



BARC

Newsletter



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BARC Honoured with the Independence Award 2021



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over the Independence Award 2021 to Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of BARC

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council has been awarded with 'Independence Award' 2021, the highest civilian award of the country, in recognition of its glorious & meritorious contribution to agricultural research and training. The Cabinet Division issued the declaration on 7 March, 2021. Due to Pandemic, the Independence Award giving program was held at Gonobhaban on 20 May, 2021. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over the Independence Award 2021 to Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. The Prime Minister thanked the awardees for their contributions. Mentioning the existing constraints due to the Covid Pandemic, present government's contribution to the socio-economic development of the country and future action plan,

celebration of Mujib's birth centenary and observance of golden jubilee of Independence, the Prime Minister said such awards would encourage future generations to work for the betterment of the nation.

It may be mentioned that BARC was established in 1973 by an order of His Excellency the President, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Since its inception, the institute has been providing necessary guidelines to 12 research institutes and affiliates under the National Agricultural Research System in formulating agricultural research plans, setting priorities, coordinating programs, monitoring and evaluation, human resource development and improving agricultural research. In the last 10 years, BARC has released more than 160 crop varieties developed by

various agricultural research institutes to ensure the yield and quality of seven notified crops (paddy, wheat, potato, sugarcane, jute, kenaf and mesta). BARC has provided financial and technical assistance for higher study fellowships and short-term training to 51,866 scientists/ officers in various fields for the purpose of skill development of the agricultural scientists.

'Fertilizer Recommendations Handbook' has been formulated and updated by BARC since 1989. This Handbook has been playing an important role in fertilizer management in the country. Besides, the Council has prepared Agricultural Mechanization Road-map 2021, 2031 and 2041. It has also published 'The 100 Agricultural Technology Atlas' with the best innovations of 12 public research

institutes under the National Agricultural Research System. Since its inception, the Council has been making significant contributions to food and nutrition security and food self-sufficiency in the country.

‘The 100 Agro Technologies Atlas’ launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiling 'The 100 Agro Technologies Atlas' published by BARC

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled *The 100 Agro Technologies Atlas* published by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a program held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre

through video-conference from her official residence Gono Bhaban on 4 February, 2021.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed agricultural scientists to conduct further research on local fruits and other agricultural products for market expansion.

Sheikh Hasina said, "The retirement

age in government service has appeared as a problem for those who are engaged in research." "We need to do something for the agricultural scientists. We want to give them more incentives," she said, asking the authorities concerned to place proposals over how the incentives can be given to the scientists.

Noting that the government is giving importance to agriculture, she said they want to give more scopes for agricultural researchers. The Prime Minister asked the researchers to prepare the crop zoning map identifying the high-yielding zones across the country.

Presided over by Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, the event was addressed by Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture Ministry Matia Chowdhury, Senior



Guests of the unveiling ceremony of 'The 100 Agro Technologies Atlas'

Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Md. Mesbahul Islam and Executive Chairman, BARC Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar. A

documentary over the 100 agricultural technologies was screened at the function. Agricultural scientists, divisional commissioners, deputy

commissioners and field-level agriculture officers were virtually connected.

Availability and Price Volatility of Rice, Potato and Onion in Bangladesh: An Inter-Institutional Study in 2020

A National Workshop for Presenting Study Report on *Availability and Price Volatility of Rice, Potato and Onion in Bangladesh: An Inter-Institutional Study in 2020* held on 26 January, 2021 at BARC Auditorium, Dhaka organized by the AERS Division, BARC. The workshop was organized as part of the program of the aforementioned study, which carried out at the Ministry of Agriculture's direction to determine the reasons behind recent price hikes in Rice, Potato, and Onion in Bangladesh. Under the supervision of AERS division, BARC, three distinct inter-institutional and multi-disciplinary Study Teams led by Agricultural Economists of NARS institutes conducted a detailed investigation with farmers, traders and different stakeholders of these most indispensable commodities across the country.

Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Md. Mesbahul Islam, the Hon'ble Senior Secretary of the Ministry attended as chief guest and special guest respectively. A number of participants including the heads of NARS institutes, KGF, Hortex Foundation, Member Directors of BARC, NARS scientists, renowned university professors, agriculture experts, and delegates from the Ministry of Food, Trade & Tariff



Dr. Muhammad. Abdur Razzaque, the Hon'ble Minister, MoA addressing the workshop

Commission, DAE, DAM, BADC, BBS, BIDS, and representatives from the Rice, Potato, and Onion Traders Associations for import, storage, processing, and marketing attended the Workshop.

Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC presided over the workshop and acknowledged the Hon'ble Minister and the Senior Secretary for their presence at the occasion. He also expressed gratitude to the research stakeholders and the Krishi Gobeshona Foundation for funding the study. He anticipated that the findings of the study would aid policymakers in making better decisions. The welcome address was given by Dr. Md. Mosharraf Uddin Molla, Member Director (AERS), BARC, and Member Secretary of the Study Team, who also presented the

justification and outline of the research work. Prof. Dr. Jahangir Alam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Global Village and Former Director General, BLRI, and Coordinator of the Study Team, presented a brief summary of the research findings. Md. Abdur Rauf Sarker, SSO, AED, BRRI, Prof. (Retd.) Dr. Shaikh Abdus Sabur, Agribusiness and Marketing Department, BAU and Dr. Md. Abdur Rashid, CSO and Head, AED, BARI presented the detailed study findings on rice, potato and onion respectively. The studies clearly defined the major causes of the price hike for these commodities and made suggestions on how to resolve the situation. Based on the study findings, some recommendations were made to overcome the current situation for long-term benefits.

Agriculture Minister calls for CGIAR's enhanced cooperation

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP has called upon the Consultative Group on International Agricultural

Research (CGIAR) to enhance its cooperation in the development of agriculture in Bangladesh through innovation of technology and ideas.

The Hon'ble Minister as chief guest made the statement while addressing the 7th meeting of the CGIAR Advisory Committee at

BARC Dhaka on February 23, 2021. He said, "Although Bangladesh has achieved success in agricultural development and food production, there are many challenges ahead to maintain food security. In order to meet this challenge and cope with the world situation, Bangladesh needs to focus on new research." The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister called on WorldFish to increase research and cooperate in controlling fish diseases in Bangladesh, as well as to protect Bangladesh's native fish from extinction. He also said, "Potatoes are being harvested widely in Bangladesh, but given less importance in exports and processing. We usually buy potato chips at a high price. If we can increase the processing of potatoes, then the farmers will focus on more production."

CGIAR is a joint platform of 15 global organizations working in agricultural research, development



Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP addressing the meeting

and policy formulation. Of the 15 organizations, IRRI, CIMMYT, WORLD FISH, IFPRI, CIAT, AND CIP work in Bangladesh. These international organizations are currently implementing 47 projects and programs in the country. BARC's Executive Chairman plays the role of the chairman of this committee.

Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of

Agriculture was present as special guest. Chaired by Dr. SM Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of BARC, the meeting was attended among others by the senior officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Heads and representatives of the national research and extension agencies and the country representatives of the CGIAR centres in Bangladesh.

101st Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Celebrated

The Ministry of Agriculture celebrated the 101st birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 17th March 2021 in a befitting manner. Hon'ble Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Md. Mesbahul Islam and all other officers and staff paid due homage by placing wreaths at the Mural of Bangabandhu at BARC premises. The programs taken by the organization also include cake-cutting, Doa Mahafil, and discussion meeting. The program was presided over by Ms. Wahida Akter, Additional Secretary, Admin Wing, Ministry of Agriculture.

Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture graced the program as chief guest. Among others, Md. Hasanuzzaman Kallol,



101st Birth Anniversary Celebration of the Father of the Nation

Additional Secretary, MoA, Dr. Amitab Sarker, Chairman, BADC, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC, Md. Asadullah, DG, DAE and Md. Yusuf, DG, DAM

took part in the discussion program. The day is also marked as the National Children Day.

