

SAIC  **SAARC AGRICULTURAL
INFORMATION CENTRE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



SAARC AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION CENTRE (SAIC)

SAIC Annual Report 2004



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

SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC)

BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka 1215

Bangladesh

Phone: +880-2-8115353, Fax: +880-2-9124596

Email: saic@bdonline.com / saic@citechco.net

Website: www.saic-dhaka.org

Compilation and editing: *Samdrup Rigyal*

Cover design: *Mafruha Begum*

Layout: *Raihana Kabir*

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Dr. Wais Kabir

Director

SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC)

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Preface

The most significant attainment for the year 2004 was being able to take up number of new initiatives. The year under report highlights the accomplishments made towards networking of information through internet connectivity. SAIC enhanced its status as the information Centre by becoming online through broadband internet connectivity with a well established LAN system. Another important step SAIC took was paving the way for the establishment of SAICNet which will ultimately help establish strong linkages with agricultural institutions and improve accessibility of information and exchange of knowledge in the region.

The newly proposed Continuous Professional Development became another reality with three professionals being able to make a visit and attend regional conferences. For the first time, the general services staff also availed training opportunities in relevant institutions outside of Bangladesh. This will enhance the capacity of SAIC with improved knowledge.

Besides the above, SAIC was able to undertake its regular activities successfully. An ICT workshop was hosted with wide participation from the member countries and the SAARC Charter Day was observed in a befitting manner. SAIC was also able to produce and distribute 9 publications during the year besides acquisition of large number of publications for the SAIC Library.

Our achievements are mostly attributed to the co-operation and support received from our clients and partners in the SAARC region. The continued support and guidance provided by the honourable Governing Board members of SAIC is also greatly appreciated. I am also very happy that all the staff of SAIC displayed their team spirits and worked hard to complete the programmes on time.

In the coming years, SAIC hopes to put more focus on the following areas to support the information needs of the member states:

- ♦ Quality improvement of SAIC products and services
- ♦ Capacity building and utilization of infrastructure and human resources
- ♦ Forging linkages through core group mechanism and enhanced interaction
- ♦ More focus on non-crop related agriculture
- ♦ Participatory and stronger programme building

SAIC appreciates comments and suggestions to improve our products and services thereby enabling us to better serve our stakeholders in the region.

Dr. Wais Kabir
Director, SAIC

Executive Summary

With the early Islamabad Summit in 2004 and hence the timely annual budget approval, SAIC was able to initiate the implementation of its programmes at the start of the year. However, the good start was overwhelmed with the painful experience of losing our former Director, Late Md. Qumrul Islam on 19 May 2004. Fortunately with the assumption of Dr. Wais Kabir, as the new Director of SAIC on 2 June 2004, the Centre expedited the implementation of its programmes / activities with renewed strength as a result of which SAIC was able to successfully complete and deliver almost all of its programmes / activities by the end of the year.

New programmes

SAIC pioneered venturing into so many new areas, some of which are sending the general services staff for training outside of Bangladesh for the first time; permanently linking SAIC to the outside world by providing internet connectivity with a well established local area network system; introducing and making it a reality, the continuous professional development programme enabling its pool of professionals to reach out beyond SAIC and initiate establishment of institutional linkages with relevant international organisations; and also establishing the SAICNet project which will become the backbone for SAIC focus in delivering future programmes that will help establish strong linkage mechanism with the agricultural institutions and improving the

accessibility of information and exchange of knowledge in the SAARC region.

Monitoring and backstopping to programmes

During the year, SAIC was also able to revitalise the significance of providing the monitoring and backstopping support to programmes implemented directly in the member countries in collaboration with relevant institutions and professionals. The backstopping visit to Nepal made by one of the professionals, Deputy Director of Communication, Information and Audiovisuals, after a gap of many years, saw the potential and usefulness of this programme in expediting the completion of SAIC programmes at the same time, promoting and strengthening institutional linkages with relevant organisations in the member countries. This programme also provided the opportunity to create awareness of our new programmes and initiatives, like the CD ROM search services, that could greatly benefit our clients in the region.

Workshop

The Centre was also able to deliver its major programmes like the ICT workshop and observance of SAARC Charter Day most successfully. The ICT workshop held during 6 - 8 October 2004 witnessed the participation of more than 60 ICT experts and scientists from the SAARC member countries. The workshop made important recommendations for follow-up actions and the outcome of the workshop including the recommendations, country and resource papers are documented and

published in a book which is being circulated widely to the relevant institutions and personnel in the member countries.

Public Function

The SAARC Charter Day on 8 December 2004 was also observed appropriately befitting the significance of the occasion with a painting competition of as many as 400 school children in Dhaka and a final painting exhibition and seminar entitled "Empowering Farmers with Information."

Publications

The material output of SAIC has also been prolific with the successful production of as many as 9 (nine) publications during the year. Some of these publications are SAIC Annual Report 2003, 4 issues of SAIC Newsletters (7500 copies of each issue), Food grain situation in SAARC Countries, Statistical Bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data, SAARC Journal of Agriculture, Update of Directory of agricultural Scientists & Technologists of SAARC Countries, Impact Study of SAIC Publications, Promotion of Technologies on livestock & fisheries on poverty alleviation in SAARC Countries, Proceedings on the Regional workshop on Attempts & successes of ICT roadmap to villages in the SAARC countries.

Audiovisual

SAIC facilitated in the production of 6 videos and IMM CD ROMs on various subjects during the year. At the same time, 80 CDs, 10 each on 8 video on various subjects were distributed to all the seven member countries of SAARC.

Distribution and Acquisition

During the year, SAIC despatched a total of as many as 33,320 SAIC newsletters and 5034 copies of 8 of its new publications.

SAIC also witnessed a record procurement of 510 books, newspapers, international journals, annual reports, newsletters, etc., thus enriching the library resources of SAIC.

Along with the successes, SAIC also confronted some setbacks. The success of almost all the SAIC programmes is dependent on the cooperation and support of our co-professionals and institutions in the member countries since most of the programmes are implemented in collaboration with them. Due to the delay in receiving information on time from member countries, a number of programmes, particularly, production of some publications had to be deferred to the following financial year. SAIC was also unable to finalise and publish the SAIC Vision 2020 Document targeted for 2004.

SAIC has also raised its concerns, both during the SAIC GB Meeting and during the backstopping visit to Nepal, on the lack of information coming from the member countries to SAIC, on the situation of major food grains for compilation in the "Bulletin of Food Grain Situation of SAARC Countries." SAIC at the same time is doing its best to promote its CD ROM search services provided by banking on its variety of internationally reputed CD ROM databases, maintained by SAIC, to researchers and scientists in the member countries.

1. Introduction

The SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) is the first regional institution of SAARC. SAIC started functioning in Dhaka from 1989. SAIC serves to network relevant national information centres in the member states of SAARC with a view to exchanging regionally generated technical information to strengthen agricultural research and development activities. SAIC provides services particularly, information on agricultural institutions in SAARC countries as well as information on fisheries, forestry, livestock and crops.

