

ANNUAL REPORT

1994 - 95



SAARC

SAARC AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION CENTRE (SAIC)

ANNUAL REPORT

1994-1995



SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC)

**BARC Campus, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215
Bangladesh**

SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC)
BARC Campus, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

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Preface

The SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) started functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh from January 1989. The SAIC is the first regional institution of SAARC. Agriculture being the life-blood of SAARC Countries, was given priority by the Member States. The main objective was sharing information mutually for the advancement of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and allied disciplines. The problems and prospects of agriculture and ecology of the SAARC States are more or less the same. United by same geographical boundaries and historical ties, sharing of common experience shall be mutually helpful for all. The teeming millions of the region should be well fed and well clad and march for further progress for the achievement of a common desired goal--self-sufficiency in all areas of national arenas. Common efforts and mutual transfer of technologies shall enhance the onward march towards prosperity and peace.

Information plays a most vital role in the process. Hence the SAIC was established for a common venture. The effort has gained substantial achievement and desires to have better prospects in future. Constraints are many but not invincible.

Progress report of the last few years throws light on the past activities. This may act as guide to the future for better co-ordination and more effectiveness. Let us hope for a better future through more friendly cooperation and sincere efforts.

Dr M Zahangir Kabir
Director, SAIC



SAIC is housed in AIC Building of BARC

The Genesis of SAIC

Most of the South Asian countries are primarily agricultural. Their economy is also based largely on agriculture. The World Bank statistics of 1995 clearly bear out the above proposition, and attribute rural poverty in these countries to poor agricultural productivity.

The GDP shares of agriculture sectors of the SAARC countries (1995) are: Bangladesh-30%; Bhutan-45%; India-31%; Nepal-45%; Pakistan-25% and Sri Lanka-25% against the shares of industrial sectors that stand thus: Bangladesh-14%; Bhutan-25%; India-29%; Nepal-14%; Pakistan-24% and Sri Lanka-26%.

The labour force engaged in agricultural sector (1995) in SAARC countries are: Bangladesh-65.5%; Bhutan-90%; India-63.2%; Nepal-91.7%; Pakistan-47.4%, Sri Lanka-49.1%; and SAARC average-67.8%.

The above statistics clearly indicate the fact that increase of agricultural productivity is one of the main key to poverty alleviation in SAARC countries. Therefore, the stimulating factor in economic growth is agricultural production. These factors conclusively indicate that utmost priority is set for improvement of agriculture in SAARC countries. The first and foremost aid to agricultural development is "information". Sound information infrastructure is thus essential for agricultural research, education and extension.

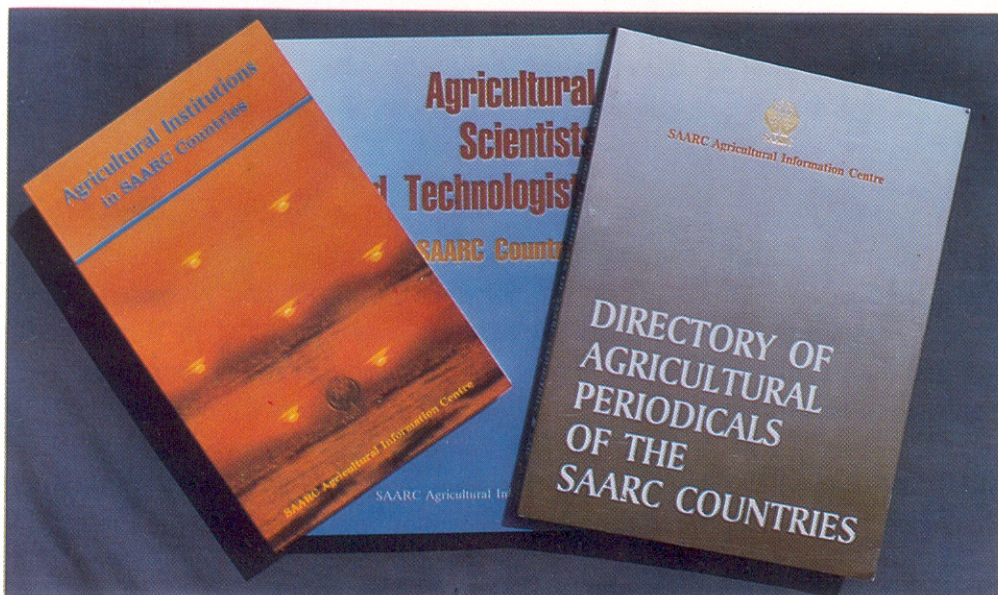
The SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture (TCA) underscored the need for a regional information system effective for promotion of cooperation in the field of agriculture among the Member Countries and proposed to the SAARC Standing Committee for establishment of the SAIC in Bangladesh. The Standing Committee, in its Sixth Session, approved the proposal and sent it, with their recommendations, to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

