

Technology Transfer and Monitoring Unit
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

**Proceedings of Inception Workshop on Improvement of Rural Agricultural
Technology Extension System in Asia (RATES) Project**

**Sub title: Dissemination and Cultivation of BARI Generated Spices Crop in Ghatail
and Dhonbari Upazilla of Tangail District with the Enhancement of Existing
Extension System.**

Chairperson : Dr. Md. Saifullah, Member Director (A & F), BARC
Time & Date : 9:30 AM, 16 August 2023
Venue : Conference Room-1, BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Participants : Annex-1

An Inception Workshop on “Improvement of the Rural Agricultural Technology Extension System in Asia (RATES)” Project took place on August 16, 2023 at Conference Room-1, BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This workshop was organized by Technology Transfer and Monitoring Unit (TTMU), BARC. Senior scientists and officers from BARC, BARI, and DAE attended the workshop. The workshop marked an important step in addressing agricultural technology extension in rural areas. The participation of distinguished professionals from various institutions underscored the significance of collaboration in advancing agricultural technology.

The workshop commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by the introduction of the participants. Dr. Md. Saifullah, Member Director, Administration and Finance Division, BARC, presided over the workshop. Dr. Suraya Parvin, Principal Investigator of the RATES Project and Principal Scientific Officer, TTMU, BARC, delivered the welcome address.

Dr. Suraya delivered a keynote presentation providing an overview of the project. In a concise manner, she highlighted the project's background, objectives, activity plan, methodology, strengths and weaknesses of extension services, proposed project locations for specific spices, details regarding soil, climate, and cropping patterns at these sites, current practices, selected spice varieties, and management technologies. Furthermore, she outlined the anticipated project outputs, emphasizing expected impacts in terms of productivity, environment, social aspects, and economics, as well as capacity development. Dr. Suraya also covered information about the baseline survey and presented budgetary details. Her presentation effectively captured the comprehensive scope of the project, addressing both its technical aspects and expected outcomes

Dr. Md. Saifullah, MD (A&F), BARC facilitated an open discussion during the workshop. Participants representing different institutes actively engaged, providing their valuable

suggestions and comments aimed at refining the project's title and work plan, ensuring its effective implementation. During the discussion, participants underscored the significance of the proposed spice varieties, emphasizing their crucial role in meeting national demand. Additionally, they recommended the inclusion of relevant data concerning the annual import of these spices from abroad in the justification section of the project.

Dr. Md. Faruk Ahamed, Chief Scientific Officer & Head, Plant Physiology Division, BARI, extended his remarks as special guest, acknowledging the valuable opinions shared by the participants. Dr. Ahamed highlighted the significance of this expert consultation in ensuring the project's alignment with its objectives and eventual goal. He expressed the viewpoint that farmer preferences and baseline data must guide the selection of varieties and management practice. Dr. Ahamed further emphasized that the event served as a crucial platform for fostering knowledge sharing and facilitating discussions aimed at enhancing the dissemination of technology.

Md. Rezaul Karim, Director, Planning, Project Implementation & ICT Wing, DAE shared his perspective noting that while the project budget is small, it possesses the potential to significantly disseminate spices technologies. He suggested that incorporating insights from the Korean extension system and other member countries of AFACI could enhance the project's effectiveness. It should be emphasized the instructions of our Honorable Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister, he opined. Furthermore, he emphasized the necessity of validating published data, focusing on profitability, minimizing yield gaps, and meeting national demand as crucial factors for successful project implementation. Mr. Karim highlighted the need for active participation of personnel from BARC, BARI, and extension services during training and learning sessions, as well as in the monitoring process. This holistic approach, he believed, would contribute to the broader impact on the agricultural landscape.

Dr. Md. Saifullah, Member Director (Administration and Finance Division) as Chairperson, highlighted the ongoing transformation of agriculture from subsistence to commercial practices. He underscored that the success of the overall food system hinges on key factors, including robust governmental commitment, technological advancements, strategic interventions, and a well-established infrastructure. Dr. Saifullah acknowledged the impressive implementation capacity of the extension organization (DAE), spanning from local unions to the central head office. This operational strength, he believed, provides a favorable trajectory for achieving the project's goals.

He added that analysis of all the gross factors, including cropping pattern/area of the existing system, demand, extension system and targeted people should be considered to implement this project. Dr. Saifullah proposed the integration of high-yielding oilseed crops (such as BARI Sharisha-18) alongside the spices crop to emphasize our national priority.



However, after a threadbare discussion, the following recommendations/suggestions provided by participants were drafted.

1. The sub project title and objectives could be refined to achieve conciseness, enhance specificity and facilitate self-explanation. Title should be “Dissemination of High Yielding Spices and Oilseed Crops with the Enhancement of Existing Extension System in Bangladesh”;
2. The existing model of Korea or any other country's AFACI project should be revisited/ compared with the current extension system in our country;
3. A high yielding oil seed crop (BARI Sarisha-18) with spices could be incorporated in that location. Data of import, production, area coverage of the selected crop should be added;
4. Project design could be rearranged to determine the yield gap between farmers field and research field;
5. Through baseline information, it is necessary to collect socio-economic data for project implementation;
6. Khamari Mobile App should be used for this project to detect suitability of these spices crop in that location;
7. No. of farmers and SAAOs have been trained under capacity development program should be mentioned;
8. Market linkage of these selected spices crop could be improved by this project;
9. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) could be followed for validation trial as the Bangladesh GAP standard is approved and available on BARC's website.

The workshop concluded with the Chair expressing gratitude to the participants through a vote of thanks.



Dr. Md. Saifullah
Member Director (A & F)
BARC