

Factors affecting agriculture in response to climate change in Bangladesh

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39 **Abstract:**

40 An opinion dependent cross sectional survey was conducted among charland peoples of
41 Noakhali, Bangladesh with a view to identify the factors that affect green economy. Nijhumdwip
42 Island and Tamaruddi union are highly affected by cyclone and soil salinity. Unpredictable
43 rainfall is the most acute in Nijhumdwip. Lack of information the main problem in Nijhumdwip
44 Island. Farmers are found less interest in integrated farming and crop diversification. Few
45 farmers from Sonadia Union are involved in homestead gardening. Regression analysis have
46 shown a negative relationship ($p < 0.001$) between education of stockholders and decrease of crop
47 production. On the other hand education level of stockholders is to be found positively ($p < 0.05$)
48 varied with decrease of food insecurity. So it can be said that educated farmers are more adaptive
49 against climate change.

50 Key Words: Adaptation, Climate change, Green economy, Agriculture.

51 **1. Introduction:**

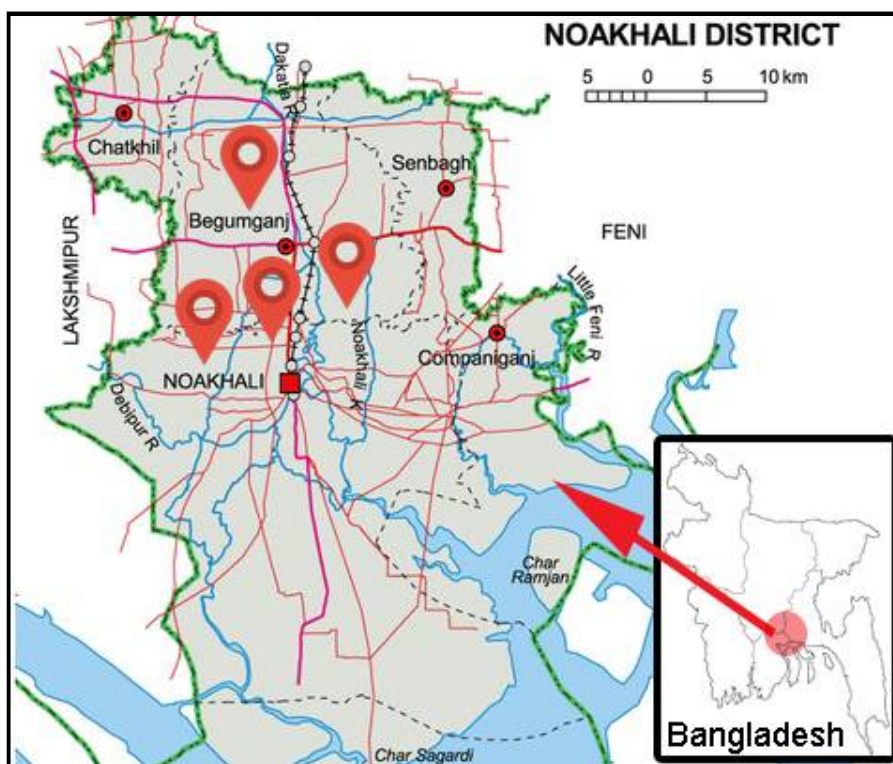
52 Green Economy is getting momentum in Bangladesh. It has a quantity of pessimistic externality
53 on agriculture due to environmental change of the country. Bangladesh, a developing country is
54 identified as one of the developing poor frontline country to suffer from the negative effect of the
55 climate change [1]. Coastal stockholders are mostly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood
56 in Bangladesh [2]. Agriculture is the main source of national economy in Bangladesh. More than
57 47% of total population is directly or indirectly involved with agriculture and agriculture
58 contributes 16.5% to GDP while more than 52% of foreign exchange is earned from agriculture
59 based commodities[3]. This sector is being destroyed by various natural and man-made
60 activities. Climate change is one of the natural factors which are directly accountable for

61 decreasing of agricultural production thus green economy of Bangladesh [4]. Due to climate
62 change, natural disasters are so frequent in coastal areas of Bangladesh [5]. The country also
63 familiar with many problems like over population, land degradation, food insecurity etc [6]. In
64 future, Bangladesh is likely to be one of the most vulnerable countries because of climate change
65 [7].

