

## Alleviating Poverty Through One House One Farm Project in Bangladesh

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### ABSTRACT

Poverty is a bad inhalation process in the economic breath system, especially at the rural level in Bangladesh. The one house one farm project was initiated to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh as an initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The project focuses on rural households generating income through family farming with e-financial inclusion or online banking opportunities. The study focuses on the fundamental understanding and reasons for the One House One Farm project. The study follows a generic qualitative method with secondary data sources, including the website of The Project, newspaper articles, and journal articles, to indicate what, how, and why questions. With some beneficiaries' statements, an ethnographic study is conducted as another data collection source. The study introduces a thematic mode of analysis that covers the explanation of the pattern of the One House One Farm project and gives a general idea about the background. The study finds that the One House One Farm project was a primary and better initiative for alleviating or eradicating poverty in Bangladesh, which helps to focus on achieving Sustainable Development Goal- 01. Besides the main target of alleviating or eradicating poverty in Bangladesh, this project helped rural households create a basement for generating income and being free from dependency.



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## 1. Introduction

Bangladesh has rich ecosystems for farming. Bangladesh's more extensive ecosystem-based productive sectors are agriculture, livestock, fisheries. However, poverty pulls back our society with the shortage of land, capital, and basic needs. Poverty creates a bubble around the rural community about basic needs fulfilment and income generation. The population living below the poverty line dropped from about 24% in 2016 to about 20 % in 2019. The Sustainable Development Report 2021 says Bangladesh's poverty headcount ratio at 1.90%/day is 5.1, which tends to be higher (Sachs et al., 2022). The alleviation of poverty was one of the government's main focuses after the election of 2009. Because poverty created a negative effect on the governmental system in Bangladesh, discussion about poverty and rural vulnerability spread like a bullet. The study tried to learn about the process of alleviating poverty in Bangladesh. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh has taken some initiatives to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. One house one farm project was adopted to alleviate poverty at the rural level as an initiative of the Prime Minister through family farming. The project aimed to increase productivity and address the growing economic situation at the rural level in Bangladesh. The project was granted to build income generation in rural households and create safe houses at the local level. The project was approved by ECNEC in November 2009 and started with a primary duration of 5 years from 2009 to 2014. The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives had overseen and funded the project. The one house, one farm project first started as a project of the Comilla Model of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development at Lalmai-Mainamati region (Rural Development and Co-operative Division, 2018).

Alleviating poverty means taking measures to ensure basic living standards among people who are living below the poverty line. The One House One Farm project targeted rural households with low-income levels and less land ownership to cultivate their crops to fulfil basic needs. Family farming at rural households was introduced as income generating activities (IGA) to help build village development organizations (VDO). The Palli Sanchay Bank emerged to maintain an e-financial inclusion of the poor communities by depositing, lending to rural households, conducting general banking activities, opening letters of credit (LC), and introducing debit and credit cards. Poverty alleviation in Bangladesh is difficult for the government because of the country's large rural population. The government has tried various ways, but the poverty line remained unchanged from broad perspectives. After the execution of the one house, one farm project, some rural areas were enriched. The study provided an understanding of the initial discussion and essential points of the one-house-one-farm project in Bangladesh. The hope among vulnerable people has risen to pass the poverty line through this project.

The study focuses on the mainstream ideas and concepts of the one house, one farm project. The study provides an overview of the basic ideas, aims, processes, and reasons behind the one-house-one-farm project. The government of Bangladesh is trying to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh through the one-house-one-farm project. This concept raises questions such as 'What were the main concepts of the one house, one farm project? What were the implementing procedures of the one house one farm project? Why did the one house one farm project initiate in Bangladesh?'. The study sets objectives to clarify the answer to rising questions about the One House One Farm Project. The main objectives of the study are:

- To know the basic concepts of 'the One house one farm project'
- To get a clear understanding of the process and implementing procedures of the project
- To identify the reasons for initiating the One House One Farm project that connects to the alleviation process of poverty in Bangladesh

## 2. Methods

The one house one farm project has been designed to alleviate poverty and increase productivity through family farming at the rural level. The Project has been executed and sponsored by the Rural Development division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives. The descriptive research frames information and data for the study. The study was conducted to describe the basic ideas like the meaning, objectives, implementation process, procedures, and reasons for the project initiation of the One House One Farm project with secondary data sources like articles, articles in periodicals, conference proceedings, the project, and governmental websites, and previously conducted research. The secondary data sources give an idea about the project's basic concepts and the implementation process and procedures. The study introduces a thematic mode of analysis to explain the pattern of the One House One Farm project and gives a general idea about the background.

