



# BARD Newsletter

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, Cumilla

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## Seminar on Research Highlights of BARD: 2020 Held at BARD



*Mr. Md. Shahjahan, the Director General of BARD and Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossain, Principal, Bangladesh Cooperative Academy are seen seated in the inaugural session of the Seminar on Research Highlights of BARD: 2020.*

A day long seminar on the Research Highlights of BARD: 2020 was held at BARD on 20 June 2020. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director General, BARD. Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossain, Principal, Bangladesh Cooperative Academy graced the occasions as the Guest of Honour. Seminar Director Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Joint Director (Research), BARD; Guest of Honour, Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossain; Director (Research), Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee; Director (Training), Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quader; and the Chairperson spoke in the inaugural

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## BARD Awards Integrity Award for the Year 2020

BARD has awarded Integrity Award 2020 to Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Administration) and Mr. Rezaul Islam, PA to Director General. Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Administration) got this prestigious Integrity Award for his utmost sincerity, honesty and outstanding performance in rendering his charter of duties with commitment and sagacious leadership. Mr. Rezaul Islam, PA to the Director General was awarded this prize for his sincerity, loyalty and trustworthy role throughout his career at BARD.



*Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Administration) is receiving Integrity Award-2020 from Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director General of BARD*



## BARD Declares Innovation Prize of 2020



*Dr. Masudul Hoq Chowdhury, Additional Director General of BARD is receiving Innovation Award 2020 from Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director General of BARD*

BARD has awarded Innovation Award 2020 to Dr. Masudul Hoq Chowdhury, Additional Director General and his team members Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan, Joint Director and Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Assistant Director for popularizing *Kallayan* Incubator. In fact, *Kallayan* Incubator is a brainchild of Dr. Masudul Hoq Chowdhury, Additional Director General of BARD. Apart from that, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director (Project); Mr. Abdulla Al Hussain, Deputy Director; Mr. Md. Babu Hossain, Assistant Director and Mr. Md. Zamil Uddin, Assistant Director were also awarded Innovation Award 2020 for implementing the project titled "Agricultural Mechanization and Collective Farming through Community Enterprise". Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Administration) was also awarded Innovation Prize 2020 for his abled and prudent leadership to ensure transparency and accountability in cash handling in the establishment and accounts sections of BARD.

## BARD Distributes Inputs at Daudkandi

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) distributed different on-farm and off-farm inputs among the beneficiaries of the action research project "Livelihood Improvement of Char Lands People through Adaptation Practices" at Natun Hasnabad

village of North Daudkandi in Cumilla on 15 June 2020. It distributed 1000 ducklings, 625 quails, seed and seedlings of different seasonal vegetable of hybrid variety and 7 maund seed of paddy Aman. Besides 100 thunder resistant palm and date tree seedlings, a total 3000 of windbreak tree, wood-yielding tree, fruits and medicinal tree seedlings were distributed. Moreover, 5 sewing machines were handed over among 5 vulnerable widowed women to create rural women entrepreneurs, and one BARD invented *Kalyan* Incubator was given to a juvenile along with 125 eggs of high yielding profitable variety to create young entrepreneurs. BARD has created an example for Rural Development by maintaining proper health hygiene during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic by organizing this program. As the representative of the Director General of BARD, the concerned Project Director, Mr. Reaz Mahmud, the Assistant Project Director Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain Bhuiyan, and the local Union Parishad Member, Mr. Parvez Ahmad Faruk were present at the program.



*Beneficiaries of Livelihood Improvement of Char Lands Project are seen receiving sewing machine at Notun Hasnabad, Daudkandi, Cumilla*



## Training at BARD: April to June 2020

Training is one of the major functions of BARD as mandated by the Government of Bangladesh. To fulfill this goal, every year BARD organizes various training courses for different clienteles and stakeholders. These courses include Foundation Training Course for all cadres, Special Foundation Training Course for BCS (Health) cadre officials and LGED engineers, Attachment Programme on Rural Development, Specialized Sponsored Courses, national and international level Conferences/Workshop/Seminars and Guided Visit Programmes, BARD Initiated Courses, Orientation Programme and Project Level Courses etc. During the reporting period, due to the consequences emanated from Corona pandemic BARD only organized in-house training programs for its officers and staff. Therefore, BARD was able to conduct only 11 training courses during the time frame of April to June 2020 where 404 participants comprising BARD faculty members, staff and project level personnel took part. Details of the

Sl. No.	Title of Course	Duration	Sponsor	Number of Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>NATIONAL LEVEL COURSES</b>						
<b>1.</b>	<b>Basic Training Course</b>					
1.1	Discipline and Conduct Rules (1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Batch)	Jun. 2020	BARD	136	14	150
1.2	In-house Training Course on Innovation	Jun. 2020	BARD	19	6	25
<b>2.</b>	<b>Workshop &amp; Seminar</b>					
2.1	Seminar on “Impact of Corona Pandemic in Rural Economy and Society: Review of BARD’s Activities and Future Plan to Combat Covid-19”	29 Jun. 2020	BARD	49	09	58
2.2	Seminar on Research Highlights 2020	20 Jun. 2020	BARD	52	09	61
<b>3.</b>	<b>BARD Action Research Project Course</b>					
3.1	Health and Environmental Protection Campaigns and Mutual Learning for Project Beneficiaries of WEINIP	15 Jun. 2020	BARD	0	30	30
3.2	Training Course on Women Entrepreneurship for Increasing Agricultural Productivity and Processing	16-18 Jun. 2020	WEINIP	0	30	30
3.3	Training Course on Garment Manufacturing, Fashion Design Activities and Merchandise Resource Center Building and Sustainable Marketing Management	21-24 Jun. 2020	WEINIP	0	30	30
3.4	Training Course on Technical and Solar Technology Education for Women Entrepreneurs	21-23 Jun. 2020	WEINIP	0	20	20
<b>Total = 11 Training Course:</b>				<b>256</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>404</b>

### BARD Organized Training Course on Discipline and Conduct Rules

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) organized four courses on Discipline and Conduct Rules. A total of 150 staffs of different categories attended these courses. These types of courses are helpful for improving service quality. Mrs. Saifun Nahar, Deputy Director, Mr. Kamrul Hasan, Assistant Director, Mr. Babu Hossain, Assistant Director, Mr. Faruk Hossain, Assistant Director, BARD were course directors in those courses.



