

THE VOICE

Voice of Grassroots Women Entrepreneurs, Bangladesh



Association of Grassroots
Women Entrepreneurs
Bangladesh

January 2026



Voice of the President

Mousumi Islam

January 2026 was a month of intentional beginnings. At AGWEB, we spent the start of the year reinforcing the foundation of women-led enterprises, from grassroots initiatives to established MSMEs.

Our mission this month was clear: Structure precedes scale. Rather than prioritizing visibility alone, we focused on organizational readiness, strategic alignment, and equipping our members to navigate regulatory landscapes and financial pressures with unwavering confidence.

Empowering Women. Strengthening MSMEs. Driving Bangladesh Forward.



Executive Overview

March 2026 marks a pivotal moment for Bangladesh's MSME ecosystem. Women entrepreneurs are no longer participants—they are drivers of economic transformation.

Under the leadership of Mousumi Islam, AGWEB is shaping policy, financial inclusion, and regional collaboration across South Asia, ensuring grassroots women are integral to sustainable industrialization and inclusive GDP growth.

MSME Sector Snapshot

- GDP Contribution: ~25–30%
- Employment: 7.8 million+
- Women's Participation: Rapidly increasing in micro and cottage industries

Key Sectors:

- Agro-processing & food products
- Handicrafts & light manufacturing
- Healthcare consumables
- Retail, e-commerce, services



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Forward Outlook: February 2026

In February, we shift from preparation to presence. Our priorities will move decisively toward action and visibility:

- Market Activation: High-profile participation in trade exhibitions and fairs.
- Skill Mastery: Launching intensive, skill-based capacity-building sessions.
- Public-Private Synergy: Cementing partnerships with key financial and policy stakeholders.
- Tangible Growth: Converting January's preparation into measurable revenue and expansion for our members.

Challenges Remain

Key roadblocks persist: limited financing access, compliance and export knowledge gaps, cultural constraints, and weak mentorship in tech and manufacturing sectors. These are increasingly acknowledged at national levels.

What It Means for the Future

Women entrepreneurs are vital to household welfare, community development, and Bangladesh's long-term economic goals—including export diversification and SME resilience.

Invest in her vision
support women
led businesses in
Bangladesh

Join Us!

Whether you're an entrepreneur, policymaker, researcher, or ally, AGWEB welcomes you to be part of our growing movement. Let's make grassroots women-led enterprises the backbone of Bangladesh's inclusive economy.



Association of Grassroots Women Entrepreneurs, Bangladesh (AGWEB)

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