



BARC

News letter



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Agriculture Minister Unveiled the Mural of Bangabandhu at BARC

Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque MP, Minister of Agriculture unveiled the mural of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) premises at Farmgate, Dhaka on December 23, 2020. The mural was constructed under the management and finance of BARC. The mural is 10 feet height and 8 feet width. It took around three months to make this mural. Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of BARC were present as special guests on the occasion. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP said, “The fanatics have vandalized the sculpture of Bangabandhu to kill his ideology. Sculpture and statue are not the same things. Sculpture is an aesthetic art. These two things have two different aspects- one is regarded as idol to be worshipped and the other is simply an art. The sculpture of Bangabandhu is being built to recall his contributions, spread his ideals and raise consciousness among the people.” Agriculture Senior Secretary Md. Mesbahul Islam said, “Bangabandhu is in our soul and heart. We have constructed this mural not only for the present generation, but also for the future generation to recall Bangabandhu's ideals and his great contributions towards the independence of Bangladesh”. Dr. SM Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of BARC described establishing of Bangabandhu mural at BARC premises as a landmark event in the history of BARC. He thanked the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and other head of organizations and senior officers for participation in mural unveiling program at BARC. The mural unveiling program was also attended among others by the high officials of ministry of agriculture and heads and senior officers of the research and extension organizations under the ministry of agriculture.



Unveiling of Bangabandhu's Mural at BARC

World Food Day 2020



Hon'ble PM Inaugurating World Food Day 2020

World Food Day 2020 was observed on 16 October, 2020 in Bangladesh throughout taking various programs. The theme of the day was *Together. Our actions are our future Grow, Nourish, Sustain*. Marking the day, the Ministry of Agriculture initiated different events including international seminars, public awareness-raising activities etc. An international seminar was organized at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on 16 October, 2020. Honourable Prime Minister of The People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina virtually graced the seminar as chief guest. Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP presided over the function while Matia Chowdhury, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Hon'ble PM Inaugurating World Food Day 2020 Food Minister Mr. Sadhan Chandra Majumder, and Fisheries

and Livestock Minister Mr. SM Rezaul Karim were present in the event as special guests. In the inauguration ceremony Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture delivered the welcome address. A recorded speech of Mr. QU Dongyu, the Director General of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was played at the Program. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman BARC, was present in the program. A video documentary in respect to the “food heroes” (farmers) of Bangladesh was screened at the function. Besides, agronomists, nutritionists, and agro-economists from home and abroad also participated in the seminar. More than 500 officials from all over the country including Deputy Commissioners,

Superintendents of Police, officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Divisional, District and Upazila Offices of the Ministry of Food were also virtually connected. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asserted, “Our country is very small while our current population is 165 million. The most important thing is to ensure food security for such a huge population.” She further said, “My government has been working to build a developed and prosperous country that was envisioned by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.” She again uttered, “The dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was to make the country free from hunger and poverty. It was his dream to make the country a developed and prosperous one, and we’re working to that end.” “Bangabandhu had allocated Tk 101 crore out of Tk 500 crore in agriculture for ensuring food security for all”, she recalled. The Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP emphasized on building awareness of food and nutrition security in Bangladesh during the corona virus-post period.

Victory Day 2020

With due solemnity, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken some significant initiatives in the Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The observation of the *Victory Day 2020* in this birth centenary was little bit exceptional. To celebrate the day, a discussion meeting titled *Achieving National Prosperity* was held at BARC auditorium on December 26, 2020 with a view to building the golden Bengal of the dream of the father of the nation. The meeting was held simultaneously in two forms: physical and virtual. Almost 300 participants attended physically while 500 participants from different departments were virtually connected. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture delivered memorable speech in the meeting as the chief guest.



A discussion meeting on Victory Day 2020



Executive Chairman of BARC with his Colleagues upholding the National Flag on 16 December 2020

The meeting was presided over by Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, MoA. Md. Hasanuzzaman Kallol, Additional Secretary, (Extension) MoA rendered a welcome speech. A former senior secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Sajjadul Hasan was present as a special guest at the meeting through video conferencing. Dr. M. A. Sattar Mandal, Professor Emeritus of Bangladesh Agricultural University also attended the program. Md. Sayedul Islam, Chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation addressed the meeting as a negotiator whereas the Executive Chairman of BARC Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Md. Asadullah, Director General, DAE, Krishibid Badiuzzaman Badshah, former chairman of Nalitabari Upazila, and Kazi Afzal Hossain, Secretary General of the BCS Krishi Association were present in the program. The chief guest, Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Hon'ble Minister, MoA said “Through the consciousness of the liberation war and the best use of digital technology, the country can best serve People.” He also mentioned his role in winning the war and helping the common people of the village. The audience was overwhelmed with emotion while talking about the real experience of the liberation war. All the speakers including the president, special guests and negotiators talked on the life style of Bangabandhu paying homage to all other martyrs. The speakers elaborated on Bangabandhu's contribution in laying the foundations for the development of agriculture. the National Flag on 16 December 2020 Especially after independence, development on agriculture was started functioning in the period of Bangabandhu Government agriculture was then recognized as a priority sector. Various research institutes including BARC were established in that time.