Director General of BARD, Mr. Md. Shahjahan, delivers the inaugural address in the opening ceremony of the Training Course on Discipline and Conduct Rules organized by BARD



## PROJECTS OF BARD

### On-going Projects

#### A. Projects under Annual Development Program (ADP)

##### 1. Improving Livelihood of Rural People of Lalmai-Mainamati Hill Areas of Cumilla through Integrated Agricultural Farming (BARD Part of Amar Bari Amar Khamar Project)

Project Area : 68 villages of 08 Unions under Sadar Dakshin, Adarsha Sadar and Burichang Upazila of Cumilla District  
Duration: July 2016 to June 2020  
Budget: BDT. 5055.00 lacs  
Sponsored by: GoB

#### Objective of the project

The general objective of the project is to improve the standard of living of the people of Lalmai-Mainamati hill areas of Cumilla. The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Increase organic agricultural production and conserve agricultural land productivity;
- Enhance agricultural farming practices;
- Augment improved cattle, dairy and poultry rearing;
- Enrich scientific fish culture;
- Improve water distribution and

- utilization system of ground and surface water;
- Develop marketing linkage and facilities for agricultural products; and
- Assess impact of livelihood improvement of the people of project areas.

#### Project Components

- Formation of village based organizations, collection of members and development of a database as similar to *Amar Bari Amar Khamar* (ABAK) project;
- Creation of own capital by micro-savings and cooperation;
- Livelihood improvement by agricultural production through a) establishment of nursery and apiculture; b) expansion of income of poor rural men and women through livestock rearing, poultry rearing and fish culture activities; c) providing improved varieties of rice, seeds and saplings of vegetables to increase the income of poor farmers; d) development of socio-economic condition of extreme poor people through special economic assistance and training programme and e)

development of rural nutritional status through culture of improved varieties of fruits.

- Conservation and improvement of soil fertility by organic technologies like vermi-compost/quick-compost.

#### Progress of the project

- Including 14 organizations, a total of 289 village development organizations (VDOs) have been formed during the reporting time.
- At that time, 988 members were included in the VDOs and total number of members become 12,071.
- BDT. 25,26,900/- were collected as monthly deposit and total deposit amounting to BDT. 3,50,27,650/-.
- Due to Covid-19 pandemic, no training course was arranged during the reporting time. But, technical advisory services related to agriculture, fisheries and livestock farming were provided to the beneficiaries by respective component leaders and project officials through mobile phone and social media platform.
- During reporting time, a total loan of BDT. 58,70,000/- were distributed among 328 beneficiaries



Distribution of Fish fingerlings among the project beneficiaries as a part of Mujib Borsho 2020 celebration



Mr. Golam Sarwar, Upazila Chairman, Sadar Dakshin Upazila of Cumilla is distributing special loan (interest free) among the beneficiaries of Lalmai Mainamati project



providing loan amount BDT. 10,000/- to 15,000/- to each recipient.

- At that time, BDT. 27,86,185/- were recovered from the loan receivers and the recovery rate was 100%.
- A total of BDT. 2,50,00,000/- was distributed as special loan (interest free) among 1,000 beneficiaries during that time and the recovery rate of these loans were also 100%.
- A total of 8000 kg. high yielding variety rice seeds were distributed among 1,600 beneficiaries.
- A total of 12,160 chicken and ducklings were distributed among 608 project beneficiaries.
- 8,250 kg. vermi-compost have been produced and used as fertilizer and also sold to the local clients. On the other hand, 274 kg. vermi worms have been sold to the clients.
- A total of 1290 kg. good quality fish fingerlings were distributed among 430 beneficiaries.

## 2. Development of BARD Physical Facilities

Project Area: BARD, Kotbari, Cumilla  
Duration: Jan. 2017 to Dec. 2020  
Budget: BDT. 4264.20 lakh  
Sponsoring Agency: GoB

### Objective of the Project

To enhance the capacity of training, research, action research of BARD by modernization and standardization of physical facilities.

### Project Components

- Automation of Research, Training, Project Division and different sections of BARD;
- Construction of a 5 storied Conference Hall cum Class room Building;
- Construction of three storied

School building;

- Construction of five storied Hostel having modern facilities;
- Construction of Swimming pool; and
- Purchasing a jeep, a coaster and other official instruments.

### Progress of the project

The project is being implemented with an estimated cost of Tk. 4264.20 lakhs from the January 2017 to December 2020. Cumulative allocation for the project was Tk. 3435.74 lakhs up to June, 2020 and cumulative expenditure was Tk. 2605.29 lakh which was 61% of the total project cost. Till now the cumulative physical progress was 68%. In the year 2019-20, revised allocation of an amount of Tk. 1189.74 lakhs was approved. The total expenditure was Tk. 1030.75 lakh which was 86.63% of revised allocation. Major progress of different components is furnished below:

- Construction works of School building, 5 storied hostel building, 5 storied conference hall building and swimming pool is going on. The cumulative financial progress of those components was 83%, 60%, 73% and 99% respectively. However, the physical progress of those components was 95%, 72%, 95% and 100%. In the year 2019 - 20 the financial progress of School building, hostel building, conference hall building and swimming pool was 88.01%, 79%, 84% and 100%.
- The software for hostel booking, research, project, school management, library and inventory management, accounts, human resource management is developed and testing on those activities at user levels is going on.

## 3. Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase

With a view to developing a package programme for an integrated and total development of the villages by bringing all classes of people within one institutional framework, a new programme called the “Total Village Development Programme” (TVDP) was introduced by BARD in the mid nineteen seventies. It was renamed as “Comprehensive Village Development Programme” (CVDP) in the early nineteen eighties which was the sole effort by BARD itself till 1988.

The main thrust of CVDP is to promote overall development of all segments of population of a village by organizing them into a more innovative and effective co-operative based organizational framework. These organizations are supposed to be self-motivated, self-managed and self-financed.

