Income Explosion:** His monthly net profit has soared from 50,000 BDT to 250,000 BDT.

With the milking machine, the extraction process is now completely hygienic and germ-free. Since the risk of Mastitis has been minimised, the overall health of the cows is excellent. Beyond raw milk, Russel has started producing yoghurt and ghee. In group meetings, he now encourages other farmers to adopt mechanical milking and scientific management. He says,



“The milking machine didn't just save time and labour; it saved my cows from disease. Now I also produce my own silage, which has significantly reduced feed costs.”

Russel's dreams are now limitless. He aims to scale his farm to produce 1,000 litres of milk daily. He is also planning to set up a modern processing unit to supply cheese, matha (buttermilk), and sweets. His journey proves that when proper training meets modern technology, the dairy sector in Bangladesh can become a highly profitable and dignified profession for the younger generation.



## Sheep Farming: A Journey Toward Self-Reliance

In Matikata Union of Godagari, Rajshahi, the mighty Padma River flows as both a blessing and a curse. Farida Begum has lost count of how many times river erosion has claimed her home. With a husband working as a day labourer and a family of five to feed, survival was an everyday struggle. Yet, amidst this uncertainty, Farida dreamed of self-reliance. To steer her family toward stability, she began rearing sheep. However, lacking scientific knowledge, she faced obstacles at every turn. She didn't know how to treat diseases or which feed would ensure healthy growth. Watching her sheep fall ill and die before her eyes left her drowning in loss and debt. It was at this breaking point that the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) emerged as a beacon of hope.

Farida Begum was included in the 'Shahabdipur Sheep Producer Group (PG)' under the LDDP. She received comprehensive training in sheep management, vaccination, silage preparation, and small-business operations. Beyond knowledge, the project provided her with improved breeds, grass seeds, and essential medicines. With the added confidence of a 10,000 BDT loan from the PG's collective savings fund, she found the courage to expand her farm.



The touch of the LDDP brought a tide of joy to Farida's household. What started from nearly nothing has grown into a flock of 25 healthy and robust sheep. Her transformation is reflected in the numbers:

- **Income Growth:** Her monthly income has surged from a meagre 3,000–4,000 BDT to 14,000 BDT.
- **Debt Clearance:** Using the profits from selling sheep, she has completely repaid a 15,000 BDT NGO loan.
- **Zero Mortality:** Due to regular vaccination and hygiene protocols, the mortality rate in her flock has dropped to almost zero.

Farida says,



“Earlier, when a sheep got sick, it would die because I didn't know what to do. LDDP taught me the rules and made me self-reliant. Now, I am not just a housewife; I am an earning farmer.”

Farida's success has not only brought financial stability but has also elevated her status in society. Once a woman whose voice carried little weight, she is now a consultant for other women in the village. She speaks boldly in PG meetings, and her influence has led to an increased market demand for sheep milk and lambs in the local area. Farida has demonstrated that even with limited capital, poverty can be conquered through sheep farming if one has the right guidance.

Her future goal is to increase her flock further and cultivate fodder on her own land, turning her farm into the largest production centre for improved sheep breeds in the region. The Padma may have eroded her home in the past, but her inner courage and the technical support from the LDDP have built her a foundation that is now unbreakable.



## Sheikh Yoghurt House: From Street Vendor to Entrepreneur

Gaibandha, once known primarily for its vulnerability to river erosion and seasonal poverty (Monga), is now rewriting its identity through a 'White Revolution'. The pioneers of this transformation are two brothers from Sadullapur— Zarif Sheikh and Mostafa Sheikh. What began in 2004 with a single cow has evolved into a massive dairy hub that has changed the lives of 7,000 farmers across North Bengal.

In the beginning, the two brothers took turns caring for their solitary cow. Despite failing to get a fair price for milk in the local market, they refused to give up. They began delivering milk directly to people's doorsteps in the city using a bicycle. As word spread of their quality, the number of customers grew, and so did the volume of milk they collected. Their transport evolved from bicycles to motorcycles, then to vans, and eventually to large delivery trucks. In 2007, their micro-enterprise received its first institutional recognition with an award from 'CARE Bangladesh'.

In 2012, they opened a small sweet shop. However, the most significant turning point in their lives came after partnering with the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). After being ranked as top industrial entrepreneurs for several consecutive years, they were selected as 'Dairy Icons' in 2023. Through the LDDP, they received a matching grant of approximately 26.1 million BDT (2.61 Crore) to establish a state-of-the-art dairy hub and 20 Village Milk Collection Centres (VMCC).



Today, their organisation operates 20 collection centres across the remote regions of Rangpur and Gaibandha. They utilise 100 easy-bikes (electric three-wheelers) to collect milk directly from the farmers' doorsteps. Their network of members has surged from 2,600 to 7,000 farmers. Every day, they collect 32,000 litres of milk, which is supplied to the country's leading dairy processors, including Milk Vita, PRAN, and Aarong Dairy. In the words of Zarif Sheikh:



“The small-scale farmers in the villages are my lifeblood. I am successful because they have survived. Our success lies in delivering services directly to their doorsteps.”

