

Acknowledgement

This Newsletter is published with the information and illustrations contributed by different division/units/centres of BARC and other concerns. The contributors have also provided valuable advice and comments to make the publication informative and attractive. Their supports in bringing out the publication are warmly acknowledged with the aspiration of continued co-operation for the forthcoming issues.

Readers and Contributors

The scientists, technologists and concerned officials involved in NARS institutes are requested to send articles, success stories, research highlights and reports on important events with quality photographs for BARC Newsletter. Cooperation in this regard as well as your valuable comments and suggestions for our future endeavour would be highly appreciated.

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proposal of TCP (Technical Cooperation Project) under Seed Extension project after reviewing. Participants of 10 member countries viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam including program leader of Korea and AFACI authority attended the workshop.



Dr. Rina Rani Saha presented the Bangladesh country report on the project proposal of Seed Extension Project in Bangladesh.

Dr. Rina Rani Saha presented the Bangladesh country report on the project proposal of Seed Extension Project in Bangladesh. After presentation and discussion, proposed TCP of Seed Extension project have been finalized for conducting activities which will be implemented by BARI with the coordination of BARC during July 2016-June 2019.

AFACI Program Workshop on Basic Agriculture

One AFACI funded project entitled *Collection, characterization and promotion of rice, chilli, cucumber and melon in Bangladesh* is being implemented by BARI and BRRI through the coordination of BARC. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Principal Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC and Co-principal Investigator of the project was participated in *AFACI Program Workshop on Basic Agriculture* for reporting the progress of the project and exchanging the views with other participants. The workshop was held at Nepal Agri

cultural Research Council (NARC), Nepal during 6-9 September 2016. Participants of 14 member countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, an Bhutan and Myanmar were attended to this workshop. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam presented Country Report for AFACI Pan-Asian Project on Collection, Characterization and Promotion of Rice, Chilli, Cucumber and Melon in Bangladesh. Under this project BARI already explored 67 upazilas of 26 districts and collected a total of 842 germplasm of targeted three crops (chilli-388, cucumber-180 and melon-274) through direct and indirect collection approach.



Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Principal Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC and Co-principal Investigator of the project participated in AFACI Program Workshop on Basic Agriculture

BRRI also collected 96 rice germplasm from Narsingdi, Manikganj, Dhaka, Munshiganj, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur districts through direct and indirect collection approach, collected germplasm cleaned, processed and stored in short term storage of BRRI gene bank. After presentation, there was open discussion session on country reports and sharing knowledge among the members of different countries.

- Transfer of technologies developed by research institutes to DAE is to be faster.
- New insect and incidence of major insect pests need to be studied for longer period in relation to climate change.
- Research on postharvest entomology needs to be emphasized in the relevant institutions.
- Due importance should be given on insect pest identification and characterization through molecular markers.
- Gene transfer mechanism, tissue culture and molecular based research may be strengthened for insect pest resistance crop development.
- Training of farmers/growers regarding judicious use of pesticides and safety is important.

General Recommendations for Disease Management

- Scientists need to give emphasis on food safety, food quality, economic and eco-friendly aspects during preparing future research programs.
- Host plant resistance may be a regular program of the relevant research institutions.
- Research programs in pathological aspect of crops should be addressed climate change issues.
- Booklets should be prepared for specific crop disease and it should be distributed among DAE personnel. Transfer of technologies developed by research institutes to DAE is to be faster.
- Blast of wheat, Sclerotinia of sugarcane and gummosis of fruit crops should be given emphasized.

- National plant health care center and clinic should be built up and it should be disseminated at the field level.
- Molecular based research programs should be strengthened for disease resistant crop varieties.

AFACI Program Workshop on Animal Science and Extension

One new project proposal entitled *Demonstration Project to Distribute National Superior Seeds of Food Crops and Transfer Agricultural Technology* has been signed by BARC under AFACI Seed Extension Project for conducting demonstration and dissemination of newly released and potential variety(s) of wheat and its quality seed production technologies in the farmer's field of Bangladesh. AFACI Program Workshop on Animal Science and Extension including three projects namely



Dr. Rina Rani Saha attended AFACI Program Workshop on Animal Science and Extension held in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan

Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), Agricultural Technology and Information Network (ATIN) and Seed Extension was held in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan during 26-30 July 2016. Dr. Rina Rani Saha, Principal Scientific Officer, Crops Division, BARC participated in this workshop which was organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of Kyrgyz Republic and funded by AFACI. One of the objective of this workshop was to finalize the

- Conservation agriculture/resource management may be given priority.
- On farm trial needs to be strengthened in different institutes to validate the mature technologies and then handed over to DAE & relevant agencies.
- Need to emphasize the research on crop modeling.
- Farming system based and result oriented programme to be undertaken.

