



Sweden
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Celebrating Youth Leadership in Climate Resilience 2025



October 19, 2025
2:00 PM–4:00 PM



Multipurpose Hall, Independent University, Bangladesh
(IUB), Dhaka

ORGANISED
BY

ICCCAD, IUB under the CAP-RES Project,
Funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka



Executive Summary

The award ceremony brought together youth fellows, researchers, and innovators to mark a year of progress under ICCCAD's CAP-RES project's 2025 youth engagement efforts. The programme featured opening remarks, certificate recognitions for the 2025 Youth Fellows and 2024 Youth Researchers, and the formal acknowledgment of fifteen youth-led initiatives funded through the 2025 Innovation Fund. The top creators of the "Climate Voices in Motion", a digital competition, were also honored for effectively communicating climate stories across social platforms. Reflections from selected awardees highlighted how the fellowship, grants, and innovation support shaped their confidence, skills, and community engagement. The event concluded with closing remarks underscoring the continuing importance of youth leadership in driving locally grounded, inclusive climate resilience across Bangladesh.

About the Report

This report documents the Award Ceremony: Celebrating Youth Leadership in Climate Resilience 2025, organized as part of the Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience (CAP-RES) project, which is implemented by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

The report covers the recognition of Youth Fellows (2025), Youth Researchers (2024), Youth Innovation Fund awardees (2025), and Digital Campaign winners, along with reflections from award recipients.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the report are derived from the views of the participants and speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of ICCCAD.

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Contributors

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Designed by

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Introduction

On 19 October 2025, at the Multipurpose Hall of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), ICCCAD hosted an award ceremony to celebrate the achievements of youth fellows, researchers, and innovation fund grantees under the Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience (CAP-RES) project. The Youth Programme, a core component of CAP-RES, continues to empower young leaders to design and implement locally grounded climate adaptation and resilience initiatives across Bangladesh.

Building on the strong foundation established over the previous two years, the programme supported a new cohort of Youth Fellows in 2025, while also recognizing the contributions of the 2024 Youth Researchers. The ceremony further highlighted outstanding youth-led ideas through the Innovation Fund 2025 and Digital Campaign 2025 awards, showcasing how creativity, community knowledge, and practical action can come together to advance climate resilience.

The event celebrated not only individual accomplishments but also the collective leadership of young people who are working to strengthen adaptation, promote inclusion, and advance evidence-based climate solutions. By continuing to invest in the next generation of climate actors, ICCCAD reaffirms its commitment to supporting a resilient, informed, and equitable future for Bangladesh.

Opening Remarks

The award ceremony brought together youth fellows, researchers, and innovators to mark a year of progress under ICCCAD's CAP-RES project's 2025 youth engagement efforts.

The programme featured opening remarks, certificate recognitions for the 2025 Youth Fellows and 2024 Youth Researchers, and the formal acknowledgment of fifteen youth-led initiatives funded through the 2025 Innovation Fund.

The top creators of the "Climate Voices in Motion", a digital competition, were also honored for effectively communicating climate stories across social platforms. Reflections from selected awardees highlighted how the fellowship, grants, and innovation support shaped their confidence, skills, and community engagement. The event concluded with closing remarks underscoring the continuing importance of youth leadership in driving locally grounded, inclusive climate resilience across Bangladesh.

Certification Ceremony

Youth Fellows 2025

The ICCCAD Youth Fellowship, launched in 2023 under the CAP-RES Project, has become a cornerstone initiative for strengthening youth leadership in climate resilience across Bangladesh. Through a year-long blend of workshops, online sessions, field learning, and youth-led advocacy opportunities, the programme nurtures young people who are ready to engage in national and global climate conversations.

The 2025 cohort brought together 30 fellows from diverse districts, marking the third cycle of this growing youth network.

During the ceremony, the Youth Fellows from the 2025 cohort received their certificates, formally completing their fellowship journey and joining the long-standing community of ICCCAD Youth Fellow alumni. The recognition celebrated their commitment throughout the programme and their continued role within this expanding network of young climate leaders.



