

CHARKOIJURI CLIMATE RESILIENT MODEL HANDLOOM FACTORY

Project Summary:

The tradition of weaving cloth by hand is one of the richest aspects of Bangladesh culture and heritage. Handloom weaving is an important non-agricultural source of livelihood in Bangladesh, and it is the second largest source of rural employment after agriculture.

ActionAid International Bangladesh (AAIB) started working with the handloom sector since the establishment of a climate resilience handloom factory in Sirajgonj. Sirajgonj is a handloom business hub of Bangladesh. The Climate Resilient Model Handloom Factory was a joint effort by ActionAid International Bangladesh and the Embassy of Denmark in Bangladesh, established in 2008 under the project entitled, 'Assistance to Local Communities on Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh (CCA-DRR)'.



The climate resilient handloom model was promoted as an alternative to existing practices in the handloom sector in Bangladesh. Different climatic hazards such as flood, cold wave, and increase in temperatures, are affecting the production and livelihoods of weavers. These hazards not only result in increased electricity consumption and dependency but also reduces the number of workers required by one-fifth, creating greater unemployment for the weavers. The outcome of this model of production led to greater engagement of weavers in the production, limited automation and the use of electricity, therefore, reducing carbon emission. This model is an example of an adaptation and mitigation practice against climate change.

Project (Factory) Location: Charkoijuri, Shahjadpur in Sirajgonj district of Bangladesh.

Objectives:

- To develop livelihood option, and create jobs for the vulnerable community coping with the environmental change due to disaster.
- To develop a sustainable market chain with higher tier markets for growth of the business, to develop skills for generating employment opportunities.
- To develop sustainability of handloom sector as labor intensive green production, and as a heritage of Bangladesh.



Ownership of the Factory: The factory is owned by the Weavers group. They live in the surrounding area of the factory. A total 15 (F-10, M-5) flood affected and distressed people make up the group.

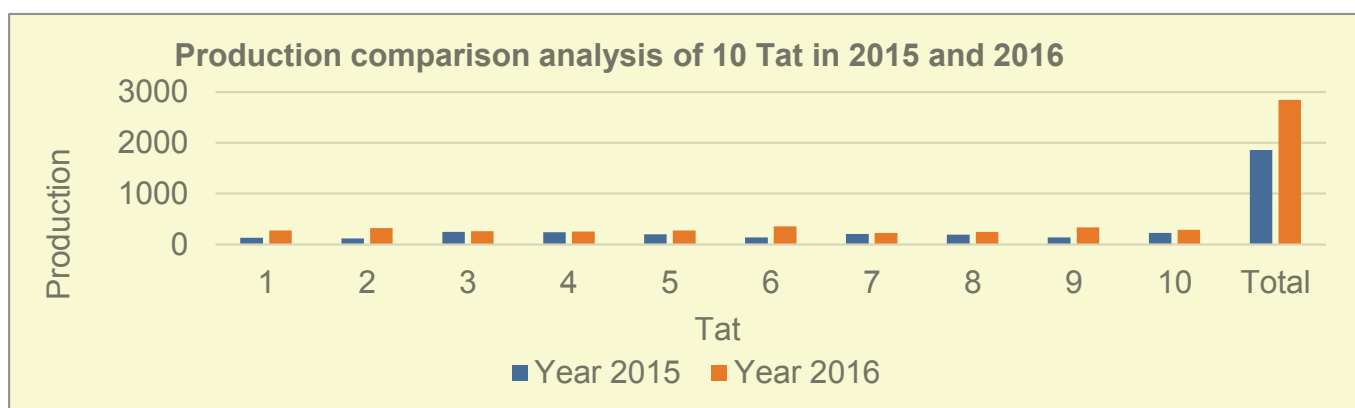
Factory Area and Assets: The factory was established initially on 30 decimals of land with 10 handlooms, an office room, two sanitary latrines, a tube well, and an open space for factory activities.

Factory Management: The Weavers group biennially elects an executive committee comprising of five members, who manage the factory activities for the next two years.

Employment Opportunities: The factory has created employment opportunities directly for 22 vulnerable people full time including the Factory Manager, Factory Assistant, Weavers, Yarn processers, Dyers, Designers and, Dram master. 17 males and 5 females are earning their livelihoods from this factory. Two are working as permanent staff, and others are being paid based on production capacity and quality of production.

Earning opportunity for workers and employment status in 2016

Types	Person	Total day of year	Daily average income(Tk.)	Total Income (Tk.)
Weavers	10	305	250	762,500
Pre-weaving workers	10	305	190	579,500
Management and marketing workers	2	305	470	286,700
Total	22			1,628,700



Production and Marketing System: The factory is producing different kinds of products like Saree, Gamcha¹, Orna²etc. in different designs and color combination as per the demand of the markets, as well as buyers. For quality production, the weavers and other workers are receiving hands-on training from Aarong and Bangladesh Handloom Board on a regular basis. The factory management has developed market chain and business linkage with a renowned business company in Bangladesh namely Aarong, BRAC. It is also selling to the local market and the central market.

Business Growth: The factory group has developed market chains for its sustainable business. It is running in a profitable manner. They have developed their management and financial capacity for business stability, and recently purchased four additional handlooms, which will be used for business expansion.

1 GAMCHA is the rural/ local towel used extensively in villages.

2 ORNA is a scarf, also known as dupatta.