Zarif Sheikh does more than just buy milk; he stands by the farmers in their times of need. He provides medicines and supports veterinary care for their livestock. It is this bond of camaraderie that allows thousands of farmers to place their absolute trust in him without any formal written contracts.

Currently, their enterprise provides employment for 350 workers. Moving beyond Sadullapur, they plan to establish five more high-tech showrooms in other upazilas to sell premium dairy products. Today, their 'Sheikh Doi Ghor' (Sheikh Yoghurt House) is not just a sweet shop; it is a milestone of economic liberation for thousands.

## The 'Joyita' of Meghna's Banks: A Farmer's Rise to Independence

The Meghna River is as breathtaking in its beauty as it is cruel in its erosion. On these very banks lies the village of Rasulpur in Gopalpur Union—a place where river erosion and poverty are constant companions. This is where Amena Begum lives with her three children and her unemployed husband. When extreme poverty pushed her back against the wall, she nurtured a daring dream of change. With a small amount of borrowed capital, she began rearing poultry. However, at the time, Amena did not realise that scientific knowledge is just as vital as feed for a successful farm.

In the beginning, Amena's approach was rudimentary. She believed poultry farming simply meant scattering grain for the birds. She was unaware of the importance of breed selection, hygienic housing, or vaccination schedules. The consequences of this lack of experience were immediate: bird growth plummeted, egg production dropped, and eventually, a deadly outbreak of Bird Flu wiped out her entire flock. Drowning in debt and heartache, Amena was at her lowest point when the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) appeared as a blessing in her life.



Like a ray of light at the end of a dark tunnel, Amena joined a Producer Group (PG) under the project. There, she received intensive, scientific training on modern poultry management. She mastered everything from hatchery management and identifying fertile eggs to brooding techniques, lighting management, and precise vaccination schedules. Beyond the knowledge, the project provided her with a modern poultry shed, high-quality feed, and essential equipment. The once-struggling Amena was transformed into a confident, skilled entrepreneur.

After her training, Amena never looked back. With the project's support, she restarted her farm with 1,000 birds. Where she once struggled to manage 600 birds, she now successfully gathers 800 to 850 eggs daily through modern management. After all expenses, her monthly net profit stands between 25,000 and 30,000 BDT.

Recently, she sold her old stock for 120,000 BDT and added 1,200 new birds to her flock. Amena expects her monthly income to exceed 35,000 to 40,000 BDT once this new batch begins production. With these earnings, she hasn't just cleared her debts; she has taken firm control of her family's future. Additionally, her farm now includes 50 ducks, providing an extra 20 eggs per day.

Amena's incredible transformation has changed how society views her. The same community that once looked away now regards her with immense respect. Her husband, Anisur Rahman, who was once unemployed, now works proudly alongside her. Amena is no longer just a farmer; she is a "mentor" for her village. When other women come to her for advice, she smilingly teaches them the importance of hygiene, how to use net fencing to protect birds from predators, and the technicalities of litter (bedding) management. Amena Begum says,



“ I knew nothing about poultry before, which is why I faced losses. Now, I understand vaccines and disease control. This farm is what runs my entire household now. ”

Amena Begum does not believe in overnight miracles; she prefers growing her business steadily according to her capacity. This planned and disciplined approach has taken her to new heights. While the Meghna's erosion once made her life unstable, the touch of the Livestock and Dairy Development Project has given her life a foundation that is both solid and self-reliant.



## A New Dawn in the Cow Farm

In every Bengali household, Eid-ul-Adha brings a unique sense of joy, with healthy and robust sacrificial animals at the heart of the festivities. Md. Kabir Hossain of Amarpur village in Noakhali district had been rearing cattle for this occasion every year. However, relying on back-breaking labour and conventional methods often resulted in nothing but financial losses. Today, thanks to the transformative touch of the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP), Kabir Hossain is not only a successful farmer but also a beacon of inspiration for hundreds of young people in his area.



Kabir Hossain once believed that cattle rearing simply meant feeding animals field grass and basic oilcake or bran. He had no concept of modern, scientific cattle fattening. As a result, despite long periods of care, his cattle never reached their full physical potential. Wholesalers in the market would offer low prices, forcing Kabir to sell at a loss. As the clouds of despair began to gather over his household, a ray of hope appeared in 2021 when he joined the 'Chaprashirhat Fattening Producer Group (PG)' under the LDDP.

His perspective shifted radically after joining the PG. He participated in intensive training sessions on modern fattening techniques, where he learned the importance of improved housing, protein-rich balanced feed management, and timely deworming and vaccination. Beyond theoretical knowledge, the project provided him with essential modern farm management tools. With the arrival of floor brushes, rubber mats, trolleys, water pumps, and a grass-chopping machine, the landscape of Kabir's farm changed overnight. The grass chopper, in particular, significantly reduced fodder waste while saving both time and labour.

