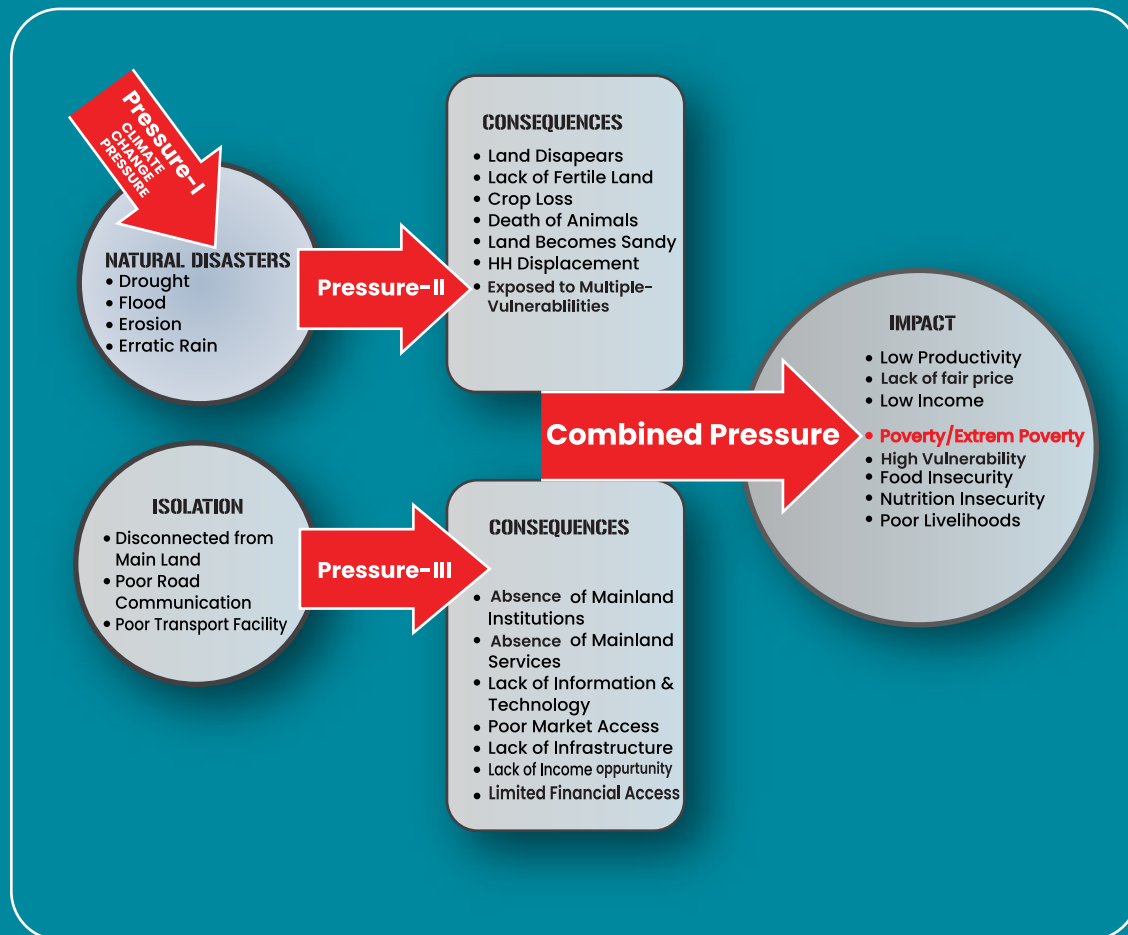


# CHAR LAND Vulnerabilities



www.cdrc-rda.org

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National Award Winning Centre (PAA-2024)  
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**CDRC**  
CHARS DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE



RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY, BOGURA



**SERVING  
THE POOR LIVING  
IN THE CHAR LAND**

## The Char Land

The riverine char lands are amongst the poorest areas in Bangladesh. Char areas are characterized by a set of specific features that set them apart from other parts of Bangladesh. In physical terms, riverine chars are nearly accreted from the river and are consequently low-lying. This makes char dwellers vulnerable to frequent flood and erosions. Individual and household displacement is common in char areas. A fragile physical environment, limited assets, reduced income opportunities, remoteness and absence of mainland institutions and services together make char dwellers' livelihoods particularly vulnerable to extreme poverty. Over 6% of the total population counting approximately 8.0 million displaced people of the country lives in these chars.