A general view is presented in the study as a qualitative analysis that tries to fulfil the objectives. Information designs in this study are based on general knowledge and simple analysis techniques. Random purposive sampling was applied to select the study area. Initially, the the Lalmai-Mainamati region was selected, and the Salmanpur Union was selected. The main reason for selecting this area was that the one-house-one-farm project was first started in the Lalmai-Mainamati Region. A total of 15 beneficiaries from the core region were interviewed, and they were the primary respondents who gave authentic statements about their fundamental understanding and reasons for the One House One Farm project. The project's beneficiaries clearly stated the situations before and after the project's initiation in the face-to-face interview. The study sets the code of the statement of the beneficiaries as the conditions before and after the project, the process of involvement in this project, and attainment from this project.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Results

Since the birth of Bangladesh, the country has been the poorest in the world. However, Bangladesh achieved lower-middle income status in 2015 (The World Bank, n.d.). In Bangladesh, not everyone can have a better earning opportunity or life to survive. Parameters of income growth indicate an average of people, but most rural areas have no source to generate income (Abdin, 2014). The National Government of Bangladesh must reduce poverty by assuring basic needs and services. World Bank stated that poverty is the deprivation of the well-being of individuals in terms of income, health, nutrition, assets, and housing. Poverty measurements relate to the poverty line of \$2.15 a day. If a person's monetary threshold is below to fulfil basic needs, the poverty line is set on this perception (The World Bank, n.d.).

Poverty is linked with vulnerability and opportunities for basic needs. Chambers (1995) states, "Poverty refers to lack of physical necessities, assets, and income." Poverty has two senses: one is commonly used across the spectrum of deprivation, and the other is a narrow definition for measurement purposes. Monetary terms like income or consumption are related to poverty. The DAC outlines poverty into five dimensions: economic capabilities, human capabilities, political capabilities, socio-cultural capabilities, and Protective capabilities. (OECD, 2001)

Poverty definitions are directly related to poverty alleviation or eradication processes and policies. Poverty alleviation or reduction policies include a monetary approach to favour economic growth in income generation among people living below the poverty line. Social inclusion helps to alleviate poverty by addressing the negative power utilization and exploitation of rural poor. Ludi (2016) states that at the rural level in Bangladesh, nearly half

of the families do not have any land for cultivating. Only about 40% of people have their cultivable land at the rural level. Islam et al. (2014) state that the shortage of arable land in rural communities creates a lack of cultivation opportunities, pushing people to live below the poverty line. To create a sustainable rural community, an agro-based income generation process must be developed through the family farming system in Bangladesh. Bangladesh's government focuses on the problem of arable land at the rural level. The government initiates plans and programs for poverty alleviation and creates the tendency for income growth among rural people in Bangladesh.

To create a social market, preserve, and store produced agricultural commodities at the rural level, the best option is the optimum use of arable land indigenously by a farming system for families. In the implementation plan, income generation and employment creation using arable land were the main focusing points of the One House One Farm project Zahan (2016). A field survey completed by Jannat and Uddin (2016) pointed out that project farmers worked 4.5 hours per day while non-project farmers worked 3.4 hours daily. The government launched the project as a poverty reduction initiative to alleviate the plight of the destitute through e-financial inclusion. From the point of arable land, the investment was about BDT 31620 million, covering about 2.3 million small and marginal families who were the project's beneficiaries (Zahan, 2016). Without a source of income, poor farming families have no purchasing power, so this project targeted to create a sustainable income for the poorest through initial investment into agricultural production and tertiary activities. The National Statistics Institute of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics selected households and the area for the one house, one farm project (Khan, 2015).