66 In the situation, the appropriate measures should be taken to minimize the negative effect of
67 climate change [7]. Our farmers are accustomed with traditional method of cultivation [8]. Due
68 to climatic change and technological development, new methods should be applied to gain more
69 production [8]. There are some several climatic factors like water logging, unpredicted rainfall,
70 frequent cyclones, crop diversification etc that negatively influence on green economy of the
71 country [9]. If these factors can be identified appropriately and managed properly then adaptation
72 rate can be increased which will help coastal farmers to produce more and the country to be
73 green economically strong [10]. So, proper adaptive measures are needed for Bangladesh in
74 relation to climate change.

75 **2. Materials and Methods:**

76 **2.1 Study areas:** Study area was selected after methodological approach and design of the study,
77 sampling design, methods and procedures used for data collection, validity and reliability of the
78 study and different variables and their measurement procedures used for data analysis.



79

80 Hatiya upazilla (Sub-city) under Noakhali district were the study areas. Ten unions (Sub-subcity)
 81 namely Burirchar, Chanondi, Char Ishwar, Char King, Horni, Jahajmara, Nijhumdwip, Noler
 82 char, Sonadia and Tamaruddi were selected as research areas.

83 2.2 Experimental design:

84 This study employed both quantitative and qualitative research approaches in order to get a
 85 comprehensive view of the complex issues of factors influencing the green economy of
 86 Bangladesh. Qualitative methods such as focus group discussions and Key Informant Interviews
 87 (KII) were used. The quantitative survey approach was used. Thus, a mixed method research
 88 design was applied to determine the factors influencing green economy in Bangladesh.

89 2.3 Sampling Design:

90 Most of the farmers in studied areas are smallholder farmers and around 100 small farmers live
 91 in each village. The total target population was 1800, out of which 20 % population were
 92 selected from one upazilla (Sub-city) as sample. Hence, the sample size was 350.

93 2.4 Research Instruments:

94 The survey instrument was developed in English. Two key informants were also interviewed for
95 gathering their expert views about factors affecting green economy of Bangladesh.

96 **2.5 Data collection methods:**

97 **2.5.1 Survey:**

98 The questions were clarified whenever any respondent had difficulties in understanding.
99 Excellent cooperation was received from the respondents and other people of the study area.

100 **2.5.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):**

101 One session was conducted in upazilla, each group comprising of 10 participants. A semi-
102 structured questionnaire was used to conduct FGDs. The survey instrument was refined based on
103 the results of the FGDs. The additional information gathered from the FGDs was used for
104 interpreting the results of survey.

105 **2.5.3 Interviews with key informants:**

106 The key informants were the Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) and model farmer of the
107 locality.

108 **2.5.4 Processing of the Primary Data:**

109 Collected primary data were coded and taken into SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science)
110 software package (16.0 Version).

111 **2.5.5 Secondary Data:**

112 In order to develop conceptual basis of study, the researcher collected information from different
113 relevant sources, such as books, journals, theses, abstracts, reports and websites. The researcher
114 also collected documents from various organizations like Upazilla Agriculture Office for this
115 purpose.

116 **2.6 Measurement and analysis of Variables**

117 A dependent variable varies as the experimenter introduces, removes or varies the independent
118 variables. The effects of climate change are considered as the dependent variable. The

119 independent variables of the study were age, level of education, household assets, annual family
120 income, credit received, communication exposure and agricultural training received by the
121 farmers in the study area. Procedure for measuring independent variables has been presented
122 below.

123 **2.6.1 Measurement of dependent variable:**

124 The variable was measured on the basis of different aspects of adoption. The adoption score was
125 computed on the basis of the respondents' adoption on these aspects. The following factors (e.g.
126 Water logging, Increase cyclones, Unpredicted rainfall, Increase of plant diseases, Crop
127 diversification, Limited land area, Poor soil fertility, Lack of information etc, Food security.)
128 were selected on the basis of two FGDs and two KIIs conducted in the study area prior to
129 develop interview schedule. A-four point rating scale was developed to measure the extent of
130 adoption of the farmers. The extent of adoption was computed by adding all scores obtained
131 from types of adoption practices followed by the farmers.

132 **2.6.2 Measurement of independent variables:**

133 Seven characteristics of the farmers were selected as independent variables of the study. The
134 procedures followed to measure these independent variables are briefly presented here.