This situation captured government attention for better integration of the regions into wider socio-economic development. Keeping this in view, the Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RDCCD), M/O LGRD and Cooperatives in collaboration with DFID and AUSAID initiated the Chars Livelihood Programme (CLP) in 2004 and ran for twelve years. Further, RDCCD initiated Making Markets Work for the Chars (M4C) in May, 2013 till December 2024 in collaboration with SDC. RDA is the implementing partner

for both CLP and M4C programs. The CLP successfully lifted 2.5 million people out of poverty and made a substantial contribution making a good impact on the overall wellbeing of the char dwellers.

### Evolve of CDRC

Revelling the success of several development initiatives of RDA in Char land, the concept of setting up the Chars Development Research Centre (CDRC) has been evolved and finally established after having policy support and approval of the Board of Governors (BOG) of RDA in its 41st regular meeting in 2012 to cater and host chars related research and development programs and sustain the positive impacts of previous outcomes. The centre is being operated under the administrative umbrella of RDA.

### CDRC Vision

CDRC is a rural development centre particularly dedicated to improving the livelihoods of the poor and extremely poor char dwellers. The Government of Bangladesh has 4 major strategic targets, reducing poverty, improving livelihood and food security, empowering women and reducing climate change vulnerability, while CDRC contributes to the achievement of all those targets, its primary focus is energizing and empowering people-women, men and children of isolated char lands.

### CDRC Strategic Goal

CDRC works to accelerate progress in improving the income and livelihoods of the char dwellers by exploiting and enhancing their potential.

### CDRC Strategic Objectives

CDRC strategic objectives across the different components are:

1. Generate knowledge and CSA technologies and disseminate to improve the livelihoods of chars dwellers.
2. Develop methods and tools for making effective interventions in the chars.
3. Bring good practices and innovations in chars.
4. Empower and mainstream the existing efforts of chars dwellers.
5. Establish national and international linkage for development partnership.
6. Undertake cutting-edge research including gender, education, health, financial and social issues to meet emerging challenges.
7. Facilitate better market access and, improve business services in selected market systems relevant for the char dwellers.
8. Mainstream women and DRR.

### CDRC Competencies

CDRC inherited unique competency within the areas of poverty reduction, livelihood improvement, climate-smart technology generation and overall rural development from RDA, which has been serving the rural development sector for

the last fifty years as a national centre. Innovation, HRD, action research, diagnostic surveys, digital documentation and effective communication are other important key competencies of CDRC. With all these strong backgrounds, CDRC has been earning national and international recognitions as a leading centre for chars development in Bangladesh.

### CDRC Management

The governance and management of CDRC follow the guidelines set out in the 41st BOG meeting of RDA outcome. CDRC is considered as the lead centre for chars-related development activities in Bangladesh and, will have overall fiduciary and operational responsibility. RDA is playing a strong supporting role, providing the chair of CDRC to the Director General. The Director of CDRC oversees the planning, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of CDRC activities.

### CDRC is a Open Platform

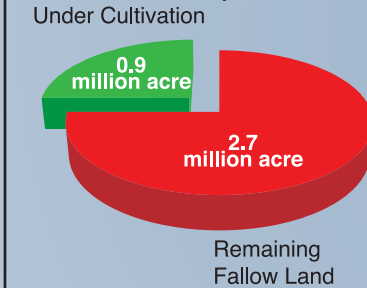
CDRC Invites Individuals, Government Organizations, International Organizations, Non-Government Organizations, Universities, Research Institutions and Private Sectors from home and abroad to Join its development network and contribute to improving the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable char dwellers in Bangladesh. www.cdrc-rda.org

## Hidden Treasure of CHAR LAND

Bangladesh is desperately short of arable lands to feed its ever-growing population and char lands create new opportunities to establish settlements and pursue agricultural activities including crop-livestock and fisheries. To harness these potentialities, therefore, need char suitable Climate Smart Agricultural Innovations, policy and investments.

### Cultivable Char Land 3.6 million acre

Land Area Currently Under Cultivation



Remaining Fallow Land

8.0 million +  
Hard Working People



Land Suitable for Maize, Wheat, Chili, Jute, Peanut, Vegetable and Fodder Cultivation



Enormous Number of Unused Small Ditches Suitable for Seasonal Aquaculture.



**Estimated Economic Opportunity  
BDT: One Lakh Crore Per Annum**

Source: CDRC-RDA