

## **In changing climate, Pandemic brings a new approach to 'Community resilience'.**

***South Asian Forum for Environment, SAFE, introduces float-farming as flood resilient agriculture and with technology-based health care services to marginal communities in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal in India.***

**I**t is one vast garden loaded with plants growing fresh vegetables and all floating on water, "I can grow vegetables even in flood situations, and I like to spend my time in taking care of my float-farms", says Rombha Payeng, 35-year-old women farmer in Majuli. She recalled, that during heavy rainfall or high-flood situation the land is submerged in water, thus cultivating crops was of least feasibility in the largest river island of the world, that is Majuli in Assam.

South Asian Forum for Environment, SAFE, launched community float-farming for climate Resilient agriculture and disaster preparedness, in year 2017, which is at large scale implemented in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal, with support of GIZ and GDN. It is observed, that in coastal and riverine floodplains, in this region 28-30% land remain inundated by flood waters from river or sea for 6-7 months., completely ravishing agrarian livelihood. SAFE envisioned technology innovation and capacity building, enabling local capacities in hydroponics, float-farming and aquaculture along with livestock rearing, making earning a reality, through financial inclusion, market linkage and employability of young farmer's groups. The approach is multifaceted of which most importantly, similar interventions in Sunderbans, where increasing salinity in soil and flood situations are changing the traditional agricultural landscape, float-farming ensures agricultural productivity, with access to training and technology. It has been implemented in India-Nepal border areas as sustainable flood resilient farming. Here the practice has been integrated with fisheries, crab fattening, and livestock rearing, giving rise to thousands of women entrepreneurs.

"After cyclone Amphan and Yaas, we had lost all hope, now we farmers are perfectly provided for by SAFE, its unique that on a bamboo float raft technique, we are able to grow vegetables, and save seeds for next crop cycle, it is a well-framed, well farmed and a new method which is working for us", said Ranjan Mandal, Panchayat Head of Amtoli village in Sunderbans.

Additionally, on the up-front community health preparedness, SAFE brings extensive outreach health program through tele-medicine, and raising awareness on healthcare, through regular health camps and focussed group discussions. After, Covid second wave, there is a focus on early health response system, owing to the geographical remoteness and transport challenges in coastal Sunderbans.

## SAFE Activity of July'21 & August'21



*Health Camp at Amtali, Sundarbans*

*Health Camp at Kumirmari, Sundarbans*



*Float Farming at Majuli, Assam*



*Float Farming at Deulbari, Sundarbans*



Thank you,

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