Annual Review Workshop on Crop Protection Programme

A two day long *Review Workshop on Crop Protection of NARS institutes* was organized by Crops Division at BARC during 03- 04 August 2016. Crop Protection Programme was divided into two parts, Insect-Pest Management and Disease Management. In the first day review workshop was organized for Insect-Pest Management. At the beginning of both the workshop, Dr. S. M. Khorshed Alam, Principal Technical Officer, BARC presented the expert opinion and recommendation of last year's review workshop on Crop Protection (Insect-Pest Management and Disease Management) of NARS institutes. Four expert's members namely Professor Dr. Md. Sirazul Islam, Department of Entomology, SAU, Dhaka; Professor Dr. Khondaker Shariful Islam, Department of Entomology, BAU, Mymensingh; Mr. Md. Nasiruddin, former Director (SS), BARI, Gazipur and Dr. G. P. Das, former Director (AIC), BARC were present in the Insect-Pest Management programme. Dr. Kamal Humayun Kabir, former Director General, BSRI chaired the Technical Session-I and Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the Technical Session-II. Scientists of eight NARS institutes viz. BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI BINA, CDB, BTRI and BSRTI presented their research progress (2015-16) and research programme (2016-17) on Insect-Pest Management.

In the second day review workshop was organized for Disease Management Programme. In this programme Dr. Hamiz Uddin Ahmed, former Director (Research), BARI; Dr. Md. Ehsanul Haque, former Director (SS), BARI, Gazipur; Dr. Tapan Kumer Dey, former Director (Pulses Research Center), BARI and Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman, former CSO & Head, Plant Pathology Division, BARI, Gazipur were present as expert member. Mr. Md. Sadek Ali, Former Director (SS), BARI, Gazipur chaired the Technical Session-I and Dr. Md. Ansar Ali, Director (Research), BRRI, Gazipur chaired the Technical Session-II. Scientists of eight NARS institutes viz. BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI BINA, CDB, BTRI and BSRTI presented their research progress (2015-16) and research programme (2016-17) on Disease Management of different crops. After detailed discussion the following recommendations were made by the experts and some of which would be useful in formulating the research programmes are:

General Recommendations for Insect-Pest Management

- Scientists need to give emphasis on food safety, food quality, economic and eco friendly aspects during preparing future research programs.
- Survey, monitoring, identification and evaluation of entomophagous strains may be undertaken in controlling insect pests.
- Rearing of natural enemies, like parasites, predators needs to be improved as biological control of insect pests with these natural enemies is one of the most important components of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system.
- Host plant resistance may be a regular program of the relevant research institutions.

Training on digital file numbering and e-Filing

Training on e-Filing held on 21-22 September 2016 and 25-26 September 2016 at computer & GIS unit, BARC. The training was held in two batches-one for officers and other for staffs. Total 39 participants attended the training. As a part of building Digital Bangladesh, government organizations are introducing e-Filing system which is pertinent to ensuring the process of good governance. Resource persons from BARC conducted the training program. The 18 digit digital file numbering system is explained in the program. It is mentioned that the digital file numbering is a prerequisite for e-Filing.

Annual Review Workshop on Crop Production Programme

A three day long *Review Workshop on Crop Production Programme of NARS Institutes* was organized by Crops Division at BARC during 9-11 August, 2016. The objective of the workshop was to review the progress of 2015-16 and research programme of 2016-17 of NARS Institutes as well as to avoid duplication of research. A total of 80 participants from BARI, BRRI, BINA, BJRI, BSRI, BTRI, BSRTI, CDB, DAE and BARC participated in the workshop. Five expert members namely Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Former Executive Chairman, BARC; Prof. Dr. Md. Sultan Uddin Bhuyan, Dept. of Agronomy, BAU; Dr. Jiban Krishna Biswas, Former Director General, BRRI; Prof. Dr. Md. Abdus Siddique, Dept. of Horticulture, BAU; Dr. Md. Abdul Quayyum, Former CSO, OFRD, BARI were present in the workshop. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC where Dr. Akram H. Chowdhury, Chairman, Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) and Mr. Chaitanya Kumar Das, Director, Field Service Wing, DAE were present as the chief guest and special guest, respectively. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, CSO