### Objectives of CVDP 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase

The main objective of the CVDP is to organize the village people irrespective of male-female, poor-non poor, occupations, and classes in respect of total socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

### Objectives of the Project

- Organize a village based Comprehensive Village Development Co-operative Society for holistic development of each village;
- Create self-employment opportunity and enhance income in planned way according to the ability and potentiality of the youths, adolescents, women and men of all families in each village; and



- Improve standard of living and reduce poverty of the villagers through comprehensive development.

#### Progress of the project

- A total of 1671 cooperative societies (included 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phase) from 35 Upazilas were carried out their monthly meetings.
- Among 19 new upazilas included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, village-wise baseline surveys have been completed in 9 upazilas.
- Budget allocation for 2019-20 fiscal year is BDT. 1,690.26 lacs and total expenditure up to reporting period is estimated BDT. 436.42 lakhs.

#### 4. BARD Modernization Project

Project Area : BARD, Kotbari, Cumilla  
Duration : Jul. 2019 to Jun. 2022  
Budget: BDT. 4855.00 lakh  
Sponsoring Agency : GoB

#### Objectives of the Project

The main objective of BARD modernization project is to improve the capacity of BARD through strengthening physical facilities. The specific objectives of the projects are:

- To increase and modernize physical facilities of BARD for fulfillment of demand of local and international trainees and professionals;
- To improve the support service of training, research and action research; and
- To modernize residential facilities of trainees and staff of BARD.

#### Progress of the project

- Five construction farms have been selected through eGP for five components of the project

(modernization of office and residential building, BARD Hostel; construction of circular road and approach road, walk-way; reconstruction of boundary wall).

ii) Construction of circular road and approach road has been started. The primary selection of consulting firm for drawing, design, supervision and quality control has been completed.

iii) The selection process of another consulting firm for preparing a landscape plan and master plan of BARD has been started.

iv) In 2019-2020, total allocation was Tk. 557 lakhs of which Tk. 9,43,333/- was spent. The physical progress of the project is about 10%.

#### B. Projects under the Revenue Budget of BARD

##### 1. Women's Education, Income & Nutrition Improvement Project (WEINIP)

Project Area : 24 Villages of Adarsha Sadar, Sadar Dakshin, Burichang and Barura Upazilas of Cumilla District

Duration : Jul. 2014 – Jun. 2021

Budget: BDT. 10.00 lacs (2019-2020)

Sponsoring Agency: BARD

Reporting Time: Aprl. – Jun. 2020

#### Objective of the Project

The main objective of the project is to create opportunities for rural women especially among disadvantaged and poor families in order to promote active participation in the mainstream socio-economic development activities; and to increase income, productivity as well as social values and rights to alleviate poverty through women's education, skills training and entrepreneurship development aiming at improving poverty situation and developing the overall quality of life and empower them through integrated implementation of basic and human rights, including legal protection, health and nutrition development.

#### Progress of the project

- The project is going on in 24 different villages of four different upazilas.
- A total 1,108 members of 928 families were enrolled as the project beneficiaries as of June 2020.
- During the time frame of Aprl.- Jun. 2020 a total of 269 members were imparted training. Thus the cumulative number of the beneficiaries who



*Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director General of BARD distributed healthcare materials among the beneficiaries of the WEINI Project*



received training from 801(regular and fortnight) training courses reached at 20,377 members.

- Three trade and subject based training for 40 woman participants have been organized.
- During this period total savings was BDT. 1,54,080/- and the cumulative savings of all the members amounted to BDT. 1,03,68,746/-.
- During reporting time BDT. 2,22,48,600/- was distributed among 2,803 members as loan till June 2020.
- During reporting time the loan disbursement among 12 beneficiaries of Durlovpur and Arannapur was BDT. 2,77,000/-.
- During reporting time the loan collection from the beneficiaries was BDT. 3,60,500/- and the cumulative loan collection from the project beneficiaries was BDT. 2,17,20,009/-.
- Two annual general meetings and profit distribution ceremony have been conducted in Namtola and Salmampur organizations.
- Two seminars have been organized in two societies namely, Rampur and Namtola societies.
- During this time two Corona (Covid-19) related advocacy campaigns and seminars were organized and some food, health,

nutrition and agricultural materials etc. were distributed to the vulnerable beneficiaries.

## 2. Rural Livelihood Improvement through Village Based Organizations and Union Parishad

Project Area: 13 Villages of 4 No. Khoshbash Union of Barura Upazila under Cumilla District

Duration: Jul. 2015-Jun. 2022

Budget : BDT. 10.0 lacs

Sponsoring Agency : BARD

### Progress of the project

The project activities are running in 13 different villages. As of June 2020, total member of the village-based organizations was 818 and number of shares become BDT. 3,337/-.

- The cumulative savings of all the members was BDT. 22,23,719/- from which BDT. 39,68,291/- was distributed among the members as loan till June 2020. Total share become BDT. 3,41,200/-.
- To implement the *Amar Gram Amar Shohor* programme, Ward Based Five-year Development Plans have been published for nine different Wards.
- Annual General Meetings were held in four organizations and BDT. 5,50,000/- was distributed among the beneficiaries.

## 3. E-Parishad for Better Service Delivery in Rural Areas

Project Area: Jorkanon (East) Union of Sadar Dakshin Upazila of Cumilla District

Duration : Jul. 2019 – Jun. 2020

Budget : BDT. 5.0 lacs

Sponsoring Agency : BARD

### Objectives of the Project

The main objective of the project is to provide necessary services to the rural people at their door steps for rural development and to improve their standard of livelihood through promoting ICT based platform at local level.

### Progress of the project

- A software has been developed for creation of household profile and formulation of union development plan.
- Project brochure has been published during the reporting period.