Kabir Hossain now targets the Eid-ul-Adha market with precision. The benefits of his modern management are striking:

- **Income Growth:** His family income has increased by approximately 40% to 50% compared to previous years.
- **Market Appeal:** Through scientific fattening, his cattle now become healthy and attractive within a specific timeframe.
- **Zero Mortality:** Due to hygienic sheds and constant monitoring, the mortality rate on his farm has dropped to zero.

This incredible economic liberation has sparked widespread interest among other marginal farmers in the region. Kabir now plays the role of a 'Master Trainer' during village courtyard meetings. He teaches others how to achieve high profits with small investments and less time, emphasising that cattle fattening is not just a business but a noble contribution to meeting the nation's protein



“Previously, I couldn't identify diseases in my cattle, which led to losses. Now, thanks to the LDDP training, I easily understand nutritional needs and symptoms. Advice from the Upazila Livestock Hospital is now at our fingertips.”

Kabir Hossain's dreams are now boundless. He aims to transform his farm into a full-fledged modern dairy and meat enterprise. Looking beyond the local market, his goal is to supply high-quality meat to major urban centres across the country. He believes that with proper training and government patronage, rearing cattle can become a respected and profitable profession.

## An Ode to Fulfilment from Empty Hands

Amjad Hossain of Chatkhil had travelled to the scorching deserts of a foreign land in search of fortune. However, life abroad yielded little. When he returned home empty-handed and lost in thoughts about his future, he chose to sow the seeds of his dreams in the very soil of his homeland. He started a dairy farm. But the journey was thorny; a lack of experience and recurring losses soon turned his dream into a desolate wasteland. Facing total darkness, Amjad Hossain refused to yield. Today, he stands as one of the most successful and established dairy farmers in Noakhali.



Upon returning from abroad, Amjad started his farm with six cows and calves. However, the lack of modern knowledge and proper management was glaring. Disease outbreaks caused his cattle to die one after another. Both his capital and his courage were being exhausted. Eventually, unable to bear the mounting losses, Amjad was forced to sell off all his remaining cattle. The farm that was once full of hope became a haunting, empty space. Deeply depressed, he worried for his family's sustenance and their uncertain future. At that lowest ebb, Amjad discovered the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). It was the second chance he so desperately needed.

Under the project, Amjad received intensive training on modern farm management, preparing balanced feed, timely vaccination, and disease prevention. The regular supervision and scientific advice from livestock officers revitalised his shattered confidence. Amjad realised that a dairy farm is not just about rearing cattle; it is a science and a meticulously planned business.

Equipped with the knowledge from his training, Amjad restarted his journey, and this time, there was no looking back. The changes in his farm were extraordinary:

- **Livestock Growth:** The once-empty farm now houses 20 cows.
- **Yield Increase:** Daily milk production has risen from 10–12 litres to 17–18 litres through modern care.
- **Economic Stability:** His monthly income leapt from 30,000 BDT to 50,000 BDT.
- **Financial Freedom:** With this income, he not only paid off his old debts but also ensured a prosperous and dignified life for his family.

Amjad Hossain's story of resilience is now a household topic in Chatkhil. Seeing his success, local youths are losing their urge to move abroad and are instead becoming interested in dairy farming. Amjad has become an unofficial mentor. He constantly advises other farmers on maintaining farm hygiene, formulas for balanced feed to increase milk yield, and correct primary treatment methods. Today, there is a high demand for milk from Amjad's farm in local restaurants and markets. With a satisfied smile, Amjad says,



“The LDDP project didn't just give me training; it gave me a new life. The days of an empty farm are now a thing of the past. My dream now is to turn this into a model farm for the entire district.”

Amjad doesn't want to stop here. He aims to make his farm even more sustainable and technologically advanced. His primary goal now is to create a model dairy system using his hard-earned experience. Amjad Hossain's story of hard work and indomitable will proves that with the right guidance, it is possible to rise like a phoenix from the ashes of failure.



## Afroza Khatun: From Dreams to Reality

In the village of Bamankaya in Rajshahi, surrounded by vast wetlands (beels), Afroza Khatun's household was once defined by a long, painful struggle against poverty. With an unemployed husband and an uncertain future for her children, Afroza's only assets were a few emaciated cows in her courtyard. In those difficult times, when the meagre earnings from selling raw milk could barely sustain the family, running a farm felt like an impossible luxury. But Afroza refused to give up. She was determined to change her destiny with her own hands. Today, she is not just a successful farmer; she is an emerging 'Dairy Leader' in North Bengal.



