



## IMPACT STORY

# COURAGE TO CHANGE: SRFSI HELPING COMMUNITIES IDENTIFY THEIR POTENTIAL

In West Bengal India, Moon Bibi and other women from her community formed the Mukta Self Help Group. Previously, Moon Bibi worked most of her life as a farm laborer. But with SRFSI project and assistance from its local partner- Satmile Satish Club (SSCOP), the Mukta Self Help Group was introduced to a new business opportunity of producing rice seedlings which are used in mechanical rice transplanters. This rice seedling cultivation has helped female farmers contribute to their income which has further helped them in improved health, better education and enhanced livelihoods.

In Rangpur Bangladesh, Kalpana (a landless farmer) leases farmland every year and works endlessly as a farm laborer to get excess yield for additional income. Aware of the risk that taking loans with high interest can be difficult to repay, landless farmers like Kalpana have no other options. But with the SRFSI project and its local partner- Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services Bangladesh (RDRS Bangladesh), Kalpana was introduced to CASI practices and technologies. Kalpana decided to use zero till machine to sow maize in her leased land. With this decision, the benefits followed which saved her labor cost and time along with an increase in profit.

SRFSI project, funded by ACIAR and implemented in partnership with CIMMYT aims to support smallholder farmers, especially women in improving their productivity, profitability and sustainability in agriculture through CASI practices and technologies.