## 4. BARD Dairy, Poultry, and Goat Demonstration Farm

Project Area : BARD Campus

Duration : Jul. 2019-Jun. 2020

Budget : BDT. 29.34 lakhs

Sponsoring Agency : BARD



Dairy Farm Unit at BARD Campus



Goat Farm Unit at BARD Campus



### Objectives of the Project

- i. To demonstrate the scientific method and basic way of dairy, poultry and goat farming to the farmers, beneficiaries, students and so on;
- ii. To extend the horizon of research, training and project works of BARD on different aspects of dairy, poultry and goat development;
- iii. To adopt and generate new technologies.

### Progress of the project

- Ten heifers of Holstein-Frisian cross breed were brought from RDA, Bogura for rapid expansion of dairy unit.
- Technology driven sprinkler irrigation set has been installed in the fodder land for irrigation to reduce water loss and labour cost.
- Chaff cutter, Instruments for identification were brought to reduce labour cost for chopping straw and fodder and to keep record of individual animal properly.
- Napier grass was cultivated in coconut garden as alley cropping system.
- The fallow land adjacent to the Dairy farm was surrounded with GI net to prepare it as pasture land.



*Biofloc Unit at BARD Demonstration Fish Farm*

### 5. Mushroom Development and Cultivation Centre

Project Area: BARD Campus  
Project Period: Jul. 2019 – Jun. 2020  
Budget: 4.5 lakh Taka (2019-20)

#### Objectives of the Project

Since inception BARD has been working to develop socio-economic condition and livelihoods for rural people of the country by involving them into various types of income generating activities. In Bangladesh every year 1% of cultivable land is decreasing that threatens our agricultural production. Hence, we need to think about alternative way to increase production. Mushroom is a kind of crop which can be cultivated without any agricultural land and it has very high nutrition as well as economic value. Recently BARD has started “Mushroom Development and Cultivation Centre” in its campus with the following objectives:

- i) Promoting commercial cultivation and selling of mushroom;
- ii) Producing mushroom seeds;
- iii) Distributing mushroom seeds among the beneficiaries of *Lalmati-Mainamati* Project and other BARD revenue projects.

### Progress of the project

- i. Mother spawn has been collected from Mushroom Institute, Savar, Dhaka for producing mushroom seeds and commercial spawns.
- ii. During this period, about 107 kg. mushroom have been harvested from the centre.

### 6. BARD Demonstration Fish Farm

Project Area: BARD Campus  
Duration: Jul. 2019-Jun. 2020  
Budget : BDT. 12 lakhs  
Sponsoring Agency: BARD

#### Objectives of the project

The general objective of the project was to demonstrate an ideal demonstration fish farm for producing quality fish seed and providing better understanding about fish culture management in training sessions. Specific objectives of the project are to:

- i) demonstrate a model nursery pond unit for quality fish fingerling production;
- ii) meet up the demand of quality fish seed in surrounding areas of BARD campus; and
- iii) conduct practical sessions in different training courses on scientific fish culture.



*Paddle wheel aerator at Fish Farm site of BARD*



### Progress of the project

- A Biofloc Unit has been established at the farm compound.
- Mechanized paddle wheel aerator has been introduced at fish farm site.
- A total of 150 kg. carp fingerlings were sold during the reporting period.
- Carp (rohu, catla, mrigel) fries have been stocked and regular feeding activities is going on.
- Regular maintenance of fish farm is going on.

### 7. Floodplain Aquaculture and Safe Food Production through Community Enterprise

Laksam and Monoharganj upazila are located in the south-western part of Cumilla district. Dakatia river, a tributary of the river Meghna is the source of water for seasonal inundation of around 6,875 ha and 3,234 ha floodplain areas under Monoharganj and Laksam upazila respectively. Agricultural activities are limited with only one crop per year and average floodplain fish production in this region is nearly 0.12 ton/ha. But, in Daudkandi under floodplain aquaculture around 7,500 tons/ha of fish are now produced from an area that traditionally produced around 750 tons/ha through conventional capture fisheries. Though, this common pool

resource management of floodplain aquaculture had started in early 90s, but due to lack of demonstration rural people of Laksam and Monoharganj upazila don't get the benefits of this community enterprise approach.

The concept of community enterprise approach intertwines various aspects of resource management within the community for sustainable community development. The people within social and cultural linkage and common economic interests regardless of classes, religion, profession and gender form the society or community of such approach.

Project Area: Laksam and Monoharganj Upazila of Cumilla district

Duration: Jul. 2019-Jun. 2020

Budget : BDT. 10 lakhs

Sponsoring Agency: BARD

### Specific objectives of the Project

Specific objectives of the project are to:

- i) Demonstrate floodplain aquaculture project through community enterprise management approach;
- ii) Build awareness about safe food production in the project area;
- iii) Create employment opportunities for the youth of this area by fostering forward and backward linkages depending on the enterprise; and
- iv) Disseminate the lesson learnt from

the action research amongst communities and development partners in order to generate necessary policy initiatives for wider replication.

### Progress of the project

- BARD has given the share money of BDT. 1,00,000/- to each of the three enterprises. The dividends from this shares will be distributed among the poor inhabitants of the respective community.
- Around 8 lakhs of carp fingerlings were stocked in ponds and canals inside the project area for aquaculture in the floodplains.
- BDT. 30.00 lakhs have been accumulated as operational capital through share distribution among the land owners.

### 8. Agricultural Mechanization and Collective Farming through Community Enterprise

Agriculture is the main driving force of our economy. The agricultural sector contributes to 14.23% of GDP. The population of Bangladesh is currently about 164.69 million and it is increasing at 1.03% rate every year. However, crop land is declining at 5% per year. This situation is creating demand for additional crop production on the existing agricultural land of the country. Therefore, timely cultivation, proper use of materials and harvesting of minimal wastes are now essential for obtaining more crops from degraded land. In this case it is essential to ensure use of mechanical energy for enhancing crop production. In addition, a large number of agricultural laborers are shifting to the industrial and transport sectors. In this context, there is no alternative but to converting the country's traditional agricultural system to modern mechanical farming in order to ensure food security for the vast majority of the population. Therefore, through sustainable development of



*Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director General of BARD is handing over share money to the managing committee members of the Floodplain Aquaculture and Safe Food Production through Community Enterprise Project*



agriculture, it is possible to make a positive change in the living standards of the rural population and economy as a whole. Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina's government has given the highest importance to this. With proper implementation of timely plans adopted by the present agrarian-friendly government, mechanization of agriculture and modern farming system are very much needed to create a better Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty.