The Council of Ministers in its First Session, held in Dhaka on 12-13 August 1986 accepted the recommendations of the Standing Committee and declared in the Joint Communique issued at the conclusion of the First Session that SAIC would be established in Bangladesh. The Centre has been functioning since January 1989 in the premises of Agricultural Information Centre (AIC)

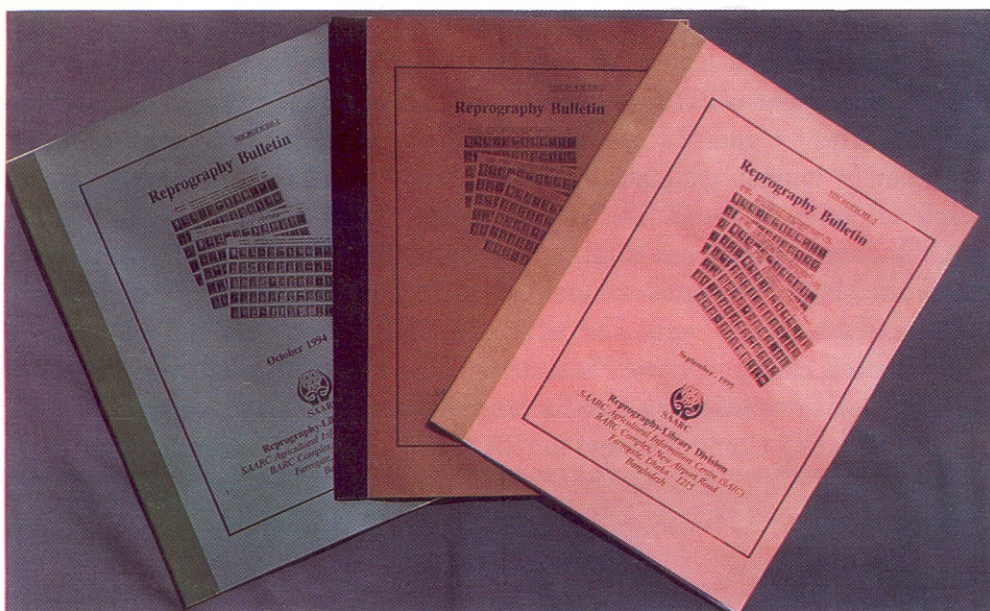
of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council located at New Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215 in Bangladesh.

Objectives of SAIC :

- (a) Establish regional information network on agricultural and allied discipline.
- (b) Identify and document agricultural and pertinent literature
- (c) Identify user-specific formats for information storage and dissemination
- (d) Compile directories, bibliographies etc. of regional importance
- (e) Produce and collect audiovisual media products (microfilm, microfiche, video film etc.)
- (f) Render selective dissemination of information and current awareness services
- (g) Organize training on information/communication sciences
- (h) Function as the regional information centre for South Asia
- (i) Establish linkages with international information networks like AGRIS, CARIS, CABI etc.



Compilation of agriculture related Directories is one of the activities of SAIC



Microprocessing of agriculture related documents is another activity of SAIC

Broad Functions of SAIC

- (i) Collect information on current agricultural literature, on-going research and development projects, research and development institutions, education and training opportunities and resource persons in various fields of agriculture through the Member Countries Focal Points in the network.
- (ii) Select, analyse and process regional agricultural documents useful to regional users.
- (iii) Provide access to these documents for users of the region.
- (iv) Produce bibliographies, directories etc. to regional importance.
- (v) Provide selective dissemination of information, copies of documents, microfiche of non-conventional (or published) literature generated in the region.
- (vi) Organize and provide training on information sciences to the personnel of Member Countries.
- (vii) Function as the Regional Centre of South Asia and have access to the International Information Systems, such as AGRIS, CARIS, CABI, etc. and other regional agricultural information systems such as AIBA, FADINAP-NAFIS etc.