Youth Researchers 2024



The Youth Research Grant, introduced in 2023 under the CAP-RES Project, supports university students and early-career researchers in producing evidence-based studies on climate and environmental challenges in Bangladesh.

The 2024 cycle funded 15 young researchers, whose work explored issues such as climate-induced migration, non-economic loss and damage, climate-smart agriculture, disability-inclusive adaptation, water governance, and community-based resilience.

Throughout the grant period, recipients received financial assistance and academic mentorship to guide the design, implementation, and completion of their research.

During the award ceremony, the Youth Researchers from the 2024 cohort received certificates marking the successful completion of their projects and submission of their final reports. This recognition reflected ICCCAD's ongoing commitment to strengthening youth-led climate scholarship and supporting emerging researchers whose work contributes to national climate adaptation and resilience efforts.

Youth Innovation Fund Winners 2025

The Youth Innovation Fund is a key component of the CAP-RES Youth Programme, designed to support youth-led climate action through seed funding, mentorship, and hands-on guidance.

In 2025, the programme supported 15 youth-driven projects across Bangladesh, representing university clubs, youth organizations, community groups, and selected Youth Fellow-led initiatives. These projects addressed a wide range of themes, including climate education, sustainable farming, water access, renewable energy, biodiversity restoration, and inclusive climate awareness.

Applications went through a multi-stage review process that included an open call, screening, and interviews based on predefined criteria. The final cohort reflected diverse, community-focused solutions ranging from solar-powered irrigation systems and aeroponics initiatives to climate theatre, citizen-science monitoring, bamboo-based ecosystem restoration, and disability-inclusive climate education materials.



ICCCAD's Youth Team maintained close communication with the grantee teams throughout the project cycle, offering guidance and monitoring progress to support quality and community relevance. At the award ceremony, the selected youth innovators were formally acknowledged with crests and certificates, celebrating their leadership and contributions to youth-led climate action across the country.

Digital Campaign Winners 2025



The Climate Voices in Motion: Digital Content Competition 2025 was introduced to encourage young people to share climate stories through creative digital media. Open to ICCCAD Fellows, both previous and current cohorts, and Youth Innovation Fund grantees, the competition invited participants to produce short videos highlighting local climate challenges, solutions, and personal experiences. Submissions were evaluated on storytelling, creativity, technical quality, and social media engagement.

The competition saw strong participation, with entries showcasing a wide range of perspectives from students, youth advocates, and community storytellers. Based on the weighted scoring system, the top performers were selected for recognition. At the award ceremony, the top three winners received prize money, while the top twenty participants were awarded special gifts in appreciation of their contribution. Their videos will also be showcased on ICCCAD's digital platforms and youth engagement events to amplify their voices to wider audiences.

Reflections from Awardees

The ceremony featured short reflections from selected awardees, who spoke about how the fellowship and grants shaped their personal and community journeys. **Rupali Paul, Youth Innovation Fund recipient and graduating Youth Fellow**, shared how her project used street drama to portray the climate realities faced by tea estate workers in Moulvibazar.

“ Our community rarely gets a platform to express what climate change feels like in our daily lives. This grant helped me tell their story with dignity, ”



she said, expressing her gratitude to ICCCAD for amplifying voices often left out of mainstream conversations.

Al-Amin Islam, lead of Project BanCotta from the Green Peace Network Club in Rangpur, reflected on the recognition his team received for their circular-economy approach.



“ Turning banana plants into fibre and fertilizer started as a small idea. ICCCAD’s support showed us that our idea has value and can create opportunities for women in our area, ”

he noted. He added that the award motivates their club to expand both the training component and the environmental benefits of the project.

”

Md. Al Imran Khan Rabby, ICCCAD Youth Fellow and Innovation Fund awardee, spoke about the impact of developing Jolobayur Shobdaboli, Bangladesh’s first fully accessible climate education package.

“ I wanted climate education to reach children who are usually left behind. Making content in audio, Braille, sign language, and transcript formats helped us break barriers, ”

he shared. He expressed appreciation for ICCCAD’s role in nurturing inclusive youth-led solutions, adding,

“This recognition encourages me to take the project to more schools and communities across the country.”



