

FEMINIST MOVEMENT OF WOMEN FISHER-FOLK COMMUNITIES' FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Women's Fisher-Folk Rights Programme



*"Here we fight with the river, the water,
the pirates, the local exploiters and hustlers,
as well as the wild animals of Sundarban"*

Sabita Roy - General Secretary,
Jaymoni Women Fisherfolk Association



“We are 1100 fisherfolk women in number but only 45 among us have the fisherfolk card”

Rojina Begum-Executive Member,
Jaymoni Women Fisherfolk Association.

Jaymoni is a village in the Sundarbans, on the banks of the Bay of Bengal and Pashur River, on the last border of Mongla Upazila in the southwestern part of Bangladesh, where all men and women are fisherfolks. According to the Government Watershed Management Policy 2009, 'A person who makes a living mainly by catching and selling fish from natural sources is considered as a real fisherman'.

In fact, the lives and livelihoods of these women in these villages including Jayamoni depend on fishing in small canals flowing between the Pashur River and the Sundarbans and selling those fish to Dadan traders at fixed prices. Most of these women are separated, single mother, widow, and divorced. A total of 1,120 households there have been doing fishing for ages, and are dependent on natural methods.

For instance, the indigenous women have been following their age-old traditional method of catching fish, and their livelihood depends on that.

Commercial fishing, extreme salinity, disaster and land investment becoming threatening for their occupation. On top of that, lack of government recognition as women fisher-folk depriving them from social safety net schemes. They had no association and united voice.





“We have been fighting for food since birth, but now we know, we also have to fight to survive in the society”

Lalu Begum - Vice President,
Jaymoni Women Fisherfolk Association.

Badabon Sangho mobilised and organised them in groups and association. Now they have an association as well as leaders. For the period of 2019-2020, MJF provided funding support for activities. Since then, Badabon Sangho facilitating activities with core fund.

Activities

Facilitate feminist leadership development training and coaching

Facilitate bi-monthly women fisher-folk association meetings

Organize protests, rallies, and press conferences against the illegal grabbing of lands, rivers, forests, and water bodies.

Facilitate biannual coordination meetings with stakeholders (Union Councils, Forest Department, Fisheries, Lands, and Women Affairs)



"This association is giving us hopes"

Halima Begum, President,
Jaymoni Women Fisherfolk Association.