



# SAARC AGRINEWS

## SAC Celebrated 33<sup>rd</sup> SAARC Charter Day & Organized Exhibition cum Regional Seminar on Agricultural Mechanization

Vol.11, Issue 4  
October-December, 2017

### Issue Highlights

SAC Celebrated 33rd SAARC Charter Day & Organized Exhibition cum Regional Seminar on Agricultural Mechanization

Programming Committee Meeting of SAARC

Special Session of the SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (TCARD)

SAARC Regional Consultation on "Farm-made Feed for Sustainable Aquaculture Development in South Asia: opportunities, challenges and policy intervention"

BAR-FAO Training Program on "Project Planning & Implementation and Project Monitoring & Evaluation"

Tenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES X) "Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia" during 14-16 November 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal

SAC Team Participated in South-South Cooperation Forum in South Asia Program

SAC team visited NARC and IRRI, Nepal for SAC Program Development



Hon'ble Planning Minister on the dais

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister on the dais

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh in commemoration to the 33<sup>rd</sup> SAARC Charter Day and organized an Exhibition cum Regional Seminar on Agricultural Mechanization for Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka. The Charter Day celebrated with several important events like flags hoisting, release of pigeons and balloons, seminar, exhibition and release of the books published by SAC. The exhibition and morning session seminar was inaugurated by Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as the chief guest. Dr. Bhagya Rani Banik, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council was present as a special guest. Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presided over the session. Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre gave welcome remarks all dignitaries, guests and participants in the morning session of the seminar. A number of officials from NARS Institutions, BARC, FAO, Practical Action, WINROCK International, Action Aid, Asian Farmers Association, DAE, BADC, World Fish, IRRI, CIMMYT, CIRDAP, KGF who have been intimately working with SAC were also present as special invitees. Moreover, Ten (10) institutions (DAE, BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI, CIMMYT, IRRI, Janata Engineering, Alim Industries and ACI) were participated in the Exhibition on Agricultural Mechanization.

Hon'ble planning Minister remarked in the inaugural session that Bangladesh could not achieved in the first position for producing of agricultural products due to reluctant use of technology of the farmers as well as disorganized marketing system. He also informed that some policies in the agricultural sector need to be changed considering existing constraints of the sector that will be helpful to the farmer's benefit. In the technical session-1, there are four papers presented on "Agricultural Mechanization for Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture" by the different speakers from home and abroad.

#### Editor

Dr. Md. Younus Ali  
Senior Technical Officer, SAC

#### Editorial Board

Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAC  
Dr. Md. Nure Alam Siddiky, SPO (Livestock), SAC  
Ms. Fatema Nasrin Jahan, SPO (NRM), SAC

#### Graphics

Ms. sanjida Akter

#### SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)

BARC Complex, Farmgate  
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
Tel: 880-2-58153152  
Fax: 880-2-9124596

Email: [director@sac.org.bd](mailto:director@sac.org.bd)  
Website: [www.sac.org.bd](http://www.sac.org.bd)

The titles of the presentation were as follows:

- “Agricultural Mechanization: R&D in Bangladesh”, presented by Dr. Sultan Ahmmed, MD (NRM), BARC;
- “Mechanization Trend in SAARC region” presented by Dr. Prem Shanker Tiwari, Head CIAE, India;
- “Conservation Agriculture Through Farm Mechanization” made by Dr. A.D. (Jack) McHugh, Senior Scientist, Sustainable Intensification Program, CIMMYT;
- “Agricultural Mechanization Initiatives in Bangladesh” delivered by Mr. Sheikh Md. Nazimuddin, Project Director, Farm Mechanization Project, DAE.
- “Business Model for sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in South Asia”, presented by Dr. FH Ansarey, Managing Director & CEO, ACI Agribusiness, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The chairman of the technical session was Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Director, KGF.

