



BARC

Newsletter

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8th CGIAR Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting



Hon'ble Chief Guest, Wahida Akter, Chair Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC and the Other Guests of the Eighth CAC Meeting

The "8th CGIAR (Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers) Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting" was held on 21 June 2023 at BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka. The meeting was chaired by Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of BARC who is also the chair of the CAC. Wahida Akter, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) attended the programme as chief guest on behalf of Hon'ble

Minister, MoA Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP. The CAC members from the concerned ministries, research-extension institutes and universities, representatives of all CGIAR Centers (IRRI, CIMMYT, World Fish, IFPRI, and CIP), Dr. Temina Lalani-Shariff, Regional Director for South Asia, CGIAR were also present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the

progress of the ongoing projects/programmes being implemented by the CGIAR Centers in Bangladesh in collaboration with the public, private, and development partners. The meeting also discussed how the collaboration between government agencies and CGIAR Centers could further be strengthened.

Workshop on Standardization and Interoperability of Agro-Data Ecosystem for Smart Agriculture

The "Standardization and Interoperability of Agro-Data Ecosystem for Smart Agriculture" workshop held on 7 May 2023 at BARC, was Organized by BARC's Crop Zoning Project a significant

milestone in advancing smart agriculture. Hon'ble Secretary of Information and Communication Technology Division, and Hon'ble Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture were present as chief guest and

special guest respectively. The workshop was presided over by the Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC. This daylong event witnessed active participation from 71 distinguished individuals,

including heads of organizations associated with the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant institutions. The workshop served as a vital platform for discussions on standardizing and improving the interoperability of agro-data systems, crucial for implementing smart agriculture practices. The presence of top officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and other key institutions highlighted the workshop's significance in modernizing agriculture. This event fostered collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the development of a cohesive ecosystem for smart agriculture. Overall, it demonstrated a



Participants of Workshop on Standardization and Interoperability of Agro-Data Ecosystem for Smart Agriculture

commitment to advancing and data-driven solutions. agriculture through innovation

National Workshop on Knowledge Sharing on Fighting Back Against Fall Armyworm

A national workshop on “Knowledge Sharing on Fighting Back against Fall Armyworm” was held at BARC on 24 June 2023. The objective of the workshop was to review fighting back against Fall Armyworm (FAW). NARS institutes viz., BARI, BWMRI, BRRI, BINA, BJRI, BSRI, CDB and other public sector organizations like DAE, BADC, Universities, and private organizations joined the programme. Scientists, academicians, and extension personnel of the relevant fields attended the workshop as expert members and provided suggestions for incorporation in the future action plan.

The workshop was graced by Wahida Akter, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture as the chief guest. Instead of utilizing chemicals, she said, IPM and biocontrol might be used to tackle FAW. The Secretary, MoA expressed appreciation to CIMMYT for carrying on the effort



Wahida Akter, Hon'ble Secretary, MoA Delivering Speech

to counteract FAW. Chairperson of the inaugural session, Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC said that FAW infestation may be increased due to the effect of climate change. He also drew attention to CIMMYT and FAO to work collaboratively for the monitoring and management of FAW. Dr. Timothy J. Krupnik, Country Representative of

CIMMYT, Bangladesh was the keynote speaker. He discussed the activities of Fall Armyworm (FAW) monitoring and integrated management throughout the world. Mr. Joseph Lessard, Deputy Office Director, Economic Growth Office, USAID Bangladesh was the Guest of Honor.

Workshop on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Genome Edited Plants in Bangladesh

A day-long workshop on “Standard Operating Procedure for Genome Edited Plants in Bangladesh” was held on 25 May 2023 at BARC organized by the Crops Division, BARC, Dhaka. Genome Editing is a cutting-edge technology that employs targeted and fixed genetic traits to rapidly develop desired character crops through addition and deletion. The main objective of this programme was to ensure the safe and appropriate use of these plants while keeping environmental, health, and ethical considerations in mind. Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC was present as chief guest, Major General (Rtd.) Prof. Dr. A S M Matiur Rahman, Fellow, BAS, and Rehana Yasmin, Joint Secretary (Research), Ministry of Agriculture attended as special guests, respectively, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member Director (Crops), BARC presided over the workshop. Prof. Dr. Rakha Hari Sarker, Department of Botany, Dhaka University presented the draft SOP for Genome Edited Plants in Bangladesh; and briefly



