

Annual Plan 2018-19

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**Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
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INNER

Foreword

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) is a pioneer rural development institution in Bangladesh which was established in 1959 as a training institute. However, immediately after its inception, BARD also incorporated research and action research in its mandate to complement the training activities. Traditionally BARD arranges a participatory Annual Planning Conference (APC) every year to ensure transparency, accountability, active participation of its stake holders in its mandated activities. Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, a renowned social scientist, introduced this practice at the very inception of BARD. The APC mainly focuses on three major functions of BARD, i.e., training, research and action research. The last year's performances of these three functions are reviewed, and at the same time, an action plan is formulated for the coming year in the APC. The planning exercise takes into account government priorities as well as current rural development needs of the country. In continuation of this old and very effective tradition of participatory planning, BARD organized its 51st Annual Planning Conference (APC) on 4-5 August 2018.

In this APC, 86 participants from different Ministries, Research Organizations, Universities, Training Institutes and NGOs actively participated in various sessions. This report contains the annual plan of 2018-19 of BARD along with the summaries of discussions of the distinguished participants and their valuable suggestions.

The formulation of the three plans on training, research and action research is the outcome of cumulative efforts from within and outside BARD. At this stage, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the learned delegates for their enthusiastic participation and valuable learned academic and intellectual inputs in the planning exercises. I appreciate Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director (Rural Sociology), Ms. Fouzia Nasreen Sultana, Deputy Director (Local Government) and Md. Reaz Mahmud, Assistant Director (Environment) for their tremendous efforts as Convener, Associate Convener and Assistant Convener respectively to make the conference a success. I also thank writers and rapporteurs of different sections of this report, the editors and all concerned personnel of BARD who were directly or indirectly involved in the successful completion of the APC. I hope, through this report, BARD will find the right direction in carrying out its activities round the year, and the readers interested in BARD will also find it useful to think about the role of BARD in the present concept of rural development.

Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman
Director General, BARD

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AARDO	African-Asian Rural Development Organization
ADP	Annual Development Programme
APC	Annual Planning Conference
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BARD	Bangladesh Academy For Rural Development
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCC	Bangladesh Computer Council
BCS	Bangladesh Civil Service
BPATC	Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center
BRB	BARD Revenue Budget
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board
BRRRI	Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation
BSTD	Bangladesh Society for Training and Development
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interview
CBMS	Community Based Monitoring System
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBPO	Capacity Building of People's Organization
CDMP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
CU	Cumilla University
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme
CVDCS	Comprehensive Village Development Cooperative Society
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services
DOF	Directorate of Fisheries
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DPP	Development Project Proposal
DPS	Development Partners
DYD	Department of Youth Development

ECNEC	Executive Committee of National Economic Council
ERD	External Resources Division
ESP	External Supported Projects
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FC	Faculty Council
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FMS	Faculty Members
FTC	Foundation Training Course
FTFL	Fast Track Future Leader
FYP	Five Year Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GO	Government Organization
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
GROVE	Gender Rights Operation and Violence Elimination Project
HH	House Hold
HRD	Human Resource Development
HSC	Higher Secondary School Certificate
ICT	Information & Communication Technology
IEC	Information Education Communication
IGAS	Income Generating Activities
IMED	Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programme
IUB	Independent University of Bangladesh
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korean International Cooperation Agency
KTCCA	Kotwali Tahna Central Cooperative Association
LFE	Live in Field Experience
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGRD&C	Local Government Rural Development & Cooperatives
LGIS	Local Government Institutions
LGSP-11	Second Local Governance Support Project
LICT	Leveraging Information and Communication Technology
LLPMS	Local Level Poverty Monitoring System

MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVRD	Model Village of Rural Development
NAEM	National Academy For Education Management
NAPD	National Academy For Planning and Development
NAPE	National Academy For Primary Education
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NBD	Nation Building Department
NGOs	Non-Government Organization
NILG	National Institute of Local Government
NSU	North South University
PEC	Project Evaluation Committee
PKSF	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PPNB	Project Proposal for Non Revenue Budget
RD	Rural Development
RDA	Rural Development Academy
RDCD	Rural Development and Cooperative Division
RWP	Rural Works Programme
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SCBRMP	Sunamgonj Community Based Resource Management Project
SDC	Swedish development Cooperation
SDGS	Sustainable Development Goals
SFDF	Small Farmers and Landless Laborers Development Programme
SFTC	Special Foundation Training Course
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
SSRC	Social Science Research Council
STW	Shallow Tube Well
SSWRDSP	Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant

TC	Technical Committee
TIP	Thana Irrigation Programme
TNA	Training Need Assessment
TOT	Training of Trainers
TQM	Total Quality Management
TTDC	Thana Training and Development Centre
TVDP	Total Village Development Programme
UCCAS	Upazila Central Cooperative Association
UDC	Union Development Committee
UISC	Union Information Service Center
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UPMS	Union Parishad Management Software
UP	Union Parishad
URT	Upazila Resource Team
UZGP	Upazila Governance Project
V-AID	Village Agricultural and Industrial Development
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	Vulnerable Group Feeding
VIPP	Visualization in Participatory Planning
WEINIP	Women Education, Income and Nutrition Improvement Project

Contents

	Page
<i>Foreword</i>	iii
<i>Abbreviations and Acronyms</i>	v
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Participants of the APC	1
1.3 Inaugural Session	2
2 Comments on Working Papers	9
2.1 Training	9
2.2 Research	12
2.3 Action Research	16
3 Group Comments and Suggestions on Training, Research and Action Research	18
3.1 Group Comments and Suggestions on Training	18
3.2 Group Comments and Suggestions on Research	21
3.3 Group Comments and Suggestions on Action Research	24
4 Annual Plan 2018-19	27
4.1 Training Plan for 2018-19	28
4.2 Research Plan for 2018-19	30
4.3 Action Research Plan for 2018-19	52
5. Concluding Session	55
6. Annexures	
Annexure-1 Conference Programme	58
Annexure-2 List of Participants	61
Annexure-3 A Policy Guideline by Director General, BARD	67

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Rural development is one of the important strategies for development of any country. Bangladesh has no exception to that. Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) is the pioneer of institutional efforts for rural development in Bangladesh. Since early sixties till to date, BARD has offered innovative solutions to many rural problems and thus through multifarious interventions Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in rural development and BARD has become a leading rural development institute of this country.

BARD was established in 1959 at Comilla and it is an autonomous national institution engaged in conducting research, action research and imparting training to its various clienteles i.e. of GOs and NGOs, and officials, leaders and functionaries of local government and cooperative organizations to promote rural development in Bangladesh. Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan and some devoted Faculty Members, BARD introduced a participatory planning process through organizing Annual Planning Conference (APC) since its inception in order to review and plan its activities through participation of academics, practitioners and policy makers of rural development. The main objective of the APC is to review the performance of BARD in the last year in the fields of training, research and action research and finalize the plan for the next year.

Following that tradition, the 51st Annual Planning Conference was held this year during 4-5 August 2018. A wide range of stakeholders of BARD *i.e.* representatives of various government, non-government and international agencies, professionals and academicians, researchers and scholars of the country along with BARD faculty members participated in formulating the plan for 2018-19. The programme of the APC, 2018-19 is attached with this plan document as *Annexure-I*. Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director (Rural Sociology), Ms. Fouzia Nasrin Sultana, Deputy Director (Rural Administration) and Mr. Md. Reaz Mahmud, Assistant Director (Environment) were the Convener, Associate Convener and Assistant Convener of the APC, 2018-19 respectively.

1.2 Participants of the APC

A total of 87 participants having different academic and professional backgrounds participated in this conference. A list of the participants is attached with this plan document as *Annexure-II*.

1.3 Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the APC started on 4th August 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Lalmai Auditorium of BARD. The session was chaired by Dr. M. Miznur Rahman, Director General of BARD. Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal, MP & Hon'ble Planning Minister, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaka Tagnivulau, Director General, CIRDAP joined as Guest of Honor of the inaugural session. Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman, Director General, Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD), Gopalganjand Director General, RDA, Bogura Mr. M. A. Matin delivered speeches. Besides, Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaka Tagnivulau, Director General, CIRDAP spoke as Guest of Honor. The Chairperson of the APC, Director General of BARD presented the Policy Guideline for the two day planning exercise. Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal, MP & Hon'ble Planning Ministerspoke as the Chief Guest and formally inaugurated the APC. Mr. Md. Azam-E-Saadat, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division gave vote of thanks to all. Summaries of their speeches are as follows:

Speech by the Director (Training), BARD

First of all, Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, Director (Training), welcomed Hon'ble Chief Guest and Minister for Planning Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal FCA MP; Hon'ble Chairperson Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman, Director General, BARD; Hon'ble DG, CIRDAP, Hon'ble DG, Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development; Hon'ble DG, Rural Development Academy; all Participants, Guests and the members of the media.

Then with due respect and solemnity I remembered the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said that the fifteenth day of August is the National Day of Mourning in Bangladesh. Father of the Nation along with most of his family members were brutally killed on 15 August 1975. The killing was a heinous crime and the killers are hated by the nation. Then he paid rich tribute to him and prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul.

After that he explained the activities of this APC. He said that the activities of the previous year will be reviewed and action plans for the running year will be formulated in this APC. This practice was started in the sixties when Dr Akhter Hameed Khan was leading this organization. He also said that this APC is a platform to disseminate experiences of BARD in rural development and to strengthen and explore collaboration for Academy's future programmes and activities.

Finally he expressed his deepest gratitude to hon'ble Chief Guest and all delegats for their kind presence in the APC.

Speech by Director General, RDA

Director General, RDA, Bogura Dr. M. A. Matin said that APC the presence of Honorable Planning Minister Mr. A. H. M. Mustafa Kamal, MP, who was always thinking how to improve the socio-economic conditions of the different sections of people of the country was inspiring for the participants of the APC. He mentioned that under the leadership of Honorable Planning Minister, the Planning Commission is more vibrant. He further mentioned that ‘Vision 2021’, ‘Vision 2041’, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Delta Plan etc. are unique for the country. In formulating these plans, the Planning Commission has worked excellently, he added.

Mr. Matin informed that the Green Revolution has been originated from BARD, Cumilla. He also notified that deep tube-well is also introduced in Bangladesh by BARD. After the independence, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman recognized the contribution of BARD in the field of rural development. Realizing it, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman felt to establish another rural development academy in the northern part of the country to eliminate poverty. The Father of the Nation established RDA, Bogura. He said that they are following BARD all time. He added that, the scenario of rural Bangladesh has been changed and to cope with the changed scenario, another two institutes on rural development in Jamalpur and Rangpur are going to be established. He informed that the construction works have been going on very well.

Mr. Matin informed the house that an in-depth study on poverty has been done by RDA in Kurigram and Jamalpur districts. They sent the study findings to the concerned department to take necessary initiatives. He further informed that the Planning Ministry is also thinking on how to eradicate poverty. Not only this, the Government has been working for next 100 years, he added. He further said that the concept of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan is being followed in RDA. Mentioning the Honorable Planning Minister as an innovative person, he admired his activities and efforts to reduce the poverty. Thanking all in the APC, he concluded his speech.

Speech by Director General, BAPARD

As the respected guest, Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman, Director General, Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD) mentioned that their Academy is situated in south central area of the country where poverty rate is a bit high. There is no big industry at Gopalganj. Drawing the attention of Honorable Planning Minister to that part of the country, he said that BAPARD has been working for the rural people of that area. His Academy has been organizing training programmes for the rural women, youth, ultra poor farmers and disabled people. He mentioned that it is a

challenge for them to utilize the training knowledge. The female did not show much interest to utilize the training knowledge. If the women cannot be engaged in employment and income generation, development will not be equal, he mentioned. He said that BAPARD has been trying to engage them. In that case, some programmes have been taken in fishery, livestock, poultry rearing and agriculture etc. He informed that the people of that area were trained on how naturally fisheries can be cultured in Gher. The Academy as a new institution has been working for poverty reduction therefore, BAPARD seeks some assistance, advice from other organizations like BARD and RDA. The experiences of the APC of BARD could be helpful for them, he added. Finally thanking all, especially Director General, BARD and APC conveners, he concluded.

Speech by the Guest of Honor, Director General, CIRDAP

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaka Tagniavulau, Director General, CIRDAP as guest of honor of the inaugural session of APC addressed the Chair, Chief Guest and Special Guest and offered greetings on behalf of CIRDAP to the delegates of the 51st APC of BARD. At the start of his speech, Mr. Tevita thanked the Director General of BARD for inviting him in such an important occasion. Then he reminded the audiences that BARD is a link institution of CIRDAP and this link was established in 1979 and CIRDAP was established at BARD campus before it was moved to Dhaka. He expressed his gratitude to Director General, BARD and other faculties for maintaining the link between CIRDAP and BARD. He added that CIRDAP could change the past but CIRDAP and BARD could renew past.

After that he mentioned the importance of planning. Nobody can deny it and the fact cannot be disputed. He added that they have to do research before planning. Bangladesh is rising maintaining economic growth and becoming a developing country, he mentioned. There is a platform for all growth and the Father of the Nation was the Master of this platform for rising Bangladesh, he added.

Finally, he shared his experience about Fiji Prime Minister's ideas on 'Talanoa Session'. Talanoa session is a way of discussion for mass people. Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling, he mentioned. He also said that in a Talanoa session, nobody is wrong. All views expressed are correct. What makes the difference is the collective decisions on those correct one would be adopted, he further added. Lastly Mr. Tevita thanked the audience.

Address by the Chief Guest

At the outset of addressing the 51st planning conference of BARD, Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal, honorable MP & Planning Minister referring to the guest of honor Director General of CIRDAP, Dhaka, Mr. Tavita's country Fiji's economic situation said that long ago Fiji was developed in terms of everything but now is not in that position compared to Bangladesh. In recent past, Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in every aspect of socio-economic parameters and earned reputation. This has been possible due to adopting various planning process, adopting techniques and setting strategies that have been gathered from knowing development history of other developed countries. There-after he remembered the importance of the month of August when APC of BARD was being organized. He mentioned that every year August comes but this August, we need to look into new strategic areas of thinking. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman should be honored for sacrificing his life for Bangladesh and its economic emancipation. Bangabandhu started his journey very well and actually he wanted to make everybody independent and self reliant. He wrote a book on Bangladesh and its development history which was not finished. Now our honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina daughter of Bangabandhu took initiative to finish his book and believed that Bangabandhu set all kinds of development directions in his first five year plan and these were also reflected in the Bangladesh Constitution particularly in the articles no. 15 to 19, he added. Several years ago, the present government adopted various perspective plans like long term and short term development plan, Vision 2021 etc. All of them originated from Bangabandhu's given five year plan.