The Centre is located at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) complex, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

1.1 Mandate

SAIC has the mandate to fulfill the following objectives and functions:

Objectives

- (i) Establish regional information network on agricultural and allied discipline
- (ii) Identify and document agricultural and pertinent literature including forestry, fisheries, livestock and allied disciplines
- (iii) Serve the Agricultural information needs of the member countries
- (iv) Promote new and better techniques for handling and dissemination of agricultural information

- (v) Collection of information and dissemination of the same in the area of proven agricultural technologies and dissemination of the information on effective farm practices and development as well as introduction of emerging new and frontier technologies

Functions

- (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 agriculture and allied disciplines from the member countries
- (ii) Select, analyse and process regional agricultural information useful to regional users
- (iii) Provide access to these information for users of the region
- (iv) Produce publications of regional importance on agriculture and allied disciplines
- (v) Provide selective dissemination of information, copies of documents, microfiche and video films generated in the region
- (vi) Organize and provide training on information and communication sciences to the personnel of member countries
- (vii) Function as the regional information centre for South Asia

and have access to the international information networks

(viii) Work towards collection of information and dissemination of the same in the area of proven agricultural technologies and dissemination of information on effective farm practices and development as well as introduction of emerging new and frontier technologies.

1.2 Administrative set up of SAIC

SAIC is functioning under the following administrative set-up:

1.2.1 The Governing Board

The Governing Board (GB) is the apex body of the Centre. It meets at least once in a year or more, depending on the requirements, during which time it monitors and evaluates the overall operations of SAIC. It also approves the annual programmes, recommends the annual budget estimates and provides guidance on policy matters.

The GB members include eminent personalities by name in the field of agriculture and information management from each member country. The representatives of the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host government, Bangladesh also attend the GB meeting.

A Chairperson designated for a two-year term from the member countries by alphabetical rotation heads the Governing Board. The Proceedings of the meeting is approved by the Standing Committee and Council of Ministers.

1.2.2 The Director

The Director is the Executive Head of administration, finance, planning and implementation of activities. The Director oversees the functions of the professionals, administration, finance and general service staff. The Director also acts as the Member-Secretary of the Governing Board of SAIC.

1.2.3 Professionals & General services staff (GSS)

The professionals are recruited from the member countries. The Deputy Directors and Specialists perform the professional duties in their respective fields, particularly the implementation of programmes.

The GSS, appointed from among the nationals of the host country provide support services in implementing the programmes of the Centre.

1.3 The Programme Divisions

Currently, there are four approved programme divisions. These divisions are responsible for the implementation of the approved annual programmes. In addition to these divisions, there are the Finance and Support Services Sections. These sections function under the direct supervision of the Director and are responsible for providing financial and support services to the Centre.

1.4 Budgeting and Funding

There are two types of budgets prepared each year for approval: Institutional and

Programme Cost Budgets. In implementing the programmes, the Centre aims to maintain the balance of the expenditure between the institutional and programme costs.

The Institutional and Programme costs are shared by all the SAARC member countries according to SAARC apportion

formula. The shares of contributions for each member country are shown below.

As host country, Bangladesh government provides capital costs and other infrastructure facilities, such as accommodation, furniture, vehicles, equipment, etc.

Country	Programme cost share	Institutional cost share
Bangladesh	11.95%	48.26%
Bhutan	5.26%	3.09%
India	33.79%	19.86%
Maldives	0.00%	Fixed lumpsum of US \$ 500
Nepal	11.95%	7.02%
Pakistan	25.10%	14.75%
Sri Lanka	11.95%	7.02%

Shares of contribution for each SAARC member country

2. Highlights 2004

2.1 18th Meeting of the SAIC Governing Board

The Governing Board (GB) of SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) held its 18th meeting in Dhaka from 03-05 October 2004. Dr. M. Nurul Alam, the current chairperson of the Governing Board (GB) of SAIC and Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) inaugurated the meeting. The meeting was attended by the members of the Governing Board from the SAARC member countries, the SAARC Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Dr. Alam in his address extended warm welcome to the members of the meeting

and said he hoped that SAIC will continue to flourish and serve the need of all member countries providing information to share newly developed agricultural technologies. Dr. Alam assured the continuous support of BARC for the programmes of SAIC and contribute in building SAIC into a viable regional agricultural information centre.

In his welcome address, Dr. Wais Kabir, Director, SAIC welcomed the participating members and said that the meeting of the GB is an important event for SAIC as the basic guidelines for the programmes of activities of SAIC come out from the esteemed members of the Governing



Board. Dr. Kabir mentioned that the year 2003 was a successful year for SAIC as the Centre implemented the highest number of programmes since its establishment.

Mr. Md. Sufiur Rahman, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal conveyed the greetings of His Excellency the Secretary General of SAARC and thanked the members of the GB for their participation in the meeting. He also thanked SAIC for the excellent arrangement for providing hospitality to the participants of the GB meeting.

Mr. Rahman underlined the importance of research in agriculture and relevant fields for food security and employment generation for all SAARC member countries. Therefore, demand sharing of experience of our scientists, farmers and rural people with all stakeholders will reaffirm the SAIC objectives. He assured all support to SAIC from the SAARC Secretariat for better utilization of available resources and prioritization of programmes.

In accordance with the practice of rotation in alphabetical order, the Chairmanship of the Governing Board of SAIC was handed over to Ms. Pema Lhamo of Bhutan by the outgoing chairman Dr. M. Nurul Alam of Bangladesh. All the members of the Governing Board congratulated the newly elected chairperson and thanked the outgoing chairman for his valuable



contribution.

The Meeting adopted the following agendas:

- i) Review of the Director's report on the Implementation of the 17th Meeting of the Governing Board
- ii) Review of the completed programmes of 2003 and programmes to be completed during 2004 and regular, current and on-going programmes for the financial year 2005,
- iii) Proposals for new programmes for the financial year 2005 and
- iv) Consideration of institutional and programme cost revised budget for the financial year 2004 and budget for the Financial Year 2005

2.2 Regional Workshop on ICT

Workshop on 'Attempts and Successes of ICT Roadmap to Villages in the SAARC Countries'

SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) organised a three-day regional workshop on "Attempts and Successes of ICT Roadmap to Villages in the SAARC Countries" during 6-8 October 2004 at BARC Conference room. The workshop was attended by about 50 ICT experts, scientists and policy planners from different SAARC member countries. Agriculture Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. MK Anwar, MP, inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest, while Mr. ASM Abdul Halim, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was present as the Special Guest. Dr. M. Nurul Alam, Executive Chairman of BARC presided over the inaugural session of the workshop. Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University presented the keynote paper in

the workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to share the experiences of ICT initiatives in the SAARC member countries through presentation of country papers followed by the discussions in the technical sessions. A total of seven country papers and one resource paper were presented during the workshop. As a part of the programme, participants have visited Mirjapur Grameen ICT village in Tangail district and Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Dhaka to get field level exposure on ICT activities and government's initiatives.

Background

In recent times, a serious thought has begun on the strategic opportunities that ICTs (Information and Communication

Technologies) can offer for closing social divides and efforts are made for e-readiness to the benefit of sustainable human development. The governments in SAARC Countries have gained useful experiences in implementation of ICT projects which promote e-governance, automation of local administration and improving access to information to rural poor with an overall aim of



achieving transparency, accountability, peoples' participation and economic development. Non Government Organisations (NGOs) in these countries have also gathered rich experiences in their initiatives which foster use of ICTs for the benefit of people in rural areas in the process of empowering them in different areas of development.

