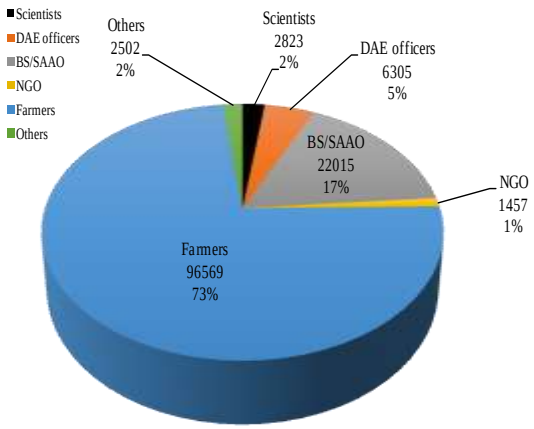
Transformation of Training Division Activities

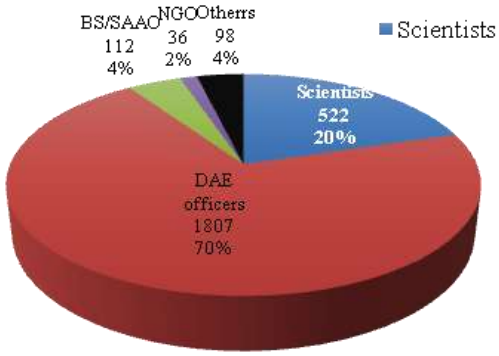
Introduction

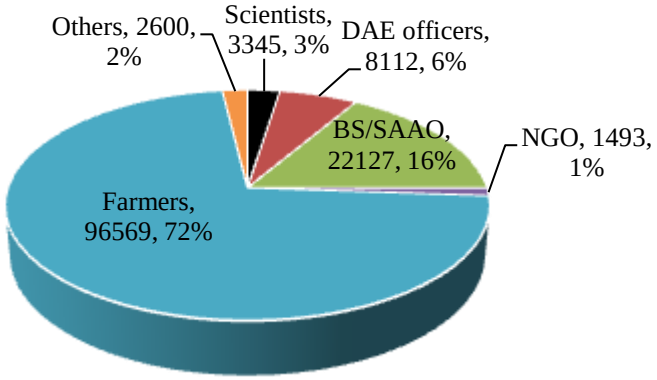
Rice is the base of development of Bangladesh. To ensure durable food safety, one of BRRIs aims is to strengthen this base by inventing modern rice varieties and disseminate them. With this vision, the Training Division works to expand the varieties and production technologies invented by BRRI to the field level. The main objectives of Training Division are to train the scientists, extensionists involved in disseminating approach and farmers to reduce the knowledge gap about rice production technologies.

The training program for scientists and extensonists at BRRI were started in 1973. At that time, the training activities were managed by the Communication, Training and Applied Research Division. Afterwards, the name of the division was changed to Training and Applied Research Division. Considering the importance of training, training activities were separated from the Training and Applied research Division, and a unique division named Training Division was started.

The Training Division organize two types of training activities called short-term and long term training courses. BRRI has so far trained a total of 1,34,246 personnel about modern cultivation technologies through 98 long term and 4662 short-term training courses. Among the trainees were scientists, extensionists NGO workers and farmers.







Transformation of Training Activities

Participants	1974-1983	1984-1993	1994-2003	2004-2013	2014-2021
Scientists	285	150	150	200	180
Extensionist	2659	2835	2580	4000*	5000
Farmers	0	1500	1800	20,000	22000
Other	325	-	200	300	350

* First time Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) of DAE were included in one week rice production training course at BRRI

Outcome of BRRI training

- ✓ Thousands of scientists and extensionists have been benefited from the training courses
- ✓ Personnel trained at BRRI made a critical contribution to the Green Revolution and to achieving food security in the country
- ✓ The training of scientist and extension personnel complements and strengthens national capacity-building programs

Current Status of BRRI Training Program

Resource available for training

Human resource: The training division of BRRI has 1 chief scientific officer, 1 principal scientific officer, 2 senior scientific officers, 1 audio visual operator and 1 classroom attendance. The scientists of BRRI who are engaged in lead research are the resource faculty of training program. The resource scientists have wide knowledge and experience in their respective disciplines.