World Soil Day Observance

Ministry of Agriculture organized a seminar on *World Soil Day*, 5 December 2020 to raise food output for a growing population. Maintaining good health of soil is an indispensable part of agricultural practice. Soil Resource Development Institute, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN, Practical Action Bangladesh and Soil Science Society of Bangladesh were also co-organizers. The day was observed in Bangladesh with the theme 'Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity'. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Minister of Agriculture as the chief guest virtually said, “Population has been rising by 2.2 million heads every year. We have a great challenge ahead of raising food production to feed the rising population.” He also mentioned, “To maintain a sustainable growth in crop production, it is now imperative to maintain sound health of soil. Biodiversity of soil is necessary



World Soil Day Observance on 5 December 2020

for producing nutrition rich quality food.” The Minister also inaugurated a 'Soil Museum Software' and unveiled the cover of a book titled 'Land Degradation in Bangladesh'. S M Rezaul Karim, Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, (Extension) MoA spoke as special guests while Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC, Bidhan Kumar Bhandar, Director General, SRDI, Robert D Simpson, FAO Bangladesh Representative and Md. Hasanuzzaman Kallol, additional secretary of agriculture also spoke among others. The experts came up with the opinions that maintaining biodiversity of soil is a must to ensure future food security.

Strengthening Research Extension Linkage and Policy Development

A workshop titled *Strengthening Research Extension Linkage and Policy Development* was organized by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council on December 23, 2020. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture graced the workshop as the chief guest while Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, MoA was present as special guest. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC presided over the workshop. Scientists from NARS institutes, agricultural universities and other related organizations participated in the workshop.



Workshop on Strengthening Research Extension Linkage and Policy Development

Foundation Training Course for NARS Scientists

The inaugural ceremony of the suspending N-27 *Foundation Training Course* for the Scientists of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) started at National Agricultural Training Academy (NATA) on 19 December 2020 under the supervision and management of BARC. In the four month long foundation training course, 40 NARS scientists participated. The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Dr. Md. Abu Sayeed Miah, Director General of NATA. Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, MoA was present as the chief guest while Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as



Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, MoA, delivering speech as chief guest

a special guest. The representatives from various government organizations and NARS institutes were also present in the inaugural ceremony. The chief guest Md. Mesbahul Islam mentioned, “The officials of NARS need to learn the administrative affairs so that they can run the administration efficiently.” He advised the participants to take part in the different activities of the course actively. He also requested NATA to conduct the training in compliance with the hygiene rules in COVID-19 situation. The special guest, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar underscored the importance of the foundation training course for the NARS scientists. He added, “During the foundation training course, all participants should take part in all the academic sessions and other co-curricular activities”. The chairperson, Dr. Abu Sayeed expected that the participants would develop leadership qualities through comprehending different sessions and lessons of the foundation training course.

Exchanging Views on Recent Price Hike of Rice, Potato and Onion in Bangladesh

A Meeting titled *Exchanging Views on Recent Price Hike of Rice, Potato and Onion in Bangladesh* was held at BARC on 12 November 2020 was organized by AERS Division. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC. Welcome address mentioning the background of the meeting was delivered by Dr. Md. Mosharraf Uddin Molla, MD, AERS. The meeting was a part for conducting a study to find out the reasons of recent price hike of Rice, Potato and Onion in Bangladesh, which was a direction from the Ministry of Agriculture. A total of 50 participants including the Heads of NARS institutes, KGF, Hortex Foundation, Member Directors and Directors of BARC, former DGs and scientists, teachers, representatives from BARI, BRRI, BINA, BSRI, Ministry of Food, Tariff Commission, DAE, DAM, BADC, BBS, BIDS, and traders of rice, potato and onion attended the meeting.



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC delivering speech

After a fruitful discussion, three inter-institutional and multi-disciplinary study teams were formed for conducting research to find out the reasons behind recent price hike of rice, potato and onion. Prof. Dr. Jahangir Alam, VC, University of Global Village and Dr. Md. Mosharraf Uddin Molla, Member Director (AERS), BARC were nominated as coordinator and member secretary of the study team respectively. In the meeting it was decided that financial support will be provided by KGF for conducting the study.