Initially, selling 20–30 litres of milk daily earned Afroza a mere 8,000–10,000 BDT per month. Realising this income was insufficient to support her family, she began searching for a better way. A new horizon opened for her in 2024 when she joined the 'Bamankaya Dairy Producer Group (PG)' under the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). She learned that milk is not just a liquid food; it is a source of immense business potential. She received intensive training in milk processing, creating value-added products, and modern marketing strategies.

With the technical support of the project, Afroza broke away from the traditional practice of selling raw milk and began producing processed goods. This shift brought a massive transformation to her enterprise:

- **Production Volume:** Where she once sold only 30 litres of milk, she now processes 250–300 litres daily into high-value products.
- **Product Range:** She mastered the production of Ghee, Matha (buttermilk), and Cheese.
- **Branding:** Recognising that processed goods yield higher profits than raw milk, her aromatic ghee and artisanal cheese have become trusted local brands.
- **Modern Marketing:** To attract customers, she uses attractive packaging for her cheese and buttermilk, establishing herself as a modern entrepreneur.

Afroza shares with confidence:



“Strong willpower and the training from LDDP brought me this success. Now, I don't just earn for myself; I support the women in my area by offering them advice and guidance.”

Afroza is no longer walking this path alone. In her expansive business operations, she has involved many local unemployed women, creating new employment opportunities. Inspired by her extraordinary success, other women living near the wetlands are now eager to start milk processing. In regular PG meetings, she shares her experiences, fostering commercial awareness among all local farmers. Her future plan is to market her own brand of packaged cheese and buttermilk in major cities. She firmly believes that producing value-added dairy products is the most sustainable way to eradicate rural poverty.



## Farmer Mazkura Begum: An Architect of Evolution

Walking along the village trails of Bidirpur in Chapainawabganj Sadar, one can hear the bleating of a thriving herd of goats. This isn't just the sound of a farm; it is the sound of a housewife's resilience. When her husband's meagre income made it nearly impossible to manage household expenses and children's education, Mazkura Begum lit a lamp of hope in the darkness. Once a woman lost in uncertainty, she has now taken firm control of her family's destiny.

Mazkura's journey began with just four goats. She initially thought goat rearing would be simple, but reality proved harsh. Lacking knowledge of modern technology and scientific methods, her goats frequently fell ill. Most of her income was spent on medical treatments. Due to poor nutrition, the growth of the goats was stunted, and the constant fear of a disease outbreak wiping out her flock haunted her. As despair began to set in, Mazkura realised that without combining hard work with proper knowledge, winning this battle was impossible.



The Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) appeared as a blessing in Mazkura's weary life. She was selected as a member of the Haripur Goat Producer Group (PG). Under the project, she received intensive training on modern goat rearing, balanced nutrition management, and timely vaccination. Beyond knowledge, the project provided her with a "Climate-Smart" modern shed, essential medicines, and high-quality feed. This support transformed Mazkura from a simple housewife into a skilled entrepreneur.

There is no longer a trace of despair on Mazkura's farm. Thanks to the project's modern shed, both the breeding capacity and the health of her goats have improved significantly. Under modern management, her monthly income has more than doubled. With the profits, she has cleared her old debts and started saving regularly. Today, her children's education is no longer hindered by a lack of funds; instead, the farm's income is building a foundation for their bright future. Mazkura aims to increase her herd to 35 goats, and her confidence suggests that her scientific farm will one day become a district model.

Mazkura of Bidirpur is not just a successful farmer; she is a symbol of invincible female empowerment. She is a shining example that with determination, a woman can drive the economic engine of society. Today, she does more than just manage her farm; she actively participates in PG meetings and takes a leadership role in creating business plans to navigate market fluctuations. She teaches others when to vaccinate, how to maintain hygiene in the shed, and the importance of modern waste management. With immense confidence, Mazkura says,



“The LDDP project has turned my life around. There is great dignity in earning one's own living. After a lot of hard work, I have finally brought prosperity to my family.”



## Eradicating Unemployment through a Green Revolution

Sreemangal is synonymous with tea gardens and lush greenery. Yet, amidst that verdant landscape, Shyamal Hossain was struggling to find his footing. After failing in several business ventures, he was following the traditional path of many in the Sylhet region—counting the days until his visa arrived to seek work abroad. But just as he was about to leave, a piece of grass changed the course of his life. Today, Shyamal is not just a farmer; he is one of Sreemangal's premier 'fodder entrepreneurs'.

While Shyamal waited in uncertainty for his foreign visa, a Producer Group (PG) was formed in his village, Uttar Bharaura, under the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). Unemployed at the time, Shyamal watched from a distance as PG members received training in modern farm management. He had a strong desire to join, but the group was at full capacity. Shyamal did not lose heart; he maintained constant contact with the Upazila Livestock Office. When the PG membership was eventually expanded, a door of possibility swung open for him.

