



BARC

Newsletter

Towards Building Advance Intelligent Systems for Agriculture

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Prime Minister Asks Scientists to Innovate Climate Tolerant Crop Varieties



High level Canadian delegation visit Hon'ble Prime Minister

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged agricultural scientists to innovate climate tolerant crop varieties for ensuring food security across the globe. She also laid emphasis on food preservation, reduction of post-harvest loss and nutrition security for the same purpose while the four-members Canadian deligation was called on 8 May 2022 at her official residence Ganobhaban. The Canadian delegation paid a

visit to Dhaka upon the invitation by BARC to observe the activities of Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) office at BARC. The Canadian delegation was led by Stephen Visscher, CBE, director for Strategic Partnership and chief operating officer, Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), University of Saskatchewan. The other members of the delegation were Dr Balajit Singh, vice-president (Research) of University of Saskatchewan, Dr Andrew Sharpe,

Bangabandhu research chair in Food Security, GIFS, University of Saskatchewan, Canada and Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Lilly Nicholls.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Ahmad Kaikus, Agriculture Secretary Md. Sayedul Islam and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Executive Chairman Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar were also present.

5th GB Meeting of BARC

The 5th meeting of the Governing Body of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) was held at BARC on 17 April 2022. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Governing Body Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque MP, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture. The Co-chairmen of the Governing Body Mr. S M Rezaul Karim MP, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Livestock and Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Md. Shahab Uddin MP were present. The meeting was also attended by the designated members like Begum Matia Chowdhury MP and Begum Umme Kulsum Smrity MP, Secretaries of the relevant ministries, heads of the research and extension organizations, scientists and farmer/ NGO/ Agri-business organization representatives.

Agenda-wise discussion took place in the meeting on different issues. The meeting put thrust on increase in research on livestock production, especially production of goat and sheep. The meeting also discussed giving special thrust on strengthening research on forestry and agro-forestry through the use

of biotechnology and tissue culture approaches. Further, in order to boost up production and generation of technologies, and in addition, the meeting concerned and took decision on providing incentives to the contributing scientists.



The 5th Governing Body Meeting of BARC

BARC Executive Chairman awarded with National Integrity Strategy Award

Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), has been awarded with the 'Jatiya Suddhachar Purasker' (National Integrity Strategy Award) for the financial year 2021-2022 in the category of the head of organization under the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture handed over this award to the Executive Chairman of BARC at an Award Giving Ceremony organized by the Ministry on 21 June 2022 at the



Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque handing over the award to the EC of BARC

Conference Room of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The senior officers of the Ministry of Agriculture including the Secretary and Additional Secretaries were present on the occasion.

Other Officials awarded with 'Jatiya Suddhachar Puraskar' (National Integrity Strategy Award) at BARC for the financial year 2021-2022 are Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman Principal Technical Officer (Grade: 2

to 9); Mr. Sayad Tawhid Ahmed PA to System Operator (Grade: 10 to 16); Mr. Md. Bedon Mia Office Support Staff (Grade: 17 to 20).

Agricultural Technology and Food Security Workshop



Workshop on Agricultural Technology and Food Security

Agricultural Technology and Food Security Workshop was jointly organized by BARC and the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), University of Saskatchewan, Canada on 8 May 2022 at BARC. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP attended the inaugural session of

the event as chief guest and Mr. Md. Sayedul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, was present as special guest. The session was presided over by Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin Talukder, Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture while Dr. S M Bokhtiar Executive Chairman of BARC delivered the

welcome speech highlighting the objectives of the workshop. Ms Lily Nicholls, Her Excellency High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh also made remarks on the BARC-GIFS agricultural collaborative activities.

Workshop on the Preparation of Agricultural Workplan in Accordance with 4IR

A day-long workshop on *Preparation of Agricultural Workplan in Accordance with 4IR* was held on 15 June 2022 at BARC Auditorium was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Planning and Evaluation Division, BARC. Md. Sayedul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was present



Md. Sayedul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture delivering speech

as chief guest and Md. Ruhul Amin Talukder, Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture attended as the special guest. Dr. Md. Monjurul Alam, Professor, Department of Farm Power and Machinery, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh attended

the workshop as an Expert. Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC presided over the workshop. Around 85 participants attended the workshop, including representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, BARC, DAE, BARI, BRRI, DAM, CDB, BIRTAN, BSRI, BINA, BJRI,

SCA, AIS, NATA, BADC and development partners, such as NGOs, professional organizations/private sector organizations, scientists/officials. Print and electronic media journalists were also present in the workshop.