Progress Review Workshop on PBRG Sub-project “Collection Conservation and Characterization of Important Plant Genetic Resources”

A day long progress review workshop on PBRG sub-project titled *Collection, Conservation and Characterization of Important Plant Genetic Resources* was held at BARC on 07 December 2020 following health safety measures due to Covid-19 pandemic. The objective of the workshop was to review the status on germplasm collection, conservation and characterization



Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, MD (Crops), BARC & Coordinator, PBRG-PGR Sub-project presenting the progress of the project

of plant genetic resources and to prepare a good Project Completion Report (PCR). Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC graced the inaugural session as chief guest and the session was chaired by Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops) and Dr. Md. Harunnur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP-2 was present as special guest. Dr. Shah Md. Monir Hossain, Principal Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC welcomed the participants and briefed objectives of the sub-project. Coordinator of PBRG sub-project Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury presented the progress of project activities along with the objectives. So far, to achieve sub-project objectives, Bangladesh Agricultural University has released two Banana varieties designated as BAU Kola-1 and BAU Kola-2 and five varieties of Yam as BAU Yam-1, BAU Yam-2, BAU Yam-3, BAU Yam-4 and BAU Yam-5 while Bangladesh Sugarcrops Research Institute has released one chewing sugarcane variety as BSRI Akh-47. Dr. Md. Harunnur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC highlighted the importance of potential germplasm having useful traits, which could be exploited in crop improvement program.

The chief guest Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar emphasized the importance of nutrient dense and biotic and abiotic stress tolerant germplasm towards food security. He suggested for taking up initiatives to develop bio-fortified crop variety towards value addition through improving nutrition level of crops specially vegetables. Principal Investigators and Co-Principal Investigators of different components organization of the sub-projects, relevant personnel from BARI, BRRI, BINA, BSRI, BJRI, BSRTI, CDB and BAU, BARC personnel and expert members attended the workshop. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC and Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops Division, BARC chaired technical session I & II respectively.



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC delivering speech as chief guest

Consultation Workshop on Biotechnological Research Priority for NARS Institutes



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC delivering speech as chief guest

A day long consultation workshop on *Biotechnological Research Priority for NARS Institutes* was held on 29 December, 2020 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC graced the inaugural session as the chief guest. Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops Division chaired the session and presented a brief on research priorities of major crops in Bangladesh to sensitize the audience. Dr. Shah Md. Monir Hossain, PSO, Crops, BARC welcomed the participants. The chief guest emphasized the importance of biotech tools for improving crop quality and stress tolerance. He also urged all concerned to undertake target oriented coordinated projects to

achieve better result through knowledge and expertise. Different Heads, Biotech division from BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI, BINA & CDB and relevant personnel and expert members attended the workshop. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC and Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops, BARC chaired technical session I and II respectively. Achievements, current experiments/programs and future biotech research thrust were presented by heads of biotech division of NARS Institutes dealing with crops.

Up-scaling and Application of Solar Photovoltaic Pump for Smallholder Irrigation and Household Appliances in the Central Coastal Region of Bangladesh



Workshop on Up-scaling and Application of Solar Photovoltaic Pump for Smallholder Irrigation and Household Appliances in the Central Coastal Region of Bangladesh

Md. Abdul Wohab, Ex-DG, BARI and Dr. Sultan Ahmmed, MD (NRM) (PRL), BARC were present as expert members. Annual Progress presentation of BARI and BRRRI component was followed by lively discussion. The rapporteur presented their reports in concluding session and draft recommendations were finalized. At the end Member Director (Livestock) & CSO, BARC concluded the workshop with thanks to the participants.

Agricultural Engineering Unit of Natural Resource Management Division, BARC organized Second Annual Review Workshop of PBRG Sub-project titled *Up-scaling and Application of Solar Photovoltaic Pump for Smallholder Irrigation and Household Appliances in the Central Coastal Region of Bangladesh* on 12 October 2020 in BARC, Dhaka. The participants were the scientists/experts from different research institutes. The inaugural session was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock) & CSO, BARC. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as the chief guest. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP-2 was present as the special guest. Technical session was chaired by Dr. Ahmmed Ali Hassan, Ex-DG, BINA. Dr.

Groundwater resources management for sustainable crop production in northwest hydrological region of Bangladesh

Agricultural Engineering Unit of Natural Resource Management Division, BARC organized second annual review workshop of PBRG Sub-project titled “*Groundwater resources management for sustainable crop production in northwest hydrological region of Bangladesh*” on 11 October 2020 in BARC. The participants were scientists/experts from different research institutes. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director, Livestock, BARC. The workshop was graced by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC as the chief guest whereas the special guest was Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP-2. Technical session was chaired by Dr. Shirazul Islam, Ex-Director Research, BARI. Dr. Md. Abdur Rashid, Ex-CSO, BRRRI and Dr. Md. Asgor Ali Sarkar, former Director (SS), BINA were present as expert members. Annual Progress presentation of BINA, BARI and BRRRI component was followed by lively discussion. The rapporteur presented their reports in concluding session and draft recommendations were finalized. Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim concluded the workshop with thanks to the participants for their spontaneous cooperation.