Most importantly, he noted that the main focus of any development plan is to develop the socio-economic conditions of the marginalized people and get them engaged in work and bring them in mainstream of the economy on the basis of humanity. Otherwise all sorts of development plan remained meaningless. Moreover, he stressed on balanced development of the country. Being a development planner one should identify the poor people in respect of north, south, south central and south-west what so ever and find out their needs and have a pragmatic plan for their development so that everyone get equal opportunity to develop themselves. He also mentioned that every development plan should have specific goals and targets with a good notion and it must offer equal opportunity to all target sections of the population so that they all can compete with each other. Now Bangladesh has some specific goals and definite targets. To achieve these goals and targets, befitting projects need to be initiated addressing problems of marginalized people and meeting up their hopes and aspirations. Financing of a project is not a problem right now in Bangladesh. Per capita income was \$ 583, 10 years back but now it went up \$1752. On the other hand, in 2005 above 40% people lived below poverty line and now it went down to 22%. It is expected that Bangladesh will be the first hunger

free country in the world by 2030. He also reported that poverty remains everywhere in the world either in developing or in developed countries. There are poor people in developed country like USA and also other developed countries. Only in California 26% of the total population of USA live below in poverty line. Economic growth rate does not matter in the development of a country rather it is meaningless if all the regions and every segment of the population are not equally developed. It is obvious fact that complexity of development varies from place to place due to different mindset of people. As a result, target people do not take part in development activities. Therefore, it is deemed necessary to identify the complexity and educate at least one person of one family so that he or she can overcome these constraints from family as well as society, he opined.

On the other hand, he offered the house to look back into the human history. He opined that constraints of development remained in the past and also will remain in the future but it is our responsibility to overcome obstacles for the sake of the development of the country. Two hundred years ago i.e., in 1820 the generation of electricity was only 1000 MW but now it is about 5.6 million MW. In 1804, the world population was 1 billion in which 85% were hungry people but now it is about 7.5 billion of which 12% are hungry people and it is about 12.9% in Bangladesh. He also reported that China's economy was 1/3 of sub-saharan Africa and 84% of the population lived in abject poverty in 1978 but now China is the second largest economy of the world. All the developed countries have developed economy within 20 to 35 years, he added. Now it is the turn of Bangladesh. It is now high time for Bangladesh. By 2030 Bangladesh is expected to be 29th in the world economic position in terms of purchasing power parity where as now it is in 32nd position. Ten years back i.e., in 2008, Bangladesh was the 42nd country in terms of nominal economic term and now it crossed 16 countries.

Apart from the above development of our country, it is expected that Bangladesh will occupy 28th economic position in the world by 2041. It is well known fact that G-20 countries are considered the top richest in the world. In very recent past, our Prime Minister took part in G-20 meeting and was seated in the side line. Therefore, Bangladesh is now making efforts to enter into G-20 group so that PM can sit in front line. It is our responsibility to set our mind to that way. For this, a proper investment plan with substantial funding is needed. Meanwhile, GOB has initiated 36 billion US Dollar investment plan which is being implemented and another 36-76 billion US Dollar remain idle which will be invested in future plan of action to foster economic prosperity. Finally, he requested all participants to come forward with projects addressing young people and poor and marginalized people and contribute to the country's growth and development. With these few words, he concluded his speech.

Presentation of Policy Guidelines by the Director General, BARD

First of all, Director General of BARD extended a warm welcome to honourable Chief Guest, Guest of honour, representatives of different Ministries and departments of government, print and electric media and faculty members of BARD to this very special event of BARD, the 51st Annual Planning Conference (APC). He was delighted to extend his heartfelt thanks to the distinguished delegates representing different national, international and non-governmental organisations and universities for joining this august occasion to help BARD in formulating its plans of training, research and action research for the current year. He acknowledged the gracious presence of Hon'ble Chief Guest in this opening session despite his busy schedule. He owed his deep gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Guest Mr. A.H.M. Mustafa Kamal, MP and honorable Minister of Planning. He was really grateful to the respected Special Guests.

BARD has been organising Annual Planning Conference for the last 50 years. This is a good example of practicing good governance concept in the public sector organizations of Bangladesh, he added. BARD has profound belief that APC helps establish transparency, accountability and participation, articulate the voice of the stakeholders. In the APC, BARD shares its training, research and action research performance of the preceding year and puts forward its plan for the forthcoming year in presence of invited guests and stakeholders with a view to eliciting their critical views, feedback and comments and thus improving activities, performance as well as future guidelines for BARD. Against this backdrop, firstly, he would like to highlight some of the significant and encouraging activities of BARD from preceding year. He hoped his colleagues of three service divisions would give the details of the performance on training, research and action research in their presentations.

During 2017-18, BARD has conducted 166 national and international training courses in which 7294 persons have participated and has organized 87 courses for the beneficiaries of Lalmai-Mainamati sub-project of "Ektee Bari, Ektee Khamar Project" in various trades where a total of 2655 villagers took part. BARD has developed 10 Manual/Handbooks on different training programmes which were provided to the beneficiaries of this project during their training programme at BARD. Last year BARD prepared a data base for 68 Villages which contained all information of each household. He hoped, this unique experience could be replicated throughout the country after implementation of the project.

In addition, BARD organized national and international training workshops and seminars. In this regard, he mentioned that last year BARD conducted an international workshop on "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Financial Inclusion and Rural Transformation". In this international event, a total of 23 participants from 15 African and Asian countries joined and the programme was supported by AARDO. An International

Integrative Research Conference on Education, Governance and Development was organized last year which were attended by 120 researchers from home and abroad. Last year DG, BARD also acted as chair of 33rd Technical Committee (TC) of CIRDAP in Fiji.

Later as policy guidelines, the Director General shared some ideas for consideration during the planning. He said, to make a pragmatic plan, they might take into cognizance the following plan documents i.e. Perspective Plan (2010-2021), SDG 2015, Vision 2021, 7th FYP (2016- 2020), and Vision 2041. He highlighted some issues of the Perspective Plan 2010-2021 that will follow SDG and the 7th FYP.

According to the Perspective Plan 2010-2021, some major thrusts of the country's future development are high economic growth, reducing poverty to 15 percent, ensuring the minimum standard kilo calorie intake to all poor people and standard nutritious food to at least 85 per cent of the population, ensuring supply of pure drinking water for the entire population, bringing each house under hygienic sanitation, ensuring food security, reducing the unemployment rate to 15 percent, reducing maternal mortality to 1.5 percent, reducing infant mortality to 15 per thousand live births, raising the use of birth control methods to 80 percent, ensuring effective governance, providing energy security for development and welfare and mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural disaster. It is also stipulated in the vision for 2021 that developing information and communication technology and creating innovative people will take the country to new heights of excellence, and thus the nation will achieve a new identity branded as Digital Bangladesh. This APC, could consider how BARD through its training, research and action research could play a supportive role in achieving these wide ranging social, economic, political and technological goals under Vision 2021 as well as becoming a developed country.

He also thanked all his colleagues for their very cordial support in many ways. Finally, he wished the APC a success and offered his very best wishes to all.

Vote of Thanks by Mr. Md. Azam-E-Saadat, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division

Mr. Md. Azam-E-Sadat, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operative conveyed his warm greetings to the Chief Guest Mr. A.H.M. Mustafa Kamal, MP and honorable Minister of Planning, DG BARD, DG BAPARD, DG RDA and all the delegates from different parts of the country for humble and gracious presence.

He extended his heartiest thanks and gratitude to the Chief Guest for taking pains to make the conference successful with his kind presence. He praised the speech of the Chief Guest which made him feel honored and enthusiastic. He was happy to know the

assurance of a lot of assistance, support and cooperation from honorable Minister for overall development and planning for BARD. He also gave heartiest thanks to the honorable Minister of Planning for his positive mind, high thinking, philosophic farsighted attitude and his love for this Academy and as well as country. He added that the whole nation knows the honorable Minister of Planning as a man of farsightedness, insight and high personality regarding planning for overall development and nation building of Bangladesh. He again thanked the Planning Minister so much for his kind presence in the 51st APC of BARD. He hoped the Planning Minister's kind participation and interactive discussions would make the 51st APC of BARD most fruitful and productive. He expended all kinds of cooperation on behalf of RDCD to BARD for its development. Lastly he added that BARD is the cradle of the development of Bangladesh. It is the birth place of planning of Rural Development of Bangladesh as well as South Asia. Thanking all and expressing that BARD will be more vibrant in the development area, he concluded his vote of thanks.

2. Comments on the Presentation of Working Papers

The inaugural session was followed by the presentations of three papers on Training, Research and Action Research containing the performance of the last financial year and draft plan for the next financial year. After the presentation of the above mentioned papers the learned participants offered their comments and suggestions on the working papers. The comments on the individual papers are mentioned below:

2.1 Comments on the Presentation of Working Paper on Training

The working paper on training was presented by Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, Director in Charge (Training). At the beginning of the presentation, Director (Training) informed the house about the brief history of training at BARD. The session was chaired by Dr. M. A. Matin, Director General, RDA, Bogura. The Academy organized a total of 187 courses against a target of 189 and the actual number of participants of those courses was 8394 against the target of 7495 in 2017-18. The achievement of course organization in terms of number of courses was 99%. In case of number of participants, the achievement was 112%. In case of mandays, the achievement was 80%. After the presentation, the chairperson thanked Director in Charge (Training) of BARD for his nice presentation. Every year, after the APC, BARD publishes a training calendar incorporating different training programmes, on the basis of requests of the sponsoring agencies. The training calendar contains Academy's self initiated training courses, training courses sponsored by different organizations of the country and international training courses, workshops and seminars. However, beyond the training calendar, subsequent requests from different institutions are also accommodated on the basis of available scope of the academy. The Director General plays the role of Advisor for each training course.

Training Division is responsible for overall coordination of training activities. The Division is headed by a Director, who is assisted by one Joint Director, one Deputy Director and two Assistant Directors. This Division is also supported by one Training Officer, one Section Officer and a number of other supporting staff to carry out the day-to-day functions of this Division. After the presentation, the chairperson opened the floor for questions, comments and suggestions made by the audiences and responses by Director (Training) are as follows:

- Mr. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Chief Executive, BIID wanted to know about the kind of innovation that is being practiced in training methodology at BARD. He also added that there are many challenges in organizing training and how to cope with the market scenario in training.
- Mr. ASM Golam Hafiz, Professor, Bangladesh Agriculture University opined that there were very poor number of international training courses held at BARD last year. He also wanted to know why BARD is not organizing training in collaboration with CIRDAP and other international organizations.
- Mr. Azam E. Sadat, Deputy Secretary, RDCD commented that since inception, BARD has conducted over seven thousand training courses. He raised his concern about the quality of training as training is provided to various clientele groups.
- Mr. Mohammad Mahmudul Hassan Khan, Director (Field Service), BRDB wanted to know about the SHE-POWER project. He questioned about the absence of courses for BRDB officials in the last year training performance of BARD.
- In response to various queries, Mr. Milan pointed out that BARD is incorporating and practicing various training methods like syndicate, group work, debate, video conferencing and interaction with the rural people during the field visit in addition to lecture method. Regarding poor number of international courses, Director (Training) pointed out that along with international courses, BARD has been organizing local training courses funded by international organisations like FAO.
- The major challenge of organizing international training course is lack of basic physical infra structure and sufficient faculty members capable to demonstrate high international standards. However, he added that under the ongoing physical facilities development project, BARD will have hostel and conference building of international standard which will enable BARD to host more international programmes.

- Mr. Milan, in response to the query about SHE-POWER project informed the house that it is a project of Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and IT. He also informed about the Learning and Earning Project of the same ministry. Both the projects aim to empower the rural youth and women in the field of ICT.
- Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman, DG, BARD pointed out that BARD has been trying to link with other similar type of international organizations to conduct joint/collaborative training courses. BARD is also working with AARDO for organizing a week long workshop on best practices in agriculture development in Bangladesh. Moreover, he also informed the house that BARD is exploring innovative ideas like organizing robotic exhibition with the collaboration of Cumilla University at BARD. He also added that initiatives are being taken to minimize the gap between the rural and urban development.
- Syed Muzibul Hoque, Director, BRDB wanted to know that BARD is planning to organize more than 200 courses for the next. He questioned about the possibility of organizing such a big number of courses in a particular year.
- Dr. Masud Hossain Khan, CSO, BFRI wanted to know whether the rural people are being benefited through training imparted by BARD and whether the impact assessment of such kind of training courses is usually done.
- Professor Nurul Islam, Chittagong University appreciated the course given to the young fresh graduates under FTFI course. He wanted to know the topics and issues covered under the said course. In response, the presenter supplemented that the training was basically on soft skills like leadership and team work, corporate culture, mindset change, physical training, crisis management, language proficiency etc.
- Mr. Azam E Sadat, Deputy Secretary, RDCD raised the question about mandate of BARD. He raised his concern about the different kinds of training for the different stakeholders, like training for Bankers, Doctors and other professions. It may divert the main focus of BARD.
- Mr. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Chief Executive, BIID advised that BARD should show innovation in training to other organizations. The idea of innovation should not be dictated by any organization through top down approach.
- Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG, CIRDP during his deliberation informed the house that, there is a change in rural development landscape. CIRDP is currently focusing on sharing of best practices by the CMCs. This has been also emphasized in the TC and GC meeting of CIRDP. Accordingly, CIRDP is going to fund programmes regarding the best practices of

Bangladesh. Moreover, regarding the role of CIRDAP for the member countries, he added that CIRDAP facilitates collaboration of the overseas experts with the local experts to add value to the different country programmes and it is need based.

- Sk. Md. Moniruzaman, DG, BAPARD commented that BARD is putting less importance on poverty alleviation as well as poor people's training, rather focusing on training of different officials in large number.
- Professor Sonia Sheheli, BAU wanted to know the post training monitoring system/mechanism of BARD. She gave example of her study findings that women tend not to invest in related field after having training from various projects.

In response to various queries, Mr. Milan responded that last year BARD conducted 187 training courses. As most of the courses are for the project level beneficiaries and of short duration, it will not be difficult to conduct similar number of courses in this year also. Last year more than half of the participants of the courses were project level beneficiaries who are mostly poor and living in rural areas. Mr. Milan also added that BARD is providing training to those officials who are engaged in rural development at local level and later on these officials train up the local beneficiaries.

Finally the Chairperson thanked the audience for their interest and supplementation and declared closing of the session.

2.2 Comments on the Presentation of Working Paper on Research

The working paper on research was presented by Dr. Abdul Karim, Joint Director (Research). This session was chaired by Mr. Azam-e-Sadat, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and Cooperatives, Dhaka. Mr. Junaed Rahim, Deputy Director (Research), and Ms. Rakhi Nandi, Assistant Director (Research) acted as rapporteurs in this session. The Chairperson said that the documentation of research is very significant and it will help to formulate and generate new ideas on research. After the presentation of the working paper, the Chairperson opened the floor for discussion.

The summary of the discussions is given below:

- Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossan, Principal, Bangladesh Cooperative Academy, Cumilla said that at present the primary cooperative associations are not working properly. BARD in the early 60's initiated the two tier cooperative societies which were one of the components of Cumilla Model. He opined that BARD could conduct a study on Cooperative Societies especially Krishok Somobay

Somity (KSS) and Agricultural Cooperative Societies in order to find out the inherent reasons of the cooperative societies for not functioning properly. In reply Dr. Abdul Karim, Joint Director (Research), BARD said that BARD would consider taking such type of study in future. Moreover, Director General, BARD, Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman said that Honorable Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative (LGRD&C) is also interested to know the reasons of failure of primary cooperative societies. He said that in this respect the Cooperative Academy can work jointly with BARD.