BARD has sought to develop a model based on community based farming system to introduce modern farming system to meet the challenges of agricultural mechanization at Laksham and Adarsha Sadar upazila in Cumilla. In this way, the fragmented land will be combined field and cultivated for the same kind of crop on large scale. The amalgamated lands will be managed through a "Community Enterprise". For this purpose, the agricultural landowners/cultivators of Noapara village of Kandipar Union of Laksham Upazila and BARD unanimously adopted a project called 'Noapara-Chongaon Collective Agricultural Farming Community Enterprise'. Likewise, Raichow village of Adarsha Sadar Upazila is another site of the project.

### Specific objectives of the project

- i) To increase agricultural production and productivity through mechanization.
- ii) To reduce the cost of agricultural production through collective farming practices.
- iii) To extend appropriate agricultural mechanized technology in the project areas.
- iv) To increase farmers' income and improve their livelihood.

### Progress of the project

#### 1. Community Mobilization

- Three potential communities named by Noapara and Chongaon from Laksham upazila and Raichow from Adarsha Sadar Upazila, Cumilla agreed to the proposal of agricultural mechanization and collective farming through community enterprise with 72 acre lands of 134 land owners.

- Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of LGRD, BARD, Upazila Parishad and Local Public representatives were involved.

#### 2. Enterprise Formation

- An enterprise was formed by agricultural landowners/cultivators of Noapara and Chongaon village of Kandipar union of Laksham upazila and unanimously adopted a project called 'Noapara-Chongaon Collective Agricultural Farming Community Enterprise'. At Raichow the project is being implemented through 'Raichow Comprehensive Village Development Cooperatives'.

- Several meetings took place among BARD, land owners, cultivators, public representatives.

#### 3. Agreement

- With a view to implementing the project activities through the community enterprises an agreement was done among BARD, Upazila

Agriculture Officer, Laksham and landowners & cultivators of the Community Enterprise.

- With participation of all members of the newly formed enterprise, UNO, UAO and BARD authorities, the agreement was signed for six months.

#### 4. Rice seed distribution

- 750 kg. of High Yielding Variety paddy seeds were distributed among the farmers of two project sites.

- According to the agreement BARD offered the seeds for the cultivation.

#### 5. Digital Land Survey

- To eliminate the land boundary of fragmented land and combined large field Digital Land Survey was done at both project sites. The GPS (latitude-longitude-azimuth) of each piece of land saved through digital land survey from which each landowner can easily identify his own land. In order to consolidate the land, multiple zones/plots can be plotted according to the structure and level of the respective land, which will be useful for irrigation, fertilizer, ladders, weeding etc.

- BARD offered the Digital Land Survey for digital land demarcation of project sites.

#### 6. Seedlings

- Community Enterprise managing



*Crop harvesting at Laksham through combine harvester provided by BARD*



committee raise seedlings for the cultivation of their respective 72 acre land.

- BARD and Upazila Agriculture Office monitored the activities

#### 7. Rice Transplanting

- Seedling transplantation through rice transplanter was started at Laksham project site from 17 January 2020, inaugurated by Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. Mr. Md. Rezaul Ahsan, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division and Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director General, BARD attended the event as well.

- Rice Transplanter was first introduced at Laksham.

#### 8. Intercultural Operation

- Management committee plays pivotal role in the intercultural operation. Local farmers were deployed in this activities.
- BARD, UAO offices closely monitored and guided.

#### 9. Harvesting

- BARD provided combine harvester to the enterprises for crop harvesting, threshing, winnowing and packing.
- Harvesting program was inaugurated by local public representatives with the presence of BARD authority.

#### 10. Marketing

- Harvested crops were sold to the Government and UNO, Laksham accelerated marketing facilities.
- UNO, Laksham, UAO Office, BARD and all members of the enterprise executed the marketing program in festive mood.

#### 11. Cultivation began for Aus season

- Crop production on the past Boro season was very high from previous seasons motivated the farmer to continue the project phase on the next season. Huge satisfaction and positive response from the local farmers inspired BARD to extend the project under the patronization of Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, Honorable Minister,

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.

- BARD provided required supports, seeds and agricultural machineries to the enterprises to continue smooth functioning of the project in the Aus season.

### 09. Livelihood Improvement of Char Lands' People through Climate Change Adaptation Practices

Project Area: Gazaria Upazila of Munshiganj district and Daudkandi Upazila of Cumilla district

Duration : Jul. 2019-Jun. 2020

Budget : BDT. 11.50 lakhs

Sponsoring Agency : BARD

Bangladesh is an agriculture-dependent country and about sixty-two percent people are directly and indirectly dependent on agriculture. But climate change appears as a big challenge in the agricultural sector. The agricultural production system in the char lands of Bangladesh is characterized by rain fed cultivation, low nutrient levels in the soil, the raising of traditional crop varieties with conventional management practices, poor access to agricultural technologies and services, poor linkage to markets, low cropping intensity and diversity. Besides, the char land agriculture system is highly prone to climatic stresses (flood, river erosion, high temperature, erratic rainfall, moisture stress, and tropical cyclone) and the local farmers suffer every year. The changing climate will amplify these problems in the future and make char land livelihoods precarious. The adoption and adaptation of climate-smart agriculture options (for example different crops or varieties, cropping systems and management practices) can significantly reduce negative effects and build resilience to changing environmental conditions.

### Objectives of the Project

The general objective of the project is to improve the livelihood status of char lands people through adaptive agricultural practices and off-farm activities. The specific objectives of the project are to-

- i) build awareness regarding climate change impact and disaster risk reduction of char land people;
  - ii) introduce climate adaptive agricultural practices;
  - iii) create entrepreneur for the youths and vulnerable women to reduce unemployment; and
- a) provide skill development and IGA trainings, and necessary on-farm and off-farm materials for the improvement of economic condition.