The experiences contain full of cases which attempt to use ICTs in villages in SAARC Countries. Some projects are successful in adopting a blend of innovative approaches in using new ICTs, financing, institutional arrangements and peoples' involvement towards fostering use of ICTs as common resources that can offer unprecedented livelihood options for rural poor in villages of SAARC Countries. The present workshop will focus on gathering such experiences from the people who have involved in the projects and set roadmap for those who attempt to integrate ICTs for development in rural areas.

SAIC's response

The SAIC with its mandate to provide seamless access to agricultural information firmly believes that ICTs can play an important role in reaching the unreached in villages of SAARC Countries. In response to offer input to the dialogue of ICT for agricultural development, SAIC has organized a two-day regional workshop on 'Role of information and communication technology (ICT) for poverty alleviation through agricultural development in SAARC Countries' during October 2003



with dual objective to know the state of the art of the ICT in agriculture in SAARC Countries and sensitize on ICT use in improving agricultural research & extension and agricultural marketing & agribusiness in SAARC Countries.

The workshop realized its objectives and ended up with useful recommendations which emphasizes the steps to be taken for enhancing use of ICTs in agricultural development in SAARC Countries. The major recommendation of the workshop was that SAIC should persistently facilitate promotion of ICTs as an important means of outreaching the development efforts to millions of undeserved, especially women in the villages of SAARC Countries. As a follow-up of this, SAIC now organised this workshop with a focus on gathering rich experiences of the people who have involved in the ICT projects with a purpose of setting roadmap for ICTs integration with development programmes in the villages of SAARC Countries.

Objective of the workshop

1. To learn lessons from the attempts and successes of ICT roadmap to villages in SAARC Countries.
2. To identify and share best practices

from cases which help promote ICT implementation in the villages of SAARC Countries.

The workshop provided opportunity to closely appraise the ICT initiatives in SAARC Countries and know the status of ICT implementation in SAARC Countries. It helped to identify expertise, suitable technologies, institutional / partnerships arrangements and sustainability etc.

Workshop themes

1. Country's strategy / approach in using ICT for development.

Government policies, laws, regulatory reforms, status of e-readiness, ICT infrastructure and strengths & weaknesses for implementation of ICTs.

2. Evaluation of attempts and successes of ICT initiatives.

Case studies highlighting the type and scale of projects, areas of application, types of services provided, type of beneficiaries, role of project functionaries, cost effectiveness and sustainability of

project and results of impact studies on how ICTs benefited the rural poor in terms of increase in productivity, economy and knowledge (adoption of new technologies).

3. Application of ICTs in villages.

Appropriate ICTs which are being adopted in villages. These include computer systems, information/knowledge networks, mobile telephones, the Internet, teleconferencing, wireless, radio broadcasting etc., and new ICTs that address to the challenges in villages. Strategic and feasible options being adopted in different socio-economic situations for harnessing ICT for development.

4. Institutional arrangements for ICT implementation.

Roles of institutions in mainstreaming the ICTs. Lessons on public-private partnerships, institutional collaborations, implementation framework and experiences of your agency.

5. Issues related to empowering people through ICTs.

Issues such as capacity building, information needs, content development, people's participation and role of intermediaries. Experiences in empowering people, particularly women in rural areas, through ICTs across different socio-economic areas of development and providing opportunities to increase economic growth with special reference to agricultural development.



Recommendations

General observations

1. Farmers' participation and the interest of farmers' groups and other stakeholders should be taken into account while implementing the ICT projects and should follow pro-poor strategies
2. ICT is one of the best solutions for overcoming the challenges of the most difficult geographical terrains. Therefore, enabling environment for use of telecommunication infrastructure should be created in the rural areas.
3. SAARC countries face challenges in implementing ICTs such as high cost for connectivity, lack of electricity, illiteracy, policy constraints, dearth of funds and language barriers. Mass education on the potential use of ICT is necessary. Therefore, for developing a SAARC knowledge society, the SAARC Countries should make best use of ICTs designed specifically in the perspectives of the respective countries.
5. Telecommunication centres should be established in the rural areas with adequate ICT infrastructure
6. Community access to ICTs may be provided through Information Kiosks, Village Information Centre, Multipurpose Community Telecentres etc.
7. Study on the usefulness and contextual application of ICTs in the light of socio-economic conditions of a country is necessary for planning appropriate strategy.

Policy

1. Governments should review the existing laws and regulations for creating enabling environment for use of ICTs which ensure the right to information
2. Most of the Internet backbone is restricted to urban areas. The policy of broadband Internet connectivity in the rural and semi-urban areas should be implemented immediately
3. Government policy should encourage public-private partnerships and promote the investment of different stakeholders in ICT projects
4. Institutionalizing government-private-corporate and people partnerships in all ICT efforts especially at the grassroots level.

Specific Recommendations

Strategies

1. Need assessment surveys are essential before implementing ICT project in the villages to identify ICT needs, beneficiaries, strategies and services
2. Integration of agricultural extension system with the ICT efforts is necessary for reaching the people in the villages
3. Developing marketable services /training packages through ICT centres improve rural participation
4. ICT centres may be promoted as business promotion centers with the rural banking system

Technologies

1. Efforts should be made to create content and applications in local language
2. Technologies which promote use of local languages in ICT are important. Interface devices like keyboard in local

- language, speech recognition and text processing programmes in local languages may be helpful
3. Technologies such as multimedia, solar power and mobile vans may be used in ICT initiatives as feasible options in different socio-economic conditions at the village level
 4. Connecting local / central government establishments through intranet websites and e-mail addresses
 5. Affordable technologies such as Simputers, PDA, Wireless connectivity, multimedia (audio, video, touch screen icon-based) are the feasible options for harnessing use of ICT in the villages.
2. The concept of social mobilization should be used in implementation of ICT initiatives. The farmers' groups need to link with the ICT efforts
 3. Imparting ICT skills in agricultural scientists and extension personnel is essential
 4. Rural ICT centres can train rural youth and help reduce unemployment and migration.

Content

1. Information related to agriculture should be made available through 'one window' with the use of ICT
2. Rural ICT Centres should provide market information, information on crops, livestock, fisheries, health etc.
3. Demand-based value added information service for rural consumers is essential
4. Quality and standards needs to be maintained in providing information services
5. Overall capacity building and creating an enabling environment for use of ICT both by content providers as well as the end users are essential
6. Encourage the development of content in local language on the Internet.

People

1. Users of ICT should be trained in the use and maintenance of the ICT tools

Responsibilities of SAIC

1. SAIC may organize study visits to the successful ICT cases in the SAARC Region for sharing knowledge and learning the implementation of different technologies in different situations
2. SAIC may facilitate collaborative efforts and help exchange of technical manpower among SAARC countries to share the best practices of ICTs for development
3. SAIC should take initiative to create platform for exchange of ideas, information and knowledge on successful ICT attempts through its network
4. SAIC as an apex organization may document the attempts and successes of ICT initiatives in the SAARC Region
5. SAIC may consider to organize a "traveling workshop" to gather first hand experience of the successful ICT cases in SAARC region
6. SAIC may undertake evaluation studies on ICT initiatives through study groups.