In the afternoon session Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Dr. T.P. Tiwari, Country representative of CIMMYT-Bangladesh, Dr. Bhagya Rani Banik, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Director, Krishi Gobeshona Foundation (KGF) were present as a Special Guest. Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh presided over the afternoon session. In this session, a keynote paper was presented by Dr. Gajendra Singh, Emeritus Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre welcomed all dignitaries, guests and participants in the seminar. Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, Hon’ble Minister stated that there is no alternative of farm mechanization to increase agricultural production, productivity and to reduce the labour shortage. She also highlighted we have achieved remarkable success in the agriculture sector due to farmer friendly policy of the government. For continuation of this trend, there is no alternative of farm mechanization for increasing agricultural production, she added. Dr. Gajendra Singh, Emeritus Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand presented a keynote paper on “Mechanization of Agricultural Value Chain for Sustainable Intensification in SAARC Region” in the afternoon session. Finally, the session was ended through distribution of certificates who participates in the exhibition by the chief guest .

## Programming Committee Meeting of SAARC

The Fifty-Fourth Session of the Programming Committee (PC) meeting was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, during 11-12 December 2017. The Meeting was attended by all the Member States of SAARC countries. In accordance



Participants of the Fifty Fourth Programming Committee meeting

Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal as the current Chair of the PC meeting inaugurated the Fifty-Fourth Session. In his opening remarks, he extended a very warm welcome to all the participants of the meeting and wished a safe and comfortable stay in Kathmandu. He reiterated that in order to fulfill the objectives as enshrined in the Charter and meets the demand of our people, all SAARC mechanisms

and processes should be reenergized and expedited to make each of them more efficient, effective and result oriented. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General of SAARC and his entire team for excellent preparatory

arrangements including documentation of the Meeting. At the invitation of the Chair, H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General of SAARC delivered his remarks. In his remarks, he extended a very welcome to the distinguished delegates of the Member States and the Heads of the Specialized Bodies and SAARC Regional Centres. He briefed the Committee on the progress made since the Fifty-third Session of the Programming Committee held in

Katmandu, on 01-02 February 2017. He also thanked the Member States for extending their unflinching support and cooperation in the tenure of his responsibilities in the past three years. He concluded his remarks by wishing the meeting great success. The Committee appreciated the excellent work done by the SAARC Agriculture Centre in carrying out the proposed activities during 2017. The Committee directed that the Centre should also focus on conducting trainings/workshops other than Expert Group level activities. The below proposed need based program approved by 54 PC for SAARC Agriculture Centre in 2018.

**Name of the Program approved for 2018**



Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar, Director, offers SAC's publications to Honorable Secretary General of SAARC

**Crops**

- 1 SAARC regional consultative meeting for exchange of rice based technologies
- 2 SAARC regional training on pulse production techniques
- 3 SAARC regional training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in SAARC Member States

**Horticulture**

- 4 SAARC Regional policy dialogue on Good Agriculture Practices (GAP)
- 5 Writeshop for developing the proposal on innovation in value chain of fruits in SAARC member countries
- 6 Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on fruit processing in SAARC member countries

**Livestock**

- 7 Regional training on animal disease informatics and biostatistics
- 8 Regional training on animal feed and nutrient analysis
- 9 Regional consultation on animal genomics selection for the genetic improvement and enhancing productivity of indigenous livestock

- 10 Development of sustainable rural poultry value chain model for poverty reduction

**Fisheries**

- 11 Regional consultation on small-scale fisheries in South Asia
- 12 Regional consultation on policy framing on trans boundary fish diseases and control measures

- 13 Regional training on development of mass breeding and culture techniques of catfishes

- 14 Program on Rohu ( Labeo rohita) germplasm exchange in SAARC countries

**NRM**

- 15 Regional training on Integrated Nutrient Management for improving soil health and crop productivity
- 16 SAARC regional training on farm mechanization for sustainable intensification of agriculture in SAARC Region
- 17 Regional training on smart agricultural water management interventions for enhancing water productivity and resilience in South Asia
- 18 SAARC Outlook on NRM policies and strategies