Through the LDDP training, Shyamal identified a critical bottleneck: the acute 'shortage of green fodder' in the Sreemangal and Sylhet regions. He noticed that most farmers, unable to find quality grass, relied heavily on expensive concentrated feed, leading to losses and the eventual closure of many farms. This 'market gap' became Shyamal's business opportunity. He learned the techniques of cultivating high-yield fodder and dedicated 12 bighas of his land to growing German, Napier, and Pakchong grass.



Shyamal no longer dreams of toiling in the desert heat of a foreign land. Instead, his days are spent among his own green fields. He plants the saplings, tends the soil, and supplies bundles of fresh grass to local farmers. His annual income from selling fodder alone has reached approximately 100,000 BDT. Additionally, he earns another 75,000 BDT per year from the milk of his own cows and buffaloes.

In Sreemangal, commercial grass farming was a rare concept before Shyamal. By providing fresh grass in small, manageable bundles, he made it convenient and affordable for local farmers. He uses manure from his own farm to fertilise his fields, increasing soil fertility while keeping costs low. His vision is now focused on modernisation; he plans to produce maize silage to boost milk production and intends to add three more high-yielding Friesian cows to his herd. In his own words,



“ Many people couldn't find quality grass for their cows and fed them local weeds. Because of that, they had to use granular food, and the milk yield stayed low. That's when I thought about farming grass as a professional business. ”



## Piercing the Clouds of Despair: Progress through Feed Mills

In the village of Andiura in Madhabpur, Habiganj, despite the surrounding crop fields and bustling farming activity, Mottakim Chowdhury's days were once filled with deep anxiety. Although he owned a dairy farm, the high cost and low quality of animal feed made it nearly impossible to cover production costs and see a profit. Today, Mottakim has become a symbol of 'Feed Security' for local farmers. The establishment of a Feed Mill through the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) matching grants has brought a magical transformation to his farm.

At one point, Mottakim's farm produced 450–500 litres of milk daily. However, he had no control over the concentrated feed he provided to his cattle. The skyrocketing prices of market feed, combined with the fear of adulteration and inconsistent supply, hindered both animal health and milk production. With low output and high costs, sustaining the farm had become a burden. It was then that, under the guidance of the Upazila Livestock Officer, Mottakim was included in the LDDP's 'Matching Grants' programme. Through this, he established a modern feed mill on his farm. This single technological addition radically changed his management— he can now produce high-quality, 100% nutritious concentrated feed using premium raw materials tailored to his needs.



The impact of the feed mill on Mottakim's enterprise has been profound:

- **Production Surge:** Daily milk production has risen from an average of 500 litres to 550–600 litres.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Eliminating the need to buy overpriced market feed has significantly lowered production costs.
- **Health Gains:** Guaranteed nutrition has improved the health and reproductive capacity of his cows.

Mottakim Chowdhury reflects:



“Earlier, I had to buy concentrated feed; it wasn't always available on time, and even when it was, the quality was poor. Now I mix it myself. The quality is guaranteed, and the cost has dropped. LDDP has shown me a new direction.”

Mottakim's vision extends beyond his own farm. Neighbouring small-scale farmers are also reaping the benefits of his feed mill. He supplies nutritious, affordable feed to local farmers based on their specific needs. This initiative has created new employment opportunities in the area and encouraged smallholders to manage their farms with renewed interest. There is now immense trust in his feed within the local market. Mottakim's next goal is to form a "Cooperative Group" with local small-scale farmers to increase commercial feed production and place the entire region's dairy sector on a sustainable foundation.

## Touhid's Fortune: Built on Indomitable Labour

Yogipara in Saghata, Gaibandha, is a drought-prone region where dairy farming was once considered an extreme challenge. However, Md. Touhid Ibne Humayun has proven that with strong willpower and the right integration of technology, any adversity can be conquered. What started as a small initiative in 2016 with only four cows has evolved into an exemplary model for the dairy industry in North Bengal. Touhid is no longer just a farmer; he is a forward-thinking entrepreneur whose goal is to introduce packaged milk and dairy products under his own brand.



Touhid's beginning was far from smooth. A lack of nutritious feed and the inability to secure a fair price for milk were constant hurdles. Without modern knowledge, he frequently faced losses. But Touhid did not falter; he knew that to survive in this industry, he had to leave traditional methods behind and embrace modernisation. Consequently, in 2020, he joined the 'Yogipara Dairy Producer Group' under the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). Through this project, he didn't just receive training—he equipped his farm with modern machinery. A Mobile Milking Machine eliminated the unhygienic environment and labor of manual milking, saving time and improving cow health. Furthermore, a Milk Cream Separator opened a new revenue stream— by separating cream, he now produces ghee and butter, ensuring higher profit margins.

The revolutionary changes at Touhid's farm, supported by the LDDP, are truly inspiring:

- **Herd Expansion:** From 4 cows to a current total of 27 cattle (including 21 dairy cows).
- **Yield Increase:** Average milk production per cow has surged from 3 litres to 9 litres daily.
- **Income Growth:** Monthly net profit has risen from 10,000 BDT to 50,000 BDT.
- **Employment:** His enterprise has created jobs for 7 people.