### *3.1.1. One House One Farm Project: Basic Ideas and Concepts*

A sustainable poverty alleviation model and smallholder investment activity can lead the rural poor to permanent income and a solution to eradicating poverty from the rural level in Bangladesh. The social security policy support program mentioned that e-financial inclusion can alleviate poverty in rural communities. A great initiative can change the curse of poverty towards healthy economic conditions among poor people at the rural level. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh has initiated the One House One Farm project with nine other initiatives like Asrayan Prokalpo, Digital Bangladesh, Education Assistance, Women Empowerment, Electricity for All, Community Clinic, Mental Health, Social Safety Programme, and Investment Development and Environment Protection in Bangladesh (Jasmine, 2023). The goal of this project has been set for the underprivileged and smallholders, which is to generate income and change livelihood processes through family farming.

One House One Farm has introduced an alternative process to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. This project has been sponsored by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, and Rural Development and Co-operatives Division and executed by Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Rural Development Academy (RDA) Bogura, District administration under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and ment (BAPARD), Gopalganj.

The estimated budget by ECNEC is around BDT 1197.00 million primarily (Zahan, 2016). The project targeted 40,950 wards under 4550 unions in 490 Upazilas of the country's 64 districts to implement (Dhaka Tribune, 2019). There were three revisions after approval of the project in 2009. The project implementation duration was set for 2009- 2014. The target still needs to be fulfilled during the period. For the incompleteness of the project, the second revision was approved, and an extension was granted for 2 years. The third revision was granted from 2018 to 2020, and then this project was changed to My House My Farm. The

revised cost of the project was set (In Lac Taka) to a total of 801,027.05 GOB (Rural Development and Co-operative Division, 2018).

The objectives of One House One Farm were set according to the perception of alleviating poverty and generating income for rural families (Rural Development and Co-operative Division, 2018). The Project Director of the Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar project (One House One Farm Project) said, "The government undertook the project to expedite economic development in rural areas by providing financial support so that poor people can get involved in various income-generating activities, which eventually will help them come out of the cycle of poverty. In line with the project's key objectives, it has played a vital role in making poor self-reliant (BSS, 2018). Assistance in capital formation through training and motivation can increase the skill of farming and generate income for rural low-income families. This was one of the big missions of the One House One Farm Project. Enabling low-income families to develop need-based farms, making decisions independently, and ensuring market facilities for their products were the most prominent targets of this project (Rahman, 2017).

Former Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives Minister said the government is giving priority to the co-operatives sector for flourishing rural agriculture and economy, creating employment to materialize the vision for changes of days, taking up initiatives for the implementation of one house, one farm project due to the sincere interest of the Prime Minister to build a hunger-free and poverty-free Bangladesh (GNA, 2009). The Minister also said, "The government has decided to adopt the concept of Link Model, especially the union coordination committee, in the Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar program, which focuses on the transfer of assets to rural poor families for their benefits and development" (The Daily Star, 2010). The former Planning Minister said, "The project will be kept under continuous evaluation, and the recipients would get the money slightly on loan and donation basis," (The Daily Star, 2009).

One House One Farm Project has specific targets mentioned on its website<sup>1</sup>. These are-

- Develop 60515 Village Development Organizations (VDO),
- Providing Different IGA training,
- Establishing about 2000 farms in selected newly formed VDOs and agro-farms in the rest of the possible households,
- Improve saving practices by giving Tk 200 monthly incentive against one's deposition.
- Provide training to VDO members on developing bio-gas and solar panels to promote green energy.

(Rural Development and Co-operative Division, 2018)

The Joint secretary of the One House One Farm project said, 'Currently, 8,000 employees are working under the project. We want permanent jobs for those employees who have worked for nine years under the project and for three years in the bank' (Dhaka Tribune, 2019). In the framework of One House One Farm, the Palli Sanchay Bank was created to maintain the financial inclusion of poor communities and make the deposition sustainable.

