



SAARC Regional Consultation on Development of Aquaculture for Commercially Important Finfishes in South Asia

SAARC Agriculture centre (SAC) organized a SAARC Regional Consultation on 'Development of aquaculture for commercially important finfishes in South Asia' in Colombo, Sri Lanka during 26-28 March 2019. The program was jointly organized by the SAC, Dhaka and National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA), Sri Lanka. Shiba Shankar Giri, Senior Program Specialist (Fisheries), SAC, Dhaka was the Program Coordinator and led the SAARC delegation to Colombo. Dr (Mrs) J. M. Ashoka, NAQDA was the local coordinator of the consultation meeting.

The consultation meeting was graced by the Honorable Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Mr. K.D.S. Ruwanchandra, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development, and Mr. N. P. Madawan Arachchi, Chairman, NAQDA.



Dr. Giri hand over the crest to Chief Guest

Issue Highlights

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Editor
Dr. Md. Younus Ali
Senior Technical Officer, SAC

Editorial Board
Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAC
Dr. Nasreen Sultana SPS (Horticulture)
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
Website: www.sac.org.bd

Objectives:

- a) Identification/listing of the commercially important cultivable finishes of South Asia, those are of high market demand and export potential.
- b) Review the research and development needs for sustainable finfish aquaculture Development in the SAARC countries.
- c) Coordination of the regional research, extension and training activities to assist the Development of sustainable finfish culture in South Asia.

Recommendations:

Policy

- a. Spatial planning and zoning to keep aquaculture within the surrounding ecosystem's carrying capacity and to lessen conflicts over resource uses
- b. Development and promotion of cooperative system to facilitate inputs and to lift the products from the finfish aquaculture site
- c. Introduction of aquaculture insurance program that provides coverage for losses and damages
- d. Networking and collaboration for capacity building between research and development institutions among regional, international and donor country research centres.

Trade

- e. Policy guidelines involving the participation of the private sector in aquaculture researches, in all aspects from production to trade.
- f. Establish procedures to undertake appropriate environmental impact assessment and monitoring to minimize adverse ecological changes due to aquaculture
- g. Development of SAARC regional BMP, standards for fish and fish products, farm-based Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) food safety systems and mechanisms to enable product traceability.

- h. Processing and value addition of aquaculture products for export as well as local market
- i. Maintain and promote security of access to international trade, and proactive measures to avoid tariff and non-tariff trade restrictions

Social issue

- j. Empowering communities and strengthening community participation in aquaculture and its management
- k. Introducing incentives to reward sustainability through access to training, water supply, wastewater treatment, low-interest loans and tax exemptions to small and marginal farmers

Environment

- l. Regulatory to protect biodiversity in SAARC regional water bodies from irresponsible aquaculture practices
- m. Leverage the latest information technology (ICT) in aquaculture
- n. Vulnerable species may be identified and prioritized for conservation
- o. Expansion of the farming of fish species of lower trophic level, least water exchange systems, use of SPF and SPR strains and other management options to adapt to climate change impacts
- p. Moving towards reduction of carbon foot print in aquaculture
- q. Zone-wise commercially valuable stress tolerant species may be identified and cultured for better adaptation to climate change impacts
- r. Integration of aquaculture, livestock, agriculture and other production systems or ecosystem management activities
- s. Promote locally available resources in aquaculture to reduce production cost

Dr. Pandey, SPS (Crops) Participated the ISARC (IRRI South Asian Regional Centre) Coordination Committee Meeting

As agreed on the first Coordination Committee Meeting of IRRI South Asia Regional Centre, Varanasi (ISARC) on 15 December 2017, the Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) should be co-opted as a member of the ISARC to represent the interest of the other SAARC Member States. On behalf of Director, SAC, Dr Pradyumna Raj Pandey, Senior Program Specialist (Crops) has attend the Second Coordination committee meeting of ISARC, which was held on 26th March 2019 at ISARC complex, Varanasi, India.