- Dr. Shonia Sheheli, Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh wanted to know what type of collaboration now exists between BARD and other organizations. She asked to know whether there is any opportunity for the university students to conduct research or taking part in training through signing MoU with BARD. In reply Dr. Abdul Karim, Joint Director (Research), BARD informed that BARD already had received support from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University on preparing vermi-compost under the Lalmai-Maynamoti Project of BARD. Moreover, some Faculties from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University and Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh had already visited BARD to address the issues of Horticulture and Agronomy. Recently, BARD had conducted one collaborative seminar with different Agricultural Research Organizations like BARI, BRRI and BJRI etc. to share best practices in agricultural technology.
- Mr. M. Nurul Islam, Processor, Dept. of Public Administration, University of Chittagong said that BARD is a distinctive institution that earned ample fame for its renowned Cumilla Model. He also said that the Two-Tier Cooperative was successful in Cumilla Laboratory area but failed to get success in Chandina and adjoining areas. One of the criticisms of Cumilla Model was that rich people were getting richer and poor people were getting poorer, he added. He also said that BARD has some other successful projects like CVDP that addresses the issues of cooperative societies. He enquired to know whether any evaluation study was done on CVDP to overcome the shortcomings of IRDP of BARD. Besides, He also requested the presents to clarify the Bangla spelling whether it would be 'দারিদ্র্যতা' or 'দারিদ্র্যতা' of the title of the proposed research – 'কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দারিদ্র্যতার স্বরূপ: প্রতিকার ও উন্নয়নে করণীয়'. In response Dr. Abdul Karim, Joint Director (Research), BARD opined that some models of development do not work in all contexts. Regarding Bangla spelling he said that the correct bangla spelling would be checked.

- Mr. Md. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID), Dhaka inquired to know who the clientele of the research findings of BARD are. He said that in most of the research publications the citations were taken from the research reports of FAO, UN, World Bank etc. The citations from BARD could not be found. In this respect, he wanted to know how the research findings are usually disseminated among the stakeholders. He also opined that the MoUs done by BARD are mostly with local organizations. He also said that BARD could make branding of its researches internationally. In reply, Dr. Abdul Karim, Joint Director (Research), BARD said that BARD disseminates its research findings to all the stakeholders through sending published research to all the concerned institutions and ministries, and the gist of research reports are given in the website of BARD. He said that BARD expects more collaboration from other organizations. Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Rural Economics & Management), BARD supplemented that BARD had signed MoU with Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh and Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University under Lalmai-Maynamati Project. Under these MoUs, some collaborative researches would be conducted, he informed. The project management had a meeting with the concerned faculties of Dept. of Agronomy and Dept. of Agriculture at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh to conduct research under Lalmai-Maynamati Project. Moreover, he informed that Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University will provide their support for the bee keeping component of Lalmai-Maynamati Project.
- Mr. Md. Anwarul Islam Sarker, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration, Dhaka inquired to know the elaborate findings of the research on **‘Reaping Demographic Dividends through ICT: A Case of LICT Project’** as given in the working paper. In this regard, the Chairperson replied that the details would be discussed in the group discussion session. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha, Joint Director (Rural Administration and Local Govt.), BARD said that there are some problems of unemployment of young generation in the rural areas. Moreover, shifting from agriculture to non agriculture was seen in the recent times. In this regard, the young generation can shift to ICT for income generation activities. BARD conducted the study to focus on how the young generation can use the gained knowledge of ICT for employment generation, he said.
- Mr. ASM Golam Hafeez, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh inquired to know about the title of the research ‘Union Parishad Complex in Bangladesh: Challenges and Potentialities’. He asked whether the research would focus on the physical facilities of Union Parishad or some other aspects.

- Mr. Manoj Kanti Bariagi, General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, wanted to know key reason why BARD has taken initiative to conduct study on autism, value chain analysis of agricultural commodities etc. He wanted to know whether any research on the demand of agricultural loan or credit for agricultural purpose would be taken by BARD or not. In reply, Dr. Abdul Karim, Joint Director (Research), BARD said that BARD has been conducting a research on micro credit as per the directions of Rural Development and Cooperative Division. Dr. Kamrul Ahsan, Director (Administration), BARD informed that Small Farmer's Development Foundation was the outcome of the project of BARD that deals with farmer's credit operation. Janata Bank was involved in this regard, he said.
- Dr. Kamrul Ahsan, Director (Administration), BARD said that the main controversy of Cumilla Model in the 60's was that the richer became richer and poor became poorer. But apart from that BARD initiated Small Farmers Development Project (SFDP) and the first collateral free credit was given to the farmers with this project. CVDP had covered all the significant components of farmers, he said. Regarding the dissemination of research findings, he said that BARD usually sends all the research reports to concerned ministries and institutions. BARD also conducts research dissemination seminar to publish the findings of the completed researches.
- Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman, Director General, BAPARD, Gopalganj said that few researches were taken on the socio-economic development of the South-Western area of Bangladesh. The light of knowledge of BARD did not reach south central area, he added. He requested BARD to conduct study for the poor people of the South-central area of Bangladesh.
- Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General, CIRDAP, Dhaka opined that the research documents of BARD are very significant for all the member countries of CIRDAP. BARD can show research methodologies that could be applicable to all the member countries of CIRDAP, he added.
- Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman, Director General, BARD thanked the presenter for presenting the working paper on research. He said that the queries made by the participants were very relevant in this regard. These suggestions and comments would help them to formulate the plan for next year, he added. He said that there are some limitations regarding the physical facilities of BARD for conducting international programmes. These limitations would soon be solved. Regarding the failure of two tier cooperatives in Chandina of Cumilla at the earlier stages, he said that it was not the fault of the Model rather it was the fault of the people who run the model. He hoped that in the upcoming year, BARD will conduct study based on the need and priority areas of government.

Finally, the Chairperson Mr. Azam-e-Sadat, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development Cooperatives Division, Ministry of LGRD&C thanked the presenter and the team to make a wonderful presentation on the activities of research of BARD. He said that research findings of BARD are documented properly in the working paper which would help government and NGOs to formulate their plan of action. BARD had conducted so many researches and all these researches were based on data, he said. Other countries, like the members of AARDO can use the research findings of BARD, he added. Moreover, he said that CIRDAP can also utilize the findings of the researches of BARD. He requested BARD to conduct research on decrease of cultivable land, climate change issues and their impact on poverty. He opined that the findings of the researches of BARD should not be kept unused. Again he requested BARD to go for joint venture with other research organizations. Any research findings should be shared, he opined. Finally he thanked the participants for their active participation.

2.3 Comments on the Presentation of Working Paper on Action Research

The session on Action Research Project of BARD was chaired by Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman, Director General of BAPARD. In his brief introductory speech, the Chairperson described the sequence of the session and the expected role of the participants. The working paper on Action Research Project was presented by Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Director (Project). In this session, Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun, Joint Director; Mr. Md. Tanvir Ahmed, Deputy Director; and Mr. Md. Babu Hossain, Assistant Director acted as the rapporteurs. At the very beginning of the presentation Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman provided a brief description on project approval process and the status of ongoing Action Research Projects of BARD. He also presented the status of five new Action Research Projects that have been incorporated in the Annual Development Plan (2018-19) of the Government. In addition, five new Action Research proposals were also presented to the audience of the 51st APC.

Feedback from Participants

After the presentation of working paper on Action Research, the Chairperson congratulated the presenter for his well-organized presentation on project activities of BARD. Before opening the floor, he commented that all the ideas presented here seem to be useful for rural development of Bangladesh. Then, he requested all the participants to provide their feedback in short and pin-pointedly mentioning their self-introduction. In this regard, a number of participants made some comments and suggestions. These are as follows:

- Dr. Masud Hossain Khan, Chief Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) thanked the presenter and wanted to know more about the activities of BARD under the One House One Farm (EBEK) project.

Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman mentioned different components of the Lalmai-Mainamati Project which BARD is implementing under the EBK project.

- Mr. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) asked whether BARD has included different health and nutritional institutions while implementing the various Action Research Projects related to health and nutritional improvement. He also opined that BARD must expand its dairy farm and start processing cheese and butter. Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman replied that BARD always included relevant institutions and stakeholders while implementing different Action Research Projects and has already taken initiatives to expand its dairy farm.
- Dr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Professor, University of Chittagong, showed his concerns about the modern definition of “Development.” The Director General of BARD Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman replied that the term Development is a complicated issue but it can be defined very simply as the means of Quality Life. He also mentioned the views of Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh regarding the definition of “Development” which is simply reducing the gap between Urban and Rural areas.
- Mr. Bipin Chandra Biswas, Senior Assistant Chief, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, had several questions on the presentation of the Working Paper. He wanted to know the status of the Agricultural Insurance Project that BARD had implemented few years back. He also wanted to know whether BARD had any plan to protect and preserve the rural cultures. He also emphasized on taking programs for the farmers on Skills Development.
- Dr. Md. Golam Hafeez Kenedy, Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, requested BARD to take Action Research Project on Native Poultry Development. Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Rural Economics and Management), BARD replied that it would be difficult to rear the native poultry due to its less productivity rather than developing some high yielding variety like “Faumi” and “Shonali.” These varieties of poultry are being distributed among the beneficiaries of Lalmai-Mainamati project of BARD.
- Mr. Md. Azam-E-Sadat, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, opined that Action Research is the reflection of the Research outcome. He also mentioned that Development is a very comprehensive term and without action research no development will take place. He recalled that the action research of BARD has created many nation building institutions in Bangladesh. Finally, he hoped that the Academy would go forward with more and more action research.

- Dr. M. A. Matin, Director General of RDA, Bogra congratulated BARD for the excellent presentation on Action Research. He mentioned that he found positive changes in the Action Research components of BARD which is the direct outcome of the current leadership of the DG, BARD.

Finally, the Director General of BARD, Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman mentioned that the needs and problems of the rural people work as the driving force to develop action research projects. He also mentioned the recent development of sweet water fish culture and milk production in Bangladesh which are the outcome of various Action Research. For the youth of the country DG, BARD emphasized on the skills development works.

Concluding Remarks of Chairperson

At the end of the discussion, Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman, DG, BAPARD and Chairperson of the session took the floor and mentioned that he learnt a lot from the presentation and open discussion. He pointed out that the south-western part of Bangladesh is less developed compared to the south-eastern part of the country. Hence, he emphasized taking more action research project for the south-western part of Bangladesh.

3 Group-Wise Comments and Suggestions on Training, Research and Action Research

On the second day (5th August 2018) of the APC, the participants were divided into three groups for in-depth discussion on three papers to prepare the annual plan 2018-19 of BARD on training, research and action research. Subsequently, the comments and suggestions of the groups and the tentative plans were presented in the final plenary session by the rapporteurs of respective divisions. Group comments and suggestions are as follows:

3.1 Group Based Comments and Suggestions on Training

The group work on Training was held in Dr. Abdul Mueed Conference Hall at 9:00-11:00 a.m. At the beginning, Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, Director (Training) informed the house about the *modus operandi* of the session. The session was chaired by Mr. Mahmudul Hossain Khan, Director, BRDB. The chairperson started the session with the reference of the policy speech highlighting the importance of SDG, 7th FYP, Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 and Delta Plan. Then he requested Mr. Newaz Ahmed Chowdhury, Joint Director (Training) to present the tentative training plan in the house. The tentative training plan 2018-19 is furnished below:

Table 01: List of Planned Training for 2018-19 along with Course of Actions

Title of the Course	Number of Courses	Duration of the Course (Days)	Number of Participants	Sponsor
International				
International Training Workshop on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals : Financial Inclusion and Rural Transformation	1	12	30	AARDO
International Integrative Research Conference on Development, Governance and Transformation	1	2	100	BARD, DU, Stamford University
Orientation Programme	3	3	90	Various Organizations
Sub total	4	-	220	-
National				
Special Foundation Training Course for BCS (Health) Cadre Officials	5	60	250	DGHS
Attachment Programme for University Students	5	5	350	CU/CoU/ RU/NSU
Attachment Course on Rural Development and Poverty Reduction for BCS Cadre Officials	3	12	300	MoPA/ BPATC
Special Foundation Training Course for BCS (Health) Cadre Officials	5	60	250	DGHS
Attachment Programme for University Students	5	5	350	CU/CoU/ RU/NSU
Sub total	13	-	900	-
Other Courses				
Self-initiated Training Course	09	5	200	BARD
Training courses Sponsored by Other Organizations	15	5	450	BARC, NATP-2, CoU, Cumilla City Corp, BB etc

Title of the Course	Number of Courses	Duration of the Course (Days)	Number of Participants	Sponsor
Workshop/Seminar/Conference (Seminar on SDG, Agr. Technology, RIO Conventions, APC etc.)	5	1	600	BARD
Project Level Training Course for Project Beneficiaries	128	3-5	3800	Lalmati Mainamati sub project (EBEK), WEINIP, E-Parishad, Livelihood Development Project
Project Level Training Course for Project Beneficiaries of Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar Project	15	5	450	EBEK
Orientation Programme on various organizations	20	1	1000	GO/NGO/ University
Office Management and ICT for BARD Officials	4	5-7	150	BARD
Sub total	197	-	6650	-
Grand Total	214	-	7770	-

Comments and Queries on the Presentation

- BARD should conduct more international courses. As NIRD gets fund from the central government of India. BARD should approach to RDCD for allocating training grant to conduct such kind of international training courses in Bangladesh.
- BARD needed to link with CIRDAP and other international organizations for conducting more international training courses in the coming days.
- BARD can develop a few courses on Innovation, with technical and financial assistance from **a2i** project of the government.
- BARD can initiate attachment programmes on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation for the Bank officials of different nationalized banks so as to improve

the rural credit operation of the banks. Bankers in this sector needed to know rural society in a more pragmatic manner.

- A proposal came to develop training courses for the Chairmen and Secretaries of UCCAs on ‘**Micro Credit and Property Management**’.
- The house felt that training course on primary health care should focus on training up the rural women who can give services within their society for adolescent girls, pregnant women and elderly people.
- In the case of conducting training on e-GP, BARD needed to get certification and Training of Trainers (ToT) from CPTU.

Finally thanking the group members for their active participation, the Chairperson declared conclusion of this session.

