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Aman harvest goes on in full swing in Netrokona

Md Shafikul Islam, Netrokona

Harvesting and threshing of Aman paddy has begun in full swing in Netrokona. The farmers are happy to get good yields as the crop fields are filled with golden paddy this year.

However, the farmers said the target may not be achieved this year as many Aman fields were damaged due to recent floods in October. Although Aman was planted on 1,35,900 hectares of land in the district, 24,667 hectares were completely damaged by the floods, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

Netrokona has a reputation for producing surplus food grain every year. This year, local farmers planted high-yielding and short-lived early varieties such as Dhani Gold, Bri Dhan-71, 75 and 87, Bina-17 and 103 for better yield and recovery from the recent damages.

Among them, short-term early rice varieties have been cultivated on 33,818 hectares of land and hybrid varieties on 14,935 hectares, which is 25,808 hectares more compared to last year.

The DAE said that this year, Aman has cultivated an additional 760 hectares of land this year. The target for paddy and rice production was set at 6,20,000 tonnes and 4,13,380 tonnes per hectare, respectively. Paddy harvest started in the last week of November and will end by 20 December.

Many farmers, including Md Lal Hossain and Kabir Mia of Kalmakanda upazila, said that the yield has been comparatively good this year. They are selling paddy at around Tk1,200 to Tk1,300 per maund. However, although Aman in low-lying areas was damaged by the floods this year, the farmers are happy that the yield and price in high-lying areas are higher.

They can cultivate winter vegetables including mustard, potato and other crops on those lands as additional crops after harvesting early varieties of paddy. Therefore, the cultivation of early varieties of Aman paddy is increasing every year in the district.

A farmer from Islampur village



of Barhatta upazila, told Daily Sun, that, "I planted BR-50 paddy in two kathas of land. The yield has been fairly good. However, the paddy has suffered some damage due to the inflow of water. However, if we farmers get a price of Tk1150 to Tk1200 per maund in the market, we will benefit. The prices of everything in the market are going up, beyond our reach of us. If the price of paddy remains better, then we farmers will benefit."

Md Kiran Mia, a farmer from Bi-joypur village of Durgapur upazila, said, "We planted Bina-17 paddy. Because it can be harvested a little earlier and after harvesting the paddy, we can cultivate other crops."

"However, this year, the yield has been slightly less due to the flood water. The price of coarse rice in the market is Tk1150 and fine rice Tk1220, if this price sustains, we will be happy."

Another farmer Anu Mia from Panur village in the same upazila said, "The rice we are threshing now is Bina-17 rice. In other years, this rice has yielded well. However, this year the yield has been slightly lower due to the weather. Even then, since the price of rice is good, it will not have much impact on the farmers. Besides, after harvesting this crop, we get time to cultivate mustard. Or we can cultivate some other agricultural crops, that is why we planted this early variety of rice."

A farmer from Nawhal village,

Md Jabar said, "We have planted hybrid varieties of Dhani Gold and Bridhan-49 rice. Besides, we have planted a Bri Dhan-34 variety of fine rice on some land. By God's grace, the rice has yielded well this year. The rice yield has been good due to the gradual rains. Although many rice fields have been damaged by floods in other areas, our land is relatively high, we have not been damaged by floods, but rather our rice yield has been good due to rain. We farmers are happy with the rice yield."

The Department of Agricultural Extension said that this year there was no attack of diseases and insects on rice fields. In addition, due to the good supply of fertiliser at the farmer level, farmers have been able to use fertiliser in a balanced amount on the land. Due to this, the yield has been good.

Mohammad Nuruzzaman, deputy director of the Netrokona DAE, "In early October, the 24,667 hectares of Aman crops were affected by the flood. In continuation of this, we have now tried to expand the short-lived and high-yielding varieties that we have cultivated at the field level."

"These varieties have been expanded to a considerable extent in our Netrokona district. Our target was to harvest the short-lived varieties of Aman so that the farmer could cultivate mustard in the middle of the Boro plantation. For this reason, we motivated them widely."