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Gazipur: IRRI DG Dr Mathew Morell exchanging goodwill with the BRRI Officials and scientists on Tuesday in Gazipur

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IRRI DG Dr Matthew Morell visits BRRI

Desk Report: Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr Matthew Morell visited Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) on Tuesday (19 March 2019) in Gazipur. BRRI Director General Dr Md Shahjahan Kabir offered a cordial welcome to Dr Morell and his accompaniers at the institute and briefed about its main features. He also discussed ways and means to strengthen collaboration between BRRI and IRRI in an opinion exchange meeting held on the occasion.

BRRI Director (Administration and Common Service) Dr Md Ansar Ali delivered a presentation focusing on the major achievements of the institute. BRRI Director (Research) Dr Tamal Lata Adityu, Heads of the research divisions of the institute, the senior scientists and officials along with IRRI Representative for South Asia Dr Nafees Meah and IRRI Representative for Bangladesh Dr Homnath Bandari took part in the discussion.

Dr Morell's visit was aimed at exchanging ideas between scientists and policy makers as well as knowledge sharing on issues like collaborating efforts on promoting some frontier technologies and projects such as Golden Rice, zinc enriched rice and transforming rice breeding etc.

During the discussion the speakers stressed also on

the need for quick dissemination of modern rice production technologies including farm machinery, seeds of salt tolerant rice varieties as well as how farmers are trying to cope with unfavourable environments using high yielding rice varieties and other inputs to the farm level especially in the south-western and southern coastal belt of the country. IRRI DG put emphasis on his eagerness about working together with BRRI especially in releasing vitamin A enriched Golden Rice variety in Bangladesh hopefully by June this year.

He lauded BRRI for transforming rice breeding project related activities and expressed satisfaction after getting some latest information about BRRI technologies and their role in improving the livelihood of the resource-poor farmers of the country.

Dr Morell showed special interest while taking a look at the confined field trial of the Golden Rice project at the BRRI premises. He was also enthusiastic about the BRRI activities on plant breeding, biotechnology, farm mechanisation, the Gene Bank and the institute's preparedness in facing climate change during the visit. He hopes that zinc enriched rice as well as golden rice would play a vital role in ensuring nutrition security of the people of Bangladesh if it gets proper patronization from all the stakeholders here.

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