

Input from BARC for the 9th meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission

The 9th meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission will provide an important platform to strengthen agricultural cooperation between two countries. Input from the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) highlights the potential for both countries to address shared challenges in productivity, sustainability, and food security. By exchanging knowledge and exploring joint initiatives, Bangladesh and Pakistan can work together to enhance agricultural development and improve the livelihoods of their rural populations. Considering the present situation, Bangladesh may highlight the following points:

- Focus on expanding market access, addressing trade barriers, and promoting high-demand exports such as rice, fruits (like mango, banana, watermelon), vegetables, and spices.
- Collaborate on modern technology transfer (like saplings and seeds of good quality, high yielding varieties, fruit processing etc.), joint research for crop improvement and pest management, and introduce smart farming practices like precision agriculture and drone usage.
- Implement joint initiatives for climate-resilient agriculture, efficient water management, and eco-friendly practices like agroforestry and soil conservation.
- Explore investment opportunities in agri-businesses, encourage public-private partnerships, and develop agri-tourism ventures.
- Develop a concrete action plan with clear timelines, form sector-specific joint working groups like cereal and crop improvement working group, agri-business development and market access working group, climate-resilient agriculture and water management working group and set collaboration milestones for follow-up.
- Formalize cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) to strengthen agricultural research and development.
- Strengthen collaboration in fisheries and livestock sectors through joint research, improved breeding practices, and sustainable resource management for both industries.
- Enhance training programs for farmers and professionals, create platforms for knowledge exchange, and promote sustainable farming and organic practices.


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