

### New Year-2024 Message from the Founder

Dear All Stakeholders,

As we usher in the New Year-2024, I am filled with gratitude and optimism for the journey we've embarked upon together at the Rural Reconstruction Foundation. It is with great joy and a sense of purpose that I extend my heartfelt wishes to each one of you.

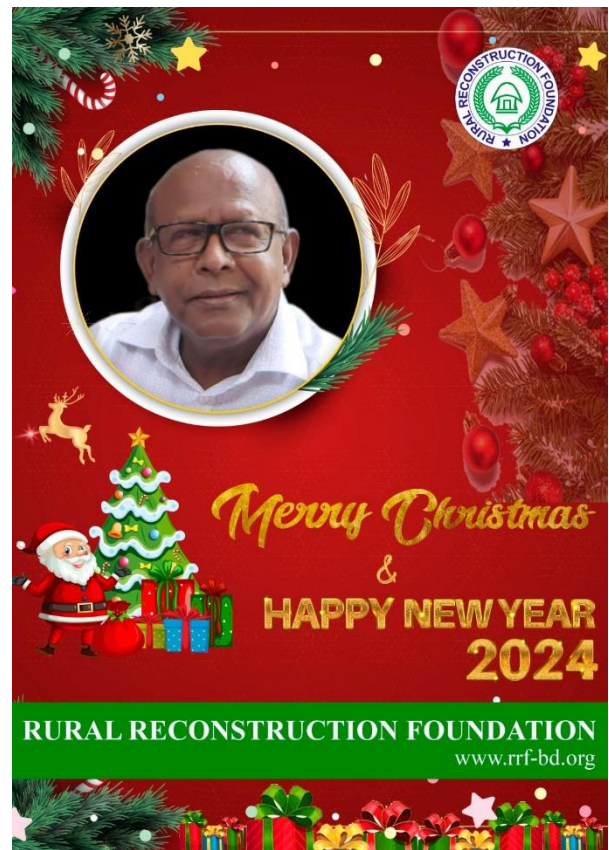
In the spirit of reflection and renewal, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated team, steadfast partners, and the communities we serve. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our accomplishments, and I am truly grateful for your commitment to our shared mission.

May this New Year bring fresh opportunities, renewed energy, and the fulfillment of our aspirations. Let us work hand in hand, fostering sustainable development, promoting education, and empowering communities to build a brighter, more inclusive future.

Warm regards,

**Philip Biswas**

Founder & Executive Director  
Rural Reconstruction Foundation



### RRF Participated in a World Seminar “AFIFORUM-2024” in Bangkok Thailand



The Rural Reconstruction Foundation recently had a significant presence at an international Seminar **AFIFORUM 2024** held in Bangkok, Thailand. A delegation of six senior-level staff members, led by the Executive Director of RRF Mr. Philip Biswas, actively participated in the event. The seminar served as a platform for global discussions and knowledge exchange on microfinance, a critical tool for empowering individuals in the different countries.

During the seminar, the RRF delegation engaged in various sessions, workshops, and panel discussions, gaining valuable insights into innovative microfinance models, best practices, and emerging trends in the field. This exposure is expected to enhance RRF's understanding of effective strategies for sustainable rural development through financial inclusion. AFIFORUM is **The Asia Financial Institution Forum**. Connecting investors and investees in the region's financial markets

In addition to their participation in the seminar, the RRF delegation took advantage of the opportunity to attend bilateral meetings with several key agencies i.e. Blue Orchard, Incofin, Triodes and Triple Jump. These meetings provided a platform for collaboration, networking, and establishing potential partnerships with organizations that share a common interest in livelihood development and microfinance initiatives.

## PKSF Managing Director Conducts Site Visit to RRF Project Activities



On January 29, 2024, the Managing Director of the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Dr. Nomita Halder ndc visited the head office and project activities RRF. During her visit, the Managing Director took the opportunity to inspect various initiatives under the Rural Microcredit and Technical Assistance Program (RMTP), specifically focusing on projects related to Fisheries and Agro-Engineering. These activities were located in Chanchra, a region situated in the Jashore district.