3.2 Group Based Comments and Suggestions on Research

This session was chaired by Mr. M. Nurul Islam, Professor, Dept. of Public Administration, University of Chittagong. Mr. Junaed Rahim, Deputy Director (Research) and Ms. Rakhi Nandi, Assistant Director (Research) acted as rapporteurs in this session. The Chairperson informed the house about the modus operandi of the group discussion and then opened the floor for discussion. The house offered comments against each of the proposed researches. The comments are given below:

Table 2: List of Planned Research for 2018-19 along with Course of Actions

Sl. No.	Title of the Research	Researchers	Comments
01	Inclusive Education and Training Towards Autism for Empowerment: A Sociological Study of Selected Villages	Abul Kalam Azad Nasima Akhter Farida Yesmin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objectives should be specific and title should be according to objectives. ○ Methodology should be more specific in every step. ○ Judgements behind the selection of study area, sample size, sampling method, selection of respondents, methods of data analysis etc. should be specific and according to objectives. ○ Finding out the associated challenges can be included in objective of the study

02	কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দরিদ্রতার স্বরূপ: প্রতিকার ও উন্নয়নে করণীয়	মো: সফিকুল ইসলাম ড. আবদুল করিম নেওয়াজ আহমদ চৌধুরী সালাহ উদ্দিন ঈবনে সাইদ জেনায়েদ রহিম	Proposed title: কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দরিদ্রতার স্বরূপ: কারণ, প্রতিকার ও উন্নয়নে করণীয় <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secondary sources can be used in some cases to avoid waste of time and resources. ○ More than 2 districts can be included. ○ River erosion affected areas can be included as study area. ○ Sample size can be increased. ○ Comparative study with another district which come out from poverty level, would be included.
03	Climate Change Effects on the Livelihoods of Coastal Vulnerable People: A Case of South-Western Bangladesh	Md. Reaz Mahmud	Proposed title: Climate Change Effects on the Costal Livelihoods: A Case of South-Western Bangladesh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livelihood framework can be included for defining the standard livelihoods. ○ Objective can include identification of the use of external intervention in study area. ○ In justification: Gap should be mentioned.
04	Changing Trend of Rural Economy and Livelihoods of a Typical Village of Cumilla	Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman Dr. Jillur Rahaman Paul	○ No additional comments
05	State of Primary Education in Rural Areas of Bangladesh	Dr. Masudul Hoq Chowdhury Dr. Md. Kamrul Hasan Md. Abdul Mannan Afrin Khan	Proposed title: Quality of Primary Education in Selected Rural Areas of Bangladesh

06	Union Parishad Complex in Bangladesh: Challenges and Potentialities	Dr. Abdul Karim	<p>Proposed Title: Utilization of Selected Union Parishad Complex in Bangladesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Title should be reframed according to objectives. ○ Objectives can include the identification of reasons behind unavailability of Union Parishad complex in some unions.
07	Strengthening Financial Capacity of Union Parishad for Better Service Delivery	Mohammad Abdul Quader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The study can be carried out in the PRDP-3 project area. ○ Study can analyse PRDP-3 project components. ○ Title can be reframed according to objectives. ○ Study area should be included in title.
08	Potentiality of Beekeeping in Bangladesh: Case of Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal Division	Abdullah Al Mamun Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan Md. Tanvir Ahmed Rakhi Nandi Md. Babu Hossain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objectives have to be rewritten specifically. ○ Title should be rewritten according to objectives. Entrepreneurship can be included in title. ○ Techniques of data analysis should be rewritten.
09	Present Status of Small-Scale Freshwater Aquaculture in Rural Areas of Cumilla, Bangladesh	Kamrul Hasan Rakhi Nandi Anas Al Islam	<p>Proposed title:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extend of Problems of Small-Scale Freshwater Aquaculture in Rural Areas of Cumilla District in Bangladesh, or ➤ Constraints faced by Small-Scale Freshwater aquaculture Farmers in Rural Areas of Cumilla, Bangladesh. ○ Objectives should be rewritten. Objectives can include identification of the cost of aquaculture and the constraints behind the low profit of farmers. ○ A senior team member can be included.

10	Challenges and Potentialities of Floodplain Aquaculture of the Meghna River Basin in Daudkandi Upazila of Cumilla District	Salah Uddin Ibne Syed Anas Al Islam Faruk Hossain	Proposed title: Challenges and potentialities of Daudkandi Floodplain Aquaculture Model ○ Objectives should be rewritten and redefined.
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Some Opinions and Observations

- Two more Upazilas could be included in the study on ‘**Present Status of Small-Scale Freshwater Aquaculture in Rural Areas of Cumilla, Bangladesh**’. The research team can include South Western area as study area in the research.
- The proposed researches for the year 2018-19 seem to be situational analysis rather than examining the existing problems. The fund allocation for each research should be increased so that effective research could be conducted.
- Initiatives should be taken to build up the capacity of the Faculty Members of BARD. BARD can initiate human resource development plan for its Faculty Members.
- BARD could create an online based archive for its research reports so that the findings of the researches could be disseminated.
- Data generation is one of the challenges for the Academy. This has also been emphasized in the SDGs. Networking could be one of the vital initiatives of BARD.
- The research methods could be made stronger. In this regard suggestions from statistician can be taken to frame the methodology of these researches. BARD should have expert Faculties on statistics.

3.3 Group Based Comments and Suggestions on Action Research

The group discussion on Action Research was held on 05th August 2018 at the Lalmai Auditorium of BARD. The session was chaired by Mr. Azam-E-Sadat, Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division. The comments and suggestions of the participants in this session are as follows:

Table 03: On-going Projects (ADP funded)

Sl. No.	Title of the Action Research Project	Related Faculty Members	Comments of the House
01.	Lalmal-Mainamati Project	DPD: Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam APD: Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Bhuy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The marketing and branding of product of this project must be done more effectively and efficiently. ✓ The Project location may be extended.
02.	BARD Physical Facilities Project	PD: Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha DPD: Mr. Salauddin Ibne Syed APD: Eng Md. Nazmul Kabir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality of the Automation activities must be ensured.
03.	CVDP (3 rd Phase)	DPD: Dr. Kamrul Hasan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ DPD from BARD has been deployed already ✓ Proper monitoring of the activities must be ensured.

Table 04: On-going Projects (BARD Revenue Budget)

Sl. No.	Title of the Action Research Project	Related Faculty Members	Comments of the House
01.	Women Income, Education and Nutrition Improvement Project	PD: Ms. Nasima Akhter APD: Ms. Farida Yeasmin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This project should be expanded throughout the country. In this regard, New DPP will be prepared and submitted to the Ministry.
02.	Rural Livelihood Improvement through Village Based Organizations and Union Parishad	PD: Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun DPD: Ms. Afrin Khan & Mr. Junayed Rahim APD: Ms. Azma Mahmuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More rural women should be involved in the various activities of the project.
03.	E-parishad for Better Service Delivery for the Rural Areas	PD: Ms. Fouzia Nasreen Sultana APD: Kazi Foyez Ahmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Should be consulted with A2i and ICT Division and the activities should be continued by taking suggestion from them.

Sl. No.	Title of the Action Research Project	Related Faculty Members	Comments of the House
04	Establishment and Management of Dairy Demonstration Farm at BARD Campus	PD: Dr. Bimal Chandra Karmakar	✓ The farm needs to be expanded and improved.

The group recommended for thorough revision of the newly proposed action research in respect of objectives and project areas. The proposed action research projects along with the comments of the house are as follows.

Table 05: List of Proposed Projects for 2018-19 along with Course of Actions

Sl. No.	Title of the Action Research Project	Related Faculty Members	Comments of the House
01.	Ecological Farming for Sustainable Agriculture	Dr. A. K Sharifullah Dr. Shishir Kumar Munshi	Accepted ✓
02.	Livelihood Development through Promotion of Rural Micro Enterprise	Mr. Md Shafiqul Islam Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha Mr. Md. Tanvir Ahmed	Accepted ✓ There should be some uniqueness in the project
03.	Livelihood Improvement of Coastal People through Climate Change Resilient Agricultural Practices	Mr. Md. Newaz Ahmed Chy. Mr. Md. Reaz Mahmud	Accepted ✓ The components of the project can be discussed and consulted with relevant ministries and departments
04	Development of Bangladesh through Establishment of Digital Village	Dr. Jillur Rahman Paul	Accepted

Sl. No.	Title of the Action Research Project	Related Faculty Members	Comments of the House
05	Women Entrepreneurship through Developing Resource Centre in Union Parishad	Ms. Afrin Khan	Accepted
06	Promoting Livelihood of Marginalized Communities in Cumilla District (GoB funded)	Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman Sk. Masudur Rahman Mr. Salah Uddin Ibne Syed	Accepted
07	Modernization of BARD Physical Facilities	Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun Eng Md. Nazmul Kabir	Accepted
08	Eradication of a Non-Communicable Disease Thalassaemia through Public Awareness (GoB funded)	Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan Ms. Rakhi Nandi	Accepted
09	Livelihood Improvement of Char Lands People through Climate Change Adaptation Practices	Mr. Reaz Mahmud	Accepted
10	Demonstration of Fish Nursery Unit at BARD Campus	Mr. Anas Al Islam Mr. Md. Faruk Hossain	Accepted

4 Annual plan 2018-19

The tentative Annual Plans 2018-19 on Training, Research and Action Research were elaborate after discussions in the APC. Later the plans were further reviewed by the respective divisions and finalized through consultation with the Director General of BARD.

4.1 Training Plan for 2018-2019

On the basis of demand from different organizations and the feedback of the participants of the APC, the training plan of BARD has been prepared. For initiation of discussions, BARD sought training proposals from relevant organizations and different Divisions of BARD prior to APC through a formal request letter. As of now, BARD has received requests from certain organizations for organizing training courses which have been included in the tentative training plan (2018-19). Later in the APC also, some more proposals were received from the participants representing various organizations. Accommodating the demands of various organizations, the training plan 2018-19 was finalized in the APC which was latter approved by the Director General after minor modifications through an indorse exercise. The tentative training plan for 2018-19 is shown in Table-5.

Table 6: List of Planned Training for 2018-19

Title of the Course	Number of Courses	Duration of the Course (Days)	Number of Participants	Sponsor
International				
International Training Workshop on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals : Financial Inclusion and Rural Transformation	1	12	30	AARDO
International Integrative Research Conference on Development, Governance and Transformation	1	2	100	BARD, DU, Stamford University
Orientation Programme	3	3	90	Various Organizations
Sub total	4	-	220	-
National				
Special Foundation Training Course for BCS (Health) Cadre Officials	5	60	250	DGHS
Attachment Programme for University Students	5	5	350	CU/CoU/ RU/NSU
Attachment Course on Rural Development and Poverty Reduction for BCS Cadre Officials	3	12	300	MoPA/ BPATC

Title of the Course	Number of Courses	Duration of the Course (Days)	Number of Participants	Sponsor
Special Foundation Training Course for BCS (Health) Cadre Officials	5	60	250	DGHS
Attachment Programme for University Students	5	5	350	CU/CoU/ RU/NSU
Sub total	13	-	900	-
Other Courses				
Self-initiated Training Course	09	5	200	BARD
Training Courses Sponsored by Other Organizations	15	5	450	BARC, NATP-2, CoU, Cumilla City Corp, BB etc
Workshop/Seminar/Conference (Seminar on SDG, Agr. Technology, RIO Conventions, APC etc.)	5	1	600	BARD
Project Level Training Course for Project Beneficiaries	128	3-5	3800	Lalmai Mainamati sub project (EBEK), WEINIP, E-Parishad, Livelihood Development Project
Project Level Training Course for Project Beneficiaries of Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar Project	15	5	450	EBEK
Orientation Programme on various organizations	20	1	1000	GO/NGO/ University
Office Management and ICT for BARD Officials	4	5-7	150	BARD
Sub total	197	-	6650	-
Grand Total	214	-	7770	-

4.2 Research Plan for 2018-2019

Table 7: List of Planned Researches for 2018-19

Sl. No.	Title of the Study	Name of the Researchers
01	Inclusive Education and Training Towards Autism for Empowerment: A Sociological Study of Selected Villages	Mr. Abul Kalam Azad Ms. Nasima Ms. Farida Yesmin
02	কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দরিদ্রতার স্বরূপ: প্রতিকার ও উন্নয়নে করণীয়	মো: সফিকুল ইসলাম ড. আবদুল করিম নেওয়াজ আহমদ চৌধুরী সালাহ উদ্দিন ইবনে সাইদ জোনায়েদ রহিম
03	Climate Change Effects on Coastal Livelihoods: A Case of South-Western Bangladesh	Md. Reaz Mahmud
04	Changing Trend of Rural Economy and Livelihoods of a Typical Village of Cumilla	Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman Dr. Jillur Rahaman Paul
05	State of Primary Education in Rural Areas of Bangladesh	Dr. Masudul Hoq Chowdhury Dr. Md. Kamrul Hasan Md. Abdul Mannan Ms. Afrin Khan
06	Union Parishad Complex in Bangladesh: Challenges and Potentialities	Dr. Abdul Karim
07	Strengthening Financial Capacity of Union Parishad for Better Service Delivery	Mohammad Abdul Quader
08	Potentiality of Beekeeping in Bangladesh: Case of Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal Division	Abdullah Al Mamun Dr. Md. Anowar Hossain Bhuiyan Md. Tanvir Ahmed Rakhi Nandi Md. Babu Hossain
09	Status and Prospects of Aquaculture in Cumilla	Kamrul Hasan Rakhi Nandi Anas Al Islam
10	Challenges and Potentialities of Floodplain Aquaculture of the Meghna River Basin in Daudkandi Upazila of Cumilla District	Salah Uddin Ibne Syed Anas Al Islam Faruk Hossain

4.2.0 Proposed Research Plan of 2018-2019

4.2.1 Inclusive Education and Training Towards Autism for Empowerment: A Sociological Study of Selected Villages

Abul Kalam Azad, Director (In-Charge), BARD
Nasima Akhter, Joint Director, BARD
Farida Yesmin, Assistant Director, BARD

A. Objectives of the Study

General Objective

The general objective of the study is to analyze the challenging issues of autism in the sociological perspective as well as providing inclusive educational facilities and training responsiveness towards autism for their empowerment in the selected villages of Bangladesh.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- a) analyze the socio-economic conditions, causes and difficulties faced by the autistic men, women and children in the selected villages;
- b) find out the social opportunities and different interventions for inclusive education, health, nutritional improvement and training responsiveness for their empowerment; and
- c) make recommendations based on the findings of the study.

B. Justification of the Study

Autism is a neurological, pervasive development disorder, which is still a mysterious and a complex disorder evident before 30 months of age, in which there is a profound and general failure to development normal social relationships, together with delayed and deviant language development and the presence of ritualistic or compulsive phenomena. The number of people diagnosed with autism has increased dramatically since the 1980s in developed and developing countries. There are limited studies on the autism issues for empowering the autistic men, women and children. Therefore, this study is essential to assess the challenging issues of autism as well as providing inclusive educational facilities and training responsiveness towards autism for their empowerment in the

selected study villages of Bangladesh. Findings of the study may be expected to fill up some of the gaps in our current stage of knowledge because no other in-depth research has been conducted to attain the same objective in regard to inclusive educational facilities and training responsiveness towards autism for their empowerment of autistic men, women and children. The gaps such as autism problems and measures taken for enhancing autistic people's income, social status and cultural value could be pointed out through this study. The findings may also be used as documentation of the action research project and teaching materials in the relevant training courses. In addition, the study is expected to assist the national policy makers and planners of the country for formulating the effective policy and plan to design suitable autistic development programmes for improvement of the quality of life of autistic men, women and children.

C. Study Methods

Selection of village: In order to assess the socio-economic condition, causes and difficulties faced by the autistic men, women and children in the selected villages and the social opportunities and different interventions for inclusive education, health, nutritional improvement and training responsiveness for their empowerment, the interview method alone with the FGD and Case study method will be followed. Autism existing in ten villages located in two different areas of Comilla District under WEINI Project and Sirajgonj District under Autism Project will be selected for this study. These village will be selected purposely keeping in mind the objectives of the study.

Selection of Respondent: The information of this study will be collected through structured questionnaire/guideline and format of FGD for the selected village people covering autistic men, women and children.

D. Methods of Data Collection

The methods for collecting data of this study comprise (1) questionnaire survey and interview of 200 respondents and (2) focus group. A focus group discussion will be held with relevant parents, community members and executive committee representatives who were intimately involved in autism related organizational activities. Relevant information of the study will be collected by the trained investigators of BARD under the direct supervision of the researchers. The interview method will be followed which will be further strengthened by group discussions by the researchers for getting some qualitative information. In addition, relevant published materials, available project document and records will be reviewed for comparing the findings wherever possible.