This bank, as state-funded, will receive small amounts of deposit from the households involved in the project, which will help create savings, investments, and self-employment opportunities for rural farm families. A draft of the Palli Sanchay Bank Act had been prepared by the Rural Development and Co-operatives Division and forwarded to the finance ministry's banking division to secure approval from the cabinet. As per the draft law, the specialized bank will enjoy exemption from value-added and income taxes and will not be governed under the Banking Companies Act. The board of directors has appointed Palli Sanchay Bank's managing director with the prior permission of Bangladesh Bank.

The bank's paid-up capital was Tk 600 crore, 80 percent of which will be provided by the government through its one house, one farm project. The government holds 50 percent of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ebek-rdcd.gov.bd>

the bank's ownership, and the remaining 50 percent goes to the member co-operative societies of the one house, one farm" project. The bank's board of directors consists of 17 members, and the secretary of the Rural Development and Co-operatives Division will be its ex-officio chairman. Seven directors will be selected from the shareholders, one from the civil society, and other board positions will be filled by government officials (The Daily Star, 2013).

### *3.1.2. The Process and Procedures for Implementation of One House One Farm Project*

One house, one farm project was initiated to alleviate poverty and grow economic conditions at the rural level in Bangladesh through family farming. This project concerns the family farming system, which generates income by cultivating its own arable land. The Headquarters of One House One Farm has selected the Union and Village committee to justify the village for the project. One tag officer has been appointed to verify families who want to benefit from the project and create a samiti with stakeholders in every ward. Samiti ran with one manager, president, and nine executive members. Every member under Samiti paid 200 takas for monthly savings, and the government had pay incentives; this was the primary savings criterion of the project. Samiti's permanent fund has been making about 150000 taka, which has been provided as a revolving loan to stakeholders. Members have accepted loans with some easy conditions and invested in the income-generating project. Palli Sanchay Bank has run for a digital loan return and is concerned about transparency. The service duration is fixed at six months. The Office of Upazila Nirbahi Officer and Office of One House One Farm have provided service. Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Upzilla Rural Development Officer, and Upazilla coordinator of One House One Farm have been appointed to regulate the project. Beneficiaries contained some legal documents when they applied for the loan, like a Formal Picture, a Photocopy of a National Identity Card or Birth certificate, people of the selected area. There were some conditions like families or households must be poor (if families are female-headed, prefer 0-50 Shotok ownership; if families are male-headed, prefer 0-30 Shotok ownership), and poor of Hill-tracts and Ranch; ownership of 1 acre of land.

Bangladesh has been facing poverty problems since its independence. Every government tries to alleviate poverty with its policies. However, all policies fail because of many burdens like overpopulation, shortage of scarce resources, arable and fertile land, and misuse of power. Rural Development and Co-operatives Division under the Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Ministry was the executing partner of this project. Employees under this project were appointed by a circular that had some conditions: educational Qualification was set as at least JSC Passed applicants could apply for related posts, and Honors Pass applicants could apply for all positions; age limits were set at a minimum of 18 to 32 years old; salary, according to 16th and 17th Grade scale (Details on the job circular); payment for application was set to 50, 200, 100 and based on posts (Shahin, 2020).

Palli Sanchay Bank emerged from the government to collect deposits and implement the "One House, One Farm" project. The activities of the specialized bank or Palli Sanchay Bank: deposit collection and lending to rural households; conducting general banking activities, including foreign exchange-related transactions, opening letters of credit (LC), online banking, and introducing debit and credit cards. Rural households practice 200-taka savings monthly as a micro-savings practice and generate permanent funds, where the project provides 200 takas against their savings for 24 consecutive months to generate a mutual fund for the group/committee.

Online MIS software helped with all financial transactions of the beneficiaries. All financial and non-financial data were kept in the project's own data center. The project beneficiaries established about 1.77 million small-scale family farms using their homesteads and are taking a loan from the group fund.