Governing Board

A Governing Board (GB) composed of eminent information personalities from each Member Country formulates policy matters, approves projects, recommends budget estimates, monitors and evaluates administrative and overall activities of SAIC. The Governing Board is the apex body to oversee SAIC functions. The Board is headed by a Chairman nominated for a two-year term from Member Countries by alphabetical rotation. The Governing Board meets at least once a year and may meet more frequently if required. A representative of the SAARC Secretariat also attends the Governing Board meeting. Decisions taken by the Governing Board have to be approved by the SAARC Standing Committee and the SAARC Council of Ministers.

Director

The Director of the Agricultural Information Centre (AIC) of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) is concurrently the Director of SAIC. The Director is the Chief Executive of SAIC in respect of administration, finance, organization, planning, implementation and evaluation. The Director oversees the functions of the administrative, financial and programme divisions of SAIC, activities of the Deputy Directors, professionals and other support services staff of SAIC. The Director is the Member-Secretary of the Governing Board. The Director submits annual report to the Governing Board in respect of SAIC activities.



SAIC Director needs to maintain better working relations with the concerned institutions for sustained flow of information

The Director prepares annual budget estimates, agenda and working papers for the meetings of the Governing Board and the Focal Points, writes down proceedings of these meetings, and circulates among the members.

Deputy Directors and Professionals

The Deputy Directors and professionals perform the programmes of SAIC. The Deputy Directors are responsible for assignment of duties and activities of other professionals working under their direct supervision. Their status and immunities are equivalent to the first Secretaries of the High Commissions/ Embassies of the SAARC Member Countries based at Dhaka.



SAIC Focal Point Members require to meet for better interactions

SAIC Focal Points

The national agricultural information centres of Member Countries are the Focal Points of SAIC. Besides direct contacts, SAIC interacts with the Focal Points in respect of inputs and data for its projects. The Focal Points help

SAIC in collection of documents, publications, databases and pertinent information on national activities of Member Countries as per regional requirements. The Focal Points also suggest SAIC to plan projects, infuse new ideas, review past achievements and counsel better techniques.

Programme Divisions

SAIC has four programme divisions, i.e., Information Division, Computer Division, Publication Division and Library and Reprography Division. Each division is headed by a Deputy Director who is assisted by a Specialist and a number of General Services Staff. The programmes of SAIC are undertaken to serve the common requirements of the Member Countries for mutual benefits. The programmes executed by the four divisions and their respective responsibilities are briefly stated here :

Information Division

Information Division designs and develops information systems and services to meet the information needs of SAARC Countries in agriculture and allied disciplines. It processes, repackages and disseminates information collected from all possible sources for expeditious retrieval in the computer as well as in hard copy. Its future plan is to have information network among SAARC Member Countries.



Publishing of relevant data and information materials is another activity of SAIC

Publication Division

The Division is entrusted with the responsibility of editing and publishing all SAIC outputs. In addition to these, it has been publishing a quarterly SAIC Newsletter covering recent SAIC activities and upto-date useful information relating to agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries of the SAARC region.

Computer Division

Computer Division renders its services to all of the Divisions, especially to the Information Division in creating databases on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and allied disciplines on national, regional and international basis. Databases of all SAIC projects are preserved in the SAIC Computers for future updating and revision. Computer hardware, software and other accessories have been purchased and installed. All the divisions of SAIC now have been networked under a common server using Local Area Network.



Partial view of SAIC Computer Lab

Library and Reprography Division

SAIC does not have a conventional library. All materials are stored and are available in reprographic forms. The major task of the Library Division is procurement and processing of all available agricultural information materials. The Division also envisage to establish exchange programme with Libraries/Institutions concerned with agriculture and allied disciplines of the Member Countries to develop SAIC as a strong Resource Centre for meeting the information needs of the region.

Besides these, financial and support services affairs of SAIC are looked after by Finance and Support Services sections under direct supervision of the Director.



SAIC Reprography staff is seen checking microforms

Funding of SAIC

As host country, Bangladesh provides capital costs and other infrastructural facilities, such as accommodation, furniture, equipment etc. Institutional and programme costs are shared by all the Member States according to SAARC apportion formula. SAIC budgetary estimates and projects are recommended by the SAIC Governing Board for approval of the Technical Committee on Agriculture. The TCA recommends SAIC projects and budgets for sanction by the SAARC Standing Committee consisting of the Foreign Secretaries of the Member States. The Standing Committee sanctions the budget estimates and approves project proposals and the Council of Ministers authorises SAIC for realization of funds from Member States, incurring expenditures and implementing projects and programmes.