135 **2.6.2.1 Age:**

136 Age of the respondents was measured in terms of actual years from their birth to the time of
137 interview. A score of one (1) was assigned for each year of one's age.

138 **2.6.2.2 Level of education:**

139 Education of respondents was measured on the basis of classes he had passed in formal
140 educational institution.

141 **2.7 Statistical analyses:**

142 The coded data were put into the computer for statistical analyses. The SPSS computer program
143 was used for analyzing the data. Various descriptive statistical measures such as range,
144 frequency, number, %age, mean, standard deviation (SD), coefficient of variation (CV) and rank

145 order were used for categorization and describing the variables. Pearson's product moment
146 correlation coefficient (r) was utilized both for data evaluation and hypotheses testing.

147 **2.8 Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient (r):**

148 In order to test the formulated hypotheses of the study, Pearson's product Moment Correlation
149 Co-efficient (r) was used. The formula of pearson's product moment correlation coefficient (r) is
150 given below.

$$151 \quad r_{xy} = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

152 Where,

153 r_{xy} = Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient

154 \bar{x} and \bar{y} = Means of the variables x and y, respectively

155

156 **3. Results and Discussions:**

157 This chapter discusses with the results of the study. The findings and discussion have been
158 displayed in this chapter according to the objectives of the study. Necessary explanation and
159 interpretations have also been made showing possible and logical basis of the findings whenever
160 necessary.

161 **3.1 Climatic factors that affect green economy**

162 **3.1.1 Water logging:** The data represented in (Table 1) indicate that 31.3% people of
163 Horni Union (Sub-subcity) strongly supported this is an important factor for
164 agricultural production. 30% people were not aware about water logging that
165 means 70% people anyhow supported that water logging is harmful for their
166 production thus green economy. Water logging significantly affects existing
167 biodiversity which has important implication for lives and livelihoods of the
168 people of Bangladesh [11].

169

170 3.1.2 *Increase cyclone*: 64% people of the area strongly believed that cyclone in the
171 area increased and it affects not only agricultural production but also
172 infrastructure (Table 2). Cyclone increased most in Nijhumdwip as 89.2% of its
173 resident highly agreed with the concept. In the area no people was found that was
174 not agree with increase cyclone concept. Cyclones cause destruction due to the
175 high wind speed and also the ensuing storm surge, which causes inundation and
176 salinity intrusion into agricultural land and contaminates fresh water [12].

177 3.1.3 *Unpredicted rainfall*: 80.8% participants of studied area have given their concept
178 on this factor as the highest (Table 3). Nijhumdwip is the highest vulnerable to
179 unpredicted rainfall. Unpredicted rainfall is harmful for the seed germination,
180 pathogen infestation and pollinations in agricultural crops [13].

181

182 3.2 Increasing problems in agriculture due to climate change:

183 3.2.1 *Increase of plant diseases*: 60.1% people were moderately agreed on the concept
184 that plant diseases are increased because of climatic change in the studied areas
185 (Table 4). In Horni Union (Sub-subcity) 21.9% participants highly supported that
186 plant diseases are increased more than past due to climate change. Plant pathogen
187 evolution need to be improved to prevent the spread of new plant pathogens on
188 naive or vulnerable hosts likely weakened by climate change [14]. The pathogens
189 get favorable environment to regeneration and migration to specific location due
190 to climatic change [15].

191 3.2.2 *Practicing crop diversification*: It was somewhat rare among the participants.
192 98.5% stockholders did not follow or have idea about crop diversification to adapt
193 themselves with environmental change (Table 5). 1.5% farmers followed crop
194 diversification in the studied areas. Stockholders need to gain knowledge and
195 skills in affected areas about crop-production techniques, integrated farming
196 systems and climate resilient production techniques. Crop diversification can be
197 implemented in a variety of forms and at a variety of scales, allowing farmers to

198 choose a strategy that both increases resilience and provides economic benefits
199 [15].

200 3.3 Problems associated with adaptation:

201 3.3.1 *Limited land area*: Most of the char (Islands) areas are suffering from limited land
202 because of land degradations [16]. Among the total people of studied area 49.5%
203 people were the worst in scarcity of land (Table 6).

204 3.3.2 *Poor soil fertility*: From the table 7 it is estimated that 68.4% of the people were
205 faced soil fertility problem. Sustained fertilizer use is an important factor in
206 increasing crop productivity, yet its use remains very low on smallholder farms in
207 Bangladesh [17].