Physical resource: BRRI has established a fully-fledged training complex having all necessary physical facilities for handling a large volume of training activities.

Budgetary allocation: The core training programs of BRRI are funded through regular annual budget released by the BRRI authority. BRRI annual budget allocation for training significantly increased from 2006 to up to data. Training budget correspondingly progressed with the increase under of BRRI training outputs.

Description of training activities

BRRI is currently implementing both regular and special training courses and the nature of these courses are short course and long course. The target audience of regular rice production courses are officials associated with extension and research activates, Thus personnel from the DAE and BRRI itself are the major recipient organizations of the training. Most of the training activates are carried out in the main campus of the institute. The nature of farmers training is off campus. The trainings are described as follows:

Short course:

Rice production training for Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers SAAO: This 6-day course is for SAAO of DAE those are working at the door step of farmers. Its update and sharpens competency of participants on various aspects of rice production.

Scientific report writing course: Currently BRRI introduced basic scientific report writing course for scientists. It is a five-day course that helps develop skills in organizing a scientific paper and in preparing each part of the paper to communicate scientific information effectively.

Research methodology course: This course covers the basics of research methodology, research problem identification, data collection, analysis, reporting, presentation of findings, reporting of research etc. This course basically designed for scientist of NARs. It is a five-day course that helps scientists to buildup capacity regarding the research methodology.

Farmers Training:

Long course:

Rice production and communication training course for BRRI scientists: This is a 2-month training program for BRRI scientists. Throughout the training periods details about rice science and production technologies are discussed here. Thus the knowledge and skill of the participants increased substantially according to the needs of the institute.

*Rice production training course for DAE officers:*This 2-month training program specially designed forBCS cadre officers of DAE those were working at upazila agriculture office. The major objectives of the course are to enrich the participant's knowledge and skill about rice production technologies. Thus they can disseminate their knowledge to the field level personnel and farmers. The nature of this course is 'training for trainers'.

Anticipated changes in the future

The BRRI is planning to reshuffle existing training programs in the future to suit the specific requirements of its clientele. To assess the requirements of the user the training division of BRRI has conducted survey on training need in future. The outcome of the survey gave clear ideas as how to reorient and reformulate future training programs. The details of the future training needs are presented below.

Future directions for BRRI training

Training course	**Training item**	
	Scientists	**Extension personnel**
Short course	*Science course* -Basic research and data management -Introduction of statistics and design of experiments -Introduction to multivariate analysis using R -Bioinformatics training course -Research methodology -Scientific report writing -Research proposal writing *Crop management* -Rice research to production -Rice disease and insect management -Ecological management of rodents and weeds *Technology transfer* -Basics of rice production -Hybrid and inbreed rice seed production skills -Climate change mitigation -Training of Trainers *Leadership course* -Presentation skill on agriculture -Communication skill in agriculture -Project management for research -Knowledge management and sharing	*Crop management* -Basics of rice production -Rice disease and insect management -Ecological management of rodents and weeds *Technology transfer* -Rice production training in stress prone areas -Hybrid and inbreed rice seed production -Climate change mitigation -Training of Trainers -Operation skills on agriculture machineries -Suitable rice based cropping systems - Integrated nutrient management -Extension strategies to popularize the improved rice production technology -Rice: Post production to market
Long course	Rice: Research to production	Modern rice production technologies and their dissemination process

In the coming years the training division will emphasize organizing training program on science course, crop management course, technology transfer course and leadership course for scientists. On the other hand for extension personnel crop management, technology transfer and modern rice production technologies and their management process will be garaged.

Conclusion: Since, its inception training division of BRRI acts as hub of technology transfer through training and trained 1,34,246 participants on various aspect of rice production technologies. Personnel trained at BRRI made a critical contribution to achieving food

security in the country. The present capabilities of BRRI training division much strengthen than any other previous days. At present rice production are facing many challenges such as decreasing resources (e.g. land, labour, soil health and water) and increasing climate vulnerability (e.g. drought, salinity flood, heat and could). To face the scenario, the capacity and skills of the farmers, extensionists and scientists need to be increased. Therefore, training division reorient its future training program to combat the challenges through enrich the knowledge, skills and attitude of the relevant personnel.