Appointments and Salaries

Deputy Directors and professionals are appointed by the Governing Board from among the Member States with a fair degree of regional representation. Living, medical, house-rent allowances, furniture-grant and one-time home leave passage of the Deputy Directors and Professionals are borne by SAIC. The amounts of allowances are, on the average, equivalent to that of First Secretaries of the High Commissions/Embassies of SAARC Member States in Bangladesh. The tenure of service of the Deputy Directors and Professionals is for a period of three years.

The General Services Staff (GSS) are appointed by the Director from among the nationals of Bangladesh as per host country practices. The emoluments of the GSS are fixed as per the host country practices, and specifically as of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

Completed Programmes

During the period under report SAIC undertook its maiden programmes, some of which have been completed successfully. These are:

1. Database on Potato

Potato is considered as an important supplementary and complementary food item in the SAARC Region. SAIC has established a database on potato containing over 2000 citations from 1975 to 1990. This database has also been circulated to all Focal Points and relevant institutions of SAARC Countries. Moreover, information on potato research carried out in India from 1935 to 1990 is also included in this database.

2. Database on Fish Diseases in the SAARC Region

Recently fish diseases have become an acute problem in the South East Asian region. SAIC has established a database on Fish Diseases in the SAARC region for convenience of research work of the fishery scientists of SAARC Member Countries.

3. Database on Agricultural Biotechnology in SAARC Countries

Role of scientific information is becoming increasingly important in the modern context of technological revolution. Availability and accessibility of requisite information is an important facility and its timely absence is irreparable loss. Agricultural information is key for more production and sustainable agriculture. It is more valuable for countries which have to depend more on agricultural production for their socio-economic development. Modern Biotechnology which covers recently developed technologies like **cell culture, tissue culture, embryo culture** techniques, **recombinant DNA technology** etc. is a priority area of research. The new technologies so developed need to be implemented which have the potentiality to bring further revolution in agriculture.

One of the objectives of SAIC is to collect, coordinate, process and disseminate useful information to the farm scientists community of SAARC Countries for their mutual sharing and benefits. In conformity of this the SAIC have brought out Database on Agricultural Biotechnology in SAARC Countries. This database covers valuable information on agricultural biotechnology which would not only accelerate further search in this field but may help in taking these technologies from lab to land for the benefit of the end users. This database is also available in computer retrievable format.



SAIC's published bibliographical databases

4. Database on Post-harvest Technology in SAARC Countries

Importance of Post-harvest technology can hardly be overemphasised in the present context of high agricultural production. Production technology alone can not serve ultimate objective unless it is supplemented by processing, distribution, marketing and consumption technologies. SAARC Countries, of course, have made significant contributions in agricultural research as a whole but there are still such areas which need more attention and priority. Cost effective post-harvest technology is one of them.

In practice, even the accepted technologies are not being utilized due to various reasons. One of them is lack of awareness and absence of well established information network. With the facts in view SAIC has compiled and published a database on Post-harvest which brings together research output from SAARC Countries to bridge this gap.

This would not only create awareness of the technologies so far developed but may prove important source of technology transfer and appropriate use particularly among SAARC Countries. The database is also available in computer retrievable format.



SAIC professionals and officers alongwith visitor are seen looking at data entry activity by computer staff

On-going Programmes

During the period under report the progress of on-going programmes were as following :

SAIC Newsletter

SAIC brought out the SAIC Newsletter Vol. 4 Nos. 3,4 and Vol. 5 Nos. 1 and 2 during the period under report and distributed them among the Focal Points and other institutions in SAARC countries. The senior scientists and extension professionals working in different agricultural systems in SAARC countries are included in the SAIC Newsletter's mailing list. SAIC receives feedback of this newsletter from the readers. The SAIC Newsletter caters to South Asian agricultural information needs.



SAIC Newsletter is considered as an important channel of dissemination of information

Updating of Directory of Agricultural Institutions in SAARC Countries

The work of updating of the Directory of Agricultural Institutions in SAARC Countries has already been initiated. Nearly 300 new institutions are going to be included in this Directory alongwith updated information of already listed institutions in the earlier edition.