208 3.3.3 *Lack of Information*: Table 8 shows that 47.7% people of the studied area were
209 suffered from lack of information of modern farming technology and farming
210 methods. Nijhumdwip was the worst sufferer of this problem as Table 8 showed
211 that 91.9% were deprived of information facilities. Information and
212 communication technologies are the emerging field to influences positively on the
213 agricultural sector to contribute green economy [8], [17], [18], [19].

214 3.4 Regression analysis: Regression analysis (Table 9) have exhibited that education of the
215 population negatively ($p < 0.001$) varied with decrease of crop production. On the other
216 hand education level of population positively ($p > 0.05$) varied with decrease of food
217 insecurity. So, it can be concluded that educated people are more adaptive to increase of
218 crop production and food security against the climatic change of their respective area.

219 **4. Conclusions:**

220 Climatic changes affect the productivity of crops in the specific areas thus decrease the green
221 economy of that area. The present study found that better education level helps the farmers to
222 understand about climate change, adapting new technology, cultivating high yielding
223 varieties, new methods of cultivation etc so that they can be able to implement those to
224 produce more and contribute to develop green economy. Furthermore, education level
225 improves the food security condition of farmers. So, education is the top most factors which
226 can be able to control the adaptability of farmers with climate change through limitations of

227 the country. To develop the green economy condition of the country, education of the
228 farmers is badly needed.

229 5. Appendices:

230 **Table 1: Water logging conditions of the studied area.**

Union (Sub-subcity)		Highly agree	Moderately agree	Somewhat agree	Not at all	Total
	Burir Char	18.2%	12.1%	36.4%	33.3%	100.0%
	Chanondi	12.1%	6.1%	42.4%	39.4%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar	15.2%	15.2%	36.4%	33.3%	100.0%
	Char King	18.2%	15.2%	36.4%	30.3%	100.0%
	Homi	31.3%	18.8%	28.1%	21.9%	100.0%
	Jahajmara	21.2%	15.2%	30.3%	33.3%	100.0%
	Nijhum Dwip	21.6%	21.6%	29.7%	27.0%	100.0%
	Noler Char	24.2%	18.2%	30.3%	27.3%	100.0%
	Sonadia	24.2%	15.2%	33.3%	27.3%	100.0%
	Tamaruddi	24.2%	21.2%	27.3%	27.3%	100.0%
Total		21.0%	15.9%	33.0%	30.0%	100.0%

231

232 **Table2: Increases cyclones in the coastal area of Bangladesh.**

Union (Sub-subcity)		Highly agree	Moderately agree	Somewhat agree	Total
Union	Burir Char	57.6%	33.3%	9.1%	100.0%
	Chanondi	51.5%	36.4%	12.1%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar	63.6%	30.3%	6.1%	100.0%
	Char King	60.6%	33.3%	6.1%	100.0%
	Homi	59.4%	37.5%	3.1%	100.0%
	Jahajmara	60.6%	30.3%	9.1%	100.0%
	Nijhum Dwip	89.2%	8.1%	2.7%	100.0%
	Noler Char	57.6%	36.4%	6.1%	100.0%
	Sonadia	57.6%	36.4%	6.1%	100.0%

	Tamaruddi	78.8%	15.2%	6.1%	100.0%
Total		64.0%	29.4%	6.6%	100.0%

233 **Table 3: Opinion of coastal farmers on unpredicted rainfall**

Union (Sub-subcity)		Highly agree	Moderately agree	Somewhat agree	Total
Union	Burir Char	78.8%	15.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Chanondi	78.8%	18.2%	3.0%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar	75.8%	18.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Char King	75.8%	18.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Homi	78.1%	15.6%	6.3%	100.0%
	Jahajmara	81.8%	15.2%	3.0%	100.0%
	Nijhum Dwip	91.9%	8.1%		100.0%
	Noler Char	78.8%	18.2%	3.0%	100.0%
	Sonadia	75.8%	18.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Tamaruddi	90.9%	9.1%		100.0%
Total		80.8%	15.3%	3.9%	100.0%