Objectives:

- i. Provide advice on opportunities and mechanisms for optimizing collaboration with SAC and SAARC member states
- ii. Assist IRRI-SARC to optimize the training and capacity building activities to be conducted by the Centre, with particular reference to training and capacity building across SAARC and Africa.
- iii. Provide recommendations regarding policy and strategic directions for rice research relevant to IRRI-SARC and new opportunities for investment, partnership, and enhanced performance of all SAARC countries, resulting from the research and training activities of IRRI-SARC. The twelve committee members (see Annex 1) were presented and deliberated their views on the agenda items. As a Chairperson of the ICC meeting, Dr. Matthew Morell, DG-IRRI explained mandates of ISARC and ICC. He acknowledged strong support from DOA&FW and SAARC Member States at every step. At the second steps, presentation was made by Dr. Arvind Kumar, Director, ISARC & Convener, ICC set out the meeting agenda (see Annex 2), objectives, structure and activities of IRRI-South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC). The committee noted the information and endorsed it. As a representative of SAC and member of ICC, Dr Pradyumna Raj Pandey expressed following views and proposed following agenda for the joint partnership with ISARC.

1. He expressed sincere gratitude to IRRI South Asia Centre and the member of first Coordination Committee meeting of ISARC, which was held in New Delhi, India on 15 December 2017, co-opted SAC as a member of the ISARC Coordination Committee to represent interests of the other SAARC member states.
2. He briefed about the jointly conducted program with ISARC, named as “SAARC Regional Consultative Meeting for Exchange of Rice-Based Production and Value Chain Development Technologies in SAARC Member” in different parts of India in the year 2018.
3. SAC is willing to facilitate and partnering the “Seed without Border” program with IRRI and other interested CG centers. He expressed the sincere thanks to IRRI for taking initiation and efforts made so far. As a subsequent to the approval by the 56th Programming Committee Meeting has planned to organize the Regional Consultative Meeting for “Seed without Border” in the SAARC Member States with ISARC with in this year 2019.
4. SAC is willing to organize “International Seed Fair 2019” in Dhaka, Bangladesh in collaboration with ISARC and Government of Bangladesh.
5. SAC is willing to conduct the joint training program on Rice value chain development and rice quality production technology for scientists of SAARC Member States.
6. SAC is interested to collaborate, SAARC PhD program with ISARC by exchange of students as an internship program, use laboratory facilities, etc.
7. SAC is willing to propose the joint programs on ICT in rice production, stress tolerant and value chain development technologies in South Asia.

Recommendations

Strong partnership and exchange of technologies and other development activities with ISARC and other interested CG centers would be a milestone for the holistic development of South Asia.