International Mother Language Day observed

With due solemnity Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council observed *International Mother Language Day* on 21st February 2021.

Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, MoA, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC and his high officials paid homage to the Father of the Nation by placing wreaths at the statute of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman both in BARC campus and Krishibid Institution.

Later, a discussion meeting to commemorate the life and activities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a Doa Mahfil were held in BARC conference room.



Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, MoA, EC, BARC, DG, DAE and the high officials paid homage to the Father of the Nation on 21 February, 2021

BARC observed Golden Jubilee of Independence



The national flag being hoisted atop at BARC premises marking the Golden Jubilee of Independence on March 26

With whole nation, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council celebrated *the Golden Jubilee of Independence* with due solemnity by organizing different events. BARC hoisted the national flag and offered

wreaths to the Mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Member Directors, Directors, scientists, officers and staff participated in the valuable discussions and cultural programs

on the independence of Bangladesh. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC was present as the chief guest.

This year the celebrations are more special as it coincides with the



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC addressing the discussion meeting



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC with his officials offered wreaths to the Mural of the Father of the Nation

celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who led the Liberation War of Bangladesh against Pakistan in 1971.

Bangabandhu Corner at BARC Library

Bangabandhu Corner at the library of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council was inaugurated as part of the government's year long programme to celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 21st February 2021. BARC took the initiative with a view to letting the visitors learn about the life and activities of Bangabandhu. Hon'ble Senior Secretary, Md. Mesbahul Islam inaugurated the corner with Executive Chairman of BARC Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar. Md. Asadullah, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension and high officials of BARC were also present.

A commendable collection of books, illustrations of some historic photographs are thoughtfully and aesthetically arranged in the Bangabandhu Corner.



Senior Secretary, MoA, Md. Mesbahul Islam inaugurating Bangabandhu Corner at BARC Library with EC, BARC, Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar



A view of Bangabandhu Corner at BARC Library

Administration and Financial Management Training

Manpower & Training Unit, BARC organized a two-day in-house training on *Administrative and Financial Management* with a view to ensuring institutional transparency, accountability, proper utilization of resources and above all enhancing institutional efficiency. The training program was held during 27-28 March 2021 at BARC. As many as 40 officers of the Council attended the training program. A total of ten topics like (i) Office Management, (ii) National Integrity Strategy (NIS), (iii) The Govt. Servants (Discipline & Appeal), Rules 2018, (iv) Budget Management, (v) Accounting & Auditing System, (vi) Income Tax, (vii) PPA-2006 & PPR-2008, (viii) Retirement benefits, (ix) Delegation of Financial Power and (x) Tax & Vat management were discussed in the training.

Ms. Wahida Akter, Additional Secretary (Admin), Ministry of



Ms. Wahida Akter, Additional Secretary (Admin), MoA conducting the training session

Agriculture; Mr. M. Saifullah Panna, Joint Secretary (SOE-1), Ministry of Finance; Mr. Shah Eyamin-ul-Islam, Procurement Consultant, World Bank Office, Dhaka; Md. Jahangir Salim, Ext. Asst. Commissioner of Taxes, Taxes Zone-14, Dhaka;

Dr. Md. Saifullah, Member Director (Admin & Finance) and Mr. Ajit Kumar Chakraborty, Director (Finance), BARC conducted the training sessions as resource persons as per the program schedule.