A view of annual review workshop of PBRG Sub-project

Research Review 2019-20 and Research Program 2020-21 on Agricultural Engineering of NARS Institutes



Research Review 2019-20 and Research Program 2020-21 on Agricultural Engineering of NARS Institutes

Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, MD (Livestock) and CSO, Ag. Engg. Unit, BARC. The previous year’s recommendations were briefed. Dr. N.N. Karim also emphasized on undertaking researches considering national agricultural policy 2018, national agricultural mechanization policy 2020, perspective plan, national agricultural extension plans etc. The chief guest, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC urged the concerned scientists to work with due importance on agricultural mechanization in Bangladesh following government’s priorities. Technical Session on Farm Machinery was chaired by M. Harun Ur Rashid, Ex-Director General, BARI & former Executive Chairman,

Agricultural Engineering Unit, Natural Resource Management Division, BARC organized *Research Review 2019-20 and Research Program 2020-21* on ‘Agricultural Engineering of NARS Institutes’ in Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council on 14-15 October 2020 with the participation of 5 NARS institutes (BARI, BRRRI, BINA, BSRI and BWMRI), Department of Agricultural Extension, Rural Development Academy, Agricultural Universities, etc. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, MD (Livestock) and CSO, Ag. Engg. Unit, BARC. The previous year’s recommendations were briefed. Dr. N.N. Karim also emphasized on undertaking researches considering national agricultural policy 2018, national agricultural mechanization policy 2020, perspective plan, national agricultural extension plans etc. The chief guest, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC urged the concerned scientists to work with due importance on agricultural mechanization in Bangladesh following government’s priorities. Technical Session on Farm Machinery was chaired by M. Harun Ur Rashid, Ex-Director General, BARI & former Executive Chairman,

BARC. Expert members were Md. Abdus Sattar, Ex-Director General, BARI & Ex-Director General, BJRI and Dr. Sultan Ahmed, MD (NRM) (PRL), BARC. Technical session on Post Harvest Technology was chaired by Dr. Sultan Ahmed, MD (PRL), NRM Division, BARC. Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Alim, Member, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority was present as an expert member. Technical session on Irrigation and Water Management was chaired by Dr. Wais Kabir, former EC, BARC and former ED, KGF. Expert members in this session were Dr. Ahmad Ali Hassan, former Director General, BINA; Dr. Shirazul Islam, former Director (Research), BARI, Dr. Asgar Ali Sarkar, former Director (Admin and Support Service), BINA and Dr. Md. Abdur Rashid, former CSO (IWM), BRRI. The rapporteurs had presented their reports before draft recommendations were finalized.

Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience in South Asia

Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock) & CSO (Ag. Engg.), BARC virtually participated the first meeting of Country Project Management Committee (C-PMC) of Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) funded and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) implemented project titled *Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience in South Asia* on 20th October 2020. The main goal of the project is to contribute to climate-resilient, gender and socially-inclusive agrarian livelihoods in South Asia by supporting national government efforts to promote solar irrigation. This project is being implemented in four South Asian countries namely Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. In Bangladesh IWMI is implementing the project in partnership with Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL).

Sixteenth Session of the Governing Council of Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)

Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock) & CSO (Ag. Engg.), BARC participated in the sixteenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) convened virtually on 4 December 2020. The Session was attended by the representatives of all nine members of the council namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The representatives from Japan also attended the meeting as observers.



Participants of the Sixteenth Session of the Governing Council of CSAM

8th Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific

Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock) & CSO (Ag. Engg.), BARC participated in the 8th Regional Forum on *Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific* organized by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP-CSAM) on 11 December 2020 on *Agriculture Beyond the Covid-19 Pandemic: Building Back Better through Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization*. The 8th Regional Forum was conducted in hybrid mode and it comprised of two sessions: a morning session titled 'Policy Dialogue on China's Experience in Strengthening Food Systems amid the Response to COVID-19' held in Beijing and broadcast live online, and an afternoon session titled 'Discussion Forum on Agriculture Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: Building Back Better through Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization' organized fully online. Over 150 participants from 20 countries attended the two sessions of the 8th Regional Forum both online and in Beijing.

18th AGM of Bangladesh Water Partnership

Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock) & CSO (Ag. Engg.), BARC participated in the 18th AGM of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) convened virtually on 26 December 2020.