### Progress of the project

- During the reporting time, 570 kg. submergence tolerant *Aman* rice seeds and 7.5 kg. different vegetables seeds have been distributed among the beneficiaries.
- Four fish cages were introduced at two project villages located near Gomuti river for group based fish farming at cages in the riverine environment.
- 7000 lightning tolerant tree saplings were distributed among the beneficiaries to lessen their vulnerability during natural disasters like cyclone, thunderstorm etc.
- 1500 mushroom spawns, 700 chicken, 1000 ducklings, 625 quails were also distributed as input services for the betterment of livelihoods of char land people.
- Two *Kallyan* Incubators and ten sewing machines were distributed to develop entrepreneurship among the beneficiaries.
- Healthcare related goods were also distributed among the beneficiaries to make them aware of Covid-19 pandemic.



## 10. Demonstration of Organic Year-Round Vegetable Production Projects in BARD Campus

Project Area: BARD Campus  
Project Period: Jul.- Sept. 2020  
Budget: 1.2 lakh Tk. (2019-20)

The cultivation of vegetables in our country is increasing day by day. In Bangladesh vegetables are grown in 2.63 percent of cultivable land. Vegetable gives much more benefit to the farmers than other crops. Vegetables can play a vital role in elevating the nutritional status of the Bangladeshi people who suffer from severe malnutrition. Vegetables are rich sources of essential vitamins such as A, C, niacin, riboflavin and thiamin and minerals such as calcium and iron. They contribute to the intake of essentials nutrients from other foods by making them more palatable. They provide dietary fiber necessary for digestion, which are essential for maintaining health curing nutritional disorders. Recently BARD has started "Demonstration of Organic Year-Round Vegetable Production Project" in its campus with the following objectives.

### Objectives of the Project

- i) To demonstrate a model of vegetable production plot for year-round vegetable production;
- ii) To meet up the demand of safe vegetables at BARD Campus; and
- iii) To train the beneficiaries of different training courses about vegetables cultivation.

### Progress of the project

- a) Different seasonal vegetables including brinjal, Indian spinach, okra/ladies finger, snake gourd, sponge gourd, Bitter gourd, pumpkin and chilies were produced.
- b) The produced vegetables have been sold to BARD cafeteria and among the officers and employees of BARD.

## Research Activities of BARD

In line with the priority of the government BARD has been conducting research studies on diverse areas of rural development. As part of its mandatory function, the Academy is to conduct 10 research studies on an average every year and provide policy inputs and suggestions to solve the socio-economic problems in rural areas. Putting due emphasis on the present requirement of the government, BARD in the recent years has conducted research studies covering issues like micro-credit operation in public sector, prospects of jute cultivation, rural education, safety nets, impact of river bank erosions, women leadership, innovations in rural development, youth entrepreneurship, potentialities of village court etc.

### Research Studies Undertaken in the year 2019-20

1. Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Ensuring Farmer's Wellbeing: Cases of Some Selected Areas of Bangladesh;
2. Role of Agro-forestry in Achieving Food Security of Upland Smallholders: A Study on Lalmai Hill Areas of Cumilla District;
3. Factors affecting Rural Urban Migration and Rural Change: Cases of Two Villages in Bangladesh;
4. Opportunities and Challenges in Utilizing Solar Energy for Irrigation and Home Systems;
5. Determinants of Time Taken to First Marriage Dissolution in Rural Bangladesh: A Case of Cumilla District;
6. Farmer's Knowledge, attitude and practice of mastitis in Cow;
7. Adoption and Integration of ICT by Secondary School Teachers in Rural Schools of Bangladesh: An

Analysis Using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM);

8. Contemporary Knowledge of Clay Artisans in Bijoypur.

Apart from the above studies, there are some carried over studies which are being implemented by BARD. Due to Corona pandemic, the respective researchers could not complete some studies. The update status of those carried over studies are given below:

### Current Status of the Ongoing Research of BARD

The following studies are in the report writing stage:

1. Livelihood and Social Inclusion Pattern of the Migratory Labourers: Cases of Five Districts of Bangladesh;
2. Interrelation between Socio-Economic Condition and Dietary Diversity in Rural Areas of Bangladesh: Analyzing the Determinants of Food Security;
3. Development Process, Rural Transformation: Potentials and Challenges of Social Entrepreneurship Development;
4. Adoption of ICT in Local Government Institutes in a Developing Country: An Empirical Study on Bangladesh Rural Local Government;
5. কুড়িগ্রাম ও গোপালগঞ্জ জেলার দারিদ্র্যের স্বরূপ: প্রতিকার ও উন্নয়নে করণীয়।  
Some studies are in the tabulation stage;
6. Inclusive Education and Training Towards Autism for Empowerment: A Sociological Study of Selected Villages;
7. Climate Change Effects on the Livelihoods of Coastal Vulnerable People: A Case of South-Western Bangladesh;



Some studies are in the data collection stage:

8. Family and Human Development Aspirations: Socialization at Bangladesh Transforming Villages;
9. Engaging Community for Commercial Endeavour through Community Enterprise: Process, Problems and Prospects;

The rest studies are in the questionnaire preparation stage:

10. Potentialities and Strategies of Public Private Partnership in Rural Development of Bangladesh;
11. State of Primary Education in Rural Areas of Bangladesh;
12. Union Parishad Complex in Bangladesh: Challenges and Potentialities.

### Recently Completed Research Studies

The following studies are under publication:

1. Challenges and Prospects of Jute Cultivation: A Study on Farmer's Response in Selected Areas of Bangladesh;
2. Empowerment and Food Security among Vulnerable Women Group in Selected Districts of Bangladesh.

Some studies are in the improving stage as per external reviewer's comment:

3. Micro Credit Operation by the Public Sector in BD: Origin, Performance and Replication;
4. River Bank Erosion and its Effects on Rural Society in Bangladesh;
5. Reaping Demographic Dividends through ICT: A Case of LICT Project.