Workshop on Standard Operating Procedure for Genome Edited Plants in Bangladesh

outlined the current situation of agriculture and how biotechnology may be used in agriculture. The Executive Chairman of BARC suggested that the SOP applies to all researchers, institutions, and stakeholders in Bangladesh who are involved in the development, testing, and marketing of genome-edited plants. It included everything from laboratory studies to field trials and commercialization. The participants expressed their views

that it was a time-demanding programme that meets global and country-level expectations. However, valued experts and participants provided several opinions and recommendations. A technical committee or relevant subject-oriented committee is required in the SOP of the process for identifying SDN1 and SDN2. A standard lab must be established for the process of identifying SDN1 and SDN2.

Annual Review Workshop on Socio-economic Research Progress (2022-23) and Future Research Programme (2023-24) of NARS Institutes

The Annual Review Workshop on “Socio-economic Research Progress (2022-23) and Future Research Programme (2023-24) of NARS Institutes” was held at BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka on 19 June 2023 organized by Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology (AERS) Division, BARC. In the inaugural session, Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC was the chief guest. Dr. Md. Mosharraf Uddin Molla,

Member Director (AERS), BARC, presided over the session. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, PSO (AERS), BARC made a presentation on the implementation status of recommendations from last year’s workshop. The Session chair welcomed all stated aims of the workshop with highlighted the importance of this review workshop. A total of 90 participants including scientists,

professors, agricultural experts, and delegates attended the workshop from different research organizations, universities, and private sectors. The present and future research activities were presented by the Head or nominee of the related division of six NARS institutes (BARI, BRRI, BINA, BSRI, BLRI & BFRI) in the technical session. The first technical session was presided

over by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rezaul Karim Talukdar (Retd.), BAU, and the second technical session by Prof. Dr. Jahangir Alam Khan, Former DG, BLRI. Five expert reviewers namely Prof. Dr. Shaikh Abdus Sabur. (Retd.), BAU, Mymensingh, Dr. B A A Mustafi, Former Director (Admin and CS), BRRI, Gazipur, Dr. A.S.M. Anwarul Huq, Former DG, BJRI, and Prof. Dr. Mizanul Haque Kajol, Dept. of Development and Poverty Studies, SAU, Dhaka, reviewed the presented research programme critically. However, the comments/suggestions were



Annual Review Workshop on Socio-economic Research Progress (2022-23) and Future Research Program (2023-24) of NARS Institutes

made in the day-long workshop by the expert reviewers and valued participants which are expected to be integrated in formulating future

research programmes of the respective division of NARS institutes.

Good Animal Husbandry Practices: Present Status and Way Forward

Livestock Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) organized a workshop on “Good Animal Husbandry Practices: Present Status and Way Forward” that was held on 08 June 2023 at BARC. The workshop was inaugurated by the chief guest Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC, and Dr. S M Jahangir Hossain, Director General, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) was present as a special guest. Dr. Khan Md. Saiful Islam, Professor, Department of Animal Nutrition, BAU; Dr. Md. Reazul Haque, Director (Admin), DLS; Dr. Nasrin Sultana, Director (Research), BLRI; and Dr. M. A. Salek, Chief Technical Advisor, ACI



Good Animal Husbandry Practices: Present Status and Way Forward

Animal Health were present as discussants. Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Chief Scientific Officer, Livestock Division, BARC; Dr. A. B. M. Khaleduzzaman, and Dr. Nathu Ram Sarker, Director (Livestock and Fisheries), Krishi Gobeshona

Foundation (KGF); were present. Several recommendations were made based on the comments and suggestions of the experts, guests, professionals, scientists, and participants.

Workshop on Biotechnology Research Based on Biotechnology Policy-2012

A workshop titled “Progress Review Workshop on Biotechnology Research Based on Biotechnology Policy-2012” was held at BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka on 22 May 2023. The opening ceremony of the workshop was presided over by Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member Director (Crops),

BARC. Dr. S M Bokhtiar EC, BARC was present as the chief guest. The special guest was Dr. Mirza Mofazzal Islam, DG, BINA. Dr. Shah Md. Monir Hossain, CSO (Crops), BARC gave the welcome speech. Apart from this, eminent experts of the country, university teachers, scientists, and officials of the

NARS, NIB, and other public and private institutions related to agriculture were present as distinguished participants in the workshop.

Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC said that importance should be given to Bioinformatics along with Speed Breeding, Genome Editing, and

other Biotechnologies. Mentioning technology as the only tool, he called upon scientists to make the agriculture sector more prosperous and pioneering. As a special guest, Dr. Mirza Mofazzal Islam, BINA, greeted everyone and urged the public and private organizations to cooperate.

The workshop's chair, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, MD (Crops), BARC, emphasized the need to carry out the action plan established by the relevant institutions while taking into account the six hotspots of Bangladesh for long-term (10-year) activities using biotechnological tools. In the first and second technical sessions of the workshop, BARI,



Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC Delivering Speech as Chief Guest

BRI, BINA, BSRI, BJRI, BWMRI, CDB, NIB, BAU, BSMRAU, SAU, ACI and BRAC presented power point presentation on progress of long-term (10-year) activities.

After fruitful discussion decision was made that in the upcoming

Boro season, farmers will use the AWD (Alternative Drying and Wetting) technology for irrigation and the Khamari App for rice production. DAE will take proper initiatives for the implementation of this decision.

Workshop on Standardization and Interoperability of Agro-Data Ecosystem for Smart Agriculture

A 3 day long workshop was held at the National Agriculture Training Academy (NATA) in Gazipur from 18 to June 20 2023 on “Standardization and Interoperability of Agro-Data Ecosystem for Smart Agriculture”. It brought together 30 esteemed scientists and officers representing various institutions and organizations affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as other relevant institutions. The inaugural session of the workshop was graced by the Hon’ble Secretary of Reforms and coordination from the Cabinet Division, who served as the chief guest and joined the proceedings online, adding distinction to the event. Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC presided over the event, ensuring its smooth and productive execution. During the three-day workshop, institutions and



Workshop on Standardization and Interoperability of Agro-Data Ecosystem for Smart Agriculture

organizations participated in technical sessions and presented both external and internal datasets. Following the analysis of the datasets, 27 draft datasets were prepared for interoperability in fields such as agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. The closing ceremony featured the Hon’ble Secretary of Information & Communication Technology as

the chief guest, who joined the proceedings online, along with the Hon’ble Secretary of Reforms and Coordination from the Cabinet Division and the Hon’ble Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Division as special guests, who also participated online. Certificates were awarded to all participants during the closing ceremony.

Workshop on e-Governance and Innovation Action Plan 2022-23

The "e-Governance and Innovation Action Plan 2022-23" workshop took place on 18 April 2023 at BARC. This daylong event focused on leveraging technology and innovation to enhance BARC's efficiency and effectiveness. It was attended by 60 BARC officers, demonstrating the organization's commitment to digital governance and innovation. The event commenced with a welcome address from Mr. Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman, BARC's Innovation Officer and Director of Computer & GIS unit. Dr. Md. Mosharraf Uddin Molla, MD (AERS) chaired the workshop. Special guest speeches were delivered by Dr. Md. Baktar Hossain, MD (NRM) and Dr. K M Kamruzzaman Selim, Joint Secretary, MoA. Quazi Abdur



Participants of Workshop on e-Governance and Innovation Action Plan 2022-23

Rayhan, Innovation Officer and Deputy Secretary, MoA, discussed the implementation of the e-Governance and Innovation Action Plan 2022-23, while Mr. Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman elaborated on the progress of BARC's implementation of the

same plan. The presence of the Executive Chairman of BARC as the chief guest highlighted the workshop's significance and its role in driving e-governance and innovation within the organization.

Review Meeting for the Formulation of National Seed Vision 2041

A review meeting was held on 23 May 2023 to formulate the "National Seed Vision 2041." The meeting was chaired by Md. Abdus Salam, Member Director (Crops), BARC, Dhaka. The chair of the meeting extended a warm welcome to all participants and commenced the proceedings. Attendees included representatives from the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), BADC, DAE, as well as designated focal points from relevant institutions and members of the technical committee responsible for shaping the "National Seed Vision 2041." The chair requested the focal points from each institution to provide consistent information about the National Seed Vision 2041, as prepared by the BADC, BARI, and BRRI. Dr. Md. Nazmul Islam, Chief Coordinator of the Research Cell,



Review Meeting for The Formulation of National Seed Vision 2041

represented the BADC and presented information about their organization. BADC highlighted the importance of gradually increasing manpower, the number of farms, and the land area dedicated to seed production every ten years to effectively implement the goals outlined in the "National Seed Vision 2041".