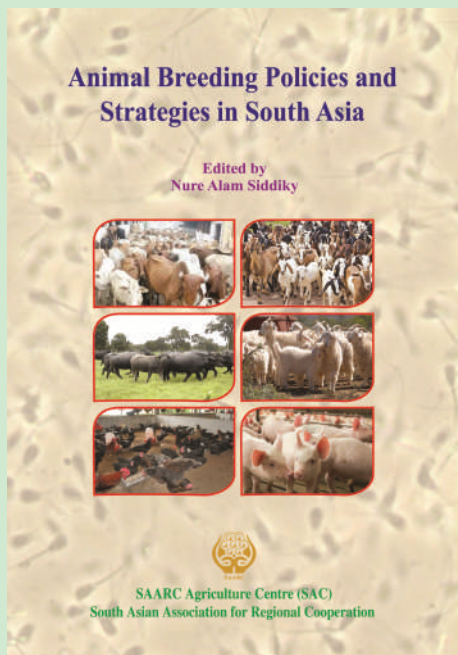


Dr. Pandey with high officials of IRRI



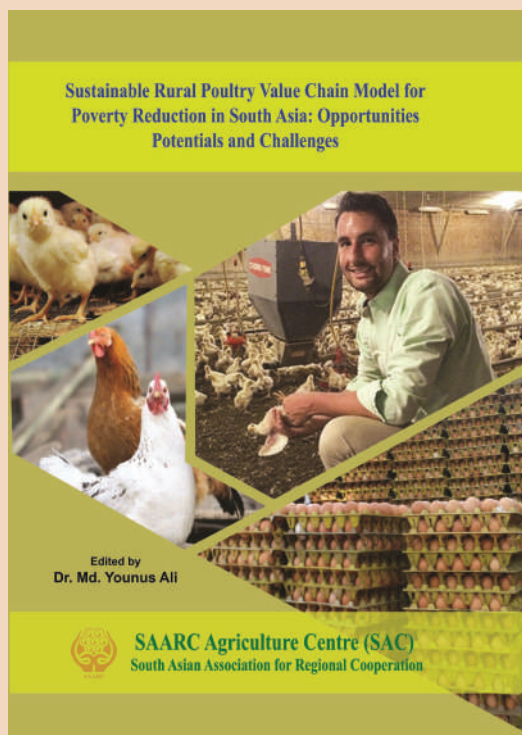
Dr. Pandey visits the lab of IRRI

SAC Publication 2018



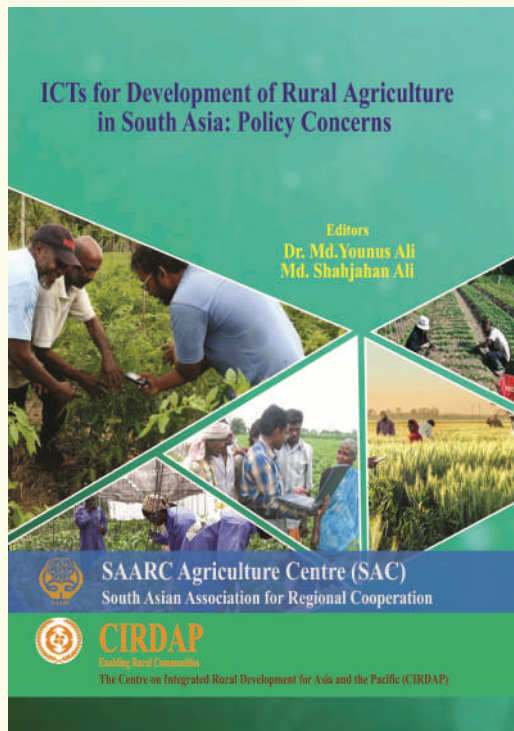
Animal Breeding Policies and Strategies in South Asia:

The book is the compilation of the country status reports. The book shares the information on animal breeding policies and strategies aiming to improve genetic potential of indigenous animals through insemination with superior quality elite local germplasm. The publication may be useful of the professionals, Academia, Scientists and Extension Workers for the future planning.



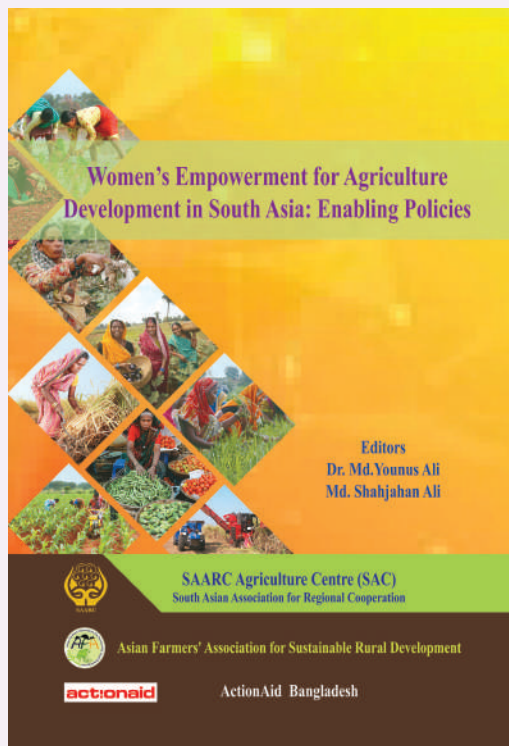
Sustainable Rural Poultry Value Chain Model for Poverty Reduction in South Asia: Opportunities, Potentials and Challenges:

The book is the compilation of the country status report of Seven Member Countries of SAARC. The book shares the information on poultry value chain map, opportunity, constraints and backward forward linkages of the rural poultry chain. The main objective of the program was to strengthen poultry value chain linkage. The book may helpful for the Researchers, Academia and Extension Workers to improve the livelihood status of the poor.