Workshop on Identifying the Thematic Areas for Investment in Transforming Agriculture

A day-long workshop on *Identifying the Thematic Areas for Investment in Transforming Agriculture* was held on 09 June 2022 at BARC Auditorium was organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division, BARC. Md. Sayedul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was present as chief guest and Md. Ruhul Amin Talukder,

Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture attended as special guest in the workshop. Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC presided over the workshop. Around 65 participants took part in the Program. The participants included representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, BARC, DAE, BARI, BRRI, DAM, CDB, BIRTAN, BSRI,

BINA, BJRI, SCA, AIS, NATA, BADC, development partners including World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, IFAD, USAID, DAI, IRRI, GAIN, IFPRI, CIMMYT, Embassy of the Netherlands to Bangladesh and leading private sector organizations. Four investment areas were selected, namely 'Agro-processing, Marketing and Commercialization,' 'Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): Technology Development and Dissemination,' 'Specialized and Multipurpose Cold Storage, Post-harvest Management, Supply Chain Management and Irrigation and Water Management' Some other issues as cross cutting themes can easily be achieved through the four major categories. The minutes of the meeting were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture on 22 June 2022.



Workshop on Identifying the Thematic Areas for Investment in Transforming Agriculture

Workshop on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Employment and Resilience

A day-long Workshop on *Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Employment, and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER)* was held on 07 April 2022 at BARC was organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division of BARC. Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the workshop. A total of 38 participants attended



Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Employment and Resilience

the program that included representatives from BARC, BARI, BRRI, CDB, BSRI, BINA, BJRI, BWMRI,

SRDI, development partners, like World Bank and IFAD. The activities of all NARS institutes under the

proposed PARTNER Project were presented in the program and discussed.

Training on Annual Performance Agreement (APA)

Manpower and Training Unit, BARC conducted a day-long training on *Annual Performance Agreement*. The training was held on 28 May 2022 at BARC. A total of 56 officers of the Council attended the training program. Ms. Wahida Akter, Addl. Secretary (Administration Wing), Ministry of Agriculture conducted major three sessions on (i) APA concept, background and importance; (ii) Guidelines for APA; (iii) APA structure, process & timeline as resource speaker. Runu Saha, Sr. Asst. Secretary (Budget & Monitoring) also conducted another two sessions on APA Mandatory Strategic Objectives



Ms. Wahida Akter, Addl. Secretary (Admin), MoA conducted training session as resource speaker

(MSO) and APA Monitoring and Evaluation in the program. All level

officers of BARC participated in the session.

Workshop on 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR)

In line with the global technological advancement, Bangladesh has started to undertake many initiatives to get prepared for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). Bangladesh has opened new dimension in the agricultural sector for a potential transition.

A day-long workshop titled *To Meet The Challenges of The Fourth Industrial Revolution* was held on 19 April 2022 at BARC. Computer and GIS Unit of BARC organized the training with technical support from the *Aspire to Innovate (a2i)* program of the ICT Division. A total of 59 BARC



Workshop on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)

scientists/officers attended the workshop. The program was presided over by Mr. Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman, Director, Computer & GIS, while Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as the chief guest. Mr. Hasan Mahmud, Senior System Analyst, Computer & GIS

delivered welcome speech in the workshop. This workshop would facilitate the participants to learn about the potential usage of various frontier technologies in the agricultural sector, such as Genetic Engineering, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine

Learning (ML), Deep Learning (DL), Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Internet of Things (IoT), etc. It is also closely aligned with BARC motto 'Towards Building Advanced Intelligent System for Agriculture'.

Workshop on Crop Zoning Software and Khamari Mobile App

An advisory workshop on *Crop Zoning Software and Khamari Mobile App* was held on 08 June 2022 at BARC. Computer and GIS Unit of BARC organized program in coordination with Crops Division of the Council. A total of 165 officers from BARC, NARS institutes, KGF, DAE, SRDI, and IWM attended the advisory workshop. The program was chaired by Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops, while Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as the chief guest. DG (DAE), ED (IWM), and DG (SRDI) were present as special guests. Mr. Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman, Director, Computer & GIS gave the



Workshop on Crop Zoning Software and Khamari Mobile App

welcome speech. In the workshop Crop Zoning Dashboard, Crop Zoning Software, and Khamari Mobile App were presented to the partakers. At the final stage, constructive feedback was

collected from the participants. All the discussants expressed their views on the workshop as very effective and thanked BARC authority for arranging the workshop.

