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Boro cultivation in full swing in Netrokona's haor areas

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Boro paddy, the main crop of the year, is currently being cultivated in full swing across four major haor areas of the Netrokona district.

Among the ten upazilas, Mohangonj, Khaliajuri, Madan, and Kalmakanda are particularly well-known for Boro cultivation. Additionally, small-scale Boro farming is also taking place in the haors of Kendua and Atpara upazilas.

Farmers have been working diligently from dawn until dusk, focusing on Boro cultivation despite the cold weather.

According to the district's Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), this year, 6,500 hectares in Mohangonj haor have been fully cultivated, as well as 18,200 hectares out of a total of 20,000 hectares in Khaliajuri and 6,500 hectares out of 18,500 hectares in Madan upazila. Overall, Boro cultivation has occupied around 83% of the haor areas.

Boro cultivation in the haor regions began on 25 December 2024, and will continue until 15 February.

During an onsite visit, a correspondent from the Daily Sun observed that farmers were busy lifting Boro seedlings from seedbeds and transporting them to crop fields in the haor area of Madan upazila. Some farmers were levelling the land with ladders to plant the seedlings, while others prepared the land for planting by ploughing. Water was being supplied to the crop-lands through deep and shallow tube wells. Some farmers were working individually, while others were planting Boro rice seedlings in groups.

Mohammad Ali, a farmer from Kamalpur village in Mohangonj upazila, mentioned that Boro cultivation has been completed in his area. However, he expressed concern about the rising prices of agricultural inputs, which have significantly increased cultivation costs this year compared to last year.

Shafiqul Islam, a farmer from Purnhati village in Khaliajuri upazila, stated, "We are in the midst of full-scale Boro cultivation here. The success of the Boro crop depends on the timely repair of crop protection dams. If the dams are not maintained, thousands of hectares of Boro paddy risk being lost to early floods."

Rahmot Mia, a farmer from Fatepur village in Madan upazila, commented, "Every year, the price of paddy decreases during the harvest season, making it hard to cover production costs. This leads to a growing debt burden for farmers. Additionally, we are currently facing a labour shortage."

Mohammad Nuruzzaman, the deputy director of the Netrokona Agricultural Extension Department, reported that this year, the target for Boro cultivation has been set at 185,320 hectares across the ten upazilas in the district. So far, 42,235 hectares of land in the haor areas have been cultivated.

He added that this year, there are 87, 88, 89, 92, 96, and 102 more hectares being cultivated in haors instead of B-28. Farmers in the district have received government incentives, fertilizers, and seeds. Overall, he noted that farmers are not facing significant issues with Boro cultivation, and the temporary labour shortage is unlikely to have a major impact.