(Crops), BARC and coordinator of the workshop presented the recommendations of 2015-16 made for each institutes. Subsequently five technical sessions were chaired by Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member-Director, Crops Division of BARC (Technical Session-I); Dr Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Director General, BARI (Technical Session-II); Dr. Bhagya Rani Banik, Director General, BRRI (Technical Session-III); Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, Member-Director (Planning and Evaluation), BARC (Technical Session-IV); Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Director General, BSRI (Technical Session-V). The recommendation session was chaired by Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC. After detailed discussion the following recommendations were made:

- Need based/priority basis research programme needs to be taken as per Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- Coordinated programme among the Centre/Division within the institutes or outside may be given priority.
- Emphasis needs to be given on crop production technology related to saline, hill, char, haor and drought areas.
- In cropping pattern trial (3 or 4 crop based) soil- fertility should be given emphasis and three rice crops in a year may not be feasible rather pulse, oilseed or tuber crops may be included. Besides, variety, turn around time, equivalent yield and BCR might be recorded.
- On-farm experiments need to be recorded farmers reaction and feed back by the respective Centre/Division.
- Judicious application of nutrients such as poultry manure might be considered.
- Priority needs to be given for technology transfer of floriculture to the farmers.

Approved Agricultural Mechanization Roadmap 2021, 2031 and 2041 of Bangladesh

Ministry of Agriculture has already approved the Agricultural Mechanization Road map 2021,2031,2041 recommended by original committee and sub-committee members from BARC, NARS Institutions, DAE and BAU. In order to achieve the vision 2021 & 2041 of the Government and within the preview of national development plan the said Roadmap will render effective and long term contribution in materializing modern, economic and profitable agricultural management, exceeding all sectoral limitations. It is expecting that the country will be developed and resourceful through implementing the Roadmap, involving timely both public and private sector with talented, innovative and qualified human resource.

Livestock Division Received Best Presentation Award

Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) organized 5th National Convention and International Agricultural Conference at KIB complex on September 29-30, 2016 where 3 papers from 3 SPGR and research grant completed projects of Livestock Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council were presented. One paper entitled *Molecular characterization of the causal agent of anthrax (Bacillus anthracis) isolated from the field cases of Bangladesh* has been awarded as Best Poster Award and a crest was given. Scientists involved with this paper were Dr. Shah Md. Ziqrul Haq Chowdhury from BARC, and Dr. KHMNH Nazir, Dr. Jahedul Hasan and Dr. Bahannur Rahman from BAU. In addition, Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Principal Scientific Officer, Livestock Division, BARC has been awarded *Best Presenter Award* for presenting a scientific article entitled *BLRI model for the control of Peste Des Petits Ruminats (PPR) in Bangladesh* in this

conference. Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam received a crest from Dr. Mirza A Jalil, Former Chairman, Privatization Commission and Professor Dr. Md. Ali Akbar, VC, BAU.



Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam received crest from Dr. Mirza A Jalil, Former Chairman, Privatization Commission and Professor Dr. Md. Ali Akbar, VC, BAU

Closing Workshop on ARMIS

Agricultural Research Management Information System (ARMIS) is a central repository of agricultural research information in Bangladesh which is developed to provide real time information for conducting, planning and evaluation of research together with need analysis and draw up new program/projects. It helps to enhance the capacity of human resources and optimize the utilization of the limited resources throughout avoiding wasteful research duplication. Computer and GIS unit of BARC is implementing the activities of ARMIS since July 2013. A closing workshop on *Capacity Enhancement of NARS through ICT-based Agricultural Research Management Information System (ARMIS)* was held on 03 August 2016 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. Researchers from NARS Institutes attended the program. Till now more than 26,000 agricultural research information has been incorporated into the ARMIS database. The ARMIS can be accessed through the link <http://armis.barcapps.gov.bd>.

knowledge, varietal development and C4 rice development.

- National requirement should be given utmost priority while taking the research programme which includes food and nutritional security, safe food production, environmental issues, etc.
- Principal Investigators (PI) of the experiments are suggested to review the relevant documents and publications e.g. Priority setting by BARC, Sectoral study (12 sectors of national importance, www.barc.gov.bd), recommendations of the workshops of expert consultations, policy guidelines from MoA, crop zoning, feedback from DAE, regional recommendations.
- The Principal Investigators are requested to avoid inter and intra institutional duplications of experiments. To do that extensive review is suggested while taking new programme.