**Priority Setting, Program Development and Policy**

- 19 Regional consultation on ICT for development of rural agriculture in South Asia: Issues, challenges, opportunities and policy concerns
- 20 Regional consultation on Women's empowerment for agriculture development in South Asia: enabling policies
- 21 Regional consultation on climate smart agricultural policies and strategies
- 22 Exposure visit of farmers on community engagement of seed sovereignty in south Asia
- 23 Regional consultation for formulation of enabling policy recommendations for popularization of innovative agricultural technologies in South Asia

## Special Session of the SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (TCARD)



Views of the special session TCARD meeting

A Special Session of the TCARD was held in Dhaka on 27 November 2017 to review the SAARC Food and Nutrition Security Framework (SFNSF) and Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) drafted under the project and four project outlines for implementing the SFNSF and SPA. The session was attended by the TCARD Members/Mission representatives of all the Member States except Afghanistan, Maldives and Pakistan. Also the project consultants, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) representative and officials of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) were presented in the meeting.

An inaugural session was held before the Technical session and attended by Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest and Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, Member Director, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) as Special Guest. The inaugural session was also attended by Ms. Ishrat Ara, Director (SAARC & BIMSTEC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAC extended his warm welcome to the Members of the TCARD and other distinguished guests attending the inaugural session. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca, Senior Policy Officer of FAO and Lead Technical Officer of the Project. He briefly apprised the meeting of the genesis of the project that was framed in line with ASEAN experience and success.

Ms. Ishrat Ara, Director (SAARC and BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh welcoming the participants from Member States (TCARD

Members), representatives from different organizations, Director of SAARC Secretariat conveyed the warm wishes for successful holding of the meeting. She mentioned that as a founding member of the SAARC process, Bangladesh is committed to the principles and objectives of SAARC. SAARC Leaders in successive Summits have emphasized on the importance of poverty alleviation and particularly the issue of food and nutrition security. ensuring food and nutrition security our concerted efforts are required specially in agricultural research and development, transfer of innovation, eco-friendly, climate change adaptive technologies strengthening institutional mechanism etc. She added connecting activities of the SAC, she wished that proposed framework will enhance our regional cooperation.

Special Guest of the meeting Dr. Golder in his remarks noted that the Government of Bangladesh achieved tremendous achievement during last couple of years with regards to food and nutrition security sector and expected that the meeting would consider the synergies with the achievement and challenges. Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Bangladesh extended warm welcome to all the distinguished members of the TCARD and wished them a very successful session. He informed that nutrition is a priority to the Government of Bangladesh and very much focused in all food related programmes. He urged the Committee to consider related aspects and nutrition related concerns of the Member States including decreasing arable land and changing food habit.

Dr.Sushil Pandey, Lead Consultant of the project presented the draft SAARC Food and Nutrition Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action. From the draft presentation, the meeting made major following comments:

- The meeting noted that it is difficult to meet the challenges by individual country but may be easier with concerted regional efforts in collaboration with development partners.
- The meeting noted that detail comments and observation would be sent through email to SAARC Secretariat with copy to Lead Consultant within a week, for incorporation with particular reference to recent development and achievement in the region.
- The meeting agreed that in addition to gender issue and capacity development aspects, climate change is required to be included as cross-cutting area.
- It was agreed that CGIAR institutions may be linked in order for FNS capacity development.
- It was agreed that the spirit of 'Leave No One

Behind' needs to be highlighted for the framework incorporating social safety net programmes. However, it was agreed that the framework may not indulge in incorporating all relevant issues beyond the capacity of the framework.

- It was suggested that community based approaches for FNS service delivery system may be highlighted instead of suitable education models. It was advised that youth engagement for sustainable agriculture may be advocated.
- For infrastructure development, public-private-partnership may be considered for agriculture mechanization.
- It was observed that the framework contains many national issued couldn't be covered under such regional framework/arrangement. It was suggested that the document may be circulated to SDG implementing authorities. It was also suggested that implementation agencies for the framework would be required to be identified for realization of the framework.

