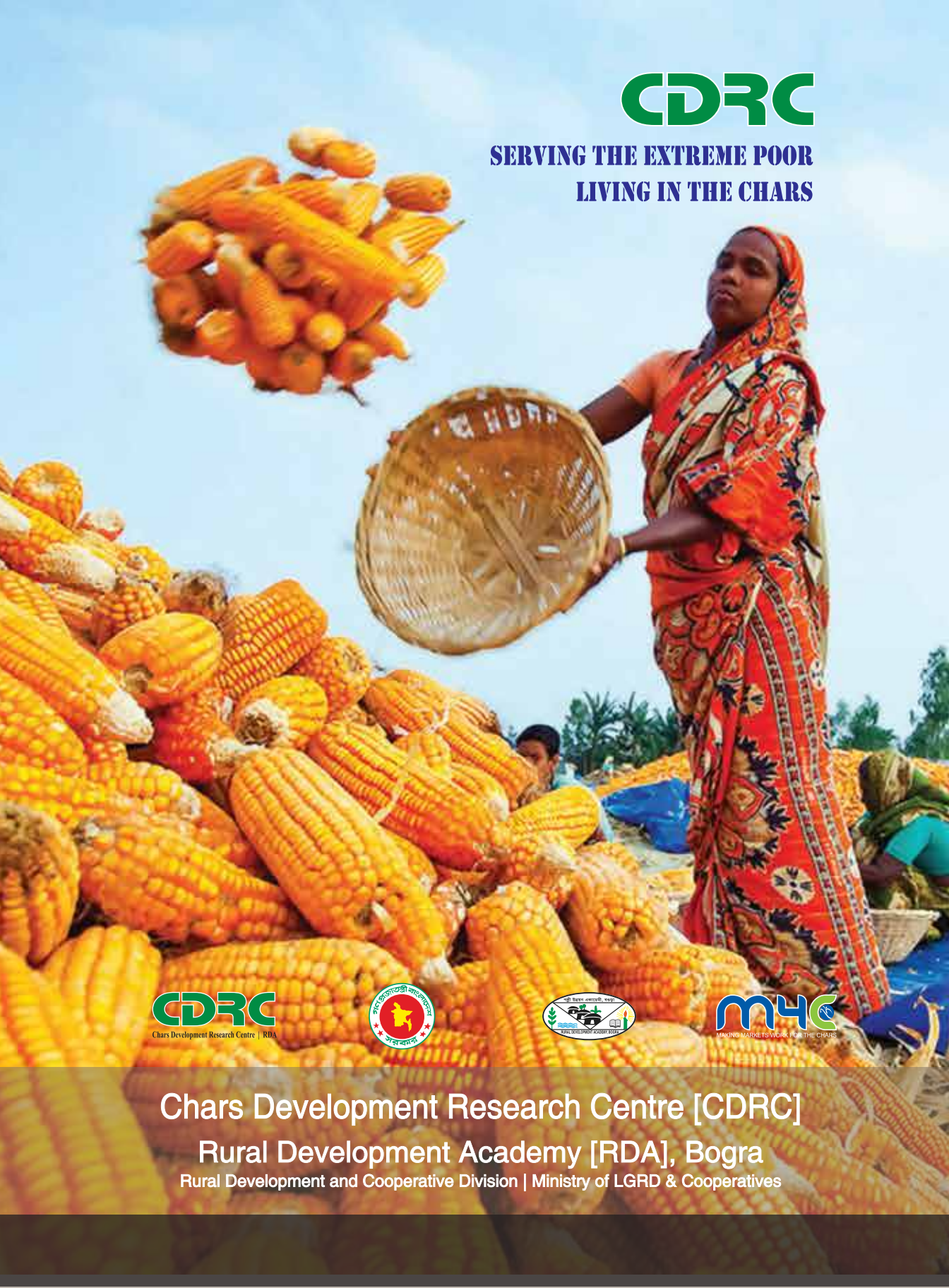


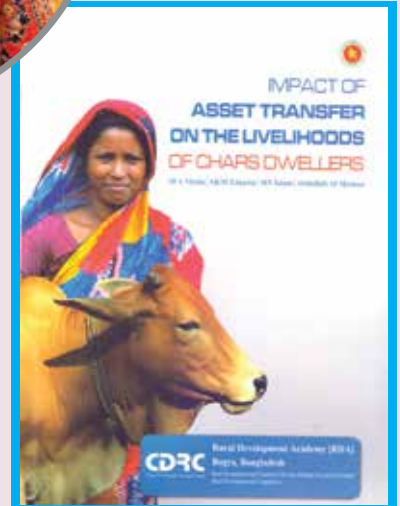
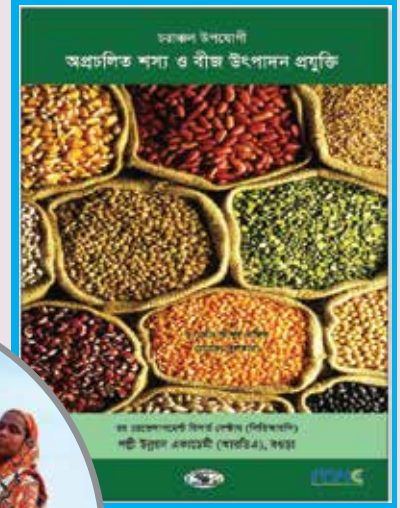
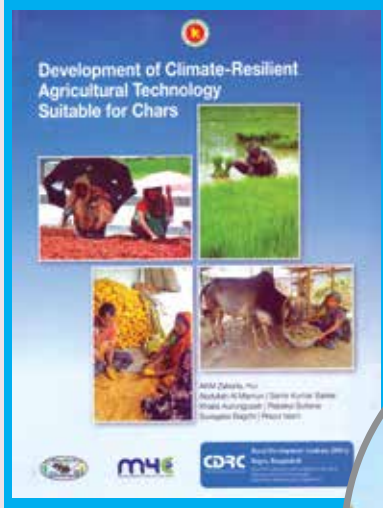
# CDRC

**SERVING THE EXTREME POOR  
LIVING IN THE CHARS**



**Chars Development Research Centre [CDRC]  
Rural Development Academy [RDA], Bogra  
Rural Development and Cooperative Division | Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives**

# CDRC Publications



CDRC Publications are available in [www.rda.gov.bd](http://www.rda.gov.bd)

CDRC video in   





## Green RDA Clean RDA

Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra was established on 19 June 1974 as a specialized national institution engaged in rural development related training, research and action research. It also provides advisory services and offers post graduate diploma. Since last four decades RDA has gained a strong reputation in rural development field and has provided an active link between its academic ventures and the application of research findings at a practical field. This has been viewed by the concerned experts and policy makers and reflected by achieving several national and international recognitions.

RDA is located 16 km away from the vibrant heart of Bogra city the Sathmatha and 200 km from Dhaka on the Bogra-Dhaka high-way. The campus is surrounded by nursery, herbal garden, play ground, RDA laboratory school & college and hostels. Rich biodiversity, picturesque surroundings with lakes, over hanging trees alive with chirping of birds and lush green rice fields, splendor of the panoramic beauty of RDA. All these make the campus ever endearing to the youth.

The green and serene environment of the campus offers a very congenial academic atmosphere. The campus is equipped with high speed Wi-Fi internet facility and connected with national web portal.





# INTRODUCTION

Poverty alleviation constituted the basic theme of all five year development plans of Bangladesh since its independence. Considerable efforts have been made to alleviate poverty. But the incidence of poverty remains high in Bangladesh. Analysis of national data shows that the incidences of poverty are not evenly distributed across the region. High concentration exists in specific areas, such as along the major rivers (char lands). It has been found that the riverine chars 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 and that justify different approach.