## Students delighted receiving New book in Book Festival



Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF), operates seven formal schools in Bangladesh. On the very first day of 2024, the Bangladesh government initiated a nationwide distribution of new textbooks to all students. The students enrolled in RRF schools were also among the recipients of these new books, resulting in widespread delight and enthusiasm among them. All seven schools' students of RRF got the new book at the same time on 01 January 2024.

## Embracing the Future: RRF's 2024 Diary and Calendar

In a remarkable initiative to kick off the New Year, RRF has released a bespoke diary and calendar for 2024. This meticulously crafted collection serves as both a functional tool for staff and stakeholders and a cherished keepsake, embodying the organization's commitment to excellence and collaboration. Featuring elegant design elements, the diary offers ample space for note-taking, scheduling, and personal reflections. The calendar, adorned with stunning visuals, showcases key milestones and events, providing a visual journey through the upcoming year. As staff and stakeholders turn the pages of this exclusive set, they will be reminded of the shared vision and collective efforts driving RRF towards success in 2024.



## "PKSF-Organized Training: Empowering Participants from RRF through Specialized Course"



The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) organized a training program on Microenterprise Management & Financing Strategy from January 21 to January 25, 2024. The training took place at the PKSF premises in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Among the participants, Mr. Raju Ahmed, the Regional Manager of the Mymensingh area from the Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF), actively took part in this course. The training aimed to enhance participants' skills and knowledge in effectively managing microenterprises and formulating successful financing strategies.

## Distributing Blankets to Safeguard the Ultra-Poor During Severe Cold Waves



In a commendable effort to address the harsh impact of severe cold waves, RRF recently in January 2024 distributed blankets to vulnerable communities in its working areas. A total of 1,660 ultra-poor members of the Microfinance program were beneficiaries of this initiative, providing them with much-needed warmth and protection during the chilling weather.

Furthermore, RRF extended its philanthropic reach by distributing blankets to 349 elderly individuals as part of its CSR Senior Citizen Welfare Program. This thoughtful gesture not only safeguards the elderly from the cold but also reflects the organization's commitment to enhancing the well-being of the communities it serves.

### Enhancing Field Engagement; RRF distributed Motor Car



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### School Picnic held

RRF have 7 formal schools, recently organized an exciting and educational picnic for students. Each of the seven schools under RRF organized a unique picnic, taking the students to diverse locations that offered both recreational and educational opportunities. This co-curricular events held on the last week of January 2024 at a time.



## Celebrate a Magical Day; CINDERELLA BIRTHDAY



Cinderella Rajorshi Biswas; the granddaughter of the Founder & Executive Director Mr. Philip Biswas is on her 2<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary. On the enchanting eve of January 19, 2024, the entire realm of the RRF in Bangladesh was adorned in the resplendent hues of celebration, as all RRF offices echoed with joyous merriment. A magical unity enveloped the 3000 dedicated staff, scattered across the country, who synchronized their jubilation to honor the illustrious birthday of none other than Cinderella Rajorshi Biswas. From bustling head offices to serene countryside outposts, the spirit of festivity wove its spell, creating a tapestry of shared joy that transcended geographical boundaries. In this harmonious symphony of celebration, every staff member became a participant in a collective enchantment, reflecting the unwavering camaraderie that defines the essence of the RRF organization. Many happy returns of this days.

### "RRF's Training Initiatives Soar in FY 2023-24: Empowering Staff for Effective Journey"



In January 2024, the training unit conducted two batch training sessions for a total of 59 new credit officers, focusing on equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills for the microfinance program. Several staff members were sent to external training sessions covering a variety of topics aimed at furthering their professional skills. The dedication to staff development was not limited to this specific month but was part of a broader effort throughout the fiscal year 2023-24. In total, 794 staff members at various levels within RRF benefited from a diverse range of training programs, both internal and external.

### Soil Test Entrepreneur Development Training



RRF is implementing Strengthening Climate-smart Vegetable and Flower value chain project supported by Heifer International in Chougacha Upazilla Jashore. On January 28, 2024, a day-long soil testing entrepreneur training was held with 12 officials of the project and 11 local level agricultural implement traders at the venue of Upazila Agricultural Extension Directorate at Chougacha, Jessore. The training was conducted by the Scientific Officer of Jessore Soil Resources Development Institute and Chowagacha Upazila Agriculture Officer.

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