E. Data processing and analysis

The study is intended to use both qualitative and quantitative data for analyzing the findings. Collected data will be processed, analyzed and presented in such a way that the reader could get a clear understanding about the challenging issues of autism in the sociological perspective as well as providing inclusive educational facilities and training responsiveness towards autism for their empowerment in the selected villages of Bangladesh. Research findings will be presented through a number of statistical analyses by using tables, graphs, charts and other calculations. Moreover, rates, ratios, average, percentage, etc will be used for the interpretation and inference of relevant data.

4.2.2 কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দারিদ্রতার স্বরূপ: প্রতিকার ও উন্নয়নে করণীয়

মো: সফিকুল ইসলাম, পরিচালক, বার্ড
ড. আবদুল করিম, যুগ্ম-পরিচালক, বার্ড
নেওয়াজ আহমদ চৌধুরী, যুগ্ম-পরিচালক, বার্ড
সালাহ উদ্দিন ঈবনে সাইদ, উপ-পরিচালক, বার্ড
জোনায়েদ রহিম, উপ-পরিচালক, বার্ড

ভূমিকা

কৃষি প্রধান বাংলাদেশে দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন অন্যতম একটি আলোচ্য বিষয়। বিশেষ করে পল্লী অঞ্চলের দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনে অগ্রাধিকার দিয়ে সরকারী ও বেসরকারী পর্যায়ে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপ নেয়া হচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশে দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনে উল্লেখযোগ্য অবদান রাখলেও কিছু জেলার দারিদ্র্য পরিস্থিতি সম্প্রতি সময়ে উদ্বেগজনক বলে প্রতীয়মান হচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর (বিবিএস) সর্বশেষ খানা আয় ও ব্যয় নির্ধারণ জরিপ ২০১৬ অনুযায়ী দেশের সবচেয়ে দারিদ্র্য প্রবন এলাকা হলো উত্তরবঙ্গ। গরিব মানুষের বসবাসের আধিক্য দেখা দিয়েছে রংপুর বিভাগে। দেশের প্রবৃদ্ধি ও মাথাপিছু আয় বাড়লেও দারিদ্র্য প্রবনতার কারণে দেশের অন্যান্য অঞ্চলের সাথে বিশেষ করে ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম ও সিলেটের সাথে রংপুর অঞ্চলের আয় ও বৈষম্য বেড়েছে উদ্বেগজনকভাবে। বিবিএস-২০১৬-এর জরিপ অনুযায়ী রংপুর অঞ্চলের কুড়িগ্রাম জেলা সবচেয়ে দারিদ্র্য পীড়িত এলাকা। এই জেলায় দারিদ্র্যতার হার ৭০.৮% যা ২০১০ এ ছিল ৬৩.৭১%। সম্প্রতি দাতা সংস্থা বিশ্ব ব্যাংক বিবিএস-২০১৬ জরিপ বিশ্লেষণ করে একটি গবেষণা প্রতিবেদন তৈরি করেছে। এই গবেষণা প্রতিবেদনে উত্তরাঞ্চলের দারিদ্র্যের হার বেড়ে যাওয়ার উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। প্রতিবেদন অনুযায়ী যে প্রবৃদ্ধি হচ্ছে, তা গরিব পরিবারের আয় বৃদ্ধিতে সহায়ক হচ্ছে না এবং পর্যাপ্ত কর্মসংস্থানের ক্ষেত্রেও সহায়ক হচ্ছেনা (প্রথম আলো, ৩০ মে, ২০১৮)। বিবিএস জরিপ-২০১৬ অনুযায়ী দারিদ্র্য প্রবন জেলার মধ্যে অন্যতম আর একটি জেলা হলো বান্দরবান। বান্দরবান জেলায় বর্তমানে দারিদ্র্যের হার ৬৩.২% যা ২০১০ সালে ছিল ৪০.১%। এতে প্রতীয়মান হচ্ছে যে, কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলায় দারিদ্র্যের হার গত কয়েক বছরে উদ্বেগজনকভাবে বেড়েছে। দারিদ্র্য পরিস্থিতির কারণে স্বাভাবিকভাবেই পল্লী এলাকার জনগণ মৌলিক চাহিদাসমূহ মেটাতে পারছেন না। এক্ষেত্রে বিভিন্ন সেক্টর অনুযায়ী যেমন: শিক্ষা, চিকিৎসা, খাদ্য, কর্মসংস্থান ইত্যাদি ক্ষেত্র বিদ্যমান সমস্যাসমূহ চিহ্নিত করা প্রয়োজন। এই গবেষণার মাধ্যমে

মূলত: এ সকল সেক্টরে বিদ্যমান সমস্যাসমূহ বিশ্লেষণ করে দারিদ্র্য পরিস্থিতি উন্নয়নে করণীয় পদক্ষেপ সম্পর্কে আলোকপাত করা হবে।

গবেষণার উদ্দেশ্য

গবেষণাটির মূল উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দারিদ্র্য পরিস্থিতির স্বরূপ বিশ্লেষণ ও উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে করণীয়ের উপর আলোকপাত করা। গবেষণাটির সুনির্দিষ্ট উদ্দেশ্য সমূহ হচ্ছে:

- ক. দারিদ্র্যের স্বরূপ নিরূপণে পল্লী এলাকার মানুষের মতামত বিশ্লেষণ;
- খ. গবেষণা এলাকার মানুষের দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনে সরকারী ও বেসরকারী উদ্যোগ সমূহ বিশ্লেষণ;
- গ. বিদ্যমান সেক্টর ভিত্তিক সমস্যাসমূহ সমাধানে সরকারী ও বেসরকারী পর্যায়ে সম্ভাব্য করণীয় পদক্ষেপ সুপারিশ করা।

গবেষণা পদ্ধতিসমূহ

গবেষণাটি পরিচালনায় তথ্য সংগ্রহ, বিশ্লেষণ পদ্ধতি ও কৌশলসমূহের মধ্যে একাধিক পদ্ধতি ও কৌশল প্রয়োগ করা হবে। গুণগত ও পরিমাণগত (Qualitative and Quantitative) উভয় গবেষণা পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করা হবে। গুণগত গবেষণা পদ্ধতির ক্ষেত্রে মাঠপর্যায়ে অংশগ্রহণ ও নিবিড় পর্যবেক্ষণ, সাক্ষাৎকার, ঘটনা অনুধ্যান বা কেস স্টাডি এবং পিআরএ এর কয়েকটি পদ্ধতি (যেমন: সমস্যা চিহ্নিতকরণ, সরকারী/বেসরকারী সেবা প্রাপ্তির প্রবাহ) অনুসরণ করা হবে। তাছাড়া, পরিমাণগত গবেষণা পদ্ধতির ক্ষেত্রে আরোহিত তথ্য বিশ্লেষণ এবং তা উপস্থাপন করা হবে। গবেষণা উদ্দেশ্যসমূহকে লক্ষ্য করে একটি মাঠ পর্যায়ের উত্তর দাতাদের (কৃষক/দিনমজুর) জন্য প্রশ্নপত্র তৈরী করা হবে। এছাড়া জেলা/উপজেলা পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে ঋএউ পরিচালনা করা হবে। গবেষণা এলাকা হতে গবেষকগণ এবং বার্ডের গবেষণা বিভাগের তথ্য সংগ্রহকারীগণ তথ্য সংগ্রহ করবেন। তথ্য সংগ্রহ পরবর্তী বিশ্লেষণে এম এস এক্সেল সফটওয়্যার ব্যবহার করে গ্রাফ, পাই চার্ট ও টেবিল প্রণয়ন করা হবে। কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দারিদ্র্যতার স্বরূপ বিশ্লেষণে কয়েকটি কেস স্টাডি প্রণয়ন করা হবে। গবেষণা এলাকার সরকারী ও বেসরকারী উদ্যোগে দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনে কোন সফল কর্মসূচী থাকলে তা বিশ্লেষণ করা হবে। গবেষণার তথ্য সংগ্রহে উত্তরদাতার ধরন হবে নিম্নরূপ:

জেলার নাম	উপজেলার নাম	উত্তরদাতার ধরন	উত্তরদাতার সংখ্যা
কুড়িগ্রাম	ফুলবাড়	বিত্তহীন কৃষক/দিনমজুর	৩০
		উপজেলা পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তা	১০
	কুড়িগ্রাম সদর	বিত্তহীন কৃষক/দিনমজুর	৩০
		উপজেলা পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তা	১০
		জেলা পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তা	১০
বান্দরবান	আলীকদম	বিত্তহীন কৃষক/দিনমজুর	৩০
		উপজেলা পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তা	১০
	নাইখ্যংছড়ি	বিত্তহীন কৃষক/দিনমজুর	৩০
		উপজেলা পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তা	১০
		জেলা পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তা	১০
মোট			১৮০

গবেষণার যৌক্তিকতা

বর্তমানে উন্নয়নের অন্যতম পরিমাপক হচ্ছে দারিদ্র্যতার হার। পল্লী এলাকার দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনে সরকারী ও বেসরকারী পর্যায়ে নেয়া হচ্ছে বিভিন্ন উন্নয়নমুখী পদক্ষেপ। কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দারিদ্র্যের হার ও ক্রমবর্ধমান পরিস্থিতির কারণে দারিদ্র্যের কারণ ও তা দূরীকরণে কি কি পদক্ষেপ নেয়া যায় তা গবেষণার মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষা-নীরিক্ষা করা প্রয়োজন। গবেষণা এলাকার এই ক্রমবর্ধমান দারিদ্র্যের হার বৃদ্ধি মোকাবেলায় গবেষণার সরকারী ও বেসরকারী উদ্যোগে না নিলে তা ভবিষ্যতে সার্বিক উন্নয়ন ব্যাহত করতে পারে। কুড়িগ্রাম জেলার জীবনযাত্রা ও বান্দরবান জেলার লোকজনের জীবনযাত্রা পদ্ধতিতে ভিন্নতা থাকা স্বাভাবিক। সেই ক্ষেত্রে দুটি জেলার লোকজনের কর্মসংস্থান, আয়, মৌলিক চাহিদা পূরণ ইত্যাদির সাথে দারিদ্র্যের সম্পর্ক নির্ণয় প্রয়োজন রয়েছে। তাছাড়া সাম্প্রতিক দারিদ্র্যের হার বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ার কারণে কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান এলাকায় কি ধরনের পদক্ষেপ নেয়া প্রয়োজন তা গবেষণা সমীক্ষার মাধ্যমে যাচাই করে দেখা হবে। এই প্রেক্ষাপটে বর্তমানে কুড়িগ্রাম ও বান্দরবান জেলার দারিদ্র্যের হার বৃদ্ধির কারণ ও প্রতিকার নিরূপণে গবেষণা পরিচালনা করা জরুরি।

4.2.3 Climate Change Effects on the Livelihoods of Coastal Vulnerable People: A Case of South-Western Bangladesh

Md. Reaz Mahmud, Assistant Director, BARD

Introduction

The geographic location of coastal Bangladesh has turned the country into a major hotspot of global tropical cyclone, tidal surges and saline intrusion. Due to climate change the frequency and intensity of climatic events such as coastal flooding, heat waves, cyclones and drought are increasing globally. Climatic disasters can create long-term positive opportunities such as creating institutional structures for disaster management and improvement in social networking, however, impacts are mostly capable of destroying biodiversity, ecosystem, water resources, and human livelihoods in a cascading order. Climatic events also invariably affect the consequent human-environment interactions or socio-ecological systems (SES) and their processes that provide essential social services such as food, fiber, and energy at different levels. Between 2000 and 2010, the southwestern coastal zone of Bangladesh experienced two mega cyclones which caused enormous economic, infrastructural, agricultural, and human losses. Besides, these cyclones led to the collapsing the world largest mangrove forests in the world as well as millions of forest-dependent livelihoods and eventually mass emigration of people. Being one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, Bangladesh is highly susceptible to agricultural damage. Small-scale farmers in the developing countries like Bangladesh are most likely to be affected by climate change impacts because of their high dependence on agriculture

for sustaining their livelihoods. In terms of agriculture, the coastal area of Bangladesh is highly productive. However, the area is most vulnerable to natural hazards than any other part of the country due to the high frequency of hazards and the high exposure of poor local communities to these hazards. Besides, Sea level rise is already observed in coastal Bangladesh. Estimations and projections shows that 97.1 percent of coastal areas and over 35 million people of coastal Bangladesh are vulnerable and exposed to multiple climate change hazards such as tropical cyclones, storm surges, coastal flooding, salinity intrusion associated with global warming and sea level rises. Climate change is significantly contributing to increased salinity intrusion in coastal Bangladesh which in turn is destroying biodiversity, loss of agricultural jobs, reduction in agricultural production and mounting food and human insecurity in the area in cascading and consequential orders over different time horizons.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to document the capacity and potentials of coastal people to combat natural calamities. The specific objectives of this research are the following:

- a) To identify the hazards that affect on-farm and off-farm activities;
- b) To examine the damage of lives and resources for the last two decades in the locality;
- c) To assess the contemporary community based adaptation practices of the study area; and
- d) To enlist the requirements of coastal communities to strengthen their capacity to face climate change induced disasters.

Scope of the Study

Climate change and its impact on coastal communities is a burning issue all over the world. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries of the world to climate change, though it emits low carbon dioxide rather than developed countries. Sea level is rising that is the result of global warming. South and south-western part of Bangladesh is mostly susceptible to climate change. Every year Bangladesh faces natural calamities like cyclone, coastal flooding, storm surges and saline intrusion etc. and frequency and magnitude of it is increasing day by day. That affect the livelihoods of coastal people because through these disasters not only human lives are damaged but also resources are damaged. In dry season due to low flow of upstream water, sea water is entering in many rivers. So, soil salinity is increasing that affect our agricultural land and production of crops are decreasing. Millions of hector of agricultural land have become barren land due to saline intrusion and occupation of farmers are changing in coastal areas. Besides, some

local rich people and political leaders are restraining saline water in their gher to culture shrimp and crab. Small and medium farmers of coastal area cannot cultivate their land in dry season due to land grabber because they restrain saline water in gher abusing their power.

In this situation coastal communities are practicing some adaptation measures with the help of governmental and non-governmental organizations and it is insufficient compared their demand. In spite of availability of fresh water in rainy season production is decreasing alarmingly and top soil is defected by saline water. Few researches have been conducted in this area. So, this research will cover many issues in a comprehensive manner such as vulnerability of coastal people associated with hazards, information of previous damages, changing pattern of occupation, seasonal migration, sexual harassment for the absence of parents, coping strategy, contemporary adaptation measures, socio-economic status and current need of the vulnerable people etc.

Objectives	Indicators/Important Issues	Techniques of Measurement/Analysis	Important Variables
To identify the hazards that affect on-farm and off-farm activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different types of natural hazards - Types of resources at risk - Enlisting on-farm & off-farm occupations - Vulnerability of coastal people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Imparting satellite & google image - Site visit - FGD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hazard type - Scenario of on-farm & off-farm activities - Assessment of vulnerability - Risk of the resources
To explore the damage of lives and resources for last two decades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Account of died human - Number of damaged livestock's - Estimate the damaged resources including crop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field assessment - Data from Union Parishad, Upazila & BBS etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of human and livestock damage - Market value of the resource
To assess the contemporary community based adaption practices of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listing problems at community level - Adaptation in agriculture - Adaptation mechanism for water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field survey at community level - Information from concerned department at Upazila 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types of adopted practices - Number of adopted practices - Technologies for pure drinking water - Coping mechanism

Objectives	Indicators/Important Issues	Techniques of Measurement/Analysis	Important Variables
			of the community
To enlist the requirements of coastal communities to strengthen their capacity to face climate change induced disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the problems due to climate change - Strength of the community to face disasters - Need of the community for adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field survey - FGD - Project Implement Officer (PIO) - Opinion of community people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Problem identification - Interventions to strengthen capacity - Building capacity to cope with adverse situation

This research is an academic one with limited time and not to be done in the whole country. Besides, detailed statistical analysis will not be done due to dearth of data availability. So, it is probable to have some errors. There are also some limitations for the work of GIS because there is no GIS lab/cell in this academy.