Workshop on Development of High Yielding Hybrid (F1) Varieties of Different Crops and Its Dissemination to the Farmers' Level

A day-long workshop on *Development of High Yielding Hybrid (F1) Varieties of Different Crops and its Dissemination to the Farmers' Level* was held on 30 May 2022 at BARC. Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC graced the inaugural session as chief guest, while the session was chaired by Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director,



Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC was delivering speech

Crops Division, BARC. Dr. Md. Mahfuz Alam, Principal Scientific Officer (Crops) welcomed the participants and presented a brief on research priorities of major crops in Bangladesh. The chief guest Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC emphasized the importance of hybrid technology for improving crops production and stress

tolerance. He also urged upon all concerned to undertake target oriented coordinated joint projects to achieve better result through integration of everybody's knowledge and expertise. The relevant personnel from BARI, BRRI, DAE, BADC, BJRI, BSRI, BINA, CDB, BRAC, ACI, Metal Agro Ltd. and Supreme Seed Ltd. attended the program. Dr. Md.

Aziz Zilani Chowdhury chaired the technical sessions. After a fruitful discussion, comments and suggestions from the experts were taken and a priority was set as per institutional skill and was forwarded to the respective institutes for integration in their future programs.

Training on Application of Impact Assessment Methods in Agriculture

A training program on *Application of Impact Assessment Methods in Agriculture* was held during 29 May-02 June at Computer Lab., BARC was organized by AERS Division. The Resource Speakers were Professors from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. Twenty participants (Agricultural Economists) from NARS Institutes (BARI, BRRI, BINA, BSRI, BLRI, and BFRI) and agricultural universities attended the training Program. Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman,



Dr. S M Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman handing over the certificate

BARC was the Chief Guest at the Concluding Session and handed over the certificates to the participants of the program.

Communication Skill Development for Agricultural Scientists

According to the annual workplan Agricultural Information Centre (AIC), BARC, organized a day- long workshop on *Communication Skill Development for Agricultural Scientists on 25 May 2022* at BARC. The main objective of the workshop was to make the agricultural scientists and officers skilled in modern techniques of communication.

Sixty-four scientists and officers from BARC attended the



Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury conducted the workshop

workshop. The inaugural ceremony of the program was graced by Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Member Director, NRM Division, BARC as chief guest. Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops Division, BARC and Dr. M. Baktear Hossain, Director SAARC and Training & Manpower Unit, were present as special guests. The program was chaired by Course Director Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director, AIC. Dr. Susmita Das, Principal Documentation Officer, AIC gave the welcome address and highlighted the objectives of the

training program as the Course Coordinator.

Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury conducted the workshop and Professor Dr. M Zulfikar Rahman, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, BAU presented the main article on *Communication Skill Development for Agricultural Scientists*. In his lecture, he presented some easy techniques and its application for effective communication.

As the chief guest, Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Member Director, NRM emphasized the importance

of communication not only for the scientists but also for people of all sectors. He suggested to change the title Communication Skill Development for Professionals instead of Communication Skill Development for Agricultural Scientists. Dr. M. Baktear Hossain, as a special guest, highlighted the necessities of communication for every agricultural scientist.

Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director, AIC chaired the concluding session and thanked the guests and participants.

Training on Climate Smart Agriculture for Adaptation



inaugural and certificate giving ceremony

A 3-day long training course on Climate Smart Agriculture for Adaptation was organized at BARC on 12-14 June 2022. Forty participants from different NARS institutions (BARC, BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI, BTRI, BFRI, SRDI, CDB, etc.), DAE, KGF, PKSF and NGOs (BRAC, PKSF, ADPC, CARITAS and

CPE) attended the training. Sixteen lectures on the issue were delivered by the renowned scientists and experts. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Member Director, NRM Division gave his valuable speech on the importance of the training and inspired the organizers for

compiling the attractive and resourceful training manual. Participants in the training shared their feedback and views. Certificates were given to the participants for successful completion of the training.

Training on Methodology on Farming System Research and Development at BARC

A 3day-long training from 18 to 20 April 2022 on *Methodology on Farming System Research and Development* was held at Training Building, BARC. The training was organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division, BARC under 'Livelihood Improvement of Farmers Through Integrated Farming System Research and Development of Drought and Rain-fed Ecosystem (Project ID: 097)'. The training was funded by PIU-BARC, NATP-2. Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member-Director (Crops) BARC was present as chief guest and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, PIU-BARC, NATP-2 as the special guest in the inaugural session. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member-Director (Planning & Evaluation) presided over the inaugural ceremony. Senior Officers from different divisions of



Training on Methodology on Farming System Research and Development

BARC participated in the inauguration ceremony. Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Chief Scientific Officer, Planning & Evaluation Division, BARC and the Course Coordinator of the training

program gave the welcome speech. Project related 30 scientists (Male 29; Female 1) from different NARS institutes including BARC attended the training.