2.3 Public function

Observation of SAARC Charter Day 2004

On the occasion of the SAARC Charter Day 2004, SAIC organized two events to observe the Day: a Children's Art Competition and Seminar. A total of about 400 school children gathered for the Art Competition from different parts of Dhaka city. The art competition was held two days prior to the Charter Day for two different age groups of the children. The theme for the senior age group of 10 - 14 years was "Agriculture in SAARC Countries" while the theme was kept open for the junior age group between 4 - 9 years. At the end of the competition, a panel of judges from the Dhaka University short listed the best paintings for awarding prizes.

On 8 December 2004, the final day of the



Charter Day, a seminar on "Empowering the Farmers with Information" was organised by SAIC. Dr. M Motlubor Rahman, former Executive Chairman of BARC and former Director, ISNAR, The Netherlands, presented the keynote paper relating to empowering the farmers with information. Professor, Dr. A. M. Farooque, the Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, was present as the Chief Guest. The function was presided by Dr. M. Nurul Alam, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).



The function ended with awarding of prizes to the winners of the painting competition and an exhibition of the paintings in the conference hall of BARC, Dhaka.

2.4 SAICNet Project

Establishment of SAICNet

Background and Justification

In the last one-decade, leading agricultural institutions in the SAARC region and in other parts of the world have digitized their information resources and made them available in a variety of forms through websites, online services and cd-rom databases. Especially in the last five years, several important information and knowledge systems have emerged both from government, non-government and private sector initiatives that are highly relevant for agricultural development in SAARC countries.

The proliferation of information explosion in the form of portals, electronic journals, online libraries and electronic discussion forums has indeed accelerated the speed of transfer of results of research and scholarship across the nations. Essentially these digital information services and the information systems use the Internet technologies and are characterized by the dynamic delivery of information in real time. But this information explosion poses increasing difficulty to potential users to access relevant information in usable format from innumerable and scattered sources.

This scenario poses greater challenge to SAIC in its every effort to provide access to information to its users. The important challenges for SAIC in the digital era are: How to manage digital information for the users of the SAARC region? How to

provided access to networked information that is relevant for stakeholders? How to enhance coherence and collaboration in agricultural knowledge and information systems in the SAARC countries?

SAIC can address these challenges only through establishing an efficient information system which will address the gaps and inconsistencies of the current landscape of the agricultural information systems. That means SAIC, as information organization, should establish a strong linkage mechanism with the agricultural institutions and the people involved in agricultural development for improving the accessibility of information and exchange of knowledge in SAARC region. By doing so SAIC will improve efficiency, quality and relevance of the information and knowledge to the end-users as well as the flow of information and knowledge among stakeholders of Agricultural Research and Development (ARD) in the SAARC Region.

General Objectives

This proposal is to reengineer the information management system of SAIC to enhance coherence and collaboration in agricultural knowledge and information systems in the SAARC countries. It is aimed to reduce gaps in exchange of agricultural information and knowledge among the member countries of SAARC region. Further, it is to strengthen the efforts of National Agricultural Research

and Extension Systems of the SAARC member countries in information management and knowledge sharing for effective transfer of technology to the farmers. The project is based on the vision that SAIC to become the most sought after information organisation for the agricultural and allied subjects of south Asia.

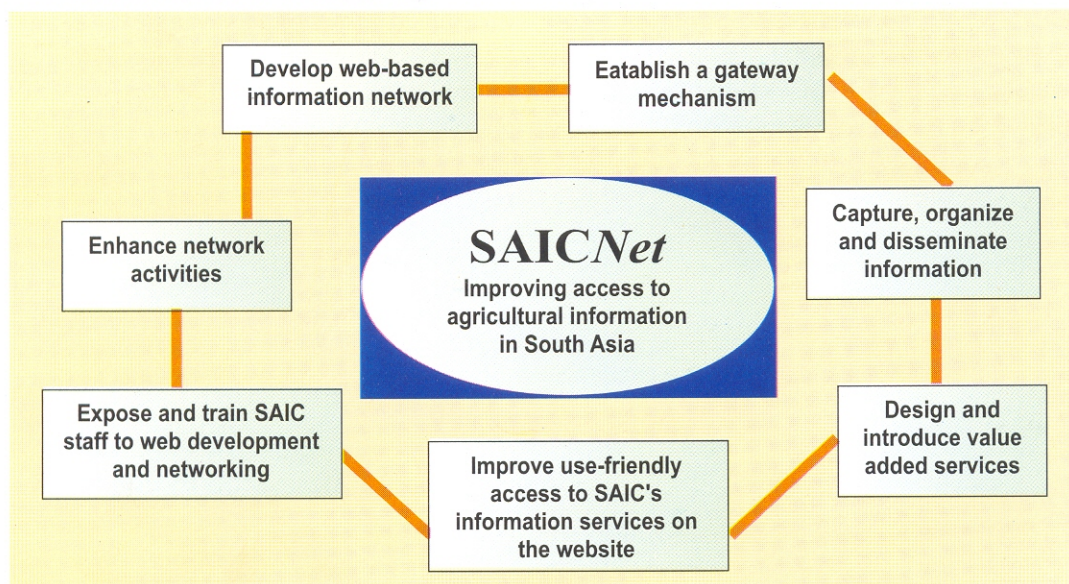
Specific Objectives

The capacity to access information, and to convert it into useful knowledge, is of paramount importance for the agricultural development in the SAARC member countries. In order to realize this, SAICNet has the following specific objectives:

1. Develop web-based information network that will bring in the synergy of the potential collaborators of SAIC.
2. Establish a gateway mechanism to improve access to agricultural information, which is relevant for researchers, extensionists, policy

makers, educationists, students and agribusiness entrepreneurs and through them to the end-user, the farmers in the SAARC region.

3. Capture, organize and disseminate information, wherever it is available, that is relevant for agricultural development in SAARC region.
4. Design and introduce value added services that are based on the ever-changing information needs of the users.
5. Improve use-friendly access to SAIC's information services on the website that will lead to increased relevance and use of information.
6. Expose and train SAIC staff on the tools and technologies related to web development and networking.
7. Enhance network activities with the participation of collaborative institutions in sharing information and knowledge resources.



3. Acquisition and distribution of Agricultural Information Materials

3.1 Procurement of books / journals / newspapers / magazines

During the year, the SAIC Library subscribed and procured 210 books, 51

newspapers and magazines, 76 Journals, 77 Annual Reports, 98 Newsletters from the member countries of SAARC and other international organisations.

