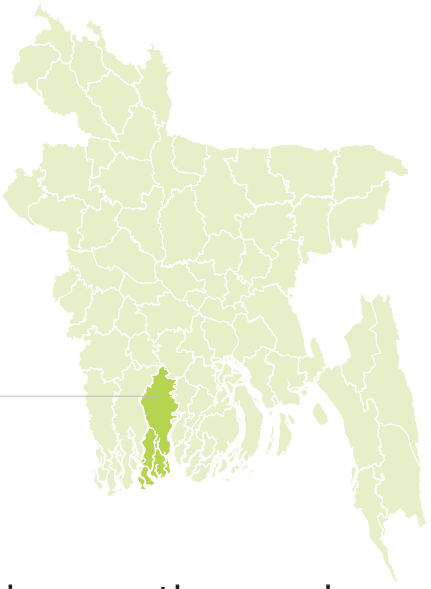
brac | ultra-poor graduation

GRADUATION APPROACH 20 YEARS OF DEDICATION

Context-specific Climate Adaptive Initiative

Saline-tolerant grass tackles fodder scarcity

High salinity with prolonged dry seasons, cyclones and floods affecting crops



Kathamari Purbopara village, Rampal upazila
Bagerhat, Bangladesh

In the heart of this village, where the earth cracks with the weight of soil salinity, a saline-tolerant grass variety now stands tall.

Context-specific | Effective | Environment-friendly | Sustainable | Scalable

In 2023, Oshwariya Rai, a participant in the Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) programme, made a smart choice for her enterprise: a heifer and a small business. Guided by the field team, she recognised the potential of cultivating the saline-tolerant napier grass (pakchong-1) to meet her cattle's fodder needs. In a village where grass had never been considered as fodder, this decision marked a significant shift. Equipped with training in land preparation and maintenance, Oshwariya also received guidance from the Upazila Livestock Officer. As the success of her endeavour became evident, 16 other participants within Rampal chose to follow suit, opting to cultivate the grass.

The saline-tolerant grass variety not only provided a sustainable source of fodder for their livestock but also ignited a wave of inspiration, prompting participants to diversify their livelihoods by selling the excess grass and its cuttings. This story rippled through their community, encouraging neighbours to embrace similar practices, all in response to the challenges posed by climate change.