Touhid's most significant achievement is the establishment of a Milk Chilling Centre with a capacity of 5,000 litres. This facility has become a point of trust not just for him, but for all local farmers. Currently, he works directly with major industry players like PRAN Dairy and BRAC (Aarong). Touhid reflects:



“Through the Livestock and Dairy Development Project, I have mastered the techniques of modern milk production and processing. Now, my farm produces more than just milk; it creates premium products like ghee and butter.”

Today, Touhid regularly provides training and advice to other local farmers, aiming to transform the entire Saghata region into a prosperous dairy hub.



## An Enlightened Mentor of Baruna in the Stream of Development

Sreemangal is the land of two leaves and a bud. Amidst the lush tea gardens lies the village of Baruna, home to Md. Ataulah, a quiet Madrasa teacher. He has proven that when academic education meets modern technology, prosperity in the rural economy is inevitable. There was a time when his local breed cows were emaciated, and his cattle shed was so unhygienic that the animals were constantly plagued by disease. With only a modest income from teaching and a loss-making farm, Ataulah's days were filled with uncertainty. However, through the knowledge and technology provided by the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP), that dilapidated farm has now become an exemplary 'model' for the entire region.

Ataulah began with only three cows. Lacking modern management skills, the accumulated waste and mosquito infestations in the shed kept the cattle in constant distress. After joining the 'Baruna Dairy Producer Group (PG)' under the LDDP, he participated in 15 different training sessions. He learned that farming is not just a business—it is a science. A chopper machine provided by the project revolutionised his fodder management, drastically reducing waste and costs.

The knowledge gained from training brought unprecedented growth to Ataulah's farm. Previously, a cow would yield only 6.5 litres of milk; under modern care, that has increased to 12 litres. With a current herd of nine cows and calves, his farm now produces 60 litres of milk daily. Beyond selling raw milk, he supplies yoghurt and sweets made with his own formulas for village events. In the past year alone, he earned an additional 50,000 BDT from dairy products alone.



On Ataulah's farm, cow dung is no longer a source of foul odour. He has installed a biogas plant, which has reduced both the cost and labour of his family's cooking. Furthermore, the slurry from the plant is used as organic fertiliser to grow chemical-free, fresh vegetables on his land.

In his regional dialect, Ataulah says with satisfaction, "I used to rear cows my own way, and the smell in the shed was unbearable. Now, my farm is so clean you could sleep in it! LDDP has changed my farm and my fate alongside it."

Ataulah no longer teaches just his students at the Madrasa; he now educates other farmers in the village on modern animal husbandry. His greatest realisation is:



“ If you rear a cow with the affection you give a child, the cow will return that kindness. ”

Inspired by his success, many families in the village are now eager to start commercial dairy farms. He teaches them how to turn a loss-making farm into a profitable one through artificial insemination and proper vaccination. His goal is specific: to reach a daily production of 100 litres of milk within the next year and transform Baruna into a dairy-rich village.

## Shahin Akhter's Achievement: From Zero to Prosperity

Akbar Para, in the Lohagara Upazila of Chattogram, is a region with a high rate of emigrant workers, yet the economic independence of local women remained limited for a long time. Shahin Akhter broke through those walls of limitation to build her own destiny. Once an ordinary housewife, she is now a successful female entrepreneur in Lohagara, whose efforts have transformed a struggling backyard setup into a thriving dairy and beef fattening project.



Shahin began her journey in 2015 with just three cows and a small amount of savings. However, lacking scientific knowledge, she faced obstacles at every step. Then came the dark shadow of the pandemic. With markets closed and veterinary services unavailable, a mentally exhausted Shahin was counting the days in fear of losing everything. It was at this critical moment that the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) stepped in through its 'Emergency Action Plan'. After joining a local beef fattening group in 2022, Shahin completed 13 essential training sessions. She learned that a farm is not just about keeping cattle; it is a business.

Shahin replaced traditional feeding methods with maize silage and Urea Molasses Straw (UMS), which boosted livestock nutrition while significantly reducing the cost of concentrated feed. The introduction of a grass-chopper machine ended her back-breaking manual labour. Furthermore, by using hygienic tools such as feed trolleys, floor mats, and motors, her farm is now as clean and organised as a professional facility.

The current state of Shahin Akhter's farm is a remarkable tale of success:

- **Growth:** From 3 cattle to a herd of 12 (including bulls, cows, and calves).
- **Recent Sales:** In mid-2025, she sold 8 fattened bulls, receiving over 120,000 BDT for each.
- **Diversification:** Alongside cattle, she rears goats, poultry, and pigeons.
- **Waste to Wealth:** She earns additional income by commercially producing vermicompost (earthworm fertiliser) from cow dung.
- **Net Profit:** After all expenses, she clears a monthly profit of 50,000 to 60,000 BDT.