Country	Books	Journals	Annual Reports	Newsletters	Newspapers Magazines	Total
Bangladesh	84	17	20	12	16	149
Bhutan	4	1	-	6	3	14
India	66	40	23	45	6	180
Maldives	-	-	1	5	-	6
Nepal	6	2	10	6	3	27
Pakistan	2	8	6	6	4	26
Sri Lanka	12	3	5	10	4	34
Others	36	5	12	8	15	76
Total	210	76	77	98	51	512

4. Despatch and Postage of SAIC information Materials

4.1 Despatch of SAIC Publications

SAIC distributed 5 (five) issues each of 7500 copies of the SAIC Newsletter with a total of 33,320 Newsletter during 2004 and

distributed a total of 5034 publications on 8 (eight) subjects. The following table indicates the detail list of publications distributed during 2004:

Sl. No.	Name of Publications	Countries/institutes distributed	Quantity distributed (in Nos.)	Remarks
1	SAIC Newsletters (Vol. 13, Nos. 3 & 4; Vol. 14 Nos. 1, 2 & 3)	7 SAARC Countries and VIPs	33,320 copies	For 5 issues of the SAIC Newsletter
2	Statistical Bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data 2003	- do -	645 copies	
3	Annual Report 2003	- do -	645 copies	A total of 5034 copies for 8 (eight) publications distributed based
4	SAARC Charter 2003	- do -	624 copies	
5	Directory of Seed Companies SAARC Countries	- do -	624 copies	

SI No.	Name of Publication	Countries/Institutes distributed	Quantity distributed (in Nos.)	Remarks
6	Plant Genetic Resources in SAARC Countrise : Their Conservation and Management	- do -	624 copies	on the Institutional mailing list of SAIC
7	Directory of Agricultural Institution in SAARC Countries	- do -	624 copies	
8	Proceedings of SAARC Workshop Post Harvest Technology	- do -	624 copies	
9	Proceedings of The Workshop on the "Role of ICT for Poverty Alleviation through Agri. Dev. in SAARC Countries"	- do -	624 copies	

Note: The number of copies printed for SAIC Newsletter = 7500; other publications = 750. Some copies are maintained in stock for sales and local distribution.

5. Information, Networking and Library

5.1 SAICNet Project

SAICNet project report explained in detail under 2.4 above as the major highlights of 2004.

5.2 Periodic services (current awareness/ SDI services, etc.)

SAIC is regularly collecting information and disseminating latest literature literature on agriculture and allied disciplines of the SAARC member countries. Under the activity, SAIC has been offering newspaper articles on agriculture in SAARC countries as current awareness service based on the popular news items on agriculture and allied disciplines that appear in the important newspapers that SAIC subscribe.

It is expected that this service will help the professionals and policy makers to be acquainted with the recent developments

in agriculture in SAARC countries.

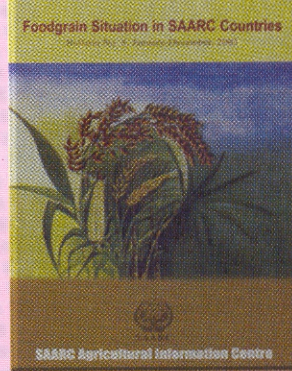
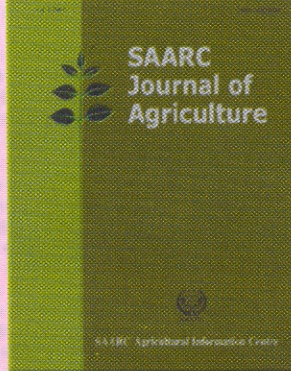
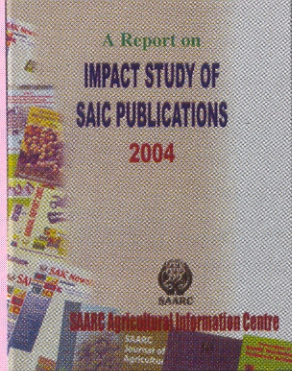
5.3 Networking

i) Local Area Network (LAN)

SAIC has now established the Local Area Network (LAN) with 40 nodes and running over Windows 2003 Server Software (education version) and 20 PCs are connected with the Server at SAIC.

ii) Internet Connectivity Facility

SAIC has also now become connected to the rest of the world with the establishment of the Internet connectivity with a 64 kbps duplex and a fully dedicated radio link. The internet connectivity is established through the Non-Line-of-Sight (NLOS) method Linux Server gateway for accessing to the internet and distribution to users through the establishment of LAN at SAIC.



iii) E-mail, Internet and website of SAIC

With the internet connectivity well established, appropriate and timely actions are taken, to maintain the telecommunication linkages for faster and easier correspondence as well as for downloading various information resources through Internet service

providers like Proshika Computers Systems (saic@bdonline. com).

iv) Enhanced Server Space

The Centre is maintaining an enhanced Server Space of 200 MB for enriching the site through uploading with more information, useful and appropriate for the SAARC region.

6. Production / printing of Publications

6.1 Regular Publications

6.1.1 Newsletter

SAIC has been regularly publishing the quarterly SAIC Newsletter. It contains information on institutions of SAARC countries and technologies generated in the region on various fields of agriculture such as crops, fisheries, forestry, livestock, etc. The SAIC Newsleatter Vol. 13, No. 4 and Vol. 14: No 1, 2, and 3 were published and distributed among the readers in the region during the period.

6.1.2 Bulletin

6.1.2.1 Statistical Bulletin

This is the third Statistical Bulletin produced by SAIC. It provides information on agricultural census, population, land use, harvest area, production, yield of primary crops and

development indicators of the SAARC member countries. It also provides insights about the status of the SAARC countries in various fields including the information on commercially important primary crops and production of various processed crops, etc.

6.1.2.2 Bulletin of Food Grain Situation

The SAARC member states provide information on the situation of major food grains to SAIC for compilation and distribution to the member countries. SAIC compiles data like the production, anticipated demand, likely shortfalls, surplus, etc. of major food grains of SAARC countries and distribute the Bulletin to the relevant organizations in the region. This information is useful to the planners as regards to food import or exports and for averting shortage or possible famine besides helping to

Proceedings of the Regional Workshop on
**Attempts and Successes of
ICT Roadmap to Villages
in the SAARC Countries**

SAARC Agricultural Information Centre

Statistical Bulletin of SAARC
Agricultural Data
2004



SAARC Agricultural Information Centre

DIRECTORY OF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS
AND TECHNOLOGISTS OF
SAARC COUNTRIES

SAARC Agricultural Information Centre

SAIC Newsletter

SAARC ICT experts meet at SAIC



understand the current food grain scenario of the region that is important to coordinate and share the available resources of each other.

During 2004, SAIC published the Bulletin No. 8 of the food grain situation in SAARC countries.

6.1.3 Annual Report

During the year, the Annual Report for 2003 was also brought out highlighting the major events for that year. The Report was distributed to all our GB members and the various relevant institutions in the region based on the institutional mailing list of SAIC.

6.1.4 Journal

6.1.4.1 SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA)

This peer-reviewed yearly publication of the SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA) is the second issue that was brought out by SAIC. The first issue of the SJA was published in the year 2003. This issue contains 21 research articles in the field of agriculture and allied disciplines contributed by the scientists of the SAARC countries.

SJA is envisaged to provide a platform for exchange of first hand knowledge on

breakthrough topics that are of current concern for researchers, extensionists, policymakers and students.

6.2 Occasional Publications

6.2.1 Technical publications

6.2.1.1 Impact Study of SAIC Publications

This is a report on the findings of the impact study of SAIC publications.

SAIC is engaged in collecting, documenting and disseminating information on proven agricultural technologies, farm practices and emerging frontier technologies. These practices and technologies are documented in print and audiovisual materials such as newsletters, journal, annual reports, bulletins, directories, catalogues, bibliographies, databases, reports, web publication, CD ROMs, video documentary films, etc. before they are further repackaged and disseminated to the clients in the member countries.

This study was conducted to find out the impact of these publications produced on our clients. The evaluation was carried out based on the relevance and usefulness of SAIC products and services to the users in the SAARC member countries.

The findings presented in the report would help draw inferences on the value and quality of the information SAIC is providing to the member countries in the future besides helping SAIC to improve the future products and services.