SICTs for Development of Rural Agriculture in South Asia: Policy Concern:

The ICTs book shares the information on challenges and opportunities to use ICTs in agriculture, different APPs for ICTs and policies in ICTs for agriculture. The book would be helpful for the researchers, academia, professional and extension workers for the future endeavours in the SAARC Region for using ICTs in agriculture.

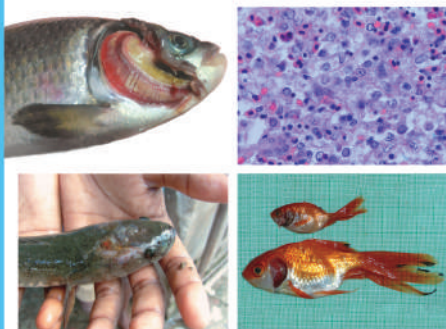


Women's Empowerment for Agriculture Development in South Asia:

Enabling Polices: The publication is the compilation report of SAARC Member Countries Experts which has potential significant to empower women in agriculture. The publication is a comprehensive overview of women policies in agriculture with gender policy gap. The book shares the information on the country status about women in agriculture aiming to analyze the gender related concerns in the agriculture in South Asia. The publication would be helpful of the researchers, academia, professionals and Scientists for taking related program in the future.

Policy Framing for Control of Transboundary Aquatic Animal Diseases

Edited by
Shiba Shankar Giri

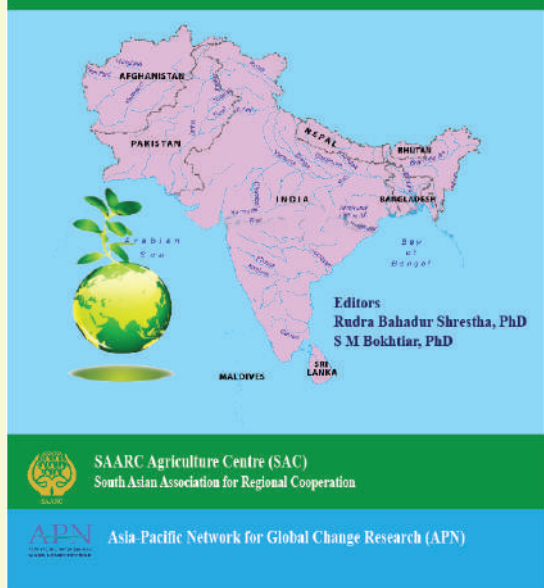


SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

Policy Framing for Control of Transboundary Aquatic Animal Diseases:

The book is the compilation of the SAARC Member Countries report which shares the information on fish and crustacean diseases, quarantine, surveillance, monitoring, diagnosis and research aiming to identify human resource development needs for capacity building in managing research related to transboundary aquatic diseases. The book would be helpful for the professionals, researchers and scientists for formulation of new development project.