Study Methods:

The research methodology of the study includes study area selection, sample size determination, sample design and procedure, data processing, analysis- for completion of the research. Some software like Excel/ Cspiro, Arc GIS 10.3, SPSS/R etc, will be applied in this study for analysis of data.

Selection of the study area

This research work will be conducted at Koyra Upazila of Khulna district, Morolganj Upazila of Bagherhat district and Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira district of southwestern part of Bangladesh as these areas are severely affected by cyclone, storm surge, tidal surge, coastal flooding, saline intrusion and water logging.

Determination of sample size

Among the affected households of these villages sample will be determined on the basis of the following equation:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + n(e)^2}$$

Where,

n = Sample size

N = Total population

e = (0.05)² ('e' is error 0.05 or confidence level is 95 percent)

Data collection method

In this study data will be collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data like satellite and google image will be collected from SPARSO/CEGIS and map will be digitized using Arc GIS 10.3. To carry out household survey a detailed pre-structured questionnaire for individual respondents with both open and closed ended questions will be formed. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) will be carried out with different kinds of people and interview with the key informants to know the vulnerability of the people, hazard type, changing pattern of occupation, impact of disasters and migration pattern. In depth interview will be conducted in the study area through structured and unstructured questionnaire on climate change affected households to know the losses of resources and lives to cope up and migration pattern.

Secondary data for this research work will be gathered in two steps. In first step, before going to the study area literatures will be consulted in library and internet. It includes books, journals, reports, important articles, thesis, related news/articles published in newspapers, related articles available in the websites. For the study, Global Positioning System (GPS) will be used to draw a map of the study area and present the level of vulnerability and effect. Besides, required data will also be collected from Upazila level offices and also from BBS etc.

Collection of photographs

Many photographs will be needed for understanding the report clearly. Some of these photographs will be collected directly from field survey.

Data Processing and Analysis

Data will be processed through coding and tabulation with the help of SPSS/R and Arc GIS 10.3 software before analysis. Primary and secondary data will be analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively according to the nature of data. Later this data will be presented in tables, pie charts, diagrams and will be used to generate some figures and maps

Methodology in table

Objectives	Data collection source and methods	Data analysis tools and methods	Data presentation method
To identify the hazards of on-farm and off-farm activities	Primary (Satellite & google Image, Questionnaire survey, FGD, PRA) and Secondary (Journals, books & published articles)	MS Excel, SPSS	Graphs, Bar Diagram, pie-chart and image
To explore the damage of lives and resources for last two decades		MS Excel, Satellite Imagery analysis	Maps, tables
To assess the contemporary community based adaption practices of the study area		MS Excel, SPSS	Bar Diagram, pie-chart
To enlist the requirements of coastal communities to strengthen their capacity to face climate change induced disasters.		MS Excel, Satellite Imagery analysis	Bar Diagram, pie-chart

4.2.4 Changing Trend of Rural Economy and Livelihoods of a Typical Village of Cumilla

Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director, BARD
 Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Joint Director, BARD
 Dr. Jillur Rahaman Paul, Deputy Director, BARD

Objective

The general objective of the study is to record a baseline data on some particular aspects /indicators of a selected village. More specifically the study aims to create a statistical digest of rural economy in pursuance of sustainable livelihood strategy for conducting analysis on regular changes taking place in the economy of a village of Cumilla. The specific objectives are:

- i. to analyze the demographic profile of each household of a selected village;
- ii. to highlight the livelihood strategy and rural economy of a selected village;
- iii. to explore the livelihood outcomes of a selected village; and
- iv. to analyze the changes and transformation process of that village based on mentioned indicators at a regular interval.

Justification

A pre-condition for any attempt to develop a village is to know it fully and intimately, its resources and its society. A benchmark or a baseline survey is necessary to measure its present status. Village study is one of the keys of rural development strategy formulation process. The findings of the study help policy planners to set the priority and implementation guidelines. Economic conditions impact all aspects of human livelihoods of a society. It has multi-dimensional influences on human life. Knowing a village economy comprehensively, there could be opened the ample opportunities of setting out poverty focused interventions by the policy planners. On the other hand, there might raise some directions of how a village economy could successfully be documented of the whole country.

One of the crucial issues like livelihood strategy and outcomes need to be addressed. By this time various development interventions have been implemented in the country and still many of them are in the field either in package or non-package form. These interventions need to be analyzed deeply to observe what the situation of livelihoods in the village like social, physical, natural, financial and human capital is being prevailed. The proposed study will be conducted to find out these issues.

BARD has conducted some of village studies titled Long Term Village Study (LTVS), Farm Management Survey, Village Dhanneshor etc. These studies have not been continued. BARD has been very keen to have village study right now covering particularly the economic issues comprehensively. The proposed study will be a benchmark type and every 2/3 years later the same data will be collected to find out the changes taking place in the village. Henceforth, the study will be continued and the Rural Economics and Management Division of BARD will continuously monitor and conduct the survey. In this process, the said Division of BARD will fulfill its mandated functions as well.

Scope of the Study

The proposed study will follow the following matrix which has been identified primarily, but the issues and variables will be changed while conducting the survey:

Objectives	Indicators/ Variables/ Important Issues	Techniques of Measurement/Analysis
i) To analyze the demographic profile of each household of a selected village;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Households and Population▪ Age Pyramid▪ Fertility▪ Demographic Dividends▪ Marital Status▪ Labor Force▪ Occupation▪ Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Situational analysis▪ Observation▪ Percentage▪ Case Study▪ Content Analysis

Objectives	Indicators/ Variables/ Important Issues	Techniques of Measurement/Analysis
ii) to highlight the livelihood strategy and rural economy of a selected village;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic Active Population etc. ▪ Agrarian Structure and Assets ▪ Pattern of Labor Use ▪ Land Utilization ▪ Cropping Pattern ▪ Cropping Intensity ▪ Rural Women at Work ▪ Non-farm Activity ▪ Migration ▪ Marketing ▪ Vulnerability ▪ Wage ▪ Income ▪ Expenditure ▪ Savings ▪ Value Chain of Agriculture Products etc. etc. 	
iii) To explore the livelihood outcomes of a selected village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human Capital ▪ Social Capital ▪ Financial Capital ▪ Natural Capital ▪ Physical Capital ▪ Poverty etc. 	
iv) to analyze the changes and transformation process of that village based on mentioned indicators at a regular interval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changed lifestyle ▪ Economic trends ▪ Changes of socio-economic conditions and livelihoods etc. 	

Study Methods

Types of the Study

The study will be completely a survey type since a list of questions aimed at extracting specific data from a particular group of people. The village people will give their comments and provide data and information.

Methods

Questionnaire survey method will mainly be applied for the proposed study. A questionnaire will be formulated and pre-tested. On the basis of it, the survey will be

administered. Moreover, case study, observation and content analysis methods will also be applied for fulfilling its objectives.

Sampling Procedures

The study will be conducted in a village of Cumilla district. The respondents will be all the household heads of the selected village of Cumilla. Therefore, all the responsive household heads will be brought under the study.

Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary sources of data will be used for the study. The villagers will be the primary source and books, journals, websites will be considered as secondary source of data.

Data Analysis Tools

The collected data will be analyzed through frequency distribution, mean, percentage, descriptive interpretation according to the objectives and if necessary, SPSS computer software will also be used for analyzing the data. Moreover, T-test and Chi-square test will also be conducted in necessary analysis.

Data Presentation Tools

After analyzing the data, the presentation will be made through tables, graphs, charts, diagrams etc

4.2.5 State of Primary Education in Rural Areas of Bangladesh

Dr. Masudul Hoq Chowdhury, Director, BARD
Dr. Md. Kamrul Hasan, Joint Director, BARD
Md. Abdul Mannan, Deputy Director, BARD
Afrin Khan, Deputy Director, BARD

Introduction

Education is the backbone of sustainable development. Education stimulates and empowers people to participate in their own development. Human capital development and equality of opportunity are prime approach of Bangladesh government. The major challenges of education sector according to 7th Five Year Plan are as follows:

- Education for all and equity in education
- To increase the access to education, particularly for poor and hardcore poor group's children,

- To reduce dropout
- To eliminate gender discrimination
- The quality in education includes enhancing teacher's capacity, appointing adequate teachers, boosting teacher's motivation, increasing and sustaining the physical facilities.

In regard to primary education, government initiatives include to improving quality and capacity, mainstreaming Each Child Learn Programme all over the country, expanding in service training to teachers, providing quality classroom based assessment, introduce ICT in all schools including audio visual aids, adopting quality improvement measures in academic curriculum and pedagogy, ensuring participatory from all level including the rural community, reducing all forms of disparity in education, ensuring decentralization and enhancing effectiveness, establishing effective planning and management.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the research is to assess the educational situation at rural and urban areas in respect of quality education particularly in primary schools.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study are to understand the

- i. Equity and access issues in primary education.
- ii. Quality issues in primary education
- iii. Reasons behind the educational success of girl students

Research methods: field work, survey, discussion.

4.3.6 Union Parishad Complex in Bangladesh: Challenges and Potentialities

Dr. Abdul Karim, Joint Director, BARD

Introduction

The government has taken initiatives to integrate Local Government Units with development activities. Union Parishad is a village-based local government system working at the Union level. Although there is no full-fledged tier of the Government administration at Union level, there are officials/employees of the agriculture, health and family planning, livestock, revenue department, primary/ secondary education etc. For better delivery of services and better coordination between local government functionaries and government officials, government has established more than three thousands Union Parishad Complexes across the country. The main rationale of

establishing Union complexes is to create an effective local government and to avail all facilities at the same place from local government as well as government employees. How far the Union Complexes have become an effective service delivery unit is essential to explore in order to accelerate rural development in Bangladesh. In this regard, the study will attempt to find out its current uses, challenges and potentialities.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to explore functioning of Union complexes as service delivery unit at community level. The specific objectives include:

- To know current uses of Union Complexes ;
- To find out challenges faced by Union Complexes in Bangladesh;
- To explore future potentialities of Union Complexes or local development; and
- To recommend way forwards to make Union Complexes more useful and effective with regard to service delivery at local level.

Research Method

The study will be an exploratory study based on both quantitative and qualitative data. However, the study is basically a qualitative study. Case study method will be adopted in the study. In this regard, sixteen Union Complexes from eight divisions will be selected purposively. From each division, one district will be selected randomly and two union complexes (one located nearby Upazila headquarters and one located at remote from Upazila headquarters) will be selected. In addition, one or two good Union Complex will be explored to document as good practice. Information will be collected different level of stakeholders such as elected representatives, government and non-government officials, local government experts, civil society members and community people. Some key informants such as UNO, Secretary of Union Parishads will be extensively interviewed.

4.2.7 Strengthening Financial Capacity of Union Parishad for Better Service Delivery

Mohammad Abdul Quader, Director (In Charge), BARD

Objectives

The main objective of the study is to assess the capacity of Union Parishad in resource management and to find out some implications for improvement of local revenue mobilization and utilization of the resource in existing service delivery.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- To assess the existing services of UP compared to their jurisdiction;
- To find out the sources of fund and allocation of funds in different activities ;
- To review the sources of own fund generation and its utilization; and
- To identify some good practices at different UPs for generation of own fund and its prospect touse those experience in other UPs .

4.2.8 Potentiality of Beekeeping in Bangladesh: Cases of Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal Divisions

Abdullah Al Mamun, Joint Director, BARD

Dr. Md. Anowar Hossain Bhuiyan, Deputy Director, BARD

Md. Tanvir Ahmed, Deputy Director, BARD

Rakhi Nandi, Assistant Director, BARD

Md. Babu Hossain, Assistant Director, BARD

Statement of the Issue /Problem

Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by mutual interactions between bees and plants. Beekeeping (apiculture) is the management of beecolonies for the production of honey and other hive products and for the pollination of crops. According to Syngkon (2017) and Verma and Attri (2008), beekeeping is a profitable enterprise. There is no negative impact of beekeeping on the environment (Saha, 1990). Many organizations have already undertaken beekeeping programme as a good weapon for self-employment and poverty reduction for the rural people. To sustain an ever-growing population's healthcare and nutrition there is a prime significance of apiculture in our 4.6 billion year old planet.

Traditionally, apiculture is seen as a low-tech honey collecting, processing and marketing industry with limited dynamics dominated by few small family farms, which are mostly focused on doing things better rather than doing new things. Over the last couple of years, this situation has changed dramatically due to economic liberalization, a reduced protection of agricultural food price market and a fast changing consumer habits, product quality, chain management, food safety, sustainability and so on. These changes have cleared the way for new entrants, innovation and portfolio entrepreneurship besides sound management and craftsmanship, to be sustainable in the future more critical society. Recent studies show that apicultural entrepreneurship is not only dreaming or a new hope: it has a profound impact on honey business growth and survival. Entrepreneurship is connected with finding ways and means to create and develop a profitable farm business. (Bairwaet *al.*, 2014).

The growing domestic demand for high value agricultural products like honey related substances could provide significant opportunities for greater rural employment and incomes as production of many of these commodities tends to be relatively labor intensive.

A look at the research trends reveals that, studies on beekeeping entrepreneurship are mainly focused on assessing the entrepreneurial skills and entrepreneurial behavior. As such, very few studies are available on entrepreneurial potential and there is a huge gap in our understanding of how innate potential of a person interacts with conducive environmental factors to give rise to successful beekeeping entrepreneurs. Even though some studies have been conducted in Bangladesh on adoption of beekeeping technologies, there are no studies on the extent to which beekeepers turn into entrepreneurs and on their entrepreneurial potential in three different divisions of Bangladesh.

Hypothesis/Research Questions (If any)

Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions are feasible for beekeeping and small scale entrepreneurship may be developed in the proposed location of research.

Objective of the Study

The ruling focus of this study identifies the pros and cons of apiculture entrepreneurship development in Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions. Precisely the study attempts to attain the following objectives:

- To study the bee loving plants in the project site
- To find out the blooming period of the bee-loving plants of the project site
- To scrutinize the availability of scope and opportunities along with providing some recommendations for expansion of beekeeping entrepreneurship development

Importance /Justification of the Study

This research leads to optimize the available opportunities along with the recovery of problems and constraints by achieving the advantages of beekeeping entrepreneurship development in Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions of Bangladesh. This habitat is spilling over with numerous unemployed people with potentiality in the periphery. By certifying beekeeping entrepreneurship development the socio-economic development of Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions will be ensured. Honey production in Bangladesh is nearly 4000t to 5000t per year in Bangladesh. If this area is under beekeeping the honey production will be increased in the country. In addition, the

research also aims to provide necessary supports to develop a honey processing unit at BARD and other areas to sensitize the bee keepers encouraging the beekeeping through getting the optimum price.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study covers broadly the socioeconomic status of the bee keepers, supports and plants available in the bee loving sites, blooming period of the bee loving plants, scrutinizing the availability of scope and opportunities with providing some recommendations for expansion of beekeeping entrepreneurship development in the project sites.