6.2.1.2 Technologies on Livestock and Fisheries for poverty alleviation in SAARC Countries

Besides crops, fisheries and livestock are the life-supporting resources for the marginal farmers in South Asia. Considering their potential for poverty alleviation in the region, SAIC took this programme of collecting information on "Technologies on Livestock and Fisheries for poverty alleviation in SAARC Countries" and document them in print form for the benefit of our client.

The book contains information on different livestock and fisheries technologies including some studies on livestock and fishery sectors. In the publication, the technologies presented are supported with tables, charts, photographs and illustrations for better understanding.

The technologies presented here are mostly from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal. Some of the technologies are on production of black bengal goats, rabbit rearing, fish production techniques in open and closed water bodies, low-cost preservation techniques of feeds and fodder, alternative feed for livestock and poultry, development of poultry and livestock vaccines, multi-nutrient urea-molasses block preparation, milk production technology from barren cow, duck farming, etc.

Other than the researchers, the publication will serve as a ready reference for the investors in the private enterprises and extension agents engaged on livestock and fishery development sectors in the SAARC region.

6.2.2 Directories

6.2.2.1 Directory of Agricultural Scientists and technologists of SAARC Countries

This is the second edition and an update of the Directory of Agricultural Scientists and Technologists of SAARC Countries. This edition contains the credentials of 11,053 agricultural scientists and technologists of SAARC countries. All credentials are presented under the institute or organization and in a specific format with name, date of birth, designation, highest academic degree obtained, area of specialization and number of publications. Indexes are also provided for easy retrieval of information by name, specialization and institute or organization. SAIC has made maximum efforts to update the first edition following the international standard format.

This directory helps to identify the human resource strength of the research and development activities in the region.

6.2.3 Work shop proceedings

6.2.3.1 Proceedings of the workshop on the "Attempts and Success of ICT Roadmap to Villages in SAARC Countries"

This is a publication that has documented the proceedings of the above ICT

workshop which was organized by SAIC and held during October 2004. The publication contains the recommendations of the workshop assigning responsibilities for SAIC as a follow-up of the workshop and its recommendations. There are 7 country papers in the publication from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In addition to these, there are two resource papers including "ICT Policies

and Applications in Villages in SAARC Countries: Some Recent Developments," presented by Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University as the keynote paper for the workshop. The other paper is "Bringing ICT Benefits to the Rural Doorsteps: An overview of Grameen Communications' Satellite Projects."

7. Audio-visual Media Production and Reproduction

7.1 Production of videos & interactive multimedia (IMM) CD ROMS

SAIC facilitated in the production of the following videos during 2004:

1. Video film production on Appropriate Farm mechanization in Bangladesh
2. Video film production on Jackfruit; cultural practices, post-harvest and food technologies in Sri Lanka
3. Video film production on Highland Livestock Development in Bhutan
4. Video film production on Rinderpest Eradication in Nepal
5. Video film production on Black Bengal Goat in Bangladesh
6. IMM CDROM on Paddy cultivation in Sri Lanka

7.2 Reproduction of Audio Visual materials

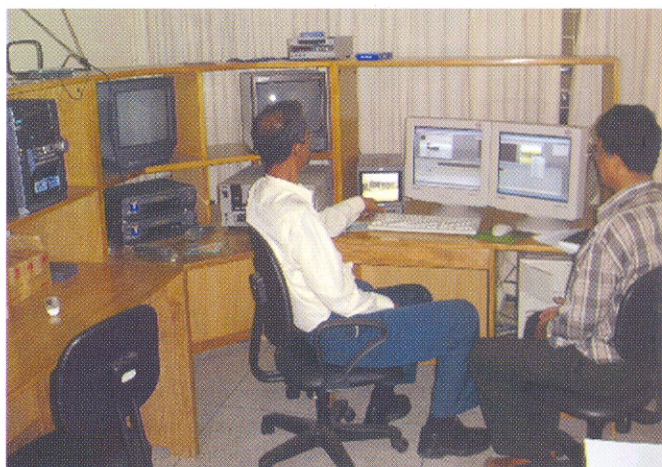
During the year, SAIC distributed to the seven SAARC member countries 80 CDs, 10 each on the following 8 video films on current agricultural technologies:

1. Mandarin in Bhutan
2. Integrated Pest Management in Nepal
3. Coffee Cultivation in Nepal

4. Poultry Farming for Rural Women in Nepal
5. Seed Production for Better Crop in Nepal
6. Potato Cultivation from TPS in Nepal
7. Apple Cultivation in Nepal
8. Tea Cultivation and Processing in Sri Lanka

7.3 Upgrading Video library

A television set and a DVD player was procured as a part of the activity to upgrade the video library. This addition has enhanced the video screening facility to the visitors from outside.



8. Computer Mediated Communication

8.1 CD-ROM publishing and acquisition

During the year, SAIC procured and updated CD-ROM Databases like CAB ABSTRACT, AGRICOLA, FSTA, TREE, PLANT GENETIC CD, BEAST, VETERINARY, SOIL, CROP, PARASITE & HORT CD to enhance the information

8.2 CD-ROM search services

In 2004, a total of 936 e-mails were received from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as a result of which 71, 253 abstract information were sent through the e-mail to researchers as indicated in the following table:

Sl. No.	Country	Beneficiaries	No. of Abstracts sent
1	Bangladesh	54	18,923
2	India	43	12,755
3	Pakistan	98	38,605
4	Sri Lanka	2	970
	TOTAL	215	71,253

resources of the center and extended CD-ROM Search Services through e-mail in the form of bibliographic records to researchers of the SAARC region.

SAIC is trying its best to reach out to as many clients as possible so that more people are benefited by this service.

8.3 Web Publishing, updating & attending e-mails

The website of SAIC, <http://www.saic-dhaka.org> has been updated with the new programme of SAIC and other relevant information resources. Since 1 August 2002, more than 16,902 people have visited the SAIC website and there is a steady increase in the browsing trend observed.



8.4 Procurement of computer hardware / accessories / stationeries, etc.

During the year, SAIC procured four new P-IV (Dell) computers for the SAICNet Project. Softwares like the Window XP, Office 2000, Acrobat Reader, Photoshop were installed in all the Computers and have them configured to the SAIC server

computer. Each computer is also now supported with HP laser and dot matrix printers. The Computer Division is fully upgraded with networking and is able to share information with technical institutes like the research centers, universities, international organization and other relevant organization of SAARC.

9. Meeting/ workshop/ seminar/ public function

9.1 Meeting

Reported as the Highlights 2004 under 2.1 above.

9.2 Regional workshop on ICT

Reported as the Highlights 2004 under 2.2 above.

9.3 Public Function

Reported as the Highlights 2004 under 2.3 above.

9.4 Seminar

Mr. Asif Abdullah, an Expert on ICT and

Consultant for Red Cell, a local ICT company, delivered a talk on Networking for Agricultural Information Management where all the staff of SAIC participated. Mr. Abdullah presented a picture of the current strengths and weaknesses of the IT infrastructure in Bangladesh and elsewhere. He provided some guidelines and advices on the choices of technologies, infrastructure and internet service providers available in the market and the need to choose the right type of technology that would be suitable for SAIC in its venture to get its internet connectivity.