Some studies are in the improving stage as per comments by the research division:

6. Lives and Hopes of the People of Former Enclaves inside

Bangladesh: A search for National Development and Integrity;

7. Cost Benefit Analysis of Mechanized and Labour Intensive Crop Production.

The rest studies are under cross-checking by the Research Division:

8. Village Court and its Potentialities in Grievances Reduction of Bangladesh;
9. Present Conditions of Homestead Plantation in Cumilla.

## Research Highlights

From Page-01

session of the seminar. A total of 68 participants which included the Faculty Members and other officers of BARD, professors from the Comilla University and the Bangladesh Cooperative Academy attended the seminar. Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quader, Director (Training) welcomed the distinguished guests and participants of this seminar. He said, the Research Highlights Seminar is a regular programme of BARD to disseminate the research results before the academicians and the policy planners.

Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Director General, BARD chaired the inaugural session. First of all, he conveyed his warmest greetings to the Guest of Honour and participants of the seminar. He mentioned that at the initial stage, BARD was a training institution and research and action research were added later. Since then BARD faculty were constantly involved in need based research activities. He appreciated the good practices established in this academy by Dr. Khan, the founder chief executive of BARD. Research Highlights Seminar is one of the best practices of this academy, he mentioned. He thanked the Research Division,

particularly for their initiative and tremendous effort, and finally for making this happen in this situation. He referred to some research works carried out by different countries regarding Covid-19 and stated the importance of research to find out solutions of different problems for the betterment of mankind. The Chairperson also suggested to uploading the papers in BARD website for more dissemination. He extended his heartiest gratitude to the participants for their participation. He also thanked seminar management team for their relentless effort in organizing this seminar in this pandemic situation. Finally, wishing the seminar a great success, he formally inaugurated the seminar.

Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossain, Principal, Bangladesh Cooperative Academy, at the very outset, conveyed his heartfelt thanks to the BARD authority for inviting him in this seminar as a Guest of Honour. He mentioned that as an internationally reputed organization, BARD has tremendous contributions to agricultural development of Bangladesh. Referring to the summaries of the six studies compiled in the working paper he said that, he had found the studies very important and time demanding in the context of the present situation of Bangladesh. The policy planners would take any recommendations given by BARD very positively, he wished. He thanked seminar management for their hard work in organizing this seminar.

Extending a warm welcome to the participants the Seminar Director, Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman disclosed the background, objectives, *modus operandi* of the seminar. He informed that the "Seminar on Research Highlights of BARD: 2020" was the continuity of an annual event of BARD with the



objective of keeping its stakeholders updated about its recently accomplished research studies. Dr. Rahman elaborated that in line with the mandated functions every year BARD is used to organizing research highlight seminar to achieve some specific objectives which were to: i) inform the policy makers and others involved in rural development about the findings of research studies of BARD; ii) share with them the latest status of changes in rural scenario and problems; iii) seek opinions and suggestions of the participants regarding future implications of the research findings. He also mentioned that in a bid to fulfill the mandated duties coupled with meeting the target set for the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) with the concerned ministry, this year, BARD accomplished 10 researches among which the selected 6 research studies were published. He said that in this seminar, the findings of those six researches were presented and shared with a limited number of learned audiences due to the prevailing grim reality caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. It was expected that with the enthusiastic participation of the participants, several issues relating to the research findings would be further clarified in the seminar. Moreover, the dissemination of the research findings could help uptake of relevant information and recommendations by concerned stakeholders to initiate actions aimed at addressing the felt needs as identified in the studies. He expressed his immense gratefulness to Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossain, Principal, Bangladesh Cooperative Academy who had kindly graced the event as the Guest of Honour in the seminar. He appreciated the crucial support given by Director (Research), Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, and Director

(Training), Mr. Md. Abdul Quader in arranging this seminar in such a grave situation. He expressed his deep gratitude to the Director General, BARD for his tremendous support. He also acknowledged Ms. Kazi Sonia Rahman, Associate Seminar Director and Mr. Mosharaf Hossain Bhuyian, Assistant Director of Research Division for their sincere cooperation, and hard work.

Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, Director (Research), extended his warmest greetings, on behalf of the Research Division, BARD to the distinguished participants and Guest of Honour of the seminar. He said, BARD is used to organizing this “Research Highlights” seminar every year. He mentioned that due to the COVID pandemic, BARD had to organize this seminar with a very limited number of participants. He mentioned that this seminar is a historical event of BARD which is being practiced since the time of Dr. Khan. He said that the researchers would disseminate the research results through presentation and the experts would give their critical comments. Thus the knowledge uptake could happen and at the same time, the critical comments would help make our future research more useful and methodical; he opined. Later on, he extended his thanks to the management team for organizing this important seminar. He gave heart-felt thanks to Director General, BARD for his continuous support for the seminar.

The first and second sessions were conducted online using zoom connectivity. The first session was on “My House My Farm Project (Amar Bari Amar Khamar Project): Challenges and Potentialities” and this was chaired by Professor Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of the Britannia University, Cumilla. The second session namely “Agro-

based SMEs in Bangladesh Government Policy Strategy and Applicability of PPP” was chaired by Dr. Tapsh Kumar Biswas, Director (Research), Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). The rest four business sessions were physically chaired by the senior Faculty Members of BARD in the seminar Hall. Each of the presenters was allowed 15 minutes to present his/her summary of the research findings. The Chairperson provided 10 minutes for discussions and question-answer and finally the Chairperson used 5 minutes to sum up the whole discussions and provided his expert opinions and on the particular session. The third and the fourth sessions were chaired by Dr. Masudul Hoq Chowdhury, Director (Rural Education & Social Development) of BARD and Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Rural Economics and Management) of BARD respectively. The fifth session was chaired by Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Director (Administration) of BARD. The last session was chaired by Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director (Project) of BARD. The valedictory session was chaired by the Director General of BARD, Mr. Md. Shahjahan. In the valedictory session, Director (Administration), Director (Research) and Guest of Honour offered their comments and observations. In fine, the chairperson of this session declared closing of this one daylong seminar at BARD. In the concluding seminar Mr. Md. Shahjahan, DG, BARD informed the audience that the findings, policy recommendations and the feedback of the participants would be recorded in a seminar report published by BARD soon. He wished that the seminar report would help the policy planners to get valuable insights about the recent trends in rural development.



