

Bumper production likely as Boro harvest begins

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Harvesting of Boro paddy has begun in the haor region in the eastern part of Bangladesh, with farmers optimistic about a bumper production this season.

Farmers in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sunamganj, Kishorganj, Netrokona, and Brahmanbaria have started harvesting the early variety of Boro paddy.

This year, the government has set a target of producing 39.87 lakh tonnes of paddy from 9.49 lakh hectares of land in the haor area.

Boro is the primary crop, contributing 55 per cent of the overall rice supply in the country, while the haor region will provide an additional 20 per cent of the total rice produced in the Boro season.

However, farmers are concerned about getting good returns from the paddy due to higher fertiliser, seed, and irrigation costs.

Tajul Islam Patwary, the director of the Field Service Wing of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), said farmers achieved success in exceeding the paddy farming target by capitalising on suitable climatic conditions and government support.

DAE officials noted that around 3.94 per cent of paddy had been harvested until Wednesday, and Boro harvesting in the haor area would be completed by the end of this month.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, paddy harvesting completion rates varied across districts: 10 per cent in Sylhet, 5 per cent in Habi-



ganj, 2.90 per cent in Sunamganj, 10.13 per cent in Kishorganj, 1.58 per cent in Netrokona, and 4.09 per cent in Brahmanbaria until Wednesday.

Approximately 17,815 hectares of land had been harvested by this time, with farmers achieving a production of 65,518 tonnes of rice.

The DAE has set a target of producing 21.7 million tonnes of Boro rice from 4.9776 million hectares of land this year. This season, 27 lakh farmers across the country received free seeds, fertilisers, and machinery.

The government has been anticipating

bumper production following a record-high output of about 21 million tonnes from 4.95 million hectares of land in the previous fiscal year.

However, farmers are unhappy because they have incurred high expenses this season due to rising irrigation costs, seed prices, and fertiliser. Compared to the previous year, farmers are now paying higher prices for irrigation due to increased diesel and electricity prices.

In the last Boro season, the cost of irrigation was Tk 1,200 per bigha, but it has soared to Tk 1,600 per bigha this year.