234 **Table 4: Opinion of coastal farmers on increase of plant disease**

Union (Sub-subcity)		Highly agree	Moderately agree	Somewhat agree	Total
Union	Burir Char	12.1%	57.6%	30.3%	100.0%
	Chanondi	9.1%	51.5%	39.4%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar	12.1%	51.5%	36.4%	100.0%
	Char King	15.2%	57.6%	27.3%	100.0%
	Homi	21.9%	62.5%	15.6%	100.0%
	Jahajmara	15.2%	63.6%	21.2%	100.0%
	Nijhum Dwip	10.8%	64.9%	24.3%	100.0%
	Noler Char	18.2%	60.6%	21.2%	100.0%
	Sonadia	18.2%	63.6%	18.2%	100.0%
	Tamaruddi	12.1%	66.7%	21.2%	100.0%
Total		14.4%	60.1%	25.5%	100.0%

235 **Table 5: Farmers opinion on practicing crop diversification**

Union (Sub-subcity)		Frequently	Not at all	Total
Union	Burir Char	3.0%	97.0%	100.0%
	Chanondi	6.1%	93.9%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar		100.0%	100.0%

236		Char King	3.0%	97.0%	100.0%
237		Homi		100.0%	100.0%
		Jahajmara		100.0%	100.0%
238		Nijhum Dwip	2.7%	97.3%	100.0%
		Noler Char		100.0%	100.0%
239		Sonadia		100.0%	100.0%
		Tamaruddi		100.0%	100.0%
240		Total	1.5%	98.5%	100.0%

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243 **Table 6: Stockholders views on limited land area**

Union (Sub-subcity)		High	Medium	Low	Not at all	Total
Union	Burir Char	36.4%	27.3%	18.2%	18.2%	100.0%
	Chanondi	21.2%	33.3%	18.2%	27.3%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar	42.4%	27.3%	15.2%	15.2%	100.0%
	Char King	42.4%	27.3%	15.2%	15.2%	100.0%
	Homi	59.4%	25.0%	9.4%	6.3%	100.0%
	Jahajmara	48.5%	24.2%	15.2%	12.1%	100.0%
	Nijhum Dwip	73.0%	27.0%			100.0%
	Noler Char	48.5%	27.3%	15.2%	9.1%	100.0%
	Sonadia	63.6%	24.2%	9.1%	3.0%	100.0%
Tamaruddi	57.6%	24.2%	12.1%	6.1%	100.0%	
Total		49.5%	26.7%	12.6%	11.1%	100.0%

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245 **Table 7: Farmers views on poor soil fertility**

Union (Sub-subcity)		High	Medium	Low	Total
Union	Burir Char	78.8%	15.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Chanondi	72.7%	15.2%	12.1%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar	75.8%	18.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Char King	75.8%	18.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Homi	81.3%	15.6%	3.1%	100.0%

	Jahajmara	69.7%	24.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Nijhum Dwip	37.8%	48.6%	13.5%	100.0%
	Noler Char	81.8%	12.1%	6.1%	100.0%
	Sonadia	59.4%	34.4%	6.3%	100.0%
	Tamaruddi	54.5%	39.4%	6.1%	100.0%
Total		68.4%	24.4%	7.2%	100.0%

246 **Table 8: Stockholders opinion on lack of information**

Union (Sub-subcity)		High	Medium	Low	Not at all	Total
Union	Burir Char	36.4%	42.4%	12.1%	9.1%	100.0%
	Chanondi	30.3%	54.5%	9.1%	6.1%	100.0%
	Char Ishwar	33.3%	39.4%	18.2%	9.1%	100.0%
	Char King	33.3%	42.4%	18.2%	6.1%	100.0%
	Horni	37.5%	28.1%	18.8%	15.6%	100.0%
	Jahajmara	48.5%	30.3%	9.1%	12.1%	100.0%
	Nijhum Dwip	91.9%	5.4%		2.7%	100.0%
	Noler Char	33.3%	39.4%	15.2%	12.1%	100.0%
	Sonadia	51.5%	27.3%	9.1%	12.1%	100.0%
	Tamaruddi	75.8%	21.2%		3.0%	100.0%
Total		47.7%	32.7%	10.8%	8.7%	100.0%

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253 **Table 9: Regression analysis:**

Variables	Unstandardized coefficient		standardized coefficient	t	Sig.
	B	Std Error	Beta		
Education	3.966	0.688		5.766	0.000

Decrease of crop yield	-0.816	0.224	-0.217	-3.637	0.000
Decrease of food Insecurity	0.617	0.288	0.128	2.141	0.033

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