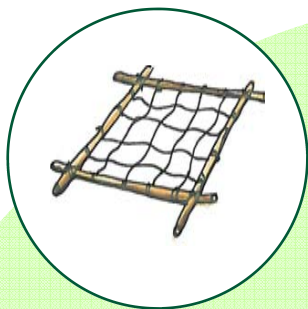
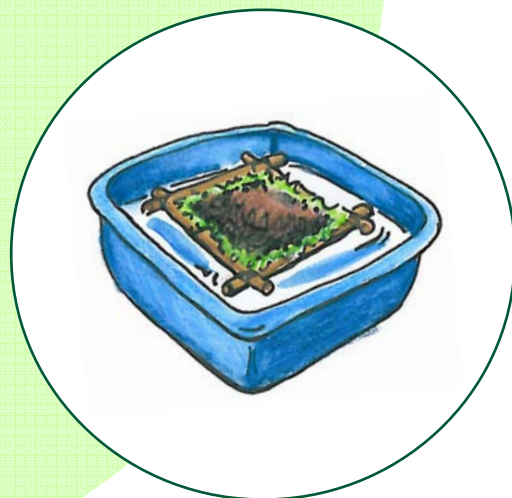
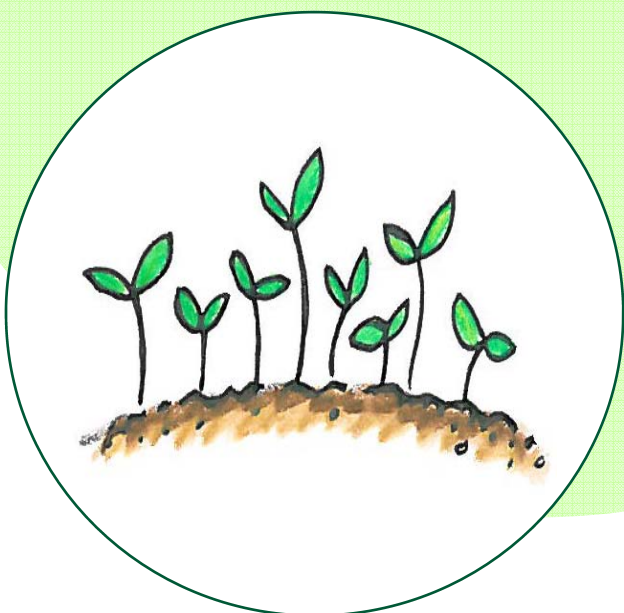
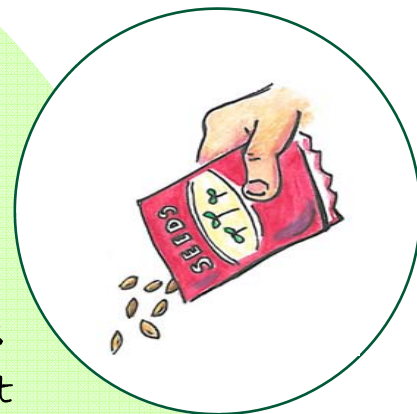


How to make your own floating garden



1. Make a frame (about 30cm²) from garden canes and use ivy, bindweed or wire to create a mesh
2. Create a bed using moss, newspapers, or rags and cover with a thin layer of soil or compost
3. Plant with seeds such as mustard or cress
4. Float the garden in a washing up bowl and...
5. wait for the results!



PRACTICAL ACTION
Technology challenging poverty



Helping families stay afloat during the floods

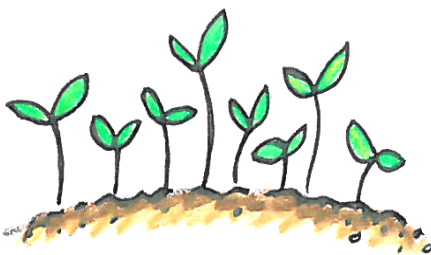
Floating gardens really are a lifeline in Bangladesh for families whose land is inundated by flood water or washed away by flooded rivers - which destroy homes and livelihoods as well. The floods can strip away fertile topsoil, leaving behind only barren sand on which few crops can grow. This means families can be left with no means to support themselves, and they struggle to survive.



Photo: Practical Action Bangladesh / Iqbal Hossain

How the floating garden works:

- * A frame is made of bamboo and water hyacinth (a very abundant weed which floats on the rivers)
- * The frame is covered with layers of compost, cow dung and more water hyacinth, forming a fertile raft on which crops can grow
- * The raft is planted with vegetables such as red onions, okra, pumpkins and kang kong (a green leafy vegetable); providing food crops and sometimes a surplus which can be sold in the local market, fetching a good price as vegetables are scarce during the monsoon
- * The raft can also be used to cultivate seedlings to be transplanted once the floods subside, and finally it can be recycled into compost to help grow crops in the dry season.



Practical Action

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