Methodology

In Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions, mainly FGDs will be conducted. To identify the potentiality of bee keeping in Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions, some FGDs using the checklist and village sites survey will also be done. In this way the potentiality of bee keeping in total Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions could be assessed.

A structured questionnaire will be developed for the study which will include household demography and socioeconomic questionnaires, household interest in bee keeping, supporting plants available in the bee loving sites, finding the blooming period of the bee loving plants, scope and potentialities of bee keeping in Dhaka, Chittagong and Barishal divisions. Questionnaire will be discussed thoroughly and extensive field-testing will be done for necessary modifications. Data management for household survey will include editing of questionnaire, computerization of data, and preparation of tables. Following data collection in the field the raw data will be cleaned and double checked, and entered into computerized data base.

Techniques of Data Analysis and Presentation

After compilation, of data will be analyzed by any suitable statistical software (e.g. Statistix 10 software). The analyzed data will be considered carefully to prepare the script. The script will be presented through power point presentation at BARD faculty meeting. After getting feedback and suggestions from the Faculty Members the report will be finalized and will be submitted to the Research Division of BARD for further action.

Limitation of the Study

Some limitations might be the timely fund release, natural disaster and political unrest.

4.2.9 Present Status of Small-Scale Freshwater Aquaculture in Rural Areas of Cumilla, Bangladesh

Kamrul Hasan, Assistant Director, BARD
Rakhi Nandi, Assistant Director, BARD
Anas Al Islam, Assistant Director, BARD

Introduction

Freshwater fish farming plays an important role in the livelihoods of rural people in Bangladesh. Apart from direct self-employment opportunities from fish farming, pond fish farming offers diverse livelihood opportunities for operators and employees of hatcheries and seed nurseries and for seed traders and other intermediaries. Pond fish farming has been proved to be a profitable business than rice cultivation. So, many farmers in rural areas are converting their rice field into aquaculture pond. Many pond fish farmers in rural areas have taken fish farming activities as their secondary occupation and most of the people involved in fish farming improved their socio-economic condition through pond fish farming activities.

Cumilla district is located in the East-Central part of Bangladesh. Presence of large number of ponds, canals, floodplains and also the vicinity of the area to Gomoti and Titas River estuary ensures the significance of the district in total fish culture and capture of the country. In Bangladesh, the major constraints to increase fish production are lack of technical knowledge, non-availability of credit and multi-ownership of pond.

Fisher folk are considered as one of the most backward sections in our society. Information on socio-economic framework of the fish farmers forms a good base for planning and development of the economically backward sector. Lack of adequate and authentic information on socio-economic condition of the target population is one of the serious impediments in the successful implementation of developmental programme. Aquaculture practice has become a promising and gainful methodology to attain self-sufficiency in food sector and also to alleviate poverty in developing country like Bangladesh. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain to enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future. The social content is especially important particularly access arrangement and assessments of benefits to livelihood.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to assess the present condition of small-scale freshwater fish farming in the study area.

The specific objectives of the study are-

- i) To evaluate the status of small-scale freshwater aquaculture in rural areas of Cumilla
- ii) To find out the socio-economic constraints connected with fish farming

Materials and methods

The study area will cover randomly selected four Upazilas of Cumilla district. Data will be collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data will be collected from fish farmers who reside in the study area. Quantitative data will be collected by individual interview method. On the other hand, case study and focus group discussion (FGD) methods will be used to collect qualitative data. Secondary data will be collected from books, journals, newspaper and other public documents. Purposive sampling technique will be followed to select the fish farmers and at least 120 samples will be collected from four randomly selected Upazillas at a rate 30 farmers from each Upazilla of the selected study area.

Both quantitative and qualitative data will be used to address the objectives of the study. Data will be analysed with the help of 'Microsoft Excel' computer based software. Both graphical and tabular presentation of data will be made for better understanding of the issues.

4.2.10 Challenges and Potentialities of Floodplain Aquaculture of the Meghna River Basin in Daudkandi Upazila of Cumilla District

Salah Uddin Ibne Syed, Deputy Director, BARD
Anas Al Islam, Assistant Director, BARD
Faruk Hossain, Assistant Director, BARD

Introduction

Bangladesh is one of the world's leading fish producing countries with a total production of 41.34 lakh MT, where aquaculture contributes 56.44 percent to total production. Last 10 years average growth performance of this sector is almost 5.43 percent. According to FAO statistics 2016, Bangladesh is ranked 5th in world aquaculture production. More than 11 percent of total population of Bangladesh are engaged in sector on full time and part time basis for their livelihoods. This sector also has high potential for the perspective of economic development of the country.

In the recent years, small-scale floodplain aquaculture also has been popularized and is contributing significantly to the country's total fish production. During the recent past decades, hatchery and nursery developed very rapidly which helped commercializing

aquaculture. Several socio-eco-friendly programs have been implemented to increase the productivity of inland open waters in the recent past years by the government. Community based fisheries management (CBFM) is one of them. With the continuation of community based fisheries interventions, a strong partnership has been developed among the concerned stakeholders, i.e. GO, NGO, local elites and fishers at implementation level. The approach of CBFM was to involve fishers' community and to ensure their participation in resource management (in common property resources), to ensure community access to the resources without competing with the non-fishers, and to improve resource management systems to enhance productivity and sustainability.

But it is easy to believe that there will be no CBO (community based organization) continuing the water management effectively in the flood plain areas after the cease of project support. On the other hand, the SHISUK approach in cooperative way of community mobilization in the floodplain area consists of new elements like: bringing the whole community to involve in development initiatives in private land; investment of individual capital in the form of share as a mark of participation, and formation of representative community organizations or the cooperative society and subsequent capacity building of the office bearers of the cooperative society to run the enterprises. The Self-reliant Community Initiatives in Floodplain Aquaculture pioneered by the NGO SHISUK (Shikkha Shastha Unnayan Karzakram) in the Daudkandi area since 1995 has been able to attract national and international attention.

Having discussed this background of the cooperative floodplain aquaculture: Daudkandi Model/ Shishuk Approach, it was decided to have a deeper understanding of the process and principles which underline the success of the Daudkandi experience and can establish the critical policy lessons to guide wider replication efforts in future. With this end in view the present study was undertaken purposively with the following objectives:

Objectives

The broad objective of the study is to identify challenges and potentials of floodplain aquaculture in the study area.

The specific objectives of the study are-

- i. to identify the common fish culture practices in floodplain areas of the Meghna river basin;
- ii. to identify the factors affecting fish culture practices;
- iii. to understand the operational principles through which the success in community mobilization in floodplain aquaculture has been possible; and
- iv. to develop some potential models of sustainable aquaculture.

Methodology

The study area will cover randomly selected areas of the Meghna river basin in Daudkandi upazila of Cumilla district. Data will be collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary and secondary data will collect by reviewing reports and documents, reconnaissance surveys in the study areas, interviewing key informants including committee members (Chairmen, Managing Directors, Cashiers, and Directors) from the selected projects. Lists of projects will collect from the respective Upazila Fisheries offices and Floodplain Aquaculture Development Forum (FADF); an association formed aiming to protect the interest of the floodplain aquaculture projects at Daudkandi area. Also, primary data will be collected from fish farmers reside in the study area. Quantitative data will be collected by individual interview method. On the other hand, case study and focus group discussion (FGD) methods will be used to collect qualitative data. Purposive sampling technique will be followed to select the floodplain fish farmers and at least 100 samples will be collected from the selected study area.

Both quantitative and qualitative data will be used to address the objectives of the study. Data will be analysed with the help of statistical software 'STATA'. Both graphical and tabular presentation of data will be made for better understanding of the issues.

4.3 Action Research Plan 2018-19

Ongoing projects will continue their operation during 2018-19. The GoB funded project titled "Improving Livelihood of Rural People of Lalmai-Mainamati Hill Areas of Comilla through Integrated Agricultural Farming" will expand its operation and reach higher number of beneficiaries during 2018-19. During 2018-19 construction of school building, conference hall, hostel, and swimming pool along with BARD automation will be continued under another GoB funded project titled "Development of Physical Facilities of BARD." The third phase of the project "Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)" has already been approved by the government and one DPD has been deployed from BARD. It is expected that this project will be implemented in the field during 2018-19. WEINIP and E-Parishad funded by BARD Revenue Budget (BRB) will be extended and the scope of work will be increased in the coming year. WEINIP will expand its coverage in more villages while the *E-Parishad* will concentrate on training and of software by the Union Parishad. BARD will continue its support to the Management and Extension of Dairy Demonstration Farm Project until it reaches a self sustaining stage. The project titled "Rural Livelihood Improvement through Village Based Organizations and Union Parishad" will also continue its operations during 2018-19.

Table 8: Action Research Plan 2018-19 at a Glance

Category & Name of the Projects	Duration	Total Project Cost (in Lakh Tk.)		Project Personnels
		GOB	Total	
A. Projects Under ADP				
1. Improving Livelihood of Rural People of Lalmai-Mainamati Hill Areas of Comilla through Integrated Agricultural Farming (BARD part of Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar Project)	July 2016 – June 2020	5055.00	5055.00	Dr. Shafiqul Islam Mr. Salah Uddin Ibne Syed Dr. Md. Anowar Hossain Bhuya
2. Development of BARD Physical Facilities	January 2017 – December 2019	3439.65	3439.65	Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha Mr. Nazmul Kabir
3. Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) (BARD part)	-	-	-	-
B. Projects under BARD Revenue Budget				
1. Women’s Education, Income & Nutrition Improvement Project (WEINIP)	July 2018 - June 2019	5.00	5.00	Ms. Nasima Akhter Ms. Farida Yeasmin
2. E-Parishad for Better Service Delivery in Rural Areas	July 2018 - June 2019	4.00	4.00	Ms. Fauzia Nasrin Sultana Kazi Foyez Ahmed
3. Establishment and Management of Dairy Demonstration Farm at BARD Campus	July 2018 - June 2019	5.00	5.00	Dr. Bimal Chandra Karmakar
4. Rural Livelihood Improvement through Village Based Organizations and Union Parishad	July 2018 - June 2019	3.00	3.00	Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun Ms. Afrin Khan & Mr. Junayed Rahim Ms. Azma Mahmuda

Efforts will be made to get approval of the projects titled 1. “Ecological Farming for Sustainable Agriculture”; 2) "Livelihood Development through Promotion of Rural Micro Enterprise"; 3) “Development of Bangladesh through Establishment of Digital Village”; 4) “Women Entrepreneurship through Developing Resource Centre in Union Parishad” and 5) “Livelihood Improvement of Char Lands’ People through Climate Change Adaptation Practices.”

Three other development projects, which were recommended by the 70th GoB of BARD, will also be developed and processed for approval by the government during 2018-19. These Action Research projects are:

- a) Promoting Livelihood of Marginalized Communities in Cumilla District
- b) Modernization of BARD Physical Facilities
- c) Eradication of a Non-Communicable Disease Thalassemia through Public Awareness

Table 9: List of Planned Projects for 2018-19 along with Course of Actions

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Source of Fund	Plan
A.	Ongoing Project		
1	Improving Livelihood of Rural People of Lalmai-Mainamati Hill Areas of Comilla through Integrated Agricultural Farming (BARD part of Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar Project)	ADP	Will continue and expand its operation in the field
2	Development of BARD Physical Facilities	ADP	Will continue and expand its operation
3	Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) (BARD part)	ADP	Will be implemented in the field
4	Establishment and Management of Dairy Demonstration Farm at BARD Campus	BRBD	Will continue its operation
5	Women's Education, Income & Nutrition Improvement Project (WEINIP)	BRBD	Will continue its operation
6	E-Parishad for Better Service Delivery in Rural Areas	BRBD	Will continue its operation
B.	Project Under Process of Approval		
1.	Ecological Farming for Sustainable Agriculture	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning
2	Livelihood Development through Promotion of Rural Micro Enterprise	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning
3	Livelihood Improvement of Coastal People through Climate Change Resilient Agricultural Practices	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning
4	Development of Bangladesh through Establishment of Digital Village	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Source of Fund	Plan
5	Women Entrepreneurship through Developing Resource Centre in Union Parishad	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning
6	Promoting Livelihood of Marginalized Communities in Cumilla District (GoB funded)	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning
7	Modernization of BARD Physical Facilities	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning
8	Eradication of a Non-Communicable Disease Thalassemia through Public Awareness (GoB funded)	ADP	Efforts will be taken for approval by Ministry of Planning
9	Livelihood Improvement of Char Lands People through Climate Change Adaptation Practices	BRB	Efforts will be taken for approval by Director General of BARD
C.	Projectat Formulation Stage		
10.	Demonstration of Fish Nursery Unit at BARD Campus	BRB	Full proposal will be developed and evaluated for mplementation

5. The Concluding Session of the 51st APC

The concluding session was held at Lalmai auditorium of BARD on 5th August 2018. Prof. Dr. Emran Kabir Chowdhury, honorable Vice Chancellor of Comilla University graced the closing session as Chief Guest. Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman, honorable Director General of BARD presided over the session. Mr. Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman, DG, BAPARD and Mr. Azam-e-sadat, Deputy Secretary, RDCD, M/o LGRD & C were present in the concluding session. The concluding session was announced by Ms. Fouzia Nasreen Sultana, Deputy Director & Associate Convener of 51st APC of BARD.

Participant's Feedback

- At the outset of the concluding session, two participants delivered their feedback. Dr. Sonia Sheheli, Professor (BAU) gave her first feedback at the closing session. She expressed her greetings to respected guests and cordially thanked the APC conveners as well as BARD for their kind hospitality. She also said that this is her first time to attend the APC and the experience she took was very good and praiseworthy. She also thanked the BARD faculty for their effort on research despite providing huge training to the beneficiaries. She wished for the betterment of BARD, and by giving thanks she ended her speech.

2. Dr. ASM Golam Hafeez, Professor (BAU), in his feedback, became nostalgic saying that the relation between BARD and himself was from his student life when it was included in the study syllabus about BARD and Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan. He mentioned BARD as a pioneer institution in rural development and opined that the famous Comilla Model of BARD made many countries developed. He requested DG, BARD to increase the budget for the research. BARD has huge potentiality and need to explore funding to utilize this potentiality. Finally, he concluded his speech by expressing heartiest gratitude to BARD especially the Director General for the warm hospitality.
3. Mr. Syed Mojibul Haq, Director (BRDB), mentioning that as a civil service officer he had come to BARD as a trainee civil servant in his early years of service and that's why the relationship with this institution is remarkable. He said the Annual Planning Conference of BARD is a very unique idea and it is a tradition. He suggested for more collaborative research with the other academic institutions BARD will make remarkable progress under the progressive and dynamic leadership of the present DG, he concluded.

Address by the Convener of the APC

Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director in Charge (Rural Sociology and Demography) and Convener, Annual Planning Conference expressed his heartiest gratitude to the Chief Guest, Chairperson, Special Guests and learned participants for attending this august conference despite traffic problem. He thanked the guests who gave their feedback about the conference earlier for their praiseful words and comments. He said the conference could not achieve its present level of success without the visionary leadership of our honorable DG and the cooperation of all BARD faculty, officers and staff. He humbly apologized to the guests if any unexpected things happened and finally, he wished safe return of the guests. With these few words, he concluded his speech.