## **SAARC Regional Consultation on “Farm-made Feed for Sustainable Aquaculture Development in South Asia: opportunities, challenges and policy intervention”**

SAARC Agriculture centre (SAC) has organized a SAARC Regional consultation on 'Farm-made feeds for sustainable aquaculture development in South Asia: opportunities, challenges and policy intervention' in Kathmandu, Nepal during 10-12 October 2017. The program was jointly organized by the SAC, Dhaka and Ministry of Agricultural Development, DOA/DoFD, Nepal. Dr. Shiba Shankar Giri, Senior Program Specialist (Fisheries), SAC, Dhaka was the program coordinator and led the SAARC delegation to Kathmandu. The National Focal-point Experts of the SAARC member states, Mr. Md. Goljar Hossain of Bangladesh, Mr. Druk Pola of Bhutan, Ms. I. Rani Kumudini of India, Mr. Hussain Ahmed of Maldives, Mr. Bhagwat Prasad of Nepal, Mr. Jahan Sher Khan of Pakistan, Mr. Don Ananda Athukorala of Sri Lanka and Dr S. S. Giri of SAC were in the delegation. Mr. Baikuntha Adhikari, Program Director, Directorate of Fisheries Development, and Mr. Prabesh Singh Kunwar, Senior Fisheries Development Officer, DoFD, Nepal, respectively were the local coordinator and co-coordinator of the consultation meeting. The regional consultation was

inaugurated by the Hon'ble Ram Krishna Yadav, Minister for Agriculture Development, Nepal as the chief guest and Dr. Suroj Pokhrel, Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Dr. Baidya Nath Mahato, Executive Director, Nepal Agricultural Research Council as the special guests.

The objectives of these three day regional consultation were: to prepare an inventory of feed ingredients, their nutritive values and farm-made feed production and feeding practices followed in aquaculture in south Asian region; and to realize the importance of farm-made feeds for small-scale aquaculture and policy interventions for technological and financial support to small-scale farmers. The consultation meeting was attended by more than 30 participants from different institutions and organizations from Nepal and the SAARC member countries. In successive technical sessions, eight country status paper and many oral presentations were made on farm-made fish feeds, food-feed scenario in South Asia, aquaculture systems and sustainability issues, capacity development in fish feeds and aquaculture and policy

issues related to the theme. This was followed by separate working group discussion and policy recommendation for the SAARC Region drafted. After the seminar, the participants had occasion to visit the trout farms in Nepal on 12th October and to further continue their discussions.



Group photo of Member State participants

## BARD-FAO Training Program on Project Planning & Implementation and Project Monitoring & Evaluation



BARD-FAO jointly organized a training program on Project Planning & Implementation and Project Monitoring & Evaluation during 21-31 October 2017, in BARD, Comilla. This training is planned under the "FAO Technical Cooperation Program on strengthening the capacity of SAARC in the development, coordination and monitoring of a regional food security and nutrition framework, strategies and programs". A total of 25 participants were participated in the 10 days training program from SAC, BARC, BJRI, BADC, BRRI, BARI, BINA, BSRI, SRDI, BTRI, BLRI, BFRI, DAE, DLS, DOF and Ministry of Planning. In the inaugural session of the training program, Mr. Muhammad Maududur Rashid Safdar, DG, BARD presided over the function. Dr. Nur Ahamed Khondaker, Assistant FAO representative (program), and Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAC were

present as the guest of honor in the inaugural session of the said training program. Among others, Director Training, Course Coordinator and Assistant Course Co-coordinator who have been intimately engaging with training were also present as special invitee.

The overall objective of the training program was to acquaint the participants with the concepts, stages, techniques and management of development projects.

The specific objectives of the course are to:

i) acquaint the participants with the various concepts of development project, its context and stakeholders involved;

ii) develop knowledge and skills on formulation and implementation of bankable development projects within the specific context of Food and Nutrition Security in South Asia;

iii) familiarize the participants with the modern project appraisal, planning, monitoring & evaluation (M&E) techniques for successful project management.