Training on Solar Home System Establishment, Utilization & Maintenance based on BARI Solar Pump

BARC expert and coordinating personnel of PBRG project attended training course under PBRG Sub-project titled *Solar Home System Establishment, Utilization & Maintenance* on BARI Solar Pump at Charfassion, Bhola. It was held on 4 November, 2020. Dr. Shirazul Islam, former Director (Res), BARI & Consultant of the project was the chief guest. Dr. Ayub Hossain, CSO & Head, FMPHT Division, BARI & PI of the project presided over the inaugural session. Upazila Agriculture Extension Officers of Charfassion and Lalmohon of Bhola and SSO and In-charge, OFRD, BARI, Bhola was present among other special guest. FMPE Division, BARI arranged the training course and twenty trainees corresponding farmers, electricians, mechanics and SAAO participated in the training program. The objective of the training was to disseminate the knowledge of maximum utilization of solar energy, operation & maintenance of solar pump and solar home system among the participants of Charfassion and Lalmohon of Bhola.



Training program at Charfassion, Bhola

Portable Solar Panel Based Solar Pump, Paddy Thresher and Solar Home System Establishment, Utilization & Maintenance

BARC expert and coordinating personnel of PBRG project attended training course under PBRG Sub-project titled Portable Solar Panel Based Solar Pump, Paddy Thresher and Solar Home System Establishment, Utilization & Maintenance at BRRRI Barishal regional office on 12 December 2020. Dr. Shirazul Islam, former Director (Res), BARI and the consultant of the project was present as the chief guest. Upazila Agriculture Extension Officers of Barishal and scientists of BRRRI also attended the program. IWM Division, Component BRRRI arranged the training course and twenty trainees corresponding farmers, electricians, mechanics and SAAO participated in the program. The objective of the training was to disseminate the knowledge of maximum utilization of solar energy, operation & maintenance of portable solar pump, solar powered thresher and solar home system among participants of Bakerganj and Barishal sader.



Training program at BRRRI Barishal Regional Office

PBRG Sub-project Meetings

Three discussion meetings on PBRG sub-project titled *Groundwater Management Project* were held on December 14, 21 & 27 2020 at BARI, BINA and BRRRI respectively with a view to sharing the overall project progress activities. Project related activities like, water table data modelling, groundwater abstraction pattern, water quality analysis, water saving technology adoption experiments, Project Completion Report (PCR), etc. were discussed in the meeting. The associate coordinator, Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim emphasized on working with highest sincerity so that the project works could be completed in time and to be incorporated in PCR.



Meetings of PBRG Sub-project at BARI BINA and BRRRI head office

Annual Review Workshop on PBRG Sub-projects



Annual Review Workshop on PBRG Sub-projects at BARC

Livestock Division, BARC organized a day long annual review workshop on two PBRG sub-projects titled *Determination of Antimicrobial Resistance and Residues in Livestock and Poultry Food Products and Feed in Bangladesh and Preparedness for the control of PPR in Bangladesh* on 05 November 2020 at BARC Auditorium. Participants from different organizations like BARC, BLRI, IEDCR, DGHS, NIB, DLS, KGF, Universities and other organizations attended the workshop. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, (Crops) BARC as the chief guest and Dr. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP-2 was present as the special guest. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock), BARC. In the inaugural session, the welcome remarks as well as short briefing of the projects was delivered by Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division, BARC & Associate Coordinator of the sub-projects. Technical session-1 was chaired by Dr. Kazi M. Kamaruddin, Consultant, Livestock Division, BARC and Technical session-2 was chaired by Dr. Shah Md. Ziqrul Haq Chowdhury, Former Member Director (Livestock), BARC. The annual progress activities of 2019-2020 were presented by Principal Investigators of the project of BAU, BLRI, SAU, PSTU, RU, HSTU and CVASU component. The presentations were followed by lively discussions and draft recommendations were finalized.

Annual Review Workshop on PBRG Sub-projects

Livestock Division, BARC organized a very interactive and outcome based Annual Review Workshop on two PBRG sub-projects "*Development of knowledge hub on Feed Resources for efficient feeding management of livestock and Application of Gamma-ray Irradiation to develop stress tolerant capability in fodder crops and their production performance under on-station and on-farm conditions*" on 12 November 2020 at BARC. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC as the chief guest and Dr. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-NATP, BARC as the special guest. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock), BARC. The inaugural session was started with the welcome remarks as well as short briefing of the projects by Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division, BARC & Associate Coordinator of sub-projects. The workshop was attended by the participants from

different organizations (DLS, BLRI, BARC, University, PKSF, University, KGF and other stakeholder organizations). Technical session was chaired by Dr. Kazi M. Kamaruddin, Consultant, Livestock Division, BARC. The annual progress activities of the year 2019-2020 were presented by Principal Investigators of BAU, BLRI, SAU and BINA components. The presentations were followed by active discussions and draft recommendations were finalized in the workshop.