Agricultural Technology Extension Coordination Committee Meeting

A meeting of *Agricultural Technology Extension Coordination Committee (ATECC)* was held on 28 February 2021 at BARC for Kharif Season/2021. The meeting was presided by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC, opined that the meeting was the reflection of the research organization, DAE, private organization working jointly for the food and nutritional security for the nation. He further mentioned that the ATECC meeting should conduct regularly to strengthen research-extension linkage for rapidly dissemination of the newly generated technologies by NARS institutes. Mr. A. K. M. Monirul Alam, Director (In-Charge), Field Service wing, DAE coordinated



ATECC meeting for Kharif-1/2021, 28 February 2021

the meeting. All the participants of ATECC from NARS institutes, DAE, DAM, BADC, AIS, BIRTAN, SCA, Hortex foundation and private organization attended the meeting. Md. Abdul Majid, Deputy Director

(Extension), DAE presented all the activities of the meeting. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director (TTMU), BARC as member of the committee was present in the meeting.

Work Plan for Self-Reliance in Onion Production

Two meetings held on 4th and 24th January, 2021 were chaired by Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. A production related policy document titled *Work Plan for Self-Reliance in Onion Production (2020-21 to 2023-24)* was developed by Crops Division in co-operation with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Department of Agricultural Extension, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute and Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture to foster increased onion production in context of global warming through sequential import reduction and saving foreign currencies incurred for onion import to stabilize market



Meeting on Work Plan for Self-Reliance in Onion Production (2020-21 to 2023-24)

price. Allegedly, increased farm income and employment opportunity is achieved through implementation of the workplan. In addition, it aimed to increase quality seed of local production specially for summer season.

A plan with ministry guideline was developed by the committee while facing an embarrassing and bitter experience for price hike specifically at the time of export due to the embargo imposed by exporting countries.

Annual Performance Agreement Training

Manpower & Training Unit, BARC organized a day long in-house training on *Annual Performance Agreement (APA)* for 10th grade and employees above it as mandatory strategic activities of APA, 2020-2021. Forty officers of BARC participated the training held on 26 January 2021 at BARC. Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC inaugurated the training as chief guest. Dr. Humayra Sultana, Joint Secretary (Budget & Monitoring) and Focal Point, APA Team, Ministry of Agriculture conducted training sessions on different topics. The topics included the guidelines, structure, process, timeline, mandatory strategic objectives for APA, APA monitoring and evaluation.



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC inaugurating the training on APA as chief guest

Workshop on Impact of Covid-19 on Agricultural Research and Future Planning in Food Security

A very interactive and fruitful workshop on Impact of Covid-19

on Agricultural Research and Future Planning in Food Security

was organized by Agricultural Information Centre, BARC on

14 March 2021. The workshop was presided over by Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director, AIC. In this workshop, Dr. Aziz Zillani Chowdhury, MD, Crops was present as chief guest. In this workshop, three papers were presented by Dr. Aziz Zillani Chowdhury, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, MD, Planning & Evaluation and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC. Dr. Susmita Das, PDO delivered the welcome address and highlighted the objectives of the workshop.



Workshop on Impact of Covid-19 on Agricultural Research and Future Planning in Food Security

Training Program on Control of Peste des Petits Ruminants in Bangladesh

Livestock Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council organized a *training Program on Control of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Bangladesh* on 24th February 2021 at the Divisional Livestock Office, Rangpur. In this training course, thirty officers from the Department of Livestock Services were present as participants. Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division, BARC was the chief guest in the inaugural session. Shah Jamal Khondokar, Director, Divisional Livestock Office, Rangpur Division was present as special guest.



Certificates being awarded to the participants in training Program on PPR in Bangladesh

Livestock Division, BARC organized a training program on 25th February 2021 at the District Livestock Office, Dinajpur. In this training course, twenty officers from the Department of Livestock Services and ten teachers from University of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur were present as participants. Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division, BARC, Dhaka



Photographic view of training Program on PPR, Rajshahi

was present as chief guest in the inaugural session. Dr. Md. Shahinur Islam, District Livestock Officer, Dinajpur and Prof. Dr. Md. Khaled Hossain, Department of Microbiology, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur were present as special guests.