## Summary of the Study on Paradox and Dynamics of Women Leadership at the Grassroots Based Local Government: The Case of Union Parishad in Bangladesh

Researcher: Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Joint Director (Research), BARD

### Research Problematic

All over the world, it is evident that in pluralistic societies qualitative, meaningful, and equal political participation of both men and women is deemed the *sinequanon* of achieving social justice, and strengthening the process of democratic governance. Therefore, it is immensely necessary to strengthen women's role and their active participation in the local government of Bangladesh. Union Parishad (UP) started its functions in 1870 but until 1997 there was hardly any scope for women's representation. In a traditional society like Bangladesh, apart from huge women members, 23 women were directly elected as UP Chairpersons in the UP. But there is hardly any work with these Women Chairpersons (WCs). Against such backdrop, this research study aims to unravel the research questions: i) What factors have helped them become leaders at the community level? ii) Are there any common patterns or factors for their leadership process in the UP of Bangladesh? The specific objectives of the study are: i) to analyze the socio-economic characteristics of these Women Chairpersons (WCs), ii) To unravel the leadership process of the women leaders in the UP. The study was basically based on case study method which was substantiated by content analysis and observation method.

### Research Findings

Replying to the questions of leadership process and what factors helped women Chairpersons to become leaders, it was observed that in most of the cases, the women Chairpersons entered into political space by using their family network and dynastic political legacy, being surrogates for

their husbands or fathers or ancestors. Women's prolonged association and work experiences with NGOs helped them flourish their leadership potential; achieve social mobility, conscientization, enough practical knowledge, courage and mental strength, etc., which in turn might have helped them to form their attitude, behavior, beliefs to develop their personality and achieve some managerial capacity. The combining effects of all those above factors helped them assuming their leadership role in the community. Concerning socio-economic characteristics it was found that most women Chairpersons had better socio-economic base having better income, family status and land ownership, were married and moderately educated. The cases unearthed some common factors behind holding their leadership position in the Union Parishad. The common factors that helped these women Chairpersons becoming leaders were NGO background, political network and networks with socio-political elites, i.e. MPs and local administration. Their family support gave them a supportive base for assuming their leadership role at the grassroots level. Except one all the women Chairpersons were elected for two times which implied that playing leadership roles in the UP also helped them to be elected as leaders.

### Policy Interventions and Suggestions

• In a country like Bangladesh, women's position and status in the society are conditioned by various socio-cultural impositions such as patriarchy, purdah, religious superstitions, etc., so the role of education, science and technology can be expanded with a view to modifying

the cultural norms and practices embedded in the social milieu.

• Political parties play a critical gate-keeping role for bringing women in the leadership process. Therefore, all liberal political parties should introduce some quotas for women to be elected in political position.

• The role of women's organizations is very important for developing women's leadership at the grassroots level. Therefore in a bid to integrate the UP women leaders with national-level women's movement, women's organizations and networks should come forward to strengthen women's role and participation in the UP.

• To manage patriarchy and to strengthen women's role in the UP the reservation quota should be thoroughly reorganized. Therefore, it is necessary to raise the existing reservation quota from one third to fifty percent like the provision of the local governments of West Bengal, India. The same reservation system can be adopted in the Union Parishad in Bangladesh.

• The women leaders in the UP should be involved in those areas where they can contribute their worth to bringing positive changes in the rural governance. In such a case women's involvement and entitlement of their rights and shares should be clearly mentioned in the legal framework.

• In a bid to enlarge women's participation in political space, an inclusive reservation policy should be adopted. To enlarge the scope of women leaders, one-third of the total seats of the Chairmen should be reserved for the women Chairmen in all the Union Parishads in Bangladesh. For having more new women leaders in the UP it would be better to change both the reserved seats for women members and the Chairmen in every five years.

• To strengthen women's role and participation and to enhance their capacity and knowledge in UP governance, women leaders should be imparted rigorous and frequent training. The training programs can be designed in light of the felt need of women leaders.



## Seminar on “Impact of Corona Pandemic in Rural Economy and Society: Review of BARD’s Activities and Future Plan to Combat Covid-19” held at BARD



*Director General of BARD, Mr. Md. Shahjahan is delivering address in the Seminar on “Impact of Corona Pandemic in Rural Economy and Society: Review of BARD’s Activities and Future Plan to Combat Covid-19”*

Research Division of BARD organized a one day in-house seminar on “Impact of Corona Pandemic on Rural Economy and Society: Review of BARD’s Activities and Future Plan to Combat Covid 19” on 29 June 2020. A total of 58 participants that included the faculty members and some selected officers of BARD attended the seminar following physical distancing and maintaining hygienic measures. Seminar Director Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Joint

Director (Research), BARD; Director (Research), Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee; Director (Training), Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quader; and the Director General of BARD, Mr. Md. Shahjahan spoke in the inaugural session of the seminar. Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quader, Director (Training) welcomed the distinguished participants of this seminar. He said, this seminar was of great importance and it was very timely initiative from the Research Division of BARD.

In the inaugural speech, the Seminar Director, Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Joint Director, Research Division disclosed the context, background, objectives and *modus operandi* of the seminar activities. Following that Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, Director (Research), presented the Key note paper on the title of the seminar. After presentation of the Key note paper seven business sessions were sequentially arranged. In its wake, activities performed during the Covid-19 pandemic by the six different experimental projects of BARD were presented in six business sessions. The senior Faculty Members of BARD acted as Session Chairs in different sessions. Finally, a special session on BARD’s future plans was held. Based on this session a futuristic action plan of BARD to combat Covid 19 pandemic was prepared. Md. Shahjahan, the Director General of BARD and the Additional Secretary to the Peoples’ Republic of Bangladesh was present throughout the whole seminar. In his valedictory address he advocated the role of Research Division. He extended his heartiest thanks to the whole seminar management. He also thanked the Session Chairs, Project Directors and rapporteurs involved in different session for their respective roles and contributions.

### BARD NEWSLETTER

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### BOOK POST