Annual Review Workshop on PBRG Sub-projects at BARC

Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on the Livestock Sector in Bangladesh



Participants of the workshop on Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Livestock Sector

A day long consultative workshop on “Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on livestock sector in Bangladesh” was held on 26 November 2020 at BARC. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC as the chief guest. The session was graced by Dr. Abdul Jabbar Sikder, Director General, Department of Livestock Services and Dr. Nathu Ram Sarker, Director General, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute as special guests respectively. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock), BARC. In inaugural remarks, Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division of Participants of the workshop on Mitigating the impact of

COVID-19 on the Livestock Sector in Bangladesh” at BARC BARC highlighted the global epidemiology of COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop was attended by academia, scientists and professionals from different organizations like BARC, DLS, BLRI, University, other public and private stakeholder organizations. The technical session was commenced with the chairmanship of Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam, Former Director General, BLRI. There were four papers presented on different thematic areas by four eminent experts. The presentation on “Impacts of COVID-19 on the dairy sector in Bangladesh” was delivered by Dr. Sarder Mohammad Amanullah, SSO, Biotech Division, BLRI. The second paper on “Impacts of COVID-19 on the poultry sector in Bangladesh” was presented by Dr. Md. A Salek Ahmed, Chief Technical Advisor of ACI Animal Health. The third thematic paper on “Livestock production strategies during and after Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh” was presented by Dr. Abu Sufian, Assistant Director, Animal Health, DLS. The last thematic presentation on “Sustainable Livestock Production in Post COVID-19 Period” was presented by Professor Dr. A K Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, Dean, Faculty of Animal Husbandry, BAU. Finally, the recommendations were made at the end of the workshop.

Research Progress 2019-2020 and Research Program 2020-2021 on Livestock of NARS Institutes

A two daylong workshop of Research Progress 2019-2020 and Research Program 2020-2021 on “Livestock of NARS Institutes” was held during 21-22 October 2020 at the BARC Auditorium. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC as the chief guest. Dr. Abdul Jabbar Sikder, Director General, Department of Livestock Services and Dr. Nathu Ram Sarker, Director General, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute graced the occasion as the special guests respectively. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock), BARC. The workshop was attended by the participants from different organizations like BARC, DLS, BLRI, University and other stakeholder organizations. The inaugural session was started with the welcome remarks by Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division of BARC. Technical session-1 was chaired by Dr. Kazi M. Kamaruddin, Consultant, Livestock Division, BARC. Technical session-2 was chaired by Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam, Former Director General, BLRI. In the technical sessions, the ongoing research progress for the year 2019-20 and proposed research Program for the year 2020-21 under the divisions of BLRI were presented. Panel of experts and professionals gave focusses and guidelines to accomplish the research work. Draft recommendations were finalized in the workshop.



Workshop on “Research Progress 2019-2020 and Research Program 2020-2021 on Livestock of NARS Institutes”

Training on “Khamari” Mobile App and Output Validation of Crop Zoning Project of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council



Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council has been implementing Development of Upazila Land Suitability Assessment and Crop Zoning System of Bangladesh’ project since June 2017. In the meantime, the project has achieved many important goals. Crop Zoning Interactive Information System (CZIIS) software for crop suitability assessment and mobile app named “khamari” for information dissemination at field level and agri-advisory portal for providing information related to agricultural development has been developed. At present, among other activities of two



A View of Training on “Khamari”

important events are being implemented by the project, namely, (1) ‘Training on mobile apps’ and (2) ‘Validation of outputs at field level’. As an attempt of awareness and familiarizing the mobile app among extension officials and selected farmers five hands-on training Programs were organized at the upazila level in November 2020. In those training Programs different usages/functionalities of the mobile app were demonstrated. Getting information on potential crops for their land along with crop variety, yield was shown to the participants. The response from the trainees was very encouraging and many important feedbacks were received from them. They opined that the mobile app is timely and it would be a great help in increasing the crop productivity and profitability. In November 2020, the outputs of mobile app khamari were validated at more than 200 farmers’ fields in 23 upazilas under different districts of Barishal division. The observation of field validations is helpful in addressing issues related to anomalies experienced in the output and fine tuning of the mobile apps.