Annual Research Review Workshop on Agricultural Engineering Programs

A workshop on *Research Review 2015-16 and Research Program 2016-17 on Agricultural Engineering of NARS Institutes* was held at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council on 8-9 August 2016. About hundred participants BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BINA, BSRI, BADC, DAE, RDA, Haji Danesh Science and Technology University and Bangladesh Agricultural University participated in the workshop. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Sultan Ahmmed, Member Director (NRM), BARC and the Chief Guest was Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC. The 1st technical session Farm Machinery was chaired by Mr. M. Harunur Rashid, Former-Executive Chairman, BARC. Dr. Md. Israil Hossain, CSO & Head, FMPE Division, BARI; Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman, CSO & Head, FMPHT Division, BRRI; Mr. Mahbubul Alam Zami, PSO and Head, WMM

Division, BRRI; Mr. Sayed Shams Tabriz, SSO & Head, Ag. Engg. Division, BSRI presented their research progress 2015-16 and research programme 2015-16. The 2nd technical session Post Harvest Technology was chaired by Prof. Dr. M. Burhan Uddin, Dept. of FTTRI, BAU. Dr. M. Miraruddin, CSO & Head, Postharvest Tech. Division BARI and Dr. Md. Anwarul Hoque, PSO, BRRI presented their research progress 2015-16 and research programme 2015-16. On the second day, the 3rd technical session Irrigation and Water Management was chaired by Dr. Ahmad Ali Hassan, Former DG, BINA. Dr. Md Tawfiqul Islam, PSO & Head, IWM Division. BRRI; Dr. Md Abdur Razzaque Akanda, CSO & Head, IWM Division, BARI; Dr. M. Hossain Ali, SSO & Head, Ag. Engg. Division, BINA; Mr. Sayed Shams Tabriz, SSO & Head, Ag. Engg. Division, BSRI and Mr. AFM Tariqul Islam, SO, ASICT Division, BARI presented their research progress 2015-16 and research programme 2015-16. Concluding session was chaired by Dr. Sultan Ahmmed, MD (NRM), BARC and Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, PSO, Agril. Engg. Unit, NRM Division, BARC worked as a Rapporteur. In this session, rapporteurs of three technical sessions presented their reports. Draft recommendations were made after detail discussions. The final recommendation was finalized after thorough discussions in the inaugural, technical sessions, concluding session and email correspondence.



View of Research Review 2015-16 and Research Program 2016-17 on Agricultural Engineering of NARS Institutes workshop in BARC

ience technologies. The chairperson of the session Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder suggested to collect rice germplasm from China and target rice yield about 10 ton per hectare. He highlighted on adaptive research in the stressprone areas and mentioned research emphasis should be given on emerging issues like wheat blast.



View of Review Workshop on Crop Improvement Programme of NARS institutes

Five technical sessions covering Varietal Improvement through Conventional Breeding of Cereal Crops (rice, wheat, maize, sorghum, millets etc.), Oilseeds and Pulses, Horticultural Crops (fruits, vegetables, spices, tuber crops etc.); Varietal Improvement through mutation, Varietal Improvement through Biotechnological approaches and recommendations sessions were included in two day's workshop. Scientists of BARI, BRRI, BINA, BJRI, BSRI, CDB and BSRTI participated in the workshop. Dr. Bhagya Rani Banik, Director General, BRRI; Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin, Director (Research), BARI; Prof. Dr. Lutfur Rahman, Former Professor, BAU and Dr. Md. Shamsher Ali, Director General, BINA chaired the Technical Session I,II, III and IV respectively. Dr. Lutfur Rahman, Former Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, BAU.; Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Khaleque Mian, Dept. of Genetics & Plant Breeding, BSMRAU, Prof. Dr. Shah-E-Alam, Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, BAU; Prof. Dr. Md. Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, Dept. of Genetics &

Plant Breeding, SAU, Dhaka; Prof. Dr. Lutfur Hassan, Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, BAU and Prof. Dr. Rakha Hari Sarker, Department of Botany, DU were present as Expert Member in two day long workshop. Prof. Dr. Md. Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, SAU, Dhaka chaired the Recommendation Session. After threadbare discussion, the following recommendations were made by the experts and valued participants, which could be considered in developing research programmes towards achieving food and nutritional security of the country.