Closing Remarks

The ceremony concluded with reflections from Maria Aktar, Project Manager of the CAP-RES Project, who congratulated the fellows, researchers, and grantees for their dedication throughout the year. She encouraged them to carry forward the momentum built through the programme, saying,

"I hope you carry this learning forward, because the impact you make in your communities truly matters."

Sumaiya Binte Selim Sudha, Programme Coordinator for Youth and Gender at ICCCAD and Youth Focal for the CAP-RES Project, followed by acknowledging the growth of the youth cohort and the diverse contributions that shaped the year's achievements. She reaffirmed ICCCAD's commitment to supporting youth as long-term partners in resilience building, adding,

"This network is only the beginning. What matters most is how you continue your journey, support one another, and take your ideas back to the communities that shaped you."

She expressed her appreciation to IUB for hosting the event and to the Embassy of Sweden for their continued support, before inviting everyone for group photos and informal conversations to close the afternoon.



Annex: Participants List

Name	Designation and Organization
Naimur Rahman Durjoy	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Md Rehanuz Zaman	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Irin Akter Shuchana	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Md Al Imran Khan Rabby	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Imran Hossain	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Sanchita Saha	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Abdul Kaium	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Tazrian Rahman Noirit	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Rong Thoing Mro	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Nushrath Jahan Juhi	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Arafat Hossain	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Rupali Paul	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Nahin Naznin	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Tanjum Tahsin Hossain	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Amena Mustary Twoaseen	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Machen Hla Rakhine	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Anonna Haque	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Shawon Barua	Youth Fellow 2025, ICCAD, IUB
Salauddin Ahmed Reza	Senior Broadcast Journalist, Jamuna TV
Salauddin Sakib	East West University Robotics Club
Fyaj Khan Anam	Youth for NDCs
Md. Al-Amin Islam	Green Peace Network (Project Name: BanCotta)
Ehteshamul Islam	Aerogro Founded by Ehteshamul Islam
MD. SHAKIBUL ALAM	GSTU Science Club
Rupok Chowdhury	Advanced Research Thoughts Lab
U Khing Nue Chak	Green Milieu
Md. Ariful Islam	AAGROW
Amio Rahman	East West University Robotics Club

Name	Designation and Organization
Bikash Goswami	Green Peace Network
Md. Zakaria Hossain Mun	Green Peace Network
Md Rakibul Iqbal	Action for Better Climate (ABC)
Mohammad Tanzimul Haque	Action for Better Climate (ABC)
Fatema Nur Jarin	Youth for NDCs
Ushingmya marma	Green Milieu
Sadman Bin Kawsar	GSTU Science Club
Khandaker Robin	Research Grantee 2024
Shraboni Dam	Research Grantee 2024
Jannatul Nyema	Research Grantee 2024
Dr. Shovon Chakraborty	Research Grantee 2024
Urme Akter	Research Grantee 2024
Nuzhat Fatima Purnota	Research Grantee 2024
Faique Md. Tajdiqul Haque	Research Grantee 2024
Rokaiya Ahmed	Research Grantee 2024
Ramisa Nawar	Research Grantee 2024
Maria Aktar	Project Manager, CAP-RES, ICCCAD
Gausia Islam Keya	Project Assistant, ICCCAD
Nobiul Islam	Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, ICCCAD
Sumaiya Binte Selim	Youth Focal, ICCCAD
Afsana Alim	Project Officer, Youth, ICCCAD
Md. Almamun Rakib	Youth Representative, ICCCAD
Rawnak Jahan Khan Ranon	Research Officer, ICCCAD, IUB
Samiha Saleha	Research Associate, ICCCAD
Nafia Saddaf	Research Officer, ICCCAD
Md.Tahseen Ahmed	Youth Fellow Assistant, ICCCAD
Fizul Islam	Youth Fellow Assistant, ICCCAD
Partha Banik	Communications Focal, ICCCAD
Dharmachandra	Senior Communication Officer, ICCCAD
Malik Al Hasan Shuvo	Research Intern, ICCCAD
Muntasur Rahman	Research Intern, ICCCAD