Annual Review Workshop under PBRG, FSRD Sub-projects



Annual Review Workshop under PBRG, FSRD Sub-projects

A four day long Annual Review workshop on four PBRG funded FSRD projects- (i) Integrated Farming Research and Development For Livelihood Improvement in the Plain land Eco-system (ii) Improvement of Farm Productivity through Intervention with Improved Agricultural Technologies in Char land Eco-System (iii) Livelihood Improvement of farmers through Integrated Farming System Research and Development of Drought and Rain-fed Ecosystem and (iv) Climate Resilient Farming Systems Research and Development for the Coastal Ecosystem was held at BARC on 27 December 2020. Four technical sessions were held on 27, 28, 29 and 30 December 2020 respectively. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of BARC was present as the chief

guest and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP Phase-II was present as special guest in the inaugural session. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member Director, Planning & Evaluation Division, BARC chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Chief Scientific Officer, P&E Division, BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka delivered welcome speech. PIs, Co-PIs, scientists of the different components of the sub-projects, BARC personnel, PIU-BARC, NATP Phase-II personnel, PMU representative and expert members were present in the workshop. The expert members of the review workshop discussed the research programs and achievements in homestead vegetable production, crop and cropping pattern, livestock production, fishery production and off farm activities addressed by the NARS institutes. Among the four projects three projects were in the completion stage and another one Drought and Rainfed Ecosystem passed one year. Therefore, the recommendations were made for the three projects about reporting (PCR).

Food Adulteration and Contamination vs Nutrition: Inside facts and Consumer Responsibility & Future Fisheries and COVID-19: Boost Up value addition of fish and fish products and its opportunity

As a part of the human resource development, Nutrition unit of BARC during October to December 2020 two training workshops on *Food Adulteration and Contamination vs Nutrition: Inside facts and Consumer Responsibility & Future Fisheries and COVID-19: Boost Up value addition of fish and fish products and its opportunity* were organized in Koat Chandpur, Jenaidah and Rajshahi University respectively to create awareness on food adulteration, contamination promote nutrition knowledge, value addition of fish and fish products including agricultural crops production, processing and means to increase the knowledge of nutrition through capacity building. A total of 75 participants in each training workshop from the multi-sectors like NARS scientists, officers, teachers (school, universities etc.), Sub-assistant Agriculture Officer, health workers, NGO represen-



'Food Adulteration and Contamination vs Nutrition : Inside Fact and Consumer Responsibility'

tative, local journalists, producers, family farmers, traders, consumers and other government agency extension workers attended the workshop. Notably, both of the programs were organized to disseminate the messages focusing on food adulteration and contamination and mitigation measures, value addition of agricultural produces and importance of food based nutrition with knowledge to be transferred to neighbors and others stakeholders. The courses were designed with multidisciplinary sectors covering and emphasized the following areas viz., agriculture products, gardening, small-scale fish culture, livestock; food hygiene, sanitation, quality safe food, food security, micronutrient benefits, food utilization, cooking process, food adulteration and mitigation measures, improvement of nutrition level, processing to restore food value, nutrition care of lactating and pregnant women as well as adolescent girls and preservation techniques of fruits and vegetables, quality control, etc. In both of these program Dr. Md. Monirul Islam, Member Director (Fisheries), BARC attended as a key speaker to facilitate and make the entire training workshop successful.

Training on Methodology of Farming Systems Research and Development

Four trainings on *Methodology of Farming Systems Research and Development* were organized at BARC by the Planning and Evaluation Division, BARC. One PBRG Sub-project training titled *Integrated Farming Research and Development for Livelihood Improvement in the Plain land Eco-system* was held during 02-04 October 2020 at OFRD, BARI, Rangpur. Thirty Scientific Assistants (SA) from BARI and BRRI participated in the training. Another two trainings were organized under PBRG Sub-project titled *Improvement of Farm Productivity through Intervention with Improved Agricultural Technologies in Charland Eco-System*. One was arranged on 27-29, October 2020 at BARC. Thirty (30) scientists from different NARS institutes joined the program. The last one was arranged on 07-09 November 2020 at Training Room, OFRD, BARI, Shyampur, Rajshahi which was attended by thirty SA (Male-30) of BARI, BRRI and BSRI. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of BARC was present as the chief guest and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP Phase-II was present as the special guest in the inaugural and closing session of both of the training under Char land Eco-System. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member Director (P&E), BARC and Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director (AIC), BARC were course director and coordinator respectively. The overall objective of the training was to increase the capacity development of stakeholder on farming system research and development. Total eighteen classes in each training were conducted by different expert persons.



Inaugural of Training Program on Methodology of Farming Systems Development, PIU-BARC, NATP-2.

Research Highlight (Developed Technology)



Technology of Rapid Technology Transfer (RTT) model

A technology of *Rapid Technology Transfer (RTT) model* was developed from TTMU, BARC for transferring technologies at farmers' level under PBRG sub-project entitled "Transfer of Agricultural Technologies to Farmers' level for Increasing Farm Productivity" ID-005, PIU-BARC, NATP-2. A total of 63 technologies from ten institutes (BWMRI-4, BARI-23, BINA-8, BSRI-3, BRRI-12, BJRI-4, CDB-4, SRDI-1, BLRI-2, BFRI-2) have been transferred to 200 farmers of 35 upazillas under 17 districts. The technologies developed by CRG and PBRG under PIU-BARC, NATP-2 could be transferred economically and rapidly through this model for dissemination and strengthening Research-Extension-Farmer linkage.