Following that, the chairman announced the commencement of a one-year time-bound programme, spanning from April 2023 to April 2024, for the formulation of the "National Seed Vision 2041." The financial support for this programme would be provided by the Kishi Gobeshona Foundation (KGF). To facilitate the

formulation process, Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin, the Consultant for *National Seed Vision 2041* and Former Executive Chairman of BARC, will be

responsible for preparing and submitting a comprehensive draft to BARC by the first week of July 2023. This draft will be created by consolidating the information and

inputs from all relevant institutions involved in the development of the "National Seed Vision 2041."

Dr. Md. Abdus Salam elected as Vice-Chair of the Asia Region

Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member Director, Planning and Evaluation Division, BARC and ITPGRFA NFP (National Focal Point) participated in the eleventh session of the Inter governmental technical working group on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture meeting held at FAO Head Quarter in Rome, Italy during 18-20 April 2023. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam was elected Vice-Chair of the Asia region by the Working Group. He was also elected as the 11th Session Rapporteur. Discussions have been held on the following issues; the third report on the condition of global plant genetic resources

for agriculture and food; status of the second global action plan for agricultural and food plant genetic resources, which has six sections; Utilizing plant genetic sustainably for food and agriculture, conservation, and on-farm management creating human resources and sustainable institutions; the second GPA being updated; Use of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and Impacts of Seed Policies, Laws, and Regulations. The importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to



Dr. Salam Presenting the Rapporteur Reports

climate change; access and benefit-sharing; the strategic plan for the commission; digital sequence data, as well as reports from international organizations and instruments.

Approval of Bangladesh GAP Standards and Certification Mark/Logo

Formulating Standards of Bangladesh Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Certification Mark/Logo is one of the main mandates of BARC as scheme owner. Bangladesh GAP Standards having a total of 246 compliance criteria with three control points is categorized into five modules viz. Food Safety Module, Environmental Management Module, Workers Health, Safety and Welfare Module, Produce Quality Module and General Requirements Module. These standards specify the requirement of Bangladesh GAP for all types of fruits, vegetables, and other crops. Furthermore, two day-long

meetings of the refinement committee were organized by the Steering committee to finalize the GAP standards. Bangladesh GAP Standards have been approved through the Technical and Steering Committee. Bangladesh GAP Standards were notified by the Ministry of Agriculture on 4 June 2023. The scheme certification mark is the protected mark of Bangladesh GAP owned by the Scheme Owner (BARC). The Certification Mark is also commonly known as the "Logo." After a long process, the Certification Mark/Logo of Bangladesh Good Agricultural Practices was approved by the



The Scheme Certification Mark/Logo of Bangladesh GAP

MoA on 28 May 2023. A separate section of the homepage on BARC's website for 'Bangladesh GAP' has been created to upload all documents of the Scheme Owner to make it available. Afterward approval of Standards and Certification Mark/Logo of Bangladesh Good Agricultural Practices, Bangladesh GAP is almost ready for field application.

Training on Annual Performance Agreement (APA)

The Manpower & Training Unit of BARC organized a day-long in-house training on the “Annual Performance Agreement (APA).” The training programme was held on 24 May 2023 at BARC. A total of fifty-seven officers of the Council attended the training programme. The overall objective of the training is to improve participant’s knowledge and skills for determining result-oriented performance indicators in the preparation of the APA for 2023-24. Ms. Nazia Shirin, Joint



Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC inaugurating the training program

Secretary (Budget & Monitoring) and Focal Point Officer, APA of MoA conducted the sessions as a resource speaker. The programme

was inaugurated by Dr. S M Bokhtiar, EC, BARC as the chief guest.