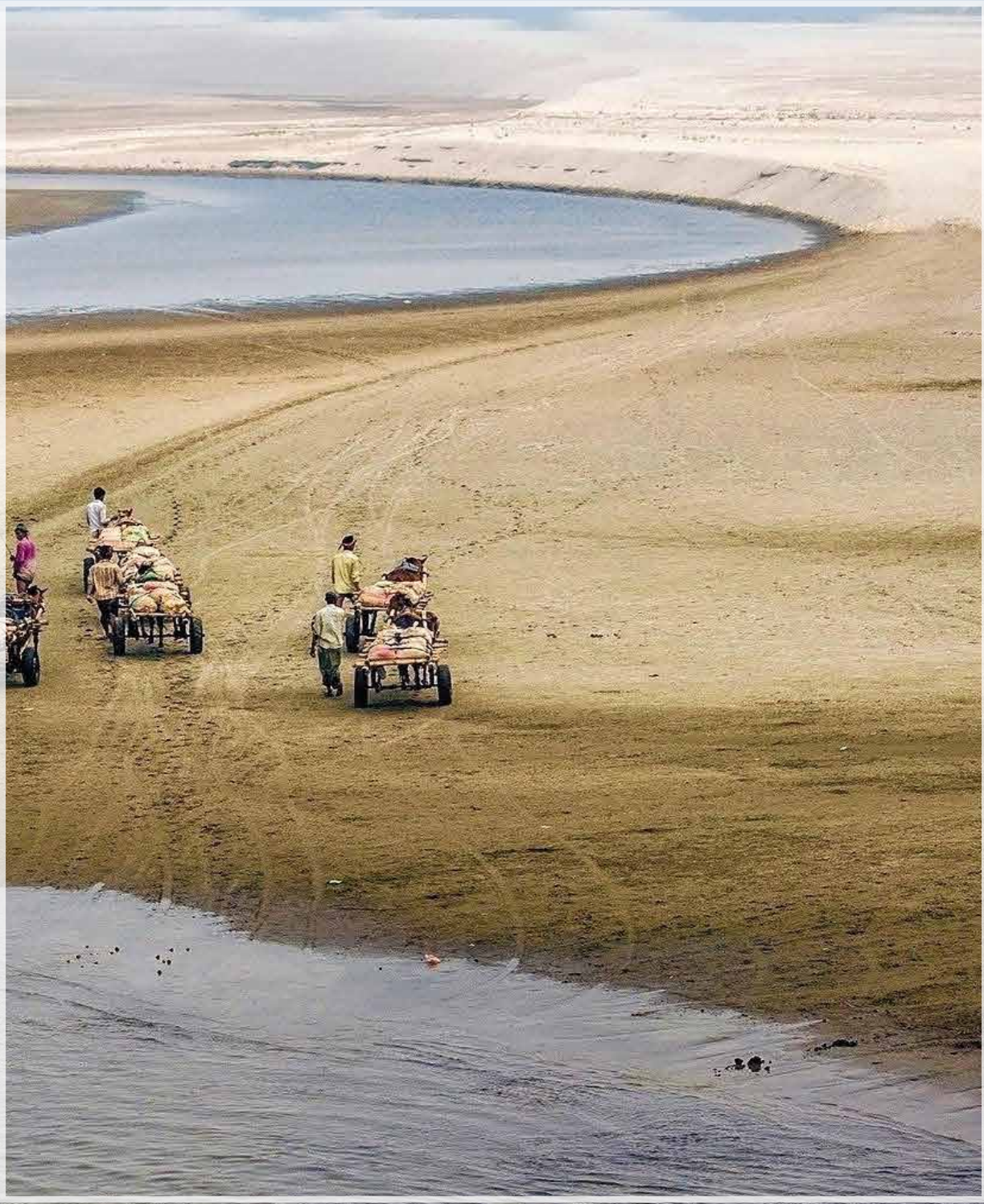
In physical terms, riverine chars are nearly accreted from the river and are consequently low lying. This makes char dwellers vulnerable to frequent flood and erosions. Individual and household displacement is common in char areas.

A fragile physical environment, limited assets, reduced income opportunities, remoteness and absence of mainland institutions services and investment together make char dwellers' livelihoods particularly vulnerable to extreme poverty and destitutions. Government of Bangladesh also designated chars as pockets of extreme poverty. Over 0.6 million people live in these chars adjacent to 32 districts of Bangladesh (CLP, 2003).

This situation captured government attention for better integration of the regions into wider socio-economic development. Keeping this in view, Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RDCC), of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD & C) in collaboration with DFID and AUSAID initiated the Chars Livelihood Programme (CLP) in 2004 and run for 12 years. Further, RDCC has initiated Making Markets Work for the Jamuna, Padma and Teesta Chars (M4C) in May, 2013 in collaboration with SDC. RDA is the implementing partner for both CLP and M4C programme. The CLP successfully lifted 0.13 million household out of poverty and made substantial contribution making good impact on overall well being of the chars dwellers while M4C benefitted 90,000 household through pro-poor market interventions and targeted more 250000 household by 2019.

