

Santi: Building Assets in the *Chars*

Participant Profile	
Name	Santi
Date of Joining CLP	May 2007
District	Kurigram
Village	Suker bati
Marital Staus	Married
Implementing Organisation	RSDA



Santi lives on an isolated *char* in Rowmari, Kurigram. Before joining the CLP she struggled to feed her family, had no productive assets and was not respected in the local community. Her husband worked as a day labourer, which provided a small and unpredictable income.

“Before we did not have any land, so it was important to lease land first. Now we are living and working on our land”

After joining the CLP in 2007, Santi participated in the Village Savings and Loans (VSL) group, a CLP initiative which provides a safe place to save and take loans from. She was selected to become president of her VSL group. They are still meeting regularly without assistance and are running into their sixth year. Members are now able to save and reinvest small amounts of money.

“Now we can eat three times a day. We don’t have to ask other people for rice and I can even give rice to others” Using loans taken from her village savings group and the asset provided by the CLP, Santi has accumulated up to 1 lakh taka in assets (around £1,000). These include two bulls, seven sheep and over 40 chickens. The family has even leased 30 decimals of land, which is being cultivated by Santi’s husband. The family has come a long way; they have multiplied their assets, have a stable income and have enough money to eat meat and fish every week.