Inception Meeting of the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in South Asian Agriculture (ACASA)

Dr. Md. Golam Mahboob, PSO (Forestry) participated in the Inception Meeting of the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in South Asian Agriculture (ACASA) Project held at the ICAR Lecture Hall, NASC Complex, New Delhi from 25 to 27 April 2023 as a part of 6 (six) members Bangladesh Team that included 4 (four) from BARC and 2 (two) from BARI. The rest three members of BARC are Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman, Director (Computer and GIS), Dr. Md. Abdus



The Inception Meeting of Atlas of Climate Adaptation in South Asian Agriculture (ACASA) Project

Salam, PSO (AERS), and Hasan (Computer and GIS). Mahmud, Senior System Analyst

Workshop on National Budget 2023-24 Analysis: Agriculture and Agricultural Development Perspective

A workshop on “National Budget 2023-24 Analysis: Agriculture and Agricultural Development Perspective” was organized by the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (AERS) Division at BARC on 21 June 2023. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Md. Mosharraf Uddin Molla, MD (AERS), BARC. Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, MD (Livestock Division), BARC was the chief guest of the inaugural session and Dr. Md.



Workshop on National Budget 2023-24 Analysis

Saifullah was present as the discussant of the technical session. The keynote speaker was Dr. Md.

Abdus Salam, PSO (AERS), BARC. All the scientists and officers of

BARC participated in the review workshop.

Training on Climate Smart Agriculture for Adaptation

A three day long training course on “Climate Smart Agriculture for Adaptation” was organized at BARC during 16-18 May 2023. Forty participants came from different NARS institutions (BARC, BARI, BJRI, BSRI, BTRI, and SRDI), DAE, SPARRSO, CEGIS, CNRS, RDA, WARPO, BMDA and CHDB, and NGOs (BRAC and ADPC) attended. Everybody enjoyed the sixteen (16) different lectures delivered by renowned scientists and experts on specific subjects. Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, MD, NRM Division offered his valuable speech on the importance of training and inspired the organizers to compile the attractive and resourceful training manual. The Participants



Certificate Giving Ceremony of the Training Program

received a useful training manual titled ‘ Climate Smart Agriculture for Adaptation’. They also shared their feedback and views. Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, MD

(Livestock) inaugurated the ceremony and distributed course completion certificates among the participant for successful completion of the training.

Workshop on Actions to Combat 4IR Challenges

A workshop took place at the BARC on 31 May 2023. It attracted a diverse group of participants, including BARC officers, scientists from NARS institutes, and representatives from various institutions under the Ministry of Agriculture. The workshop’s inaugural session began with a welcome address from Mr. Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman, Director (Computer & GIS). Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, MD (NRM) delivered special guest’s speech. The Hon’ble Executive Chairman of BARC graced this workshop as the chief guest. The inaugural session closed by the closing remarks from the chairperson of the session, Dr. Md. Mosharraf Uddin Molla, MD (AERS). Then the technical session started with a presentation from Mr. Hasan Mahmud, Senior System



Workshop on Actions to Combat 4IR Challenges

Analyst where he shared insights into different 4IR-related technologies and Mr. Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman, Director (Computer & GIS) discussed the use of 4IR Technologies, particularly “ChatGPT”. Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director (AIC) provided updates on the

implementation progress of the “4IR Work Plan” of the Ministry of Agriculture. This workshop served as valuable platforms for sharing insights, best practices, and innovative strategies to navigate this transformative phase effectively.

Meeting on Introduction of Mechanization (Especially Drone) in Bangladesh Agriculture

The Agricultural Engineering Unit organized a knowledge-sharing meeting on “Introduction of Mechanization (especially Drone) in Bangladesh Agriculture” on 21 June 2023 at BARC. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Member Director (NRM), BARC. Two foreign delegates Dr. Mayank Yadav and Mr. Partha Paratim Baruah from Bayer CropScience presented the opportunities, challenges, and way forward of the uses of drone technology for Bangladesh agriculture to support farmers. Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director (Livestock) and CSO (Ad. Ch.), Agricultural Engineering Unit,



Knowledge Sharing Meeting on Introduction Drone at BARC

BARC was present as a discussant in this meeting. Participants from BARC and Bayer CropScience Bangladesh joined the meeting in person and participants from

different NARS institutes and DAE joined through the Zoom platform. Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Member Director (NRM), BARC presided over the meeting.