Reveling the success of RDA initiated several development initiatives in chars, the concept of setting 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

Chars Development Research Centre (CDRC) is one of the specialized centers of Rural Development Academy, Bogra dedicated to improving the livelihoods of the poor and extreme poor char dwellers. CDRC was established in 2012 to cater and host char-related research and development programs and sustain the positive outcomes of previous initiatives. CDRC's primary focus is energizing and empowering people (women, men and children) living in the chars, while contributing to the achievement of the strategic targets of the Government of Bangladesh namely a ) reducing poverty; b) improving livelihoods and food security; c) empowering women and d) reducing climate change vulnerability.

## CDRC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

CDRC works to accelerate progress in improving income and livelihoods of the char dwellers by exploiting and enhancing their potentials and by facilitating chars focused initiatives and investments from wider public and private sector, development partners and Government of Bangladesh CDRC strategic objectives across the different components are to

- I. generate knowledge and technologies to improve the livelihoods of chars dwellers
- II. develop methods and tools for making effective intervention in the chars
- III. bring good practices in chars
- IV. empower and mainstream the existing efforts of chars dwellers
- V. establish national and international linkage for development partnership
- VI. undertake cutting-edge research including gender, education, health, financial and social issues to meet emerging challenges
- VII. facilitate better market access, improve business services in selected market systems relevant for the char dwellers and
- VIII. mainstream women and DRR.



## CDRC VISION

CDRC is a rural development centre particularly dedicated to improve the livelihoods of the poor and extreme poor char dwellers. The Government of Bangladesh which has 4 major strategic target, 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 particularly living in the chars.

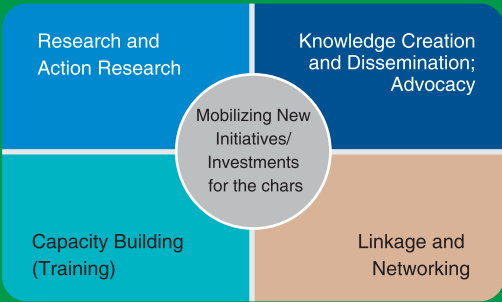
## CDRC COMPETENCIES

CDRC inherited unique competency within the areas of poverty reduction, livelihood improvement, green technology generation and overall rural development from RDA, which has been serving rural development sector for the last 4 decades as a national academy. Innovation, HRD, action research, bio-technology, diagnostic survey, digital documentation and effective communication are other important key competences of CDRC. With all these strong background CDRC has started earning recognitions as leading centre for chars development in Bangladesh.



# CDRC SERVICES

Capitalizing the lessons of the accomplished project activities and expertise, CDRC has planned to strengthen its capacity in knowledge creation and dissemination, and advocacy for char-relevant topics. From the perspective of RDA and RDCD, it is imperative that the chars attract newer initiatives and higher investment from private and public sectors and results into benefits for large number of households (not covered by earlier interventions) without further or lower investment from GoB/Donors. CDRC offers the following services to its stakeholders-public agencies, various private sector actors, development partners, GoB, universities, etc.



# CDRC MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

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 will play a strong supporting role, providing the chair of advisory committee to the Director General. The management committee headed by the Director CDRC will oversee planning, management, implantation, monitoring and evaluation of CDRC activities. CDRC maintains a pool of resource persons and experts and engages staff as per approved organogram of CDRC. After the approval of the center in 2012, CDRC started its journey to develop itself with the available resources from RDA and other external funds (GoB, Donors). CDRC provides training, advisory services, conduct research and plans to offer microcredit in selected locations for income generation and sustaining its operation.



# CDRC ACTIVITIES

Research, action research (field implementation) and training has been the major components of CDRC activities undertaken so far are illustrated below:

Action Research

Chars livelihood programme (CLP)



Action Research

Making markets works for the chars (M4C)



Action Research

Women in seed entrepreneurship (WISE)



Action Research

Trichodarma enhanced composting (TEC)



Action Research

Hearmatic food grain and seed storage technology



Research & Training

Higher education/research programme for foreign and national students



Campaign

Awareness campaign against climate change vulnerability





Action Research

Chars Suitable agricultural technology development



Training

Training of char farmers and value chain actors and various agricultural



Training

Training and exposure visit for civil service officers, university students and foreigners



Action Research

Plant health service through digital plant clinic



Action Research

Extension of chars suitable agril. technology from north to south chars



Documentation

Documentation of technology and innovation in print and electronic format



Action Research

Maize stover silage production and use in chars as non conventional cattle feed







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