

Case Study on

Environmentally Friendly Rope Made from Naturally Grown Hogla (Daripata)

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Plant Profile: Hogla (in the coastal region of Noakhali, known as *Daripata*) is an aquatic tall grass growing in a cluster. Its scientific name is *Typha elephantiana* of the family Typhaceae. It may reach a height of 2-5 meters. The leaf blades are flattened and composed of parenchymatous spongy tissue. The perennial plant is growing mostly in the Sundarban as well as along coastal districts - Bhola, Patuakhali, Lakshmipur, and Noakhali. This plant also grows well in the low-lying areas of Sylhet, in beels and haors.



Naturally Grown Daripata
Near Khasherhat

Leaves are beautiful, long, semi-cylindrical and clustered at the base. Flowers are small, whitish brown, borne on spikelet inflorescence. Male and female flowers grow on separate inflorescence. Flowers bloom in summer and are used as a vegetable that is eaten by char dwellers.



Daripata Fruits



Rope Made from Daripata

Fruits are long and chocolate colored and when they mature they become divided. The plant is propagated by seeds and gland tubers and its roots can hold the soil, so it can be planted in waterside areas.

Economic Value and Environmental Friendliness of the Crop

The Daripata plant is an economic crop. Mats, fences and roof thatch are made of it. It is also used to cover a pile of fish in a box which keeps them fresh. Hogla grass is extensively used to make mats. In the Coastal Char areas of Boyer Char, baskets, ropes, and different kinds of handicrafts are also made out of dried materials.

An Important Non-Farm Income Generating Activity (IGA)

A couple of families of Boyer Char, Hatiya are making traditional rope from Daripata and it has been found that these ropes are exported to Middle Eastern countries by some vendors due to their environmentally friendly behavior - they are easily decomposable in soil and improve soil health. So they are used as a replacement for plastics or nylon ropes which are not decomposable and deteriorate soil health.

A Case of Non-Farm IGA Rope Making Operated by Ms. Nasima (Nurunnahar)

Nasima (and her husband Jahir are residents of Twin-House No. 3 of Cluster Village, Near Tankir Ghat, Boyer Char, Hatiya, Noakhali. Nasima uses Daripata (Hogla) plants.



Dry Daripata is brought from Bhola where it grows well and is supplied by a vendor who also purchases the whole production as soon as she makes it, in a bundle of 5,000 'hath' (2,500 m). She gets Tk. 200 for every 500 m of rope.

For making rope from *Daripata*, Nasima uses the practice used for making *veni* (braid) with her hair. At the start, she takes three pieces of *Daripata* and uses the style of the *veni* making process. When the rope becomes about 40 - 50 cm, she then ties the rope to a stand or pillar/bamboo. Then she continues to make a longer rope.



For marketing purposes, the rope is twisted, giving an oval-shaped bundle that contains about 5,000 hath (2,500 m). Nasima reported that they sell the twisted bundle of at Tk. 1,000. She is used to earning Tk.2,500 to Tk. 3,000 each month from making *daripata*.

Conclusion

Hogla (*daripata*) is a perennial plant that grows in low-lying land and ditches/ponds and is the main raw material for making rope. Due to its high demand it can be an important non-farm IGA for char dwelling women. Nasima told that she is willing to be a trainer if the production of '*Daripata*' rope is promoted. By promoting this kind of rope the use of nylon and plastics in the country can be reduced.