Workshop on Livelihood Improvement of Farmers through Integrated Farming System Research and Development of Drought and Rainfed Ecosystem



Draft PCR Preparation Workshop of Drought and Rainfed Ecosystem Project

A day-long workshop on *Livelihood Improvement of farmers through Integrated Farming System Research and Development of Drought and Rainfed Ecosystem* (Project ID: 097) draft PCR Preparation was held on 14 June 2022 at the auditorium of BARC was organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division of BARC. It was funded by PIU-BARC, NATP-2. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Member-Director, Natural Resources Management, BARC

was present as chief guest and Dr. Md. Saifullah, Member Director, Administration and Finance

Division as special guest. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member-Director, Planning & Evaluation Division,

BARC presided over the workshop.

Training on Bioinformatics for Sustainable Development in Agriculture



Pictorial view of Bioinformatics for Sustainable Development in Agriculture

Livestock Division, BARC organized a training program on *Bioinformatics for Sustainable Development in Agriculture* on 22-26 May 2022 at the Computer Lab., Computer and GIS Unit of BARC. In this training course, 20 officers from NARS institutes (BARI, BIRRI, BSRI, BFRI, BJRI, BINA, BLRI, BARC) were present as participants. The inaugural session was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Member Director, Livestock Division, BARC. Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director, Crops Division, BARC, was present as Chief Guest. The inaugural session was started with the welcome address of Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, CSO, Livestock Division, BARC. Resource

persons gave lectures on the topic, and practical sessions were held on Introduction to Bioinformatics and General Aspects, Bioinformatics for Sustainable Agriculture, Hands on Training on Bioinformatics Database. Introduction to NCBI, Ensemble and TAIR database, Hands on training on gene/promoter prediction, Hands on training on Primer design, Hands on training on BLAST and Sequence Alignment, Hands on training on exploring Plant Metabolic Pathway Databases and Ensemble Plants Database, Hands on training on Protein Identifications, Protein sequence and functional information database (UNIPROT), Hands on training on Protein functions,

Domain and Motif Analysis, Hands on training on Prediction of Immunogenic and Antigenic Peptides and Antigenic Propensity Analysis, Hands on training on exploring Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) and Data mining. After successfully completion of the course, certificates were awarded to the participants.

Training on Methodology on Farming System Research and Development

A 3 day-long training on *Methodology on Farming System Research and Development* was organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division, BARC under 'Livelihood Improvement of Farmers Through Integrated Farming System Research and Development of Drought and Rain-fed Ecosystem (Project ID: 097)'. It was funded by PIU-BARC, NATP-2 and held during 26-28 May 2022 at the Conference Hall, OFRD, BARI, Sylhet. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Member-Director, Planning & Evaluation Division, BARC was present as chief guest in the inaugural ceremony. Dr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Chief Scientific



Inaugural session of Methodology on Farming System Research and Development

Officer, Planning & Evaluation, Division BARC was the Course Coordinator of the training. Scientific Assistant and same level personnel attended the training as participants.

Training on Service Process Simplification (SPS) for BARC Personnel

A day-long interactive training program titled *Service Process Simplification (SPS)* was held on 20 June 2022 at BARC. Computer and GIS Unit of BARC organized the training with the technical collaboration of Aspire to Innovate (a2i) program of the ICT Division. Dr. M. Baktear Hossain, Director, Training & Manpower was present as the chief guest and Mr. Hasan Md. Hamidur Rahman, Director, Computer & GIS presided over the inaugural session of the program. Mr. Hasan Mahmud, Senior System Analyst, Computer & GIS gave the welcome speech and briefed the program. The inaugural session was followed by a technical session which was addressed by Mr. Golam Mohammed Bhuiyan, National Consultant, a2i. Twenty-five BARC



Training on Service Process Simplification (SPS)

scientists/officers attended the training program. SPS is an e-governance initiative to simplify access to public services by reducing time, cost and number of visits (TCV). This training would be helped the BARC professionals to

simplify the services provided by BARC for the citizens, NARS organizations and its internal services to access the services easily as well as to improve the quality of the services.

The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development of 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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