

## Private and Public sector engagement sustaining a group of vegetable gardening.

In December 2023 one VSLA group consisting of 15 landless members in Char Porjona village of Porjona union under Shahjadpur upazila, Sirajganj discussed and planned to establish a year-round vegetable garden by each of them. As they did not have their own land, they planned to search for and lease land for that. Finally, they managed 40 decimal lands from one landowner in their village @ BDT 9500/Year. Then the land was divided into 15 individual gardens. The leader of this group (Chaina Begum, who is also the chair of the Village Development Committee) communicated with the local seed agent (LSP, Bidhan Chaki) for quality seed and advice. The LSP (Bidhan Chaki) accepted this group initiative very gladly and he engaged 2 seed companies (ACI and TENS Agro Ltd.) with this group for quality seed and necessary advice. 2 representatives from TENS AGRO LTD organized an orientation for the group members on garden management and shown some video documentary by using a multimedia projector in the village. In this way with the support of LSP and private seed companies, 15 individual vegetable gardens were established in the rental land.



15 vegetable gardens in the growing stage.



TENS AGRO organized an orientation for the group.

Within 3 months, each member of this group earned an average of 3000-3500 taka from this garden by selling products. The group leader engaged another LSP (Collector) to sell the products at a fair price.



The collector is collecting products from gardens.

Thereafter, the group leader submitted a written application to DAE for technical support and invited SAAOs to visit their gardens. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 one team of 3 SAAOs met with



A team of SAAO visiting vegetable gardens.

this group and visited their gardens. They were very happy to see the group initiatives and to learn about the engagement of LSPs (Seed Agent, and Collector), and private seed companies.

After the visits of the DAE team, a total of 25 vegetable gardeners from this village including this group enrolled for future support from DAE. SAAO said that, if possible, DAE will try to establish an FFBS for this group in the future.

To strengthen the Homestead-based Agricultural production SHOUHARDO III Plus Activity promoted an intervention named “Demonstration of Homestead Production (DoHP)” in it’s all

working villages. Thereafter, many people were found to replicate two technologies (1. Year-round vegetable gardening, and 2. Goat rearing by using a platform) in different villages.

A number of 42 HHs in Char Porjona village of Porjona union under Shahjampur upazila, Sirajganj replicated the said DoHP technologies. From these replications, the VSLA group was motivated, inspired, and triggered by themselves to take this group initiative. The program staff supported them to go ahead and provided the necessary assistance in communication and organizing.

Hope, this collaboration of the public and private sectors will contribute to continuing this group activity for a long time and will create a good example for others soon.

## 29 Girls received tailoring training by the initiative of SS and VDC leaders.

Some of the Shanchay Shathy and VDC members are skilled in tailoring. They are also masters of tailoring in their village. One Shanchay Shathi (Kohinur) of Ahmedpur village of Rupbati union under Shahjampur Upazila, Sirajganj willingly initiated to teach to 6 Girl's Forum members on tailoring free of cost in 2023. This helped to strengthen the Girl's Forum activities. Then Kohinur shared this in Upazila Level SS Networking Meeting.

After the sharing of Kohinur some other skilled SS and VDC leaders were motivated to take the lead of same in their village. Finally, a number of 29 Girls of 18 Forum received tailoring training from SS and local tailors free of cost.

Jesmin and Rumana the peer leaders of Char Porjona Girls Forum. Four of them received tailoring training by one local tailor. VDC leader (Chaina Begum) helped in the negotiation. After receiving training, they communicated with different looms in their village and managed some orders for sewing (LUNGI) with the support of VDC leaders. Now they each can earn an average of 1200-1500 taka monthly from this sewing order. This earning contributes to making decisions, controlling over her resources, and developing her space in family.

Establishing a girl's forum in each working village was a great initiative of SHOUHARDO III Plus Activity. Adolescents are being empowered and getting lessons on different life skills through this platform. The VDC leaders are much connected to the Girl's forum and help them in monthly discussions.



Four member of Char Porjona Girls Forum sewing LUNGI after received a tailoring training. **Photo Credit: Sharmin, FF, SKS**