Study of Existing Computer Based Agricultural Information Systems and Services in SAARC Countries

So far sixty-one filled in questionnaires have been received (60 from India and 1 from Pakistan). These information have been entered in the computer for database. Reminders were sent to the SAIC Focal Points in the Member Countries for expeditious flow of required information for this programme.

SAIC Annual Report 1994-95

As per decision of the 8th Meeting of the Governing Board a Progress Report of SAIC for the period of 1989 to December 1994 was prepared and published. Later Annual Report of SAIC for the fiscal period of 1994-95 has also been compiled and published. The Progress Reports were distributed to the relevant institutions in the SAARC Member Countries.

Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)

SAIC has prioritised Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services i.e. preparation of selective bibliographies which are all of current interest and importance to the SAARC Member Countries. Databases on Livestock Production and Management and Renewable Energy Resources are under way.



SAIC Director, professionals and visitor are seen discussing programme related matters



Directors of SAIC and SAARC Secretariat alongwith Chairman of SAIC GB are seen discussing programme aspects in Governing Board Meeting

Acquisition of Books, Journals, Annual Reports etc. Produced in the SAARC Countries

Concerted efforts have been taken to acquire conventional and non-conventional publications like books, journals, annual reports etc., on agriculture and allied fields produced in the SAARC Countries and to preserve them in microforms for future reference and to facilitate developing a strong document delivery service to the indenting institutions and individual scientists. A number of such documents have been procured during the period under report.

Updating of Directory of Agricultural Periodicals Published in SAARC Countries

Arrangements were made to procure information on all relevant agricultural periodicals published in SAARC Countries. An updated version of the already existing Directory of Agricultural Periodicals will be published and be distributed in the SAARC Countries. Many of the new titles have come up. It will have all primary, secondary and tertiary periodicals in the field with their location in respective SAARC Member Countries.

Directory of On-going Research Projects in SAARC Member Countries

The agricultural universities, research organizations undertake valuable research programmes for the development of agriculture and allied disciplines. It is essential that the scientists, policy makers, planners and executors be aware of these research programmes for mutual exchange of ideas, benefit and linkage. SAIC has, therefore, prepared a database on "Directory of On-going Research Programmes in SAARC Countries." Relevant data were collected, checked and entered in the database. The compilation and editing were in progress.

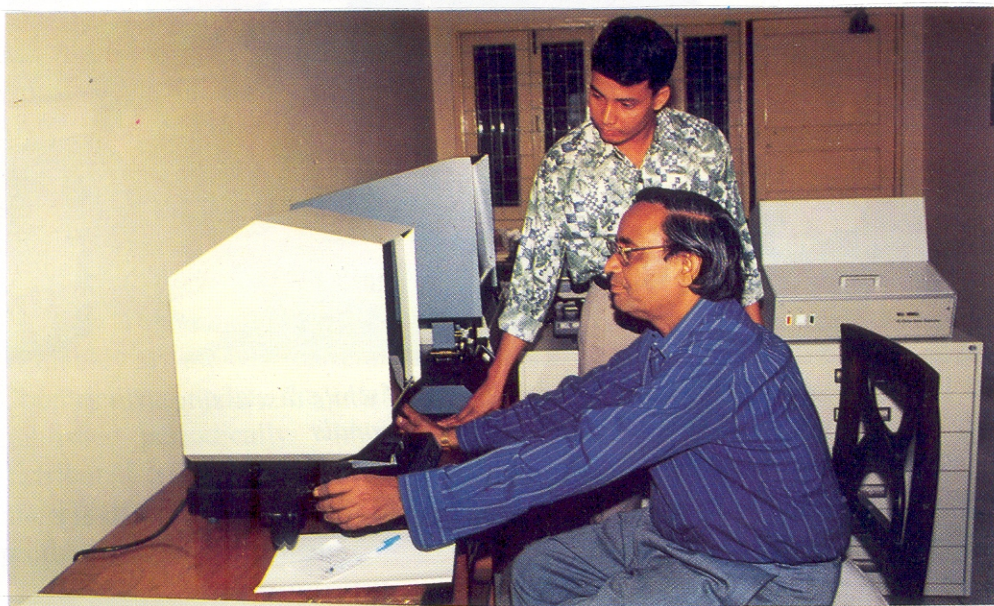
Improved Farm Implements Currently Used in the SAARC Countries

SAIC has prioritized compilation of a directory of improved farm implements currently used in the SAARC countries. This will open up new vistas for selection and fabrication of efficient, durable and low-cost equipment for the farmers of the SAARC region. The scientists will also get to know information on different machinery in the field of agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forestry.