Shahin reflects:



“When I started, I never imagined reaching this stage. My biggest achievement is that this farm is funding the education of my three children. I want my daughters to become self-reliant just like this.”

Shahin Akhter has changed more than just her own fate; she has become a beacon of courage for the women of Akbar Para. Inspired by her, many local women are now interested in running their own farms. She has transitioned from being a self-taught farmer to a "hands-on mentor" for her neighbours. Her future goals include expanding her herd, establishing a modern milk processing unit, and marketing her vermicompost on a large commercial scale.



## Three Friends' Triumph on the Rugged Path of Dairy Farming

In the city of Sylhet, the name 'Dudhwala' (The Milkman) has become a symbol of trust. Yet, behind this brand lies a history of stubborn determination, friendship, and immense struggle. Amjad Hossain from Dirai, Shakil Zaman from Beanibazar, and Motahar Hossain from Sunamganj—a trio whose friendship blossomed during their studies in Sylhet— have moved beyond casual hangouts to lead a successful business revolution. Instead of chasing traditional jobs, they chose to build their own destiny, opening a new horizon in Sylhet's dairy sector.



After finishing their studies, the three friends established a dairy farm together. Though they managed to increase milk production through back-breaking labour, they hit a wall when it came to marketing. Large processing companies would find various excuses to offer low prices and frequently withhold payments. Witnessing the helplessness of farmers, they made a revolutionary decision: they would stop relying on others and deliver milk directly to consumers' doorsteps. That beginning in 2017—delivering milk from house to house—was extremely challenging.

However, their honesty and the quality of their product quickly won the trust of city dwellers. In 2019, they began producing yoghurt, but the business faced a massive setback during the COVID-19 pandemic. At that critical moment, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) stepped in. As members of the 'Surmagate Milk Producer Group (PG)', they received training in advanced technology and modern farm management. A major milestone followed in 2021 when they were recognised as 'Dairy Icons' by the LDDP.

The biggest turning point arrived in 2022. Under the LDDP's 'Matching Grant' category (for large-scale enterprises), they received 8.3 million BDT (83 Lakh). With this investment, they purchased state-of-the-art machinery for milk processing and sweet production. Today, 'Dudhwala' is no longer just a farm; it is a premier dairy processing institution in Sylhet.

Dudhwala is now more than just the success of three friends; it is a sanctuary for hundreds of local farmers. The institution currently collects 4,000 to 5,000 litres of milk daily directly from local farmers at fair prices. Consequently, farmers who were once held hostage by market syndicates are finally receiving their rightful dues. With five exclusive showrooms and a central factory, the enterprise now provides livelihoods for approximately 50 employees. Shakil Zaman reflects on their journey with passion:



“Farmers work so hard to produce milk, but they don't get a fair price. We did the labour, and others reaped the rewards. Out of that frustration, we took the risk of home delivery. If we hadn't taken that risk back then, we would still be shackled to the middlemen today.”

Motahar Hossain Sohel dreams of a world-class dairy processing plant, the construction of which has already begun in the BSCIC industrial area. Their goal is to ensure that children in Sylhet drink at least 250g of pure milk (flavoured with chocolate or mango) every day instead of packaged juices.

'Dudhwala' has proven that when youthful energy meets proper government patronage, it is possible to break market monopolies and bring smiles to the faces of farmers. This saga of three friends in the green valleys of Sylhet is now an inspiration for thousands of educated, unemployed youths across the country.



## A Story of Grit: Parvin Akhtar's Struggle for Survival

Born into an ordinary family along the Faridpur Bypass Road, Parvin's life was the antithesis of a fairy tale. Married at the age of 12, she faced a harrowing ordeal when her husband, a gambler burdened by debt, made the inhuman decision to try to sell her. Though she was rescued by her father's intervention, her life felt like a vast, empty void. However, Parvin Akhtar proved that when your back is against the wall, the strength to rise comes from within.

With her final asset— a gold chain sold for a mere 11,000 BDT— Parvin launched a small milk business. She began by collecting just 50 litres of milk, packaging it herself, and travelling by BRTC bus to Dhaka to sell it as a street vendor. The woman who once drove a scooter at the crack of dawn to deliver milk to shops is now the owner of a premier brand in Faridpur.



In 2024, the 'Matching Grant' from the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) brought a magical transformation to Parvin's life. With project support, she established a state-of-the-art milk chilling centre and a pasteurisation plant. This led to the birth of her own brand, 'Village Milk', which was later registered as Village Milk Limited. She moved beyond selling raw milk to conquering the market with premium products like ghee, sweet and sour yoghurt, lassi, and butter.