- The PI of the experiments are suggested to give due importance for the area of adverse ecosystems like saline, drought, submergence, haor, hill, heat, cool etc., it may be noted here that more than one third of cultivable land is under adverse ecosystem which may be turned into more production through adoption of proper technology.
- The NARS institutes are to address more innovative research programme which includes hybrid technology, biotechnology/Genetic Engineering, resistance breeding, QTL, industrial variety, variety having special traits (e.g. Iron, Zinc, Vit. A etc), short duration variety (to fit in the cropping systems), crop intensification, safe food production etc.
- Exports of agricultural commodities are utmost importance to earn foreign exchange. Bangladesh is facing challenges to export. Some commodities having problems may be overcome by variety development through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The NARS institutes are recommended to undertake experiment to support the export market.
- The scientists of BRRI, BARI and BINA working in Biotechnology/Genetic Engineering should sit together for sharing

Regional Consultation Workshop on Mitigating the Threat of Wheat Blast in Bangladesh and beyond

Wheat blast is a new devastating disease in Bangladesh which appeared as a new threat to wheat production. For taking measures to solve the emerging problem of wheat blast, a series meeting was arranged by BARC with the participation of different stakeholders. In this context, one Regional Consultation Workshop on *Mitigating the Threat of Wheat Blast in Bangladesh and beyond* was held in Kathmandu, Nepal during 26 and 27 July, 2016. Researchers, extension workers, senior administrators, policy makers of different countries and donors viz. USAID and ACIAR have participated in the consultation workshop. From BARC, Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops Division participated. The researcher presented in-depth information on wheat blast and rice blast disease, and discussed on various aspects of wheat blast on disease: epidemiology, damage and control; sources of



resistance, type and genetic basis of resistance and development of resistance cultivars and population dynamics, enhancement of virulence and relationship of wheat blast pathogen and its sister pathotypes. After threadbare discussion, the gaps in research have been identified which needs to be addressed for wheat blast management. The action

plan for mitigation spread and damage due to wheat blast was recommended are (1) Development of Precision Phenotyping Platforms; (2) Breeding for Wheat Blast Resistance; (3) Surveillance, Epidemiology and Integrated Pest Management; (4) Molecular studies and new venues for advanced studies; (5) Seed/Wheat Production Issues (Movement/Status); (6) Capacity building (Personal Infrastructure); (7) Development of long-term, multi-disciplinary international collaboration research project for understanding and mitigating the effects of wheat blast in Bangladesh and beyond.

Annual Review Workshop on Crop Improvement Programme

A two-day long review workshop on *Crop Improvement Programme of NARS institutes* was organized by Crops Division, BARC during 07-08 August, 2016. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman of BARC was present as Chief Guest where Dr. Bhagya Rani Banik, Director General, BRRI attended as Special guest and Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, Member Director (Planning & Evaluation) chaired the inaugural session. In the welcome address, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Principal Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC briefly presented the last year (2014-15) recommendation of the workshop. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad has given special emphasis on the crop improvement programme for achieving high crop productivity, food security as well as nutrition security to meet the demand of growing population of the country. He also mentioned that research thrust should be given on the development of less input required and high yielding Aus rice variety and biofortified rice variety. The chief guest opined to ensure nutritional security, more thrust on vegetables and fruits research and development. Special guest Dr. Bhagya Rani Banik suggested that the collaboration among the NARS institutes needs to be strengthened for the development of agriculture sector. She stressed on developing climate resil

The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development to the NARS and other concerned organization in Bangladesh.

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CIMMYT Marks 50 Years of Innovation in Agricultural Science for Development

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) celebrated it's 50 years in Mexico from 27-29 September 2016 where almost a thousand delegates including agriculture ministers, scientists, policy makers and farmers from Mexico and around the world were brought together. Among them, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh Matia Chowdhury, MP and Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council have participated in the ceremony.



Begum Matia Chowdhury Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture addressing the CIMMYT Meeting in Mexico

Over three days, speakers at the event reflected on the past and discussed the complex socio-environmental challenges facing agricultural research for development, smallholder farmers and crop yields, highlighting the theme *Turning Research into Impact: Past, Present and Future*.

The special event was a chance to reflection the past and discussed how the socio-environmental challenges of the future would affect agriculture research for development, smallholder farmers and crop yields. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, MP conveyed her sincere thanks and gratitude to the CIMMYT particularly for organizing this important conference. She acknowledged the support and cooperation of Consultative Group Centres for agricultural development in Bangladesh.

Hon'ble Minister also gave thanks to DG CIMMYT for visiting blast affected areas in Bangladesh and urged for giving special attention to help Bangladesh to mitigate the threat of wheat blast in Bangladesh and other parts of the world.