10. Training and Professional Development of Staff

10.1 Training of GSS

The training component of the general services staff, until recently, has received the least consideration. A modest training needs analysis combined with the practical overview of the performances of the general services staff conclusively indicate the requirement of some form of training to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the staff. The personnel who have

undergone the training have demonstrated a satisfactory improvement in the delivery of their services thus justifying the need for further investment on the other staff of the Centre.

During 2004, SAIC was able to send GS staff for training outside of Bangladesh for the first time. Mr. Mohammad Abdullah, Editor, attended the training on Scientific

Writing at the National Institute of Science Communication and Agricultural Information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi, India, from 23 - 27 August 2004 while Ms Mafruha Begum, Artist, attended the training on "Information Technology for Information Management" at the same institute from 13 December 2004 to 14 January 2005.

Ms. Najmoon Nahar, Cataloguer (Library) attended 1-week training on WINISIS (CDS/ISIS) in August 2004 at the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Ms. Raihana Kabir, Production Assistant attended a 1-week training on Web page designing & development organized by BARC, Dhaka from 22-28 June 2004.

Starting from October 2004, Md. Abdul Kadir and Md. Mizamur Rahman, Data Entry Operators I & II respectively, are currently attending a nine-month long training course on Institution of Engineers (IEB) Certified LAN & WAN Administrator (Module I, II & III) at the IEB Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

10.2 Reports of professional development visits in the region

This is a programme approved by the 17th Meeting of the Governing Board and now it is included as a regular programme of SAIC. This programme enables the SAIC professionals to participate in regional /international fora, seminars, workshops and study visits with the aim of improving the awareness on current trends in

agricultural research-extension, business systems, information management, knowledge and information systems in agriculture. It is expected that through this programme, SAIC would present its initiatives in important fora and explore possibilities for establishing institutional linkages and start partnership programmes with national, regional and international organizations for exchange of information.

Besides the above, under this programme, eminent professional experts in the field of agriculture and information management are also invited to have guest lectures with the aim of sharing ideas and discuss issues of common concerns.

During 2004, the following professionals were involved in participating in regional conferences and making a study visit:

Mr. Samdup Rigyal, Deputy Director (Policy Planning) attended a five-day study visit to Sri Lanka from 23 - 28 October 2004 to study the cyber units established at the village level extension centers and to learn about the modified cyber extension system established as the alternative approach to web based IT strategies to provide information for rural development.

The Sri Lankan experience throws light on different means of disseminating agricultural information. However, since similar practices are also implemented elsewhere, SAIC could undertake studies to draw comparisons in the usefulness and

benefits of such services and share the ideas with the other member countries. The programme was organized by the Audio-Visual Centre (AVC), Department of Agriculture at Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Mr. WAG Sisirakumara, Deputy Director (Communication, Information & Audio Visual) attended a 2-day conference on "International Conference on Digital Institutional Repositories: Experiences and challenges" at Hong Kong during 9 -10 December 2004. During the conference, there were presentations of various papers that saw the global perspectives of important Libraries engaged in maintaining digital libraries, research and development. One significant recommendation was the need for conventional libraries or information centers to keep pace with global trends headed toward providing digital information services to their clients.

The awareness and exposure received from this conference helped to contribute ideas in maintaining a digital SAIC information

repository along with SAICNet.

The conference was organized by the Hongkong University of Science & Technology (HKUST) and the California Institute of Technology Libraries (Caltech).

Mr. Srinivasacharyulu, Information Specialist attended a four-day "Asian Library and Information Conference" at Bangkok during 21-24 November 2004. The main focus of the conference was about the important role libraries play as gateways to information and knowledge in the digital age. The conference was organized by Thai Library Association, Asia Library News, InfoMedia Asia Limited supported by UNESCO and International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

In addition to the above, and as reported under 9.4 above, a talk on Networking for Agricultural Information Management was organized where all the staff of SAIC participated.

11. Programme Monitoring and Evaluation

11.1 Monitoring & Backstopping Support to Programmes in Nepal

Mr. W.A.G. Sisirakumara, Deputy Director for Communication, Information and Audiovisuals (CIAV), visited Nepal from 15 to 20 November 2004 to pursue monitoring and backstopping of SAIC programmes implemented in Nepal. During his visit, he explored possibilities of acquiring some publications like

newsletters and newspapers from various institutes in Nepal besides promoting the CD ROM Search services provided by SAIC. Most scientists in Nepal were not aware of the CD ROM search services and Mr. Sisirakumara explained to them the diversity of the CD ROM databases available at SAIC and the benefit of the services to the scientists and researchers in the region.

Mr. Sisirakumara also followed up on the production of the video film on "Rinderpest Eradication in Nepal" implemented by the Agricultural Information and Communication Centre (AICC) and the possibilities of dubbing video films in English by the same Centre. He explored the sources of contribution of materials for the SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA) and SAIC Newsletter. Mr. Sisirakumara also expressed the concerns of SAIC on the lack of information from the region, including Nepal, for the "Food Grain Situation in SAARC Countries" Bulletin brought out by SAIC on a regular basis and emphasized the urgency of the concerned organizations in Nepal to contribute information.

During the visit, the mailing list of publications for Nepal was updated by personally visiting the institutions and meeting relevant scientists. Follow-up actions were also taken on the progress of the preparation of the Nepal Chapter of the papers on two publications: "Handbook on Diseases of Livestock and Poultry in SAARC Countries" and "Handbook on Diseases of Fish and Crustaceans in SAARC Countries."

In addition to the regular monitoring and backstopping support to programmes implemented in Nepal, Mr. Sisirakumara also visited various institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture in Nepal to promote and strengthen institutional linkages with SAIC. Some of the major

institutes he visited are the following:

1. Director General's Office, Department of Livestock Services,
2. Agriculture Information and Communication Centre (AICC)
3. Communication, Publication and Documentation Division of the Nepal Agriculture Research Council
4. Directorate of Fisheries Development
5. Directorate of Agribusiness Promotion and Marketing Development
6. Directorate of Agricultural Extension and Marketing
7. Department of Soil Conservation & Watershed Management

12. Administration and Finance

12.1 Staff: new professionals

The following two persons were selected as new professionals of SAIC. They will join office from the beginning of 2005:

12.1.1 Audio Visual Specialist

Mr. R.D. Siripala will join SAIC as Audio Visual Specialist (AVS). He works as the Subject Matter Specialist (Video) at the Audio Visual Centre under the Department of Agriculture at Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.



Mr. Siripala is specialized in Television for Development and worked for 12 years in the field of agricultural video programme production in Sri Lanka. He has also experiences of having worked as the trainer in the field of low cost AV material production and usage.

12.1.2 Computer Specialist

Mr. Saleemullah Sohoo, an engineer by profession will join SAIC as the Computer Specialist (CS). Currently, he works as Assistant Director



(Engineering & Technology) in the IT Department at the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad, Pakistan.

Mr. Sohoo has a Bachelor's degree in Engineering (Electronics) from MUET, Jamshoro, Pakistan and Masters degree in Economics and LLB from SALU, Khairpur, Pakistan. Mr Sohoo has vast experiences in conducting trainings, seminars, workshops and others related to Information Technology. He is also a professional artist, the skill developed through his own personal interest.