Training of Trainers on Spices Technologies



Training of Trainers on Spices Technologies

Giving emphasis on human immunity during the pandemic Covid-19 situation and also rising price of onion a two day-long Training of Trainers (ToT) program on "Spices Technologies" was conducted at Spices Research Center (SRC), Shibganj, Bogura on 29-30 December, 2020 funded by PIU-BARC, NATP-2. This program was jointly organized by Technology Transfer and Monitoring Unit (TTMU), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and SRC, BARI, Shibganj, Bogura. Thirty Agriculture Officers (Upazilla Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Extension Officer) from 27 districts attended the program. Mr. G. M. A.

Gofur, Additional Director, Bogura region and Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director (TTMU), BARC were present as the chief guest and the special guest in the inaugural session respectively. Dr. Md. Hamim Reza, CSO & Head, SRC, BARI, Shibganj, Bogura was the chairperson in the inaugural session. Twenty five different technologies on “Spices Crop Production” were transferred in two days training program propagation technique and method of spice crop plantation, pest, fertilizer, soil, irrigation management, collection, preservation and processing of spice crops were transferred to the extension personals through this training. The participants expressed that this training was more effective in Covid-19 situation and also in the case of rising price of onion. The participants also suggested that this type of training program would increase strengthening linkage between research and extension.



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC delivering speech as chief guest

Transfer of Agricultural Technologies to Farmers Level for Increasing Farm Productivity

2nd Annual Progress Review workshop on PBRG sub-project titled *Transfer of Agricultural Technologies to Farmers' level for Increasing Farm Productivity* was held on 14 December 2020 at BARC auditorium. In inaugural session, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC and Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, MD (Crops), BARC were present as the chief guest and the special guest respectively. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director (TTMU) who chaired the workshop delivered welcome address. The chief guest mentioned that Rapid Technology Transfer (RTT) model is very effective for transferring technologies economically and rapidly at farmer's level. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director (TTMU) suggested BARI Gom-30, BARI Gom-32, BARI Gom-33, WMRI Gom-1 and Binasharisha-9 for disseminating at Robi season. All PIs & Co-PIs of ten components (BARI, BWMRI, BRRI, BINA, BFRI, BSRI, BLRI, BJRI, SRDI & CDB), extension personnel (DAE, DoF, DLS), scientists and officers of BARC and expert members were present in the workshop. Progress Activities of ten NARS institutes along with BARC were presented in this workshop.

Agriculture Technology Extension Coordination Committee Meeting Rabi Season 2020

A meeting of *Agriculture Technology Extension Coordination Committee (ATECC)* was held on 16 November 2020 at BARC for Rabi Season/2020. The meeting was presided by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC who welcomed all the members through Zoom Platform in Covid-19 pandemic situation. He suggested that this meeting should be conducted regularly to strengthen research-extension linkage for rapidly dissemination the newly developed technologies. Mr. Mahfuj Hossain Miradha, Director (In-Charge), Field Service wing, DAE coordinated the meeting. All the participants of ATECC from NARS institutes (BARI, BRRI, BINA, BSRI, BJRI, CDB, SRDI), DAE, DAM, BADC, AIS, BIRTAN, SCA, Hortex foundation, BARC and private organizations joined the meeting through Zoom Platform. Md. Abdul Majid, DD (Extension), DAE presented all activities of the meeting. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director (TTMU), BARC as member of the committee suggested to disseminate promising technologies viz. BARI Gom-30, BARI Gom-32, BARI Gom-33, WMRI Gom-1 and Binasharisha-9 for Robi season through demonstrations/field-day selected from PBRG sub-project titled “Transfer of Agricultural Technologies to Farmers' level for Increasing Farm Productivity”.



ATECC Zoom Meeting

Coordination Meeting



2nd Co-ordination meeting PBRG sub-project

A day-long 2nd coordination meeting was held on 19 October 2020 at BARC under PBRG sub-project titled *Transfer of Agricultural Technologies to Farmers level for Increasing Farm Productivity* coordinated by TTMU, BARC. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director (TTMU) and Coordinator of the project presided the meeting. All PI & Co-PIs of ten components of NARS (BARI, BWMRI, BRRI, BINA, BFRI, BSRI, BLRI, BJRI, SRDI & CDB) were present in the meeting. PIs of each component presented the activities progress. All PIs of this project opined that such type of meeting is needed for the successful completion of the project.

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Any query concerning the newsletter or its contents, comments and suggestions for our endeavor would highly be appreciated.

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