



Practical Action Bangladesh





# The Problem...

Much of the land in the Gaibandha district of Bangladesh is covered by water during the monsoon season, making it impossible to grow crops.

Due to climate change the monsoon seasons are becoming longer and more intense making food in Bangladesh even more scarce.



The country's floods have worsened, drowning farmland, destroying homes and leaving thousands of families on the brink of starvation and disease.

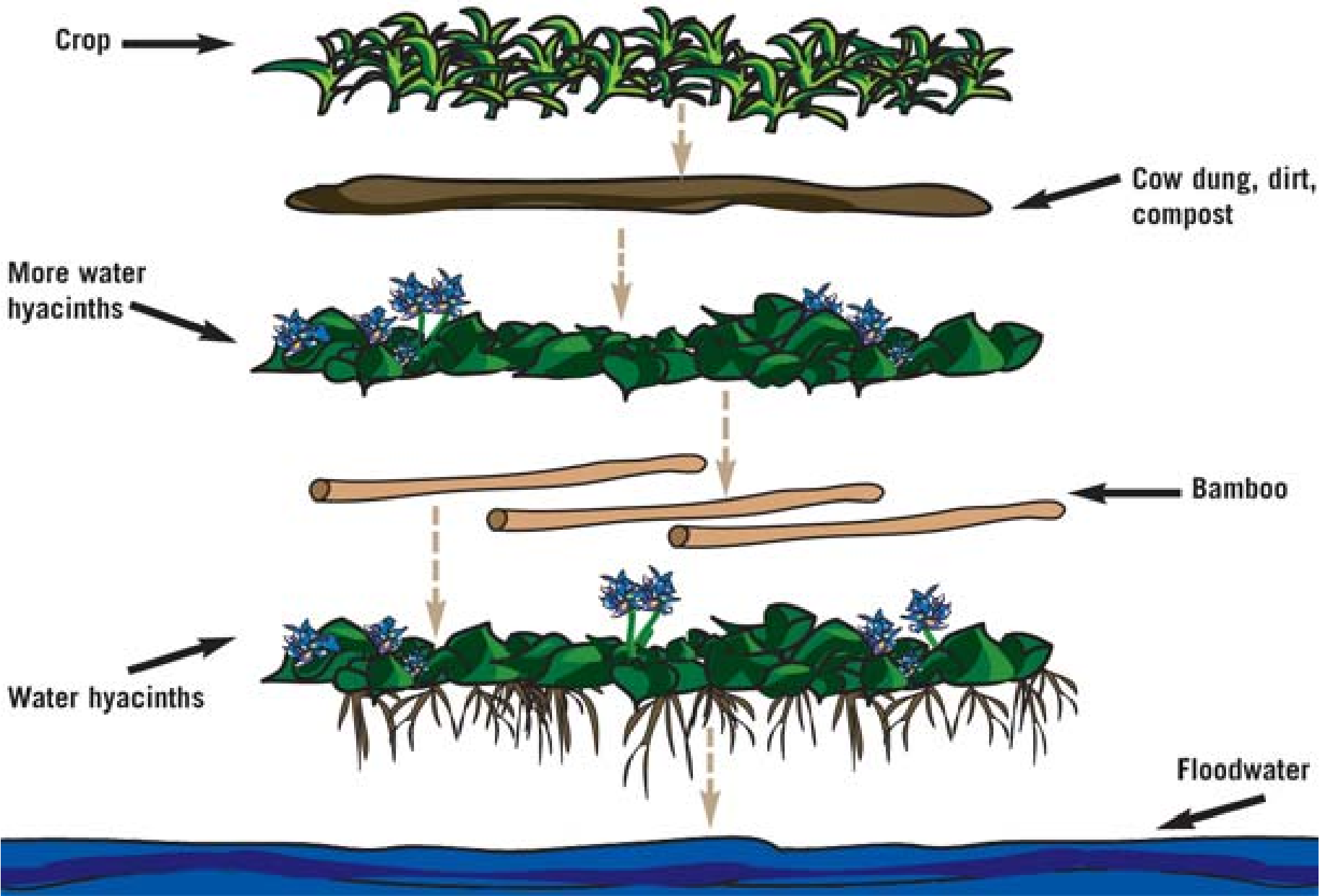




# The Practical Action...

Practical Action has developed a technology to allow farmers to grow food on flooded land.

A floating garden is built using water hyacinth, which is collected to construct a floating raft. This is covered with soil and cow dung, in which vegetables can be planted.



A new raft needs to be built every year, but the old one can be used as fertiliser during the dry season.

Because the rafts can be moved from place to place, they are ideal for families who have lost their homes and land, enabling many to rebuild their lives somewhere new.





# The Benefits...

Now many families like Rajani's not only have enough food to keep hunger at bay, they also have enough to sell a small surplus at the local market, earning vital extra income.





*“This has made a great difference to my life. Now I have enough food in the floods and I can give some to help my relatives as well.”*

— Tara Begum