Climate Smart Agriculture Strategies to Respond Climate Change in South Asia



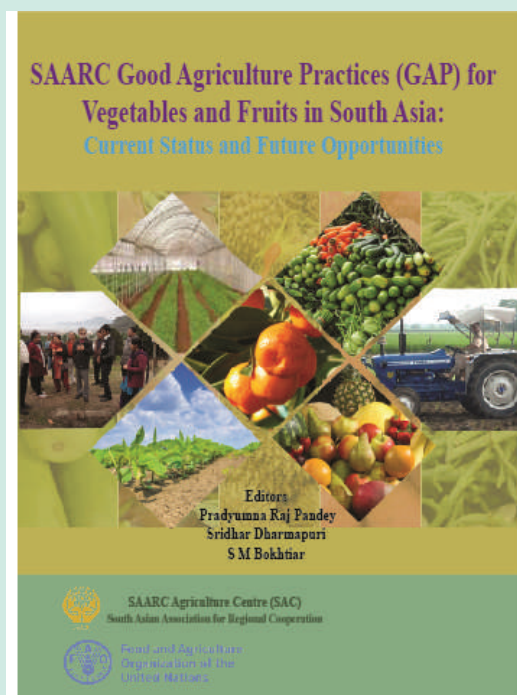
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Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

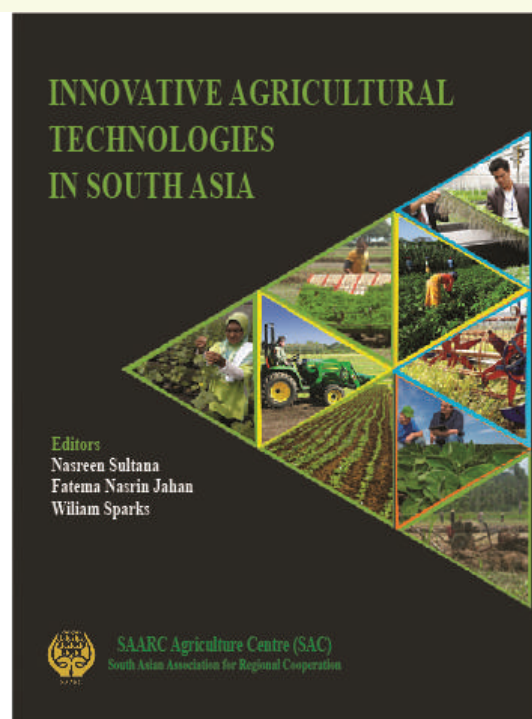
Climate Smart Agriculture: Strategies to Respond Climate Change in South Asia:

The publication is the compilation report of SAARC Member Countries Experts which has potential significant of climate smart agriculture. The book shares the information on the country status about climate smart agriculture aiming to promote common understandings of climate change impact on agriculture. The publication would be helpful of the researchers, academia, professionals and Scientists for taking related program in the future.



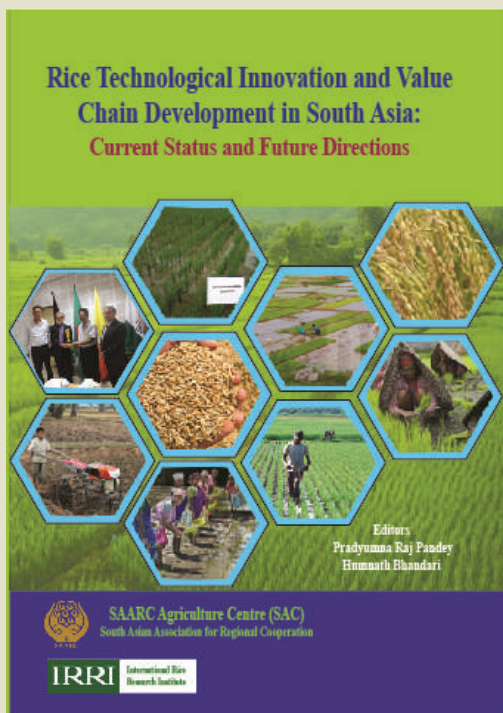
SAARC Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Vegetables and Fruits in South Asia: Current Status and Future Opportunities:

The book is the compilation of the country status report of Seven Member Countries of SAARC. The main objective of the program was to promote standards and harmonization of country specific GAP for SAARC Member Countries. The book may helpful for the Researchers, Academia and Extension Workers to improve the livelihood status of the poor.