Agricultural Technology Uptake Assessment Workshop in Cumilla, Rangamati, and Rajshahi Region

3 Workshops on “Agricultural Technology Uptake Assessment” were held on 8 May, 7 June, and 18 June 2023 at DAE, Cumilla, Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Rangamati, and BARI, Binodpur, Rajshahi respectively. Dr. N. I. Bhuiyan, Member, External Panel of Experts, and former DG, BRRI was the chief guest of Cumilla and Rajshahi. All DDs of Cumilla region (Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, and Chandpur districts), Rajshahi region (Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj, and Naogaon districts), and Rangamati Region (Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban districts) presented the technologies adopted of their district those are generated by the NARS institutes on the individual



Dr. Suraya Parvin, PSO (TTMU), BARC Delivering Speech

workshops. The purpose of the workshops was delivered by Dr. Suraya Parvin, PSO (TTMU), BARC, and Coordinator cum PI, Improving Research Qualities of ARIs Project. The workshops were jointly organized by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and the

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). All Members of the External Panel of Experts, Scientists of NARS, and representatives from BADC, SCA, NGO, ATI, BMDA, farmers, and all relevant shareholders were present in the workshops.

Two Renowned Scientists Joined GIFS Regional Office at BARC

Dr. Ashutosh Sarker and Dr. Sreekanth Attaluri joined GIFS Regional Office at BARC as Bangabandhu Research Chair and Representative for GIFS respectively.

Dr. Ashutosh Sarker, an internationally reputed Pulse Breeder, recently joined as Bangabandhu Research Chair under a collaborative research programme of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), University of Saskatchewan, Canada. With 43 years of national and international research experience, Dr. Sarker returned to Bangladesh on his superannuation from the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Lebanon, where he served for about 26 years. He obtained his B.Sc. Ag. (Hons) and M.Sc. Ag. (Genetics and Plant Breeding) from the Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh; and Ph.D in Genetics from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India. While in Bangladesh, Dr. Sarker worked as a Pulse Breeder at the Bangladesh BARI for about 17 years. Later, Dr. Sarker joined the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) based in Aleppo, Syria as the International Lentil Breeder and Director of South Asia & China Regional Program of ICARDA based in New Delhi, India. Dr. Sarker has been directly involved in the development of 52 pulse varieties, the majority of them in lentils which have made a



Dr. Ashutosh Sarker, the Bangabandhu Research Chair

significant impact on farmers' fields in several countries including Bangladesh. He introduced exotic germplasm of lentils, grass peas, and chickpeas from international sources, and worked with the pulse teams of BARI and BINA which led to the development of climate-resilient, disease-resistant, and bio-fortified lentil varieties. He is the author of 300 articles in reputed international journals, symposia proceedings, popular articles, books, and book chapters. Dr. Sarker is a recipient of several national and international awards in recognition of his contribution to legume science and improving the livelihoods of farmers. Dr. Ashutosh Sarker shall play a key role in providing strategic, scientific, and technical leadership for a broad portfolios of collaborative research and development at GIFS and in the Bangabandhu-Pierre Elliot Trudeau Agriculture Technology Center, located in BRRI Campus, Joydebpur.

Dr. Sreekanth Attaluri is the representative for the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) in Bangladesh. GIFS is headquartered at University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He has been associated with GIFS Regional Office located at the BARC campus in Dhaka since



Dr. Sreekanth Attaluri, Representative for the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) in Bangladesh

July 2022. Before joining GIFS, he worked at the SAARC Agriculture Centre as a Senior Professional in crops. At SAARC he was also the principal coordinator of major SAARC flagship programmes like SAARC Food Bank, SAARC Seed Bank, and SAARC Seed Forum. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in research and development related to Crops in the South Asia region, particularly working with the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. He has expertise in food systems, and partnership coordination and contributed to climate-resilient development in the field of agriculture. Further, he has vast experience in developing country partnership plans, networking, donor relations, collaborative research, agriculture improvement, and advocacy for nutrition/agriculture strategies. He also worked as a Project Manager at the International Potato Center (CIP). He obtained his Ph.D. in Agronomy at the Faculty of Crop Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and did his master's from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development of the NARS and other concerned organizations in Bangladesh.

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

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