Table 1 Small-scale family farms

Types of Family Farm	No of Farms	Invested Money (million BDT)
Livestock	568593	17428
Poultry	461982	14160
Fishery	266528	8169
Nursery/Fruit Garden	88843	2723
Kitchen Gardening	106611	3267
Others	284296	8714
Total	177683	544630

Source: (Socialprotection.gov.bd)

So far, 3.90 million beneficiaries, where 66% of members are women, have been brought under this project (Socialprotection.gov.bd)

### 3.1.3. Reasons for Initiating One House One Farm Project In Bangladesh

One House One Farm is the Prime Minister's initiative for alleviating poverty, which is proposed to achieve Millennium Development Goal-01, eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and Sustainable Development Goal-01, No poverty. Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development has been pondering poverty with due seriousness. It sought to guide the implementation of One House One Farm, which was initiated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to alleviate poverty. Lalmai-Mainamati was the first region to implement the project by the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development. The critical consideration that indicates eradicating all types of poverty from society is Millennium Development goal-01.

Furthermore, after achieving MDG-01, Bangladesh achieved sustainable and equitable development. About 84% of households live in small farming families, producing nearly 70% of the country's agricultural production. To ensure food production, food security, and food safety, the best option for small farming households is the optimum use of arable land via an income-generating process that introduced the One House One Farm project (General Economics Division (GED), 2022).

The Sustained GDP growth rate has played an essential role in poverty reduction, with 6% in recent years. Halve, between 1990 and 2010:

Table 2 The Sustain GDP growth rate

1.1: Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day (%)	70.2 (1992)	58.6 (2000)	43.3 (WB, 2010)
1.1a: Proportion of population below national upper poverty line (2,122 kcal), (%)	56.7 (1992)	48.9 (2000)	31.5 (HIES 2010)
1.2: Poverty gap ratio, (%)	17.0 (1992)	12.9	6.5 (HIES 2010)
1.3: Share of poorest quintile in national consumption, (%)	8.76 (2005)	-	8.85(HIES 2010)
1.3a: Share of poorest quintile in national income, (%)	6.52 (1992)	6.15 (2000)	5.22(HIES 2010)

Source: HIES and WB data; MDG Report (2016)

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) (2016) has periodically provided data based on poverty incidence, which was conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The estimation of the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method indicated the national poverty line of 2122 kcal/day. The proportion of the population below \$1.25 (PPP) per day indicates the average of the national poverty line, which the World Bank estimates. The PPP adjusts the cost of living. The proportion of the population below \$1.25 (PPP) per day is the average poverty line of a few countries adjusted by the cost of living, which the World Bank estimated. The Table clearly shows that this \$1.25 line lies above the national poverty line, giving rise to a larger population lying below this poverty line. In extreme poverty, the population under the lower poverty line decreased from 25% of the population in

2005 to 17.6% in 2010. Extreme poverty declined by 47% in urban areas and 26% in rural areas.

Bangladesh has achieved some success in Sustainable Development Goal 1 and complete succession in Millennium Development Goal 01, and poverty reduction across various regions of the country has resulted in a lighting situation with a variety of variables. In Some regions, a few poverties rose, but a large portion declined. It is true that Bangladesh has moved from a situation of a small impact on poverty reduction through the project 'One House One Farm', which has tried to establish a link between economic growth and poverty reduction. One house, one farm was a better alternative than the former, but the policy challenge lies in bringing about a pro-poor orientation to the growth process economically, politically, and structurally (General Economics Division (GED), 2022).

### 3.2. Discussion

The one house one farm project was initiated to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh as an initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The project aimed to focus on rural households generating income through family farming. E-financial inclusion or online banking opportunity was given to rural households for saving money through the project. Palli Sanchay Bank emerged from the government to collect deposits and finance the "One House, One Farm" project. The Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) ministry sponsored the project to create working opportunities for rural people living below the poverty line. This study identifies that the One House One Farm project was a primary and better initiative for alleviating or eradicating poverty in Bangladesh, which helped to achieve the Millennium Development Goal- 01 and focuses on achieving Sustainable Development Goal- 01. After the development of knowledge about the One House One Farm Project, some uncertainty arose that this project has some limitations and negative impacts like corruption, nepotism, biases at distribution, which are indicated to failure to execute correctly.