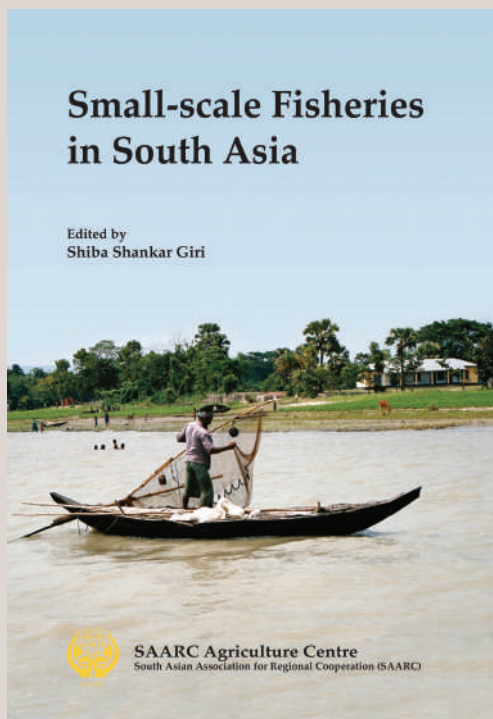
Innovative Agricultural Technologies in South Asia:

The book is the compilation of the country status report of Six Member Countries of SAARC. The main objective of the program was to identify innovative agricultural technologies. The book shares the information on the country status about the innovative and proven technologies. The book may helpful for the Researchers, Academia and Extension Workers to improve the livelihood status of the poor.



Rice Technological Innovation and Value Chain Development in South Asia: Current Status and Future Directions

The book is the compilation of the country status report of Seven Member Countries of SAARC. The main objective of the program was to promote exchange of high yielding climate resilient varieties and technologies (CRVTs) among the SAARC Countries. The book may be helpful for the Researchers, Academia and Extension Workers to improve the livelihood status of the poor.



Small-scale Fisheries in South Asia

The book is the compilation of the SAARC Member Countries report. The main objective of the program was to understand the socio-geographic background and present status of small-scale fishery and fishers in South Asia. The book would be helpful for the professionals, researchers and scientists for formulation of new development project.

SAC participated the Omor Ekushey Boi Mela 2019



The SAARC Agriculture Centre participated the 21st February Book Fair 2019 At Bangla Academy premises, Dhaka organized by Bangla Academy. Around 300 visitors visited the SAC stall. SAC displayed around 200 publications on agriculture, livestock, Fisheries, Natural resources Management, Crops and horticulture aiming at sharing knowledge and information among the mass people. SAC is interested to sell some publications to visitors. Total around BDT 80000 is sold from different books of SAC.

New Professional Joined in SAC



Dr. Rudra Bahadur Shrestha has started his work in the SAARC Agriculture Center, Dhaka as a Senior Program Specialist (Priority Setting and Program Development) since January, 2019. He is taking charge for developing agricultural policy and program framework (for short-term, medium-term, and long-term), priority setting, and explore scope of joint cooperation in different fields of agriculture and related disciplines with development partners. Dr. Rudra holds his PhD in Agricultural Economics from the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan in 2015, and Master's degree in the same discipline from the University of Philippines Los Banos, Philippines in 2009. He has 20 years of professional experiences working in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the Government of Nepal, as the capacity of Senior Agricultural Economist, responsible for formulating agricultural policies and programs; project development, implementing, monitoring and evaluation; agribusiness promotion- marketing and trade; and coordination with development partners (for example, UNDP, FAO, IRRI, CIMMYT, USAID, SDC, JICA, KOICA, WB, ADB, IFAD, etc.) for achieving significant outcomes of the projects. Furthermore, he is involved as Visiting Professor for agricultural economics, agriculture trade and policies, agribusiness and competitiveness, project management and strategic management in national and international universities; and also served as Secretary-General for Nepal Agricultural Economics Society. Dr. Rudra conducts various research works and has published over dozens of papers in peer reviewed international journals in his field.