Address by the representative of RDCD

Mr. Azam-e-Sadat, Deputy Secretary, RDCD, M/o LGRD&C thanked the Chief Guest Professor Dr. Emran Kabir Chowdhury, honorable Vice Chancellor of Comilla University for his kind presence and requested him for more and more visit to this academy. BARD is an academic institute and pioneer of rural development, he expressed. He praised the initiatives by which such a lovely gathering of intellectuals could take place and it was his pleasure to join this conference, he added. He said, BARD should be changed with the context of the today's world. Outstanding development is taking place under the present government and BARD has a huge scope of work, he remarked. He requested to take big projects so that this pioneer institution can take the challenges of the 21st century. He also urged BARD to contact with the donor agencies for fund raising

and brand the Comilla Model. Finally, he thanked honorable DG, BARD for his all-out support and active leadership.

Address by the Director General, BAPARD

Mr. Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman, DG, BAPARD at the very beginning of his speech introduced BAPARD as a new institution of South-western part of Bangladesh engaged in the field of rural development. He opined that he was so much enriched with knowledge and experience from this conference. He thanked DG, BARD for his kind hospitality and invited him along with the BARD faculty at BAPARD. He said, working with the rural poor people is a challenging job. From the experience of BARD, BAPARD will exercise this type of review and planning, he added. Finally, he expressed his immense gratitude to Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman, honorable Director General, BARD and wished a better future of this academy.

Address by the Chief Guest

Honorable Vice Chancellor of Cumilla University Professor Dr. Emran Kabir Chowdhury was present in this session as Chief Guest. He praised Director General of BARD for his, dedication and strong leadership. He opined that BARD has a uniqueness of planning its works for the whole year. He observed that when any plan is taken to the field for action, it faces lots of problem. So, the plan needs to be pragmatic. He hoped that the APC had come up with a pragmatic plan of actions. He affirmed that as a member of Governing Body of BARD, he would give his heartiest cooperation for every good activity of BARD. With these few words, he concluded his speech.

Address by the Chairperson

Honourable Chairperson Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman, Director General of BARD expressed his thanks and gratitude to the participants for their kind presence in the APC. He acknowledged the two days' hard work of the participants and appreciated them for helping BARD work out a pragmatic plan for 2018-19. He remarked that the learned participants offered many new ideas which would help Academy's future course of action for advising the rural development challenges. BARD wants to upgrade its position as an internationally reputed organization like AIT of Thailand and tries to explore and expand collaborations with different international organizations, he added. He also informed that BARD considers issues such as food processing, rural tourism and agriculture technology transfer as potential areas for rural development interventions in the coming days and BARD has already started working on these issues. Finally, he appreciated all faculty members and staff of BARD for their relentless work to make this APC a success. With these few words, he formally concluded the 51st APC.

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)
Kotbari, Comilla

Programme for the 51st Annual Planning Conference, 2018-19
Duration: 04-05 August 2018

(All Business Sessions were held at Lalmai Auditorium of BARD)

Date & Day	Time	Event(s)	Responsible Person(s)
03.08.2018 Friday	17:00	Arrival and Settle Down at BARD Hostel	Reception Committee
04.08.2018 Saturday	09:30-10:30	Registration (Lalmai Auditorium)	Conveners and Reception Committee
	10:30-11:30	Inauguration and Presentation of Policy Guidelines	Chief Guest: Mr. A. H. M. Mustafa Kamal, MP Hon'ble Minister for Planning Special Guests: (1) Mr. Md. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MPHon'ble State Mininter, LGRD& C (2) Mr. S.M. Ghulam Farooque Hon'ble Secretary, RDCD Chairperson: Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman Director General, BARD Rapporteurs: Dr. Shishir Kumar Munshi Dr. Jillur Rahman Paul Ms. Sharmin Shahriar
	11:30-12:00	Tea Break	
	12:00-12:30	Working Paper Presentation on Training	Chairperson: To be nominated Presenter : Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee Director (Training) Rapporteurs: Mr. Newaz Ahmed Chowdhury. Mr. Salah Uddin Ibne Syed
	12:30-13:00	Discussion on the Working Paper	
	13:00-14:30	Break for Prayer and Lunch	

Date & Day	Time	Event(s)	Responsible Person(s)
	14:30-15:00	Working Paper Presentation on Research	Chairperson: To be nominated Presenter : Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Director (Research)
	15:00-15:30	Discussion on the Working Paper	
	15:30-16:00	Working Paper Presentation on Action Research Projects	Chairperson: To be nominated Presenter : Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman Director.(Project) Rapporteurs: Mr. Abdullah al Mamun Mr. Md. Tanvir Ahmed Mr. Md. Babu Hossain
	16:00-16:30	Discussion on the Working Paper	
	16:30-17:00	Tea Break	
	19:30-21:00	Cultural Evening	Cultural Committee
	21:00-22:30	Conference Dinner	All Invitees and Faculty Members
<u>05.08.2018</u> Sunday	09:00-11:00	Group Discussion and Preparation of Training Plan for 2018-19 Venue: Dr. Abdul MuyeedConference Hall	Chairperson: To be nominated Rapporteurs of the respective session will continue
		Group Discussion and Preparation of Research Plan for 2018-19 Venue: Bir Mukti Joddha Abdul Mannan Mazumder Conference Hall	

Date & Day	Time	Event(s)	Responsible Person(s)
		Group Discussion and Preparation of Action Research Plan for 2018-19 Venue: Lalmai Auditorium	Chairperson: To be nominated Rapporteurs of the respective session will continue
	11:00-11:30	<i>Tea Break</i>	
	11:30-12:30	Presentation of Group Reports, Discussions and Finalization of Annual Plan Venue: Lalmai Auditorium	Chairperson : Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman Director General, BARD Presenters: Dr. Abdul Karim Mr. Newaz Ahmed Chowdhury. Mr. Abdullah al Mamun Rapporteurs: Mr. Salah Uddin Ibne Syed Mr. Junaed Rahim Mr. Md. Tanvir Ahmed
	12:30-13:30	Concluding Session	Chief Guest : Chairperson: Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman Director General, BARD Rapporteurs: Ms. Nasima Akhtar Ms. Azma Mahmuda Mr. Kamrul Hasan
	13:30-14:30	Lunch at Language Martyr Abul Barkat Cafeteria	
	16:00	Departure from BARD	

(Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee)
Coordinator

(Md. Reaz Mahmud)
Assistant Convener

(Fouzia Nasreen Sultana)
Associate Convener

(Abul Kalam Azad)
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51st Annual Planning Conference, 2018-19 (04th-05th August)
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A Policy Guideline for the 51st APC of BARD

Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman,
Director General, BARD

Honourable Chief Guest, Mr. A.H.M. Mustafa Kamal, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh,
Respected Guest of Honor, Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaka Tagniaवलau, Director General, CIRDAP

Distinguished Scholars and Academics,

Guests and Representatives from different government, and non-government organisations,
Our development partners, well-wishers and friends from different international organisations,

Director (Training), BARD,

APC Conveners,

Members of the press and the electronic media,

My Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum and Good Morning,

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you to this very special event of BARD, the 51 Annual Planning Conference (APC). I am delighted to extend my heartfelt thanks to the distinguished delegates representing different national, international and non-governmental organisations and universities for joining us on this august occasion to help us in formulating our plans of training, research and action research for the current year. This is my pleasure to acknowledge the gracious presence of our Hon'ble Chief Guest in this opening session despite his busy schedule. I owe my deep gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Guest.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The present Government achieved a steady growth in GDP over 7 percent during the last few years. The country is moving very fast towards development. BARD is also doing Annual Planning Conference traditionally. It has been continuing for the last 50 years. This is a good example of practicing good governance concept in the public sector organization of Bangladesh. We have profound believe that APC helps establish transparency, accountability, participation and articulate the voice of the stakeholders. In the APC, BARD shares its training, research and action research performance of the preceding year and puts forward its plan for the forthcoming year in presence of invited guests and stakeholders with

a view to eliciting their critical views, feedback and comments and thus improving activities of BARD, our performance as well as future guidelines for BARD. Against this backdrop, firstly, I would like to highlight some of the significant and encouraging activities of BARD from preceding year. I hope my colleagues of three service divisions will give you the details of the performance on training, research and action research in their presentations.

Respected Participants,

Since inception in 1959, BARD has been contributing in human resource development through providing training to a variety of clientele. The clientele group includes officials and functionaries of government, non-government and international organizations including local level organizations, such as, cooperatives, local government etc. The training courses encompass a wide range of issues, such as good governance; project planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of development project; management of local government, development management, training of trainers; climate change; research methodology, quality education and so on. Recently BARD has conducted a number of trade-based skill development courses for the grass-roots beneficiaries of on-going development projects being implemented by BARD and other government department. The trade-based courses include cattle and poultry rearing, nursery development, fish cultivation, paddy, vegetable and fruits cultivation, bee keeping, vermin-composting and ICT related various training.

During 2017-18, BARD has conducted 166 national and international training courses in which 7294 persons have participated and has organized 87 courses for the beneficiaries of Lalmai-Mainamati project (BARD you may know of “Ektee Bari, Ektee Khamar Project”) in various trade-based training courses where a total of 2655 villagers took part. On behalf of this project BARD has developed 10 Manual/Handbooks on different training programmes which were provided to the project beneficiaries during their training programme at BARD. I would like to inform the august audience that on behalf of the project last year BARD has prepared data base ‘গ্রাম তথ্য ভান্ডার’ for 68 Villages which contained all information of each household. I hope, this unique experience could be replicated throughout the country after implementation of the project.

In addition, BARD organizes national and international training workshops and seminars. In this regard, I would like to mention that last year BARD conducted an international workshop on “Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Financial Inclusion and Rural Transformation”. In this international event a total of 23 participants from 15 African and Asian countries participated. The programme was supported by AARDO. An International Integrative Research Conference on Education, Governance and Development was organized last year in which 120 researchers from home and abroad attended. Last year DG BARD also acted as chair of 33rd Technical Committee (TC) Meeting of CIRDAP in Fiji.

BARD is pioneer for its Action Research or experimental rural development projects. It has conducted more than 50 experimental projects, and later on, those have been expanded and replicated by government and non-government organizations across the country. In the recent years, two experimental projects of BARD, namely Small Farmers Development Project (SFDP) and Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) have been accepted by the government to expand all over the country. A separate foundation, Small Farmers Development Foundation has been established to replicate Small Farmers Development Project.

Distinguished Participants,

Another major function of BARD is to conduct research focusing priority issues of the government as well as to find out solution of current socio-economic problems. During the reporting period, with the advice from our respected Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, BARD has undertaken two important researches study. One is focusing on the impact and current situation of Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar Project. You know this is a priority project of Honorable Prime Minister. Mainly to find out the strengths and weaknesses of present operational method and ways to improve the condition if it is needed. Another research is to assess the problems of public sector micro-credit program and why it is not as vibrant and successful as the private/NGO led micro-credit programmes.

Now, BARD is focusing to develop new concept, technology, and feasibility of the project/technology. We have to cope with the changing world. Of course our initiative will be need based and which will deliver benefit to the stakeholders. As for example I would like to mention here that BARD recently initiated to promote rural tourism with public private partnership, project for food processing, promoting livelihood for marginal people (যেমন কামার, কুমার তাঁতী, মুচি), livelihood promotion activities for Chittagong Hill Tract districts, Hoar areas.

Respected Learned Audience,

There is a convention that the Chief Executive of BARD enjoys the prerogative of providing a policy outline to facilitate the planning process during the APC. Let me now share some ideas for your consideration during the planning. To make a pragmatic plan, we may take into cognizance the following plan documents i.e. Perspective Plan (2010-2021), SDG 2015, Vision 2021, 7th FYP (2016- 2020), and Vision 2041. First of all I would like to highlight some issues of the Perspective Plan 2010-2021 that will follow SDG and the 7th FYP. As you know, starting year of the 7th FY Plan coincides with the launch of the UN post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, our pivotal focus will be on both SDGs and the 7th FYP.

Perspective Plan 2010-2021: According to the Perspective Plan 2010-2021, some major thrusts of our future development are high economic growth, reducing poverty to 15 percent, ensuring the minimum standard kilo calorie intake to all poor people and standard nutritious food to at least 85 per cent of the population, ensuring supply of pure drinking water for the entire population, bringing each house under hygienic sanitation, ensuring food security, reducing the unemployment rate to 15 percent, reducing maternal mortality to 1.5 percent, reducing infant mortality to 15 per thousand live births, raising the use of birth control methods to 80 percent, ensuring effective governance, providing energy security for development and welfare and mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural disaster. It is also stipulated in the vision for 2021 that developing information and communication technology and creating innovative people will take the country to new heights of excellence, and thus gives the nation a new identity branded as Digital Bangladesh. We, in this APC, could consider how BARD through its training, research and action research could play a supportive role in achieving these wide ranging social, economic, political and technological goals under Vision 2021 as well as becoming a developed country.

7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020): The major thrusts of the 7th FYP (2016-2020) cover

i) High Growth and inclusiveness: The 7th FYP encapsulates a strategy for inclusive growth which empowers people by creating employment opportunities, fostering the scope for greater labour force participation, particularly of women, supporting skill development in response to market demand, enabling access to credit for small and medium enterprises, and improving health and education for people to be more productive.

ii) Growth and poverty reduction: The 7th FYP visualizes that growth must be inclusive and pro-poor. In poverty reduction agenda, special focus will be given to reduce extreme poverty. Specifically, the 7th Plan seeks to reduce poverty rate to 18.6% and extreme poverty to around 8.9% by FY2015. Along with growth, the 7th Plan will emphasize human development, social protection and social inclusion as essential elements of a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy.

iii) Growth and employment challenge: Inclusive growth is defined here as growth that is both sustainable, broad-based in terms of employment opportunities and reaches out to people on the margin.

iv) Sustainable Growth: The 7th FYP proposes a sustainable development pathway that is complaint to disaster and climate change; entails sustainable use of natural resources; and successfully manages the inevitable urbanization transition.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2015: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development are an intergovernmental set of aspirational Goals with 169 targets. Most of them are relevant to rural development. BARD can contribute immensely through its research, training and action research.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Based on the policy issues and guidelines of the above policy documents, now let me chalk out some areas of our future concern in case of training, research and action research. The 51st APC of BARD underscores the following issues for its future consideration: sustainable land management, food security, environmental governance, biodiversity and climate change, human resource development, service delivery, improving governance, labour productivity, value chain analysis, strengthening local government, women empowerment and gender equality, institution building and development, quality rural education, poverty reduction, small and medium enterprise development, entrepreneurship development, knowledge management, project management, ICT, health and nutrition, Social Safety Nets and so on. We are happy to inform you that BARD has also been involved with the e-learning and e-filing programmes of the government.

Distinguished Participants,

We strongly believe that with your enthusiastic participation in this academic exercise, we will be able to work out three separate realistic plans on training, research and action research. As it is a convention of the APC, I have just shared some of my ideas with you. Ultimately your collective ideas and preferences will shape the outcome of the APC. The APC offers a democratic environment for criticism. Therefore, please open your heart, evaluate our work and let us have your best ideas and suggestions. I thank, APC Convener Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director (Rural Sociology) and his team for showing their utmost sincerity in shaping the conference. I also thank all my colleagues for their very cordial support in many ways. Finally, I wish the APC a success and I offer my very best wishes to you all.

Long live Bangladesh!