One House One Farm Project had imbursed financial support to targeted poor people through potential government servants and organizations. The government had tried to push people to save from people's income of at least 200/- TK monthly at Palli Sanchay Bank. One house and one farm project have joined the alleviation process of poverty in Bangladesh. Some barriers have been pushed backward, but this was an appreciable initiative by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. One house and one farm were initiated in the deposition and loan system program at the Salmanpur of Lalmai-Mainamati region in Cumilla. The project beneficiaries of this region had talked about their conditions before and after the project initiation. After the project initiation, their conditions changed, and now they live happily. In the interview, they say that the One House One Farm project was a medium to help to be free from the curse of poverty. Beneficiaries from Salmanpur focus on the previous struggling situation and present income generation through the project in the interview. They have stated that before the project initiation, they lived in poverty. They had no financial conditions to fulfill the family's basic needs. They quote:

‘We applied for a loan to some microcredit organizations for alleviating poverty through farming and investing at any kind of income-generation system. However, we had no land or income source to convince them to give the loan.’

After the project implementation, the government supported the people in getting a loan to generate income and save money at Palli Sanchay Bank. For building a house and a farm, the project allowed the people who were in poverty at Salmanpur. Beneficiaries say:



‘After the deposition of the full amount of the loan, we can withdraw our savings and another loan from Palli Sanchay Bank. Now, we have opportunities to fulfill our basic needs with that source and save the money for future. Mainly, this project has changed our life through alleviating poverty.’

A house and a small investment can change life and reduce the poverty rate in Bangladesh. The One House One Farm project was set as an indicator to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh through income generation and saving a small portion of daily allowances at Palli Sanchay Bank for vulnerable rural communities who lived below the poverty rate. Beneficiaries from Salmanpur have illustrated a picture of the One House One Farm Project. The picture shows that the project is good at alleviating poverty in rural communities. The project is an excellent initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to alleviate poverty by generating self-income in rural communities. In the Kishoreganj district of Bangladesh, some unions were covered by the One House One Farm project with progress in alleviating poverty. The project helped the rural poor to find income-generation opportunities. The village organizations worked to help people experiencing poverty, including the women, in the region (Dhaka Tribune, 2015).

The government of Bangladesh focuses on poverty alleviation. For this, the government initiated a project called One House One Farm. The project's primary focus was to alleviate poverty through financial inclusion and income generation. The family Farming process was the main criterion for underprivileged people, especially small and marginal farmers, to enroll in the One House One Farm Project. The project's goal was to achieve sustainable and equitable development that alleviates Bangladeshi society's poverty.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The One House, One Farm influenced the rural people to do family farming to generate income through their arable agricultural land. The family farming system helped people to fight against poverty. However, people fail to eradicate poverty with their limitations. Bangladesh's government had plans to alleviate poverty by properly implementing an agricultural system in the rural sector after the election of 2009. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced one initiative, 'One House One Farm,' to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. This initiative was designed to downturn the poverty rate and aimed to reach the Millennium Development Goal-01 and then Sustainable Development Goal-01.

Limited working opportunities lead to a generation bounded by low income and lower purchasing capacity that does not fulfill fundamental needs like food, clothing, health care, and education. One House One Farm was concerned with ensuring the utilization of human potential to create working opportunities, forming capital through grants and micro-savings through e-financial inclusion or online banking, and skill development and family farming. One House One Farm Project depicts a view of being a universal and ideal practice of poverty alleviation for rural poor globally. With an initial government disbursement, the One House One Farm Project, a novel initiative of the current administration, was started to alleviate poverty through income-generating activities. The project's beneficiaries were satisfied with the loan and savings from the Palli Shanghai Bank, one of the central bodies of the project. The beneficiaries from the Salmanpur region talked about the change in their poverty-related issues through this project. The beneficiaries invest their earnings in the production of food and allied endeavors. The One House One Farm project helped the rural poor to survive poverty. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated that if the project were effectively carried out, it would significantly impact Bangladesh's socio-economic development in a relatively short amount of time. According to her, the scheme would make every home self-sufficient, and

farmers could sell their products through a co-operative marketing system. The project helped alleviate poverty in the rural region.

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