The following methods were followed in conducting the course:

- **Lectures:** Lectures followed by discussions and supply of handouts/books;
- **Assigned Reading:** Relevant lectures and case studies, the participants will be given selected books

and articles to study in the library.

- **Practical/Group work sessions:** The participants will be given an outline to formulate and design a project document (e.g. Development of Project understandable of the participants. Proposals DPP/TPP, etc.) on the basis of their experiences in the training.

The major topics of this training was RBM method, logical framework, setting objectives of the project proposal, identifying problem tree, preparation of project budget, project planning, project evaluation, project monitoring etc. Most the sessions of the training program were enjoyable, informative and understandable of the participants.

## Tenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES X) “Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia” during 14-16 November 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal

The South Asia Economic Summit (SAES X) has been launched in 2008 as a premier regional platform for discussing and analyzing economic and development issues and challenges facing South Asian Countries and advancing the cause of regional integration and cooperation. SAES aims to bring together stakeholders from the government, private sector, research/academic community, and civil society to generate innovative and actionable ideas for consideration by the region’s policymakers and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Summit is expected to foster the discourse on and interest in matters of regional cooperation by providing a regular forum for candid discussions among a cross-section of stakeholders, including policymakers and parliamentarians. Five South Asian think tanks take turns to organize the annual event in one of the SAARC countries. The think tanks are: South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh; Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India; Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan; and Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka. So far, nine South Asian Economic Summits have been

successfully organized. The first Summit was organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2008 with Economic Integration in South Asia:

SAFTA and Beyond as its central theme. The second Summit was organized in New Delhi, India in 2009, with the central theme South Asia in the Context of Global Financial Meltdown. The third Summit took place in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2010 with Regional Economic Integration, Climate Change and Food Security Agenda for the Decade 2011-2020 as its core theme. The fourth Summit, organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2011, focused on Global Recovery, New Risks and Sustainable Growth: Repositioning South Asia. The fifth Summit was held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2012 with the overarching theme of Making Growth Inclusive and Sustainable in South Asia. The sixth edition of the Summit was held in Colombo with the central theme of Towards a Stronger, Dynamic, and Inclusive South Asia. New Delhi hosted the seventh Summit with the agenda Towards South Asian Economic Union. The eighth Summit was held in Islamabad with Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South Asia as its core theme. And the ninth Summit was held in Dhaka with Reimagining South Asia in 2030 as its central theme.

### The main Objective of the current tenth summit aims to

(i) identify, analyze and prioritize opportunities and challenges in relation to deepening regional economic integration to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in South Asia and

(ii) generate actionable ideas towards that end. Participants will take stock of the efforts and outcomes in the realm of regional cooperation and economic integration in the last one decade, since the launch of the SAES, and chart out the way forward to strengthen SAARC as a regional whole. The existing and potential roles of public and private sectors, and development organizations/initiatives in the region in advancing economic integration in the region will also be discussed.

In addition, the tenth Summit mainly focused with following sub-themes with plenary and parallel sessions:

- Strengthening SAARC: Creating synergies between sub-regionalism and regionalism.
- Unleashing the potential of intraregional trade and investment.
- Assessing e-trade readiness.
- Making trade inclusive and sustainable (including gender issues).

- Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: Role of private sector.
- Enhancing regional cooperation on climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.
- Harnessing the potential of regional value chains for industrialization, employment generation and structural transformation.
- Exploring the opportunities and challenges from international labour migration and remittances.
- Reimagining the governance of genetic resources and intellectual property in South Asia.
- Promoting sustainable intensification of agriculture for food and nutrition security.
- Engaging SAARC observers for advancing South Asian regional integration.
- Identifying avenues for energy cooperation.
- Strengthening trade facilitation, transit and connectivity.