Livestock Division, BARC also organized two batches of training Programs on Control of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Bangladesh on 27th and 28th February 2021 at the Divisional Livestock Office, Rajshahi Division. In these

training programs, twenty officers from Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and ten teachers from University of Rajshahi (RU) in each batch were present as participants. The inaugural session was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division, BARC. Dr. Shaikh Azizur Rahman, Director, Divisional Livestock Office, Rajshahi Division, was present as chief guest in the inaugural session. Prof. Dr. Md. Jalal Uddin Sarder, Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi and

Dr. Md. Ruhul Amin Al Faruque, Assistant Director, Divisional Livestock Office, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi were present as special guests.

Resource persons successfully conducted lectures on Recognition, Epidemiology and Geographical Distribution of PPR; Global PPR Control Strategy, Molecular Diagnosis of PPR; Treatment, Prevention, and Control of PPR and PPR Control Model for Bangladesh. After successful completion of the course, certificates were awarded to the participants.

Workshop on Matured Technology Developed by NARS Institutes

A review workshop on *Matured Technology Developed by NARS Institutes (2018-19 to 2019-20)* was held on 10 March 2021 at BARC. The workshop was chaired by Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director (TTMU). Scientists and Representatives of NARS institutes, extension organizations (DAE, DoF, DLS), BADC, DAM, SCA, NATP-2 participated in the workshop. A total of 273 matured technology were presented by 12 NARS institutes. Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Sector Coordinator (Extension), PMU, NATP-2 and Former Executive Chairman, BARC was the Chairperson of the Technical session I & II. Representative of



Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, EC, BARC inaugurating the workshop as chief guest

all institutes (CDB, BINA, BRRI, BWMRI, BSRI, BFRI (Fish), BLRI) and (BARI, BSRTI, BFRI

(Forest), BJRI, SRDI) presented technologies in technical session I & II respectively.

Field Monitoring

Under PBRG sub-project Transfer of Agricultural Technologies to Farmers' level for Increasing Farm Productivity (ID-005), five sites of four NARS institutes (BINA, BFRI, BSRI, BLRI) were monitored

by the coordinator Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Director, TTMU, BARC, associate coordinator Dr. Zakiah Rahman Moni, Senior Scientific Officer (TTMU), BARC and Dr. Rathi Mahmud Morshed, Senior

Scientific Officer (PBRG Sub project ID#005), BARC.

BINA: BINA developed BINA Sharisha-9 variety trial plots of six farmers at Mirkandapara village of

Parangonj union of Mymensingh district under BINA component was monitored on 02/02/2021.

Also monitored BINA developed Binamasur-8 variety trial plots of six farmers at Mathurapur village of Gazna union of Modhukhali upazila of Faridpur district under BINA component on 01/03/2021.

BFRI: The team monitored the trial entitled Validation & Demonstration of Culture of Pabda (Ompok pabda), Gulsha (Mystus cavasius) with Rui (Labeo rohita) in 03 farmers pond having the average pond size of 0.36 acre in Nokla upazilla of Sherpur district under BFRI component on 03/02/2021.

BSRI: Under BSRI component, BSRI Akh 42 (chewing) and BSRI Akh 45 (gur) variety trial plots of seven farmers was monitored at Dabirgonj and Protap villages of Ullapara upazila, Kalipur village of Salanga upazila, Ghorachora and Brahmoboyra villages of Sadar upazila of Sirajgonj district from 08/02/2021 to 09/02/2021.

BLRI: The team monitored BLRI developed BLRI Napier-4 variety trial plots of eight farmers at Tiarbond village of Potajia union of Shahjadpur upazila of Sirajgonj district under BLRI component from 10/02/2021 to 11/02/2021.



A trial plot of BINA Sharisha-9 at Mymensingh under BINA



Meeting with BFRI component



Monitoring team along with PI of BSRI component in front of a trial plot of BSRI Akh42 at Salanga upazila, Sirajgonj



Monitoring team with PI, co-PI and concerned farmer of BLRI component in front of a trial plot of BLRI Napier-4 at Shahjadpur, Sirajgonj

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 organizations in Bangladesh

Any query concerning the newsletter or its contents, comments and suggestions for our endeavour would highly be appreciated.

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