12.2 Audit Report

12.2.1 Audit of SAIC by JAT-2003

The annual audit for the year ending 2003 of the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) was conducted by a Joint Audit Team (JAT) 2003 from 2nd to 3rd May 2004. The JAT 2003 audited the annual accounts and related statements of receipts and payments of the Centre.

The JAT 2003 found that the necessary accounts were appropriately maintained by the Centre. The two-member audit team, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal, Director General, Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan, Islamabad and Mr. Zahurul Islam, Director, Defence Audit Directorate, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, submitted the financial statements that reflect the state of affairs of the SAIC for the year ended 31st December 2002.

Statement of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2004

Sl. No.	Particulars	Revised budget in US \$	Expenditure in US\$	% Expenditure
A	Institutional Cost			
1	Allowances to the Director and Professional Staff	69,750.00	68,191.93	97.77
2	Salaries and allowances to GS Officers and Staff	72,444.00	72,005.44	99.39
3	Travel Cost and Per diem	3,000.00	473.00	15.77
4	Printing, Stationery and Reproduction	1,500.00	1,308.32	87.22
5	Utilities, Services and maintenance	8,150.00	2,634.61	32.33
6	Local hospitality for Governing Board, Selection Committee, etc.	8,000.00	5,504.00	68.80
7	Vehicles, generator, lift (POL, Insurance, Repairs etc.)	12,500.00	5,029.46	40.24
8	Contingencies (including loss/gain on exchange rates)	4,500.00	2,518.31	55.96
	Total Institutional Cost (A)	179,844.00	157,665.07	87.67
B.	Programme Cost			
1	Acquisition of conventional and non conventional publications	7,000.00	5,115.69	73.08
2	CD ROM and computer software	20,000.00	20,012.00	100.06
3	In house reproduction of SAIC publications	1,000.00	524.72	52.47
4	Periodic services (current awareness/SDI services etc.)	400.00	292.99	73.25
5	Audio-visual media production and reproduction & video library	31,800.00	24,128.59	75.88
6	SAIC Annual Report 2003	680.00	674.36	99.17
7	SAIC Newsletter	4500.00	4,406.59	97.92
8	Distribution of SAIC publications and information collection	12,000.00	11,960.67	99.67
9	Computer mediated communication of information	15000.00	13,041.68	86.94
10	Foodgrain Situation in SAARC countries (Half yearly)	300.00	184.30	61.43
11	Monitoring and backstopping support to programmes	4,500.00	1,022.87	22.73
12	Training of SAIC general services staff	6,500.00	3,563.70	54.83
13	SAARC Journal of Agriculture	4,500.00	2,966.19	65.92
14	Directory of agricultural scientists and technologists	3,100.00	2,840.91	91.64
15	Statistical bulletin of SAARC agricultural data	1,900.00	667.54	35.13
16	Impact study of SAIC publications	1,600.00	1,338.45	83.65
17	Technologies on Livestock and Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation	3,000.00	1,600.08	53.34
18	Regional Workshop on ICT	17,500.00	12,149.67	69.43
19	Continuing professional development programme	6,500.00	4,506.58	69.33
20	Production of IMM CD on Paddy production in Sri Lanka	4,000.00	4,000.00	100.00
21	SAIC Net	6,000.00	5,801.18	96.69
22	Guide on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (GMAP)	9,950.00	5,000.00	50.25
23	Hand book on diseases of Fishes and Crustaceans	500.00	500.00	100.00
24	SAARC Charter day	3,000.00	2,229.60	74.32
25	Miscellaneous expenditure	1,000.00	111.99	11.20
	Total Programme Cost (B)	167,730.00	128,615.46	76.68
	Total Institutional and Programme Cost (A+B)	347,574.00	286,280.53	82.37
C	Capital Cost: Purchase of a Car	28,350.00	18,559.32	65.46
	GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)	375,924.00	304,839.85	81.09

List of Members of the SAIC Governing Board (GB)

Dr. M Nurul Alam, Executive Chairman,
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council,
Farmgate, Dhaka - 1215, Bangladesh

Phone : +880-2-8114032 (O), 8111446 (R)
Fax No. : +880-2-9130844
E-mail : barc@bdmail.net

Ms. Pema Lhamo, Programme Director,
RNR-Information and Communication
Services (ICS), Ministry of Agriculture,
Tashicho Dzong, Thimphu, Bhutan

Phone : +975-2-32131, 323765 (O) Fax
No. : +975-2-324520
E-mail : p_lhamo@moa.gov.bt

Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Director,
National Centre for Agricultural Economics
and Policy Research (NCAP),
Pusa, New Delhi - 110001, India

Phone : +91-11-5743036 (O),
6242333, 6241206(R)
Fax No. : +91-11-25822684
E-mail : dir_ncap@iasri.delhi.nic.in

Ms. Aminath Shafia, Assistant Director,
Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine
Resources, Government of Maldives Male,
Maldives

Phone : +9-60-336830 (O)
Fax No. : +9-60-326558

Dr. Hari Dahal
Chief, Agricultural Information &
Communication Centre, Ministry of
Agriculture & Cooperative, Harihar Bhaban,
Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone : +977-1-5525617, 9841241947 (m)
Fax: +977-1-5522258

Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Khan
Deputy Agriculture Development
Commissioner, Ministry of Food, Agriculture
& Livestock, Islamabad, Pakistan

Phone : +92-51-9202602 (O), 9266134 (R)
Fax No. : +92-51-9221246
E-mail : rodipk02@yahoo.com

Mr. D. B. Weeratunga, Director, Seeds and
Planting Material Development Centre,
Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya,
Sri Lanka

Phone : +94-8-388100, 388122, 388106
(O), 215090 (R); Fax No. : +94-8-388608
E-mail : spmdo@sltnet.lk

Mr. Sufiur Rahman, Director, SAARC
Secretariat, P.O. Box. No.- 4222,
Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone : +977-1-221784 (O), 420321 (R)
Fax No. : +977-1-227033, 223991
E-mail : dirban@saarc-sec.org

Ms. Saida Muna Tasneem, Director
(SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Phone: +880-2-9559538 (O)

Price list of SAIC publications

Title of the Publications	Price in US\$ for SAARC Countries	Price in US\$ for Other Countries	Retail Price in BD Taka
1. Agricultural Scientists and Technologists of SAARC Countries: 2nd Edition	10.00	15.00	500.00
2. Agricultural Institutions in SAARC Countries: 3rd Edition	10.00	15.00	440.00
3. Annotated Bibliography on Agroforestry in the SAARC Region	10.00	14.00	440.00
4. Annotated Bibliography on Potato in the SAARC Countries	10.00	15.00	440.00
5. Bibliography on Fish Diseases in the SAARC Countries	3.00	5.00	132.00
6. Database on Renewable Energy Resources in SAARC Countries (1996)	3.00	5.00	132.00
7. Directory of Agricultural Periodicals of SAARC Countries: 2nd Revised Edition	10.00	15.00	500.00
8. Dynamics of Agricultural Biotechnology: SAARC Bibliographical Database	10.00	15.00	440.00
9. Database on Livestock Production Breeding and Management in SAARC Countries	10.00	15.00	440.00
10. Improved Equipment for the Farm People of the SAARC Region	5.00	10.00	220.00
11. Postharvest Management in Agriculture SAARC Bibliographical Database	5.00	8.00	220.00
12. Women in Agriculture, Gender issues in South Asian Farming	7.50	10.00	352.00
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