### Outcome of the Summit

The organizing committee aims to document a comprehensive report of the Summit and key Recommendations will be submitted to the SAARC Secretariat. As well as, selected papers presented at the Summit will be published in a refereed book. Moreover, it is significantly help to establish networking with SAC and other development partners, private sectors and Government and non-governmental institutions in South Asia. On behalf of SAC, I had got opportunity to be a panelist of "Governance of intellectual property for plants in South Asia".



Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey attend as a panelist in the SAES X summit

## SAC Team Participated in South-South Cooperation Forum in South Asia Program

The meeting of the South-South Cooperation Forum in South Asia was held during 14-16 December 2017 at Park Village Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal. The Asian Farmers Association for sustainable Rural Development (AFA), with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO), The Secretariat of the South Asia Association for regional cooperation (SAARC) and the SAARC Agriculture Centre was organized a South-South Cooperation in South Asia: Knowledge Exchange forum on Sustainable Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and forestry for Achieving SDG 1 & 2. From SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar, Director, Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, Senior Program Specialist (NRM), Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey, Senior Program Specialist and Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Technical Officer were attended of the three days program. Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, and Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey gave a presentation in the program on the following issues:

- Sustainable Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry towards achieving SDG1 and SDG2;
- Seed Situation in SAARC : SAARC Seed Bank.

While Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar and Dr. Younus Ali were Moderator and Reporters in the program respectively. Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar also gave closing remarks in the program. Dr. S. M. Bokhtair, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre, highlighted activities of SAC and the role of SAC in research and development and dissemination of technologies. He also highlighted about need based and regular program of SAC and every year SAC is conducting this program through training and regional consultation meeting in the member state country.



Dr. Bokhtiar attends to the closing session as a special guest

### Specific objectives of the three days program:

- Share concrete examples of initiatives and from these initiatives, cull out challenges and lessons learned in (a) promoting sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry;
- Strengthening the role of women and youth in promoting sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry in their countries;
- Identify some key factors of success from the experiences shared,
- Outline some ways forward to continue multi stakeholder process of dialogue and networking for the common pursuit of promoting sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry in their countries.

## SAC team visited NARC and IRRI of Nepal for Program Development

Immediately after the South-South Co-operation Forum in South Asia Program “Promoting Sustainable Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry to achieve SDG 1 and SDG 2” during 14-16 December 2017 in Village Park Hotel, Nepal, Dr. SM Bokhtiar, Director, SAC and

Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, SPS (NRM), SAC, Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey, SPS (Crops) and Dr. Md. Younus Ali, STO visited the following institutions with the objective was to share SAC activities, future collaboration work and program development.



Meeting between ED NARC and SAC tem held on 17 December,17



Director Hand over SAC publications to ED, NARC

## Nepal Agriculture Research Council

Before the presentation of SAC, ED NARC made welcome remarks to SAC Team and other distinguished guests in the meeting. Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey Gave a presentation on “ Overview of SAARC Agriculture centre” in the meeting. The detail discuss were made for future coloboration work with NARC. The following issues were discussed and agreed:

- Make joint agreement to exchange germplasms by involving three or four Member States of SAARC as requested of ED NARC;
- Establish a regional network of Nepal Agriculture Research Council for exchange of information and knowledge;
- Execute MOU between the BARC/ SAC and NARC proposed by Director SAC to exchange proven technology and information;
- Strengthening cooperation in terms of submission of article to SAC journal in the future and Director welcomed in the meeting to submit paper to SAC Journal again.



View of the meeting with IRRI

### International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Meeting with Director, International Rice Research Institute – discussed about the possibility for SAC and IRRI collaboration on sustainable agricultural in the region. Dr. Shaba Prasad Tripathi, Senior Associate Scientist gave a presentation focusing on IRRI’s activities in Neapl. The Following issues were discussed and agreed:

- Discuss with IRRI about climate resilient rice Varities in Nepal;
- Establish a regional network of IRRI for exchange of information and knowledge.