- **Current Scale:** She now collects 3,000–4,000 litres of milk monthly.
- **Monthly Income:** Her average monthly profit has reached 120,000 BDT.
- **Employment & Empowerment:** She is mentoring nearly 100 women to become entrepreneurs and directly employs 16 men and women.

Parvin is no longer just a successful businesswoman; she has built a powerful dairy ecosystem. Her operations now include 11 milk collection points and a chilling centre with a capacity of 8,000 litres. Her decision to fight rather than surrender during her darkest hours has established her as a 'Dairy Icon' in Faridpur. In her words:



“LDDP taught me modern methods. In the future, I want to introduce Laban, Matha, and chocolate-mango flavoured milk to the market. My goal is to make other women in my community self-reliant.”

Parvin's struggle proves that with proper government support and unyielding courage, it is possible to emerge from the deepest darkness into the light. The woman whom society once looked upon with pity is now creating entrepreneurs, generating employment, and serving as an inspiration for thousands.



## Tania: A Revolutionary Victory over Waste

In the village of Komarpur, within Faridpur Sadar, there was a time when people ridiculed a certain job as 'dirty'. Today, that very occupation is driving the local economy. Behind this transformation is an indomitable woman— Tania Parveen. What started with just 200 grams of earthworms and three concrete rings has evolved into a revolutionary success. Tania has proven that with intellect and hard work, one can grow 'gold' from waste. Today, she is a mentor to 40 new entrepreneurs and has created employment for 18 individuals.

Tania's journey began amidst scarcity and uncertainty. With an unemployed husband and repeated business failures, maintaining the household was a struggle. When she decided to produce 'Vermi-compost' (earthworm fertiliser) to support her family, society and even her close relatives mocked her. During the pandemic, some even hesitated to eat food served by her hands because of her work. But Tania did not falter. She fought her battle relying on just five earthworm sheds. In July 2024, the touch of the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) brought a radical change to her business. Through the project, she received:

- A modern Biogas plant and advanced machinery.
- Specialised training in scientific fertiliser production.
- Knowledge of modern marketing and business strategies.



The project's support has led to a massive scale-up on Tania's farm:

- **Production Surge:** Monthly fertiliser production has leapt from 10 tons to 60 tons.
- **Income Explosion:** Monthly average income has soared from 10,000 BDT to 120,000 BDT.
- **Environmental Impact:** Her initiative is no longer just about personal profit. She collects cow dung from 60 local families, keeping the environment clean, and provides biogas for cooking to 64 families. This keeps the village hygienic while significantly reducing the fuel costs for ordinary people.

Her vermi-compost is restoring soil fertility, making it immensely popular among local farmers. Tania reflects:



“With the help of the LDDP project, I have learned modern biogas and fertiliser production. Now, my goal is to market this fertiliser nationwide and establish a modern dairy farm.”

Tania's future vision includes expanding the business further and establishing a large-scale training centre so that women across rural Bangladesh can learn to transform waste into wealth. Her story proves that when proper technology meets courage, ridicule eventually turns into respect.



## Rokshana's Yoghurt House: A Story of Light Emerged from Darkness

Rokshana Begum was once an ordinary housewife in Rangpur, living a modest and routine life. But when a sudden storm hit, and her husband lost his job, deep darkness descended upon their four-member family. Faced with the uncertainty of feeding her children, Rokshana didn't just weep; she transformed her extraordinary culinary skills into a source of survival. Today, her handmade yoghurt is more than just a dish— it is a trusted name in Rangpur's dairy industry. Rokshana now dreams of expanding branches of her 'Best Quality Doighor' across the entire



The year was 2018. Lacking the money to order yoghurt for a family event, Rokshana gathered her courage and bought 150 BDT worth of tools to make it herself. All 350 guests at the event were overwhelmed by the taste. Their praise sowed a seed in her mind: "I can do this." With her sister's help, she started 'Best Quality Doighor' on a small scale. As her struggle reached a pivotal point, the Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP) stepped in. Through the project, she received 1,245,000 BDT in financial and technological assistance.

In Rokshana's own words: "LDDP gave me a second birth." With this support, she purchased modern yoghurt-making machinery and expanded her production to include sweets and various desserts.



Today, Rokshana processes approximately 250 litres of milk daily. Her enterprise provides employment for five men and women. She is no longer just an entrepreneur; she is the primary decision-maker in her family. Her husband, who was once broken by job loss, is now the lead associate in her business. By ensuring modern packaging and a hygienic environment, 'Best Quality Doighor' has moved beyond retail and is now dominating the wholesale market.



“There was a time when I couldn't fulfil my children's smallest wishes. Today, with LDDP's help, I don't just run my family; I provide a livelihood for five others. The joy of living with self-respect is incomparable.”

She now intends to share her skills with other women to help them become entrepreneurs. Rokshana Begum has proven that even in the face of extreme poverty, if one possesses craftsmanship and courage, a successful enterprise can be built from the smallest of capitals.



# Livestock and Dairy Development Project

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Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock