

Annual Report 2005

**SAARC Agricultural
Information Centre**

SAIC Annual Report 2005



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

SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC)

BARC Campus, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

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

Email : saic@bdonline.com

Website : www.saic-dhaka.org

Compiled and edited by : Mohammad Abdullah

Photograph : Shahalam Mowla Chowdhury

Cover design : Mafruha Begum

Layout : Raihana Kabir

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Preface

The present Annual Report illustrates the activities of SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) for the year 2005. During the year SAIC successfully completed the programmes that were assigned by the Governing Board.

SAIC arranged a seminar during the year that provided the scope for sharing the experience of the farmers of South Asia to reduce the enormity of the risk factors in the agriculture and allied sectors as number of risks in Agriculture are common phenomena among the SAARC countries.

SAIC always gives more emphasis on sharing information with its stakeholders in the SAARC member countries. During 2005, SAIC completed the publication of SAARC Journal of Agriculture, Statistical Bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data and SAIC Newsletter. SAIC also published the seminar proceedings on Risks in Agriculture and Their Coping Strategies in SAARC Countries and published the 2nd revised edition of the book titled Plant Genetic Resources in SAARC Countries: Their Conservation and Management. The Handbook on Fish and Crustacean Diseases in SAARC Region, Catalogue of Selected SAIC Publications, and a Profile on SAARC Agricultural Information Centre were also published during the period under report.

SAIC released several VCDs on different issues of agriculture and allied discipline. The Centre also completed the programmes related to audio-visual media production, procurement of CD-ROM databases and dissemination of scientific information through electronic mails. The website of SAIC <http://www.saic-dhaka.org> has been updated with the current programmes and recent information.

In this regard we request our partners in the region to take the maximum benefit of our information databases for their research, development and planning activities in the agriculture and allied sectors.

Our sincere thanks and appreciations are extended to all of our stakeholders working in the different organizations in SAARC member countries who have continuously contributed in completing SAIC projects by providing necessary information. In this regard, we also welcome suggestions from our partners working in the region for our future endeavours.

Dr. Wais Kabir
Director, SAIC

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Executive Summary

In 2005, SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) successfully completed the programmes that were assigned by the Governing Board in 2004. The 19th meeting of the Governing Board was held in SAIC during 2005 and assigned new programmes for 2006.

SAIC also took a programme that could provide the scope for sharing the experience of the farmers of South Asia to diminish the magnitude of the risk factors in the agriculture and allied sectors, as risks in Agriculture are common phenomena among SAARC countries. The repetition of disasters has forcefully put the farmers of SAARC countries in a position to discover the alternatives for surviving better in a precarious situation.

Seminar

Observance of SAARC Charter Day 2005

SAIC organized a Seminar on 'Prospect of SAARC in the Service of South Asia: Lessons and Future Directions' on 8 December in 2005. The former Secretary General of SAARC, Mr. QAMA Rahim presented the Keynote speech on the occasion.

Seminar on Trade Liberalization and Food Security

During November 2005, SAIC and BARC jointly organized a seminar on 'Trade Liberalization and Food Security in South

Asia'. Professor Dr. Ramesh Chand, Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), ICAR, India and Member, SAIC Governing Board presented the seminar.

The seminar discussed the issues related to post WTO environment for agriculture with special emphasis for assessing the impacts of WTO on SAARC member countries, and other relevant issues related to food security and impact of trade liberalisation.

Publication

During the year, SAIC completed the publication of Annual Report, SAIC Newsletter, SAARC Journal of Agriculture and Statistical Bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data. SAIC also published the seminar proceedings on Risks in Agriculture and their Coping Strategies in SAARC Countries and published the 2nd revised edition of the book titled Plant Genetic Resources in SAARC Countries: Their Conservation and Management. The Handbook on Fish and Crustacean Diseases in SAARC Region, Catalogue of Selected SAIC Publications, and a Profile on SAARC Agricultural Information Centre were also published during the period under report.

Collaborative initiative

A collaborative initiative was established with the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) to provide technical support in

designing and finalising the SAICNet website. Some of the outputs of this collaboration were planning, managing and designing of SAICNet website. Training of SAIC's staff was also organised as a part of this initiative during the year 2005.

Procurement of publications

In 2005, SAIC Library subscribed and procured 526 books/ journals/ reports/ newsletters/ newspapers and magazines from the member countries and other international organizations. Among the purchased publications, there were 199 books, 78 journals, 79 annual reports, 109 newsletters and 61 magazines.

CD-ROM search services

In 2005, a total of 256 e-mails were received from the scientists/researchers of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka requesting abstract services. In this regard, 42,550 abstracts were sent to 253 users (compared to 215 during 2004) through e-mail.

Professional development programme

Mr. Samdrup Rigyal Deputy Director (Policy Planning) participated in an international conference on 'Agricultural and Rural Development in Asia: Ideas, Paradigms and Policies' during November 2005. The conference was organised by the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

Mr. WAG Sisira Kumara, Deputy Director (Information, Communication and Audiovisuals) participated in the Third International Conference on Information Technology and Multimedia (ICITMU) in November 2005 in Malayasia. The conference was organised by the University of Tanaga National (UNITEN) at the College of Information Technology, Kajang, Malayasia.

Capacity building programme

During August 2005, SAIC organised a five-day Capacity Building Programme on Agricultural Library and Information Management in Bhutan jointly with Information Communication Services (ICS), Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan. The resource persons of the programme included among others, Ms. Pema Lhamo, Programme Director, ICS and Chairperson, SAIC Governing Board, Mr. Samdrup Rigyal DD(PP) and Mr. A. Srinivasacharyulu, Information Specialist, SAIC.

Genesis of SAIC

The SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) is the first regional institution of SAARC. SAIC started functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh 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) campus, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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.

Administrative Set-up of SAIC

SAIC is functioning under the following administrative set-up:

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 in the field of agriculture and information management from each member country. The representatives of the SAARC Secretariat, Nepal 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.

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.

Professionals and 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 implementation of programmes.

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

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.

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.

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

Table : Shares of contribution for each SAARC member country

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 US \$ 500
Nepal	11.95%	7.02%
Pakistan	25.10%	14.75%
Sri Lanka	11.95%	7.02%

Events of the year 2005

Nineteenth Meeting of the Governing Board

Inaugural Function

At the invitation of the SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC), the 19th Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) was held in Dhaka from 25- 27 September 2005. The Meeting was inaugurated by the honourable Chief Guest, Mr. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, MP, State Minister for Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mr. Reaz Rahman, honourable Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the Special Guest at the Inaugural Function. The Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the Foreign

Missions of SAARC member countries in Dhaka also attended the Inaugural Function as special invitees. The Function was presided over by Ms. Pema Lhamo, Director, Information and communication Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan and current Chairperson of the Governing Board of SAIC. The meeting was attended by the members of the Governing Board from the SAARC member countries as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Sufiur Rahman, Director, SAARC Secretariat was present as the representative of the Secretary General of SAARC.



Inaugural function of the 19th GB meeting; from left : Dr. Wais Kabir, Honourable Minister Mr. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir MP, Ms. Pema Lhamo and Mr. Reaz Rahman



Participants of the 19th meeting of the Governing Board

1st row (from left): Mr. DB Weeratunga, Ms. Pema Lhamo and Dr. M Nurul Alam

2nd row (from left): Dr. Wais Kabir, Mr. Sufiur Rahman, Dr. Hari Dahal and Dr. Rashid Anwar

In his inaugural address Mr. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, MP appreciated the efforts of SAIC in serving the information needs of SAARC and suggested the need to improve the services of SAIC to generate relevant and need based information and make them readily available for the benefit of the farmers of the member countries.

Mr. Reaz Rahman, Hon'ble Advisor for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in his speech flagged key issues that SAIC can consider to improve its performance and make its

services relevant for the region. He made specific suggestions on improving optimal utilisation of financial resources, linkages with relevant SAARC country entities in programme design, assessment of activities of SAIC on a regular basis, focusing on the specific needs of individual countries. He wished that SAIC would realise its potential and become a Centre of excellence.

Ms. Pema Lhamo, Chairperson of the Governing Board of SAIC in her speech commended the services of SAIC to the agricultural professionals of SAARC region and expressed that the 19th

Meeting of GB would help SAIC to identify relevant areas of cooperation in disseminating agricultural information to its clients. She appreciated Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council for its role and support to SAIC in implementing programmes.

Mr. Md. Sufiur Rahman, Director, SAARC Secretariat conveyed the greetings of His Excellency Secretary General of SAARC. He thanked SAIC for the excellent arrangement and providing generous hospitality to the participants of the GB meeting. He highlighted ever-increasing emphasis on SAARC member countries on project collaboration and discussed in the meeting on a few regional projects.

Major Decisions Taken at 19th GB Meeting

On the report presented by the Director on the activities of 2004 and 2005, the GB members advised that the Report, in addition to review of the last year's programmes, should also make a review of the past few years' programmes. It should also make an analysis of the inadequacies, if any, and propose possible ways and means to overcome those. The GB also felt that there should be linkage between SAIC and other bodies of SAARC.

The GB attached particular emphasis in the participation of Director and the professionals of SAIC in conferences/workshop or seminars in the South Asian Region for strengthening institutional

linkages. The Director, SAIC would ensure the identification of such relevant events and plan in advance so that the professionals could meaningfully participate in these events and share the experience among the member countries through appropriate media.

In his address, the Director of SAIC, Dr. Wais Kabir thanked the distinguished guests and members of the GB for attending the Function. He expressed that the 19th Meeting of the GB of SAIC is important for SAIC to identify areas of cooperation among the SAARC member countries and design appropriate programmes and activities in the following year. He wished that SAIC would be benefited from the valuable guidance of GB Members by rededicating itself to serve the information needs of SAARC member countries.

The Governing Board underscored the need for identification of demand driven programmes which will serve the farming community of the region. In this context, the GB emphasised the need for consultation at the national level of the respective member countries. To facilitate national level consultations, SAIC would provide background information about the programmes implemented during past years. The insights of the discussions and pertinent directions of SAARC process in the areas under the mandates of the Centre may be considered for setting priorities on designing the programmes.



Mr. DB Weeratunga, Member from Sri Lanka receives crest from GB Chairperson Ms. Pema Lhamo during his farewell from SAIC. Dr. Wais Kabir, Director, SAIC is also seen in the photograph.

The GB expressed serious concerns over the non-finalisation of the common format for head-quarters agreement for SAARC regional Centres. The GB strongly recommended that the SAARC Secretariat should pursue the matter with the member countries for early finalisation and approval of the same.

The GB felt the need for a full-time Director of SAIC and recommended that the SAARC Secretariat raise it with member countries for a favourable decision. The GB members would take up this matter individually with the respective SAARC Divisions of the Foreign Ministries for consideration.

The GB also reiterated its earlier decision on the review of the allowances of the Director, living and other allowances of the professionals, pay and allowances of the GSS and recommended for consideration of the same by the next Group of Experts. The GB shared the concern of the Centre for the lack of promotion prospects for GSS and recommended that the Secretariat explore mechanisms to create room for financial move over. The GB reviewed the audit observation made by 'Joint Audit Team 2004' and reiterated the need for strict compliance of the existing rules.

Seminar on Risks in Agriculture in SAARC Countries : Their Coping Strategies

The GB members from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka presented their respective papers on the above topic on 27 September 2005, the third day of the meeting of Governing Board. Later, these papers were published by SAIC for wider circulation among the member countries.

In SAARC countries, the economy is predominated by agriculture with about 75% of the population deriving their livelihood from agriculture and allied sectors. At the same time, natural calamities are the characteristic feature of the region's physical and economic environments.

As the scale and extent of the disasters increase, more people are being affected when they occur. Pressure of population pushes farming and settlement onto marginal land, where large numbers of people are continuously exposed to the risk of crop damage or loss. Natural disasters are predictable; so are the actual effects of these disasters on agricultural production. The kinds of disaster liable to affect agricultural production in particular parts of the country are well known, just as the times of the year when they are liable to occur. The risks associated with agriculture are prevalent in all SAARC countries. The nature of risks vary from one country to another. However, it is seen that each

SAARC country has designed its own coping strategies, characteristic of the nature of risks encountered in their own specific situations. It is useful to share information and experiences on the primary categories of risks in general and the management strategies developed for providing better protection in such situations.

Given the significance of this problem, SAIC designed a programme to create a forum that could provide scope for sharing information on the escalating magnitude of agricultural risks, the nature of risks or disasters in each country and preventive measures designed to reduce losses.

The information compiled from each country paper fulfilled the following objectives:

- (i) identify the categories and nature of common agricultural production risks encountered in the SAARC member countries
- (ii) identify coping strategies including the principles and methods involved in planning, precautionary and rehabilitation measures designed, to reduce the impact of risks affecting agriculture
- (iii) document the information and share the experiences among SAARC member countries

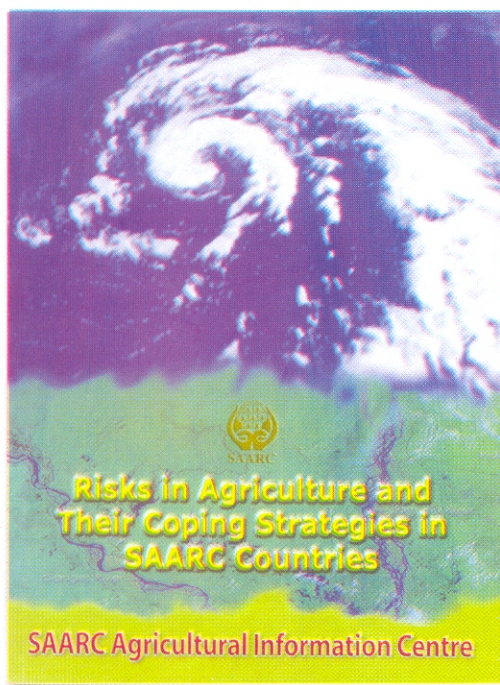
Following are the highlights of the papers:

Regarding **Bangladesh**, the geographical location of the country makes it one of the most natural disaster prone places in the world. Among the various economic sectors, agriculture is the worst affected sector by the natural disasters. The recurrence of disasters like floods, droughts, cyclones, storm-surges, etc., has exposed Bangladeshi farmers to escalating risks of food insecurity both through risk failing own production as well as through reduced access to food.

The above four are the major natural disasters inflicting maximum devastation in terms of area, number of farmers and crop production affected. There are

several other natural disasters like river bank erosion, burial of fertile land by alluvium, landslides, hail storm, salinity, pest and disease epidemics, etc., that creep around every now and then over the country.

Almost all risks in agriculture in **Bhutan** are associated with its mountainous environment attributed to rugged terrain, topographical variation, adverse climatic conditions, etc. The geologically unstable topography and steep mountain slopes are highly prone to landslides, floods and other forms of mass wasting. To conserve its fragile ecosystems, high priority is accorded to forest cover. However, this rich endowment, besides assuring sustainable development, has imposed another challenge. Extensive forests has created favourable situation for increasing the wildlife population in the country which is responsible for mass destruction of the cereals and other food crops cultivated by the farmers in the lands adjacent to the forest areas. Land encroachment by urbanization, labour shortages, poor rural access to markets, pests and diseases are other risks confronted by agriculture. Strategies for coping risks in agriculture are yet to be fully established in Bhutan. However, there are wide scopes and opportunities for developing them well. There are well conserved environment of 73% forest cover in Bhutan, with strong policy commitment among the various institutions, along with the right team spirit, large biological diversity and a



glowing approach to development of agriculture, forestry and livestock present in the country.

The country paper from **India** focuses particularly on the case study of rice. It shows that higher rice yield growth with stability is achieved in areas where adoption of high yielding varieties and associate crop management practices is maximum. The paper also outlines policy options for risk management and technology-led growth in agriculture.

Climate-induced yield risk was considered to be the main source of risk in agriculture in India for quite a long time. Over a period of time, focus of analysis shifted to farm income which fluctuates as a result of instability in prices, area planted, input supply, and several other technology-related factors. Price risk is less relevant in subsistence agriculture when most of the production is for home consumption. There are a large proportion of small and subsistence farmers in India and yield risk is the major component for them. Price risk is also of less significance for those commercial farmers who experience negative correlation between crop yield and price. This situation is drastically changing when Indian agriculture is becoming increasingly commercial and farmers are responding significantly to price signals both for inputs and outputs.

Nepal, a mountainous country with a complex diversity of crop growing environment is also prone to various types of risks and uncertainties that are

associated with natural calamities similar to other countries in South Asia.

The major uncertainties associated with agriculture in **Nepal** are the unpredictable impacts of weather, pests and diseases and other natural calamities, price variations of the markets and inadequate information. In Nepal, all of these and in particular, unreliable monsoons cause great variations in agricultural outputs both in crop and livestock sector.

Agricultural production in **Pakistan** is dependent upon the weather patterns where the crop growth is affected due to high temperatures, untimely rains, spontaneous hailstorm and floods. The agriculture sector also faces the environmental and natural hazards both biotic and abiotic stresses from sowing to harvesting period. Although farmers and other stakeholders often adopt measures for coping with the threat, due to the diversity of the ecological zones and variety of crops cultivated in the country, risks to production remains high. In some areas, the rainfall and hailstorms cause up to 100 % damage. More than 60% of rainfall is received during the monsoon. But at times, uneven rains and subsequent floods severely damage the field crops.

Sri Lanka being a tropical country situated within the equatorial belt, the agricultural production of the country is like the other South Asian Countries in the region, mostly dependent upon the prevailing weather patterns. The main weather parameter affecting the crop

growth is rainfall. The country receives rainfall from two monsoons, North-East and South-West monsoon, supplemented by frequent cyclonic depressions depending on the weather patterns in the Indian Ocean.

The rainfall pattern in the country is very erratic and unevenly distributed. This results in frequent droughts leading to serious economic set back. Agriculture is the most affected production sector where seasonal crops such as rice and other cereals, coarse grains, pulses, condiments, vegetables and fruit crops are produced

for mass consumption. During drought situation, it is mostly the rice farmers who are at great risks of loosing their produce.

Floods due to heavy rains are frequently reported in recent times causing much damages to most of the seasonal crops grown in the lower landscapes. The excessive rains also lead to soil erosion and landslides. The incidence of pests and diseases are some other risks to agricultural production. Proper management practices and various other measures are undertaken to avoid the risks associated with this problem.

Observation of SAARC Charter Day 2005

Seminar on SAARC in the Service of South Asia

In observance of the SAARC Charter Day 2005, a Seminar on 'Prospect of SAARC in the Service of South Asia: Lessons and Future Directions' was held on 8 December in 2005 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Conference Room, Dhaka. Mr. QAMA Rahim, the former Secretary General of SAARC presented the Keynote speech on the occasion.

Major General (Rtd.) Anwarul Kabir Talukder, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. M Nurul Alam, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the seminar.

The seminar came with the new ideas that can help SAARC to grow with more functional commitments among the member countries and the farmers of South Asia to thrive with better economies.

In his speech Mr. QAMA Rahim, the former Secretary General of SAARC noted that SAARC has progressed in a positive direction during the first two decades of its existence. He stated that the main objectives of SAARC Charter were promoting the welfare of the peoples of South Asia, accelerating economic growth, social progress, cultural development and strengthening collective



Mr. QAMA Rahim (right) receives crest from Honourable Minister Major General (Rtd.) Anwarul Kabir Talukder

self-reliance among the SAARC member countries. He reiterated for realization of these objectives and called for continued result oriented efforts to interpret the commitments into concrete actions through implementation of regional programmes.

The former Secretary General mentioned that the Thirteenth SAARC summit held in Dhaka during November 2005 singled

Secretary General of SAARC Visits SAIC

His Excellency Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji, the Secretary General of SAARC paid an official visit to SAIC, Dhaka on 3 April 2005. The Director, SAIC welcomed the Secretary General and thanked His Excellency for his kind visit to SAIC. The Secretary General had an exclusive discussion with the Director, and other officials of SAIC. The Secretary General highly lauded the role of SAIC in providing information on research and

some moves towards working with some of the very challenging issues. He stressed for achieving a strong economy and technological advances in South Asia by creating an environment to share the developmental information, specially in the fields of agriculture.

Mr. QAMA Rahim

emphasized that the efforts of disseminating the applied agricultural technology among the farmers of South Asia should continue by SAIC to free SAARC region from poverty and hunger, which still continue to be present as frightening challenges in the member countries.

development in agriculture and allied fields in the region. Mr. Ruhul Amin, Director General, SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh and Mr. Sufiur Rahman, Director, SAARC Secretariat were also present during the deliberation.

The Secretary General underlined the need for effective dissemination of the applied agricultural technology to the



His Excellency the Secretary General underlined the need for effective dissemination of information on applied agricultural technology

grassroots level farmers in the region. The Secretary General also necessitated the dissemination of local technologies available from the farmers. He told that both the inter and intra institutional linkages should be established and further strengthened for achieving the maximum output from the regional organizations established under SAARC. In this regard, Director, SAIC reiterated the importance of field visits and monitoring the agricultural activities towards better understanding and capturing the enigma of agriculture and allied sectors in the region. The Secretary General opined that

the farmers of the region expect better guidelines from SAIC towards developing a comprehensive agriculture. This phenomenon is only possible after studying the region's agriculture in a holistic approach.

His Excellency assured that all cooperation and necessary assistance from SAARC Secretariat would be provided to develop SAIC as a centre of excellence. After deliberations, the Secretary general visited the Audio-visual laboratory, SAICNet server room and the library of SAIC.

SAIC publications during 2005

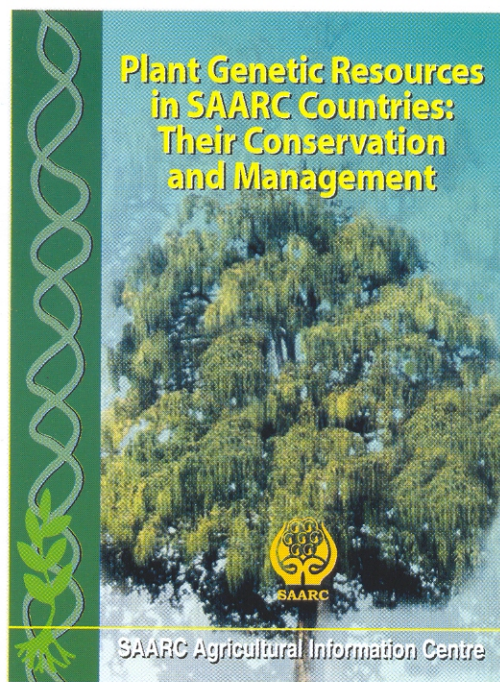
Plant Genