



## Nazma's life-livelihoods in Covid war and a farm

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Nazma Begum is a farmer. She is 52 years old, living in the 'dihgir par, Khal par village under Nawabganj upazila of Dhaka district. She is with husband for 36 years. She can write her name only; could not get scope for having further education. She has one daughter and two sons.

Around 10 years ago, her husband initiated this farm with five (5) indigenous dairy cows as Shekh Alek (Nazma's husband) was used to rear



cows, goats since childhood. Gradually over the time, farm is being extended--two to four, four to six; also purchased crossbred cow. Both Nazma and husband were dedicated to look after their farm intensively.

In addition, they had to manage land as 'share cropping' system for maintenance family living cost along with cattle farm income. That was the as usual standard of Nazma's life and livelihood. But very unfortunately Covid'19 reported in Bangladesh which damaged her life and livelihood harshly. During this time, her husband passed away suddenly and farm got affected by the Covid-19 lockdown. As a widower, she ultimately turned into the head of household. There are now total 11 cows along with calves in her farm. Her children are also helping their mother for taking care of animals as and when required. Now this farm is the only source of family income. So, she has to pay enough labor

for the farm every day. Nazma was about to cry describing the real situation of Covid'19 "Oh Allah! it was very bad time for us.

Due to corona pandemic, I was always in fear of that I could not sell milk and have to waste out to the drain. I also could not be able to buy feed for cows. By selling a cow, I managed to meet my financial crisis. I was also thinking for selling more cows to save my family". At that time, someone from 'Livestock and Dairy Development Project' of Upazila livestock office visit her house and listed as 'corona affected' farm. Nazma came to know that Bangladesh government will provide some financial support to the affected farmers. She gave information like name, guardians name, address, NID, phone number, bKash number and signed as required by the office. Finally, last February, 2021 she received 15,000 BDT as compensation of damages to continue the farm.

Nazma expressed, she got a breath and hope by this financial support. First of all, she bought some granular feed for cows and then purchased a female calf by adding some more money as she sold out before. In the mean time she received some de-worming tablet for the cows and feed them as per suggestion of Livestock officers. Nazma seemed that her cow's health got improved than that of before. After 6 months again she has to feed de-worming tablet. She also noticed that never she went out before to the Livestock office for treatment or suggestion even not purchased medicine by her own. But now she is moving out and doing everything alone. Gradually, Nazma is getting mental force to move forward with this farm. Thus, she is leading her family now-a-days. Now she is dreaming for becoming a big farmer and planned to improve cow shed soon because this farm is the one and only source of her family income.