SAIC officers and staff are seen working in Computer Lab

About 150 information have been received from the concerned institutions of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. These information were entered in computer and processed for publication.



Professional and staff are seen working in Reprography Lab

Procurement and Processing of Non-conventional Agricultural Information Materials

Non-conventional materials like Proceedings of Counterpart Scientists' Meetings of SAARC Member Countries, theses, research reports, proceedings of conferences, workshops and seminars are most important tools for applied research, especially in agricultural sciences. These being non-commercial items, are not published, and as such are not easily accessible to the agricultural researchers. SAIC, therefore, has undertaken a programme to procure such materials and prepare and preserve these materials in microfiche and microfilm forms. SAIC has so far microfiched 150 non-conventional materials like M.Sc., Ph.D. theses as well as reports, proceedings of the workshops/seminars and scientists' meetings. These were distributed to all Focal Points for reproduction and delivery to the concerned research institutions.



Foreign visitors take interest about SAIC while discussing with the Director and professionals

Current Awareness Service, Current Contents and Document Delivery Services

SAIC is procuring news papers from all the Member Countries except Bhutan and Maldives. Indexing of these news papers clippings and articles was done at SAIC during the period under report. A database alongwith clippings was also being maintained at SAIC. Besides, Current Content Service (on Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, Potato, Rice, Sugarcane and Tea), SAIC Accession Bulletin, Catalogue on audiovisual materials, Catalogue on microforms were prepared and distributed to the relevant users and institutions of SAARC Countries.

Directory of Counterpart Scientists Meeting and Workshops Proceedings

The SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture (TCA) prioritises common problems of the Member Countries and arranges meetings, workshops and seminars to discuss and formulates solutions to common problems. Thirty seven proceedings of such meetings have been collected by SAIC. Efforts were taken to collect more materials in this regard during the period under report.

Audiovisual Media Production and Reproduction of New Technologies

The ultimate aim of all studies and research works in agriculture and the related efforts is to reach the end users, especially the farmers. Everything should finally reach them and result in an increase in agricultural productivity and improving the nutritional standard of the poor. Transfer of technology through mass-oriented viable media is very much necessary in this regard. The SAIC intends to strengthen the service by audiovisual media production like films, video tapes, slide-sound production and the like. SAIC completed a slide-sound media production on "Homestead Vegetable Production" and distributed them to Focal Points for reproduction and dissemination.

Besides, arrangements were made to collect all the audiovisual media products available at the agricultural institutions and organizations of SAARC Countries and update the catalogue published thereon. This catalogue will be published periodically with updated information on new entries and be distributed to Member Countries. This will serve not only as a reference material for them but also will enable them to indent any audiovisual media product that interests them.



Foreign visitors are seen looking at SAIC reprographic facilities

Video Library on Success Stories in Agriculture

Efforts were initiated to procure more video cassettes on success stories of transfer of technology from agricultural institutions and organizations in the SAARC Member Countries. Approximately 300 letters have been despatched for this purpose. The total collection of programmes was 20.

Directory of Training Programmes (Short and Long) in SAARC Countries

As per decision of the Governing Board in its 8th Meetings it was resolved that SAIC should collect the data collected by Pakistan on the subject for the purpose of publication. The follow-up action has been initiated by approaching the TCA and SAIC Focal Point Members in Pakistan. But as there has been no response and in view of the importance and usefulness of this reference source, the programme was initiated by SAIC afresh during the period under report.



Participants of Ninth Meeting of the SAIC Governing Board



Inaugural session of the Ninth Meeting of the SAIC Governing Board

Ninth Meeting of the SAIC Governing Board

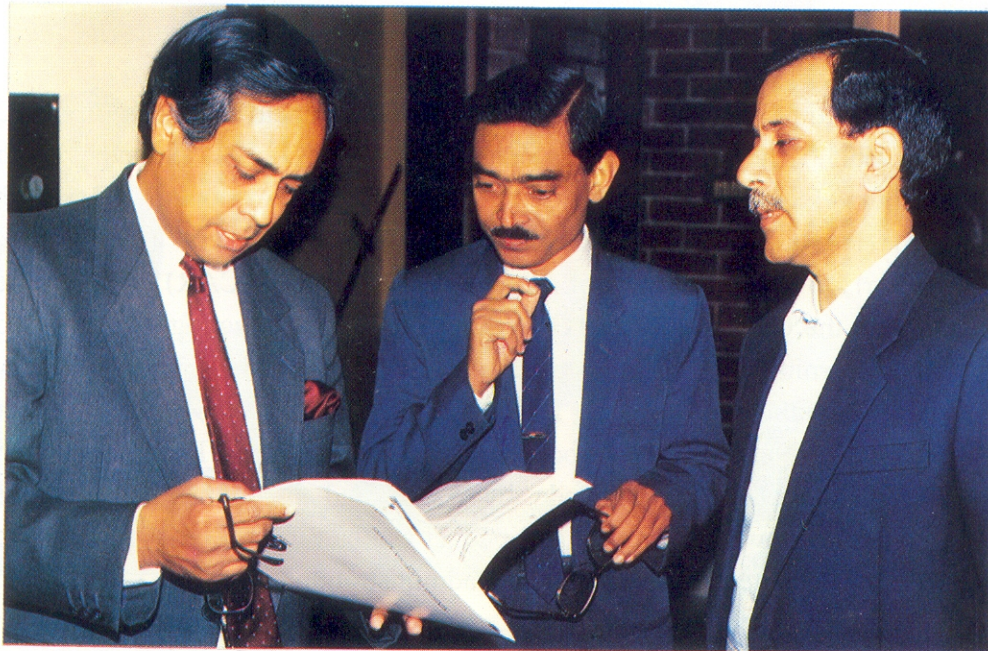
The 9th Meeting of the SAIC Governing Board was held at Dhaka on 20-22 March 1995. The Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. M. Sujayet Ullah Chowdhury, Executive Vice-chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). Dr P N Mathur, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) presided the meeting as the Chairman of the Governing Board. The Meeting was attended by the Governing Board Members Dr Abdul Hamid Miah from Bangladesh, Mr Dorji Dhradhul from Bhutan, Dr P N Mathur from India, Mr Shiva Sundar Shrestha from Nepal and Mr Abdul Hafeez from Pakistan. The 9th Meeting reviewed the achievements made by SAIC and its completed projects, considered the new programmes and budget estimate for the FY 1995-96 and other matters related to functioning and administration of SAIC.

Director attended SAARC Expert Group Meeting

Dr. M Zahangir Kabir, Director, SAIC attended the "Meeting of the SAARC Group of Experts" held in the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal on 20-22 December 1994. The meeting discussed issues among others the Evaluation of the Functioning and Structure of the SAARC Regional Centres, i.e., SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC), SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC), SAARC Documentation Centre (SDC) and SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC).

Visitor

Mr. Ashfaqur Rahman, Director-General of the SAARC Desk in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh visited the SAIC on 17 December 1994. He discussed the issues relating to the evaluation of the functioning and structure of the SAIC with Dr. M Zahangir Kabir, Director of SAIC and Dr. M Sujayet Ullah Chowdhury, Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC. Later he was taken round the centre to apprise with the Centre's programme of activities.



Professionals joined in SAIC

Dr Zahangir Kabir Joins as Director

Dr M Zahangir Kabir, Principal Scientific Editor of AIC, BARC has taken over the charges of the office of the Director, SAIC on 1 August 1994. Since 1977 Dr Kabir has been working as the Publication Officer, Technical Editor, Senior Scientific Editor and lately as Principal Scientific Editor of AIC, BARC. He has been involved in information and communication profession in a number of reputed institutions for more than 18 years. He also served the University of Rajshahi as Associate Professor and Chairman in the Department of Mass Communication.

Dr Kabir hold Ph D in Agricultural Journalism from the University of Mysore, India. Apart from his Masters in Journalism from the University of Dhaka he also obtained Post-Graduate Diploma in Development Journalism from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi.

Dr A S Chandel Joins as Deputy Director (Information)

Dr A S Chandel from India has joined SAIC as Deputy Director (Information) on 15 August 1994. Prior to his joining he had been working as University Librarian in Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Himachal Pradesh, India.

Dr Chandel started his career in a Public Library System in Himachal Pradesh. Before joining Dr Y S Parmar University, he had been teaching library and information science during 1975-1989 at Lucknow University and North-Eastern Hill University, India.

Dr S S Srivastava Joins as Deputy Director (Library Services)

Dr S S Srivastava from India has joined SAIC as Deputy Director (Library Services) on 23 August 1994. Prior to his joining he was the Head and Senior Librarian at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi. Dr Srivastava's professional career spans over 29 years in various capacities right from University Library to research, teaching and special libraries.

Mr B N Karmacharya Joins as Deputy Director (Publications)

Mr Bhola Nandan Karmacharya from Nepal has joined SAIC as Deputy Director (Publications) on 16 October 1994. Prior to his joining he worked under His Majesty's Government of Nepal's Ministry of Agriculture as Chief of Agriculture Development Project, Janekpur, Nepal. Mr Karmacharya started his career as Asstt. Agriculture Extension Officer and served as Agricultural Extension Officer and as Project Planner Consultant to prepare district level agriculture plan under Agricultural Project Services Center (APROSC) of Nepal.

Rafique Mostafa Kamal Joins as Information Specialist

Mr Md Rafique Mostafa Kamal joined SAIC as Information Specialist on 22 June 1994. He started his career in 1981 in the Documentation Section of AIC, BARC. He had undergone many professional training courses during his 13 years career in BARC. He visited India, Nepal, Thailand and United Kingdom and gathered experiences in handling and managing modern information systems.

Professionals and General Services Staff left SAIC

Mr A K M Abdun Nur, relinquished the charges of the office of the Director, SAIC on 31 July 1994 on completion of his tenure of service. He worked in SAIC since November 1988. Prior to this, Mr Nur was serving as Librarian in the Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh for about 25 years.

Mr Abdun Nur made considerable effort to establish SAIC as its first Director. The Thirteenth Meeting of SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture (TCA) placed on records its sincere thanks and appreciation for the work and services rendered by Mr Nur during his tenure in SAIC.

Mr. Mahbub Ahmed, Deputy Director (Computer), left SAIC on 7 January 1995 to join his parent organization the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council on completion of his tenure of service in SAIC.

Ms. Kaberi Gayen, Assistant Editor, left SAIC on 30 September 1994 to avail a teaching job in the University of Rajshahi Mass Communication Department.

Ms. Selina Islām, Documentation Assistant, left SAIC on 20 October 1994 to avail a job of Librarian in the Department of Health and Family Planning.

Ms. Kazi Sayeda Momtaz, Documentation Assistant, left SAIC on 4 January 1995 to avail a job of Asstt. Computer Programmer in the Department of Youth.

Members of the SAIC Governing Board (Current)

- Bangladesh** - Dr. M. A. Hamid Miah
Member-Director (Crops)
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)
Farmgate, New Airport Road, Dhaka - 1215
- Bhutan** - Mr. Samdrup Rigyel
Officer-in-Charge
Farmers Extension Communication Support Unit
Ministry of Agriculture
Tashocho Dzong Complex
Thimpu
- India** - Dr. Mangala Rai
ADG (P)
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi 110001
- Maldives** - Mr. Ali Shafeeg
Assistant Under Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture
Government of Maldives, Male
- Nepal** - Mr. Bishnu R. Kafle
Current Chairman Chief
Agriculture Communication Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Harihar Bhavon, Pulchok
Lalitpur

- Pakistan** - Mr. N. A. Bhutta
Director (NILTA)
Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)
Plot No. 20, G-5/1, Islamabad
- Sri Lanka** - Mr. Suranimala Wirasinghe
Director
Extension and Communication Division
Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box. No. 18, Peradeniya
- SAARC Secretariat** - Mr. Prabal S. J. B. Rana
Director
SAARC Secretariat
P.O. Box. No.- 4222
Kathmandu
Nepal
- SAIC Member Secretary** - Dr. M. Zahangir Kabir
Director
SAARC Agricultural Information Centre
BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka - 1215
Bangladesh

Members of the SAIC Governing Board (9th Meeting)

- Bangladesh** - Dr. M.A Hamid Miah
Member-Director (P&E)
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)
Farmgate, New Airport Road, Dhaka-1215
- Bhutan** - Mr. Dorji Dhradhul
Extension Officer
Information and Publication Unit
Department of Agriculture
Thimpu
- India
Chairman** - Dr. P N Mathur
Deputy Director-General
Agricultural Extension
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan
PUSA, New Delhi - 110012
- Maldives** - Mr. Ali Shafeeg
Assistant Under Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture
Government of Maldives, Male
- Nepal** - Mr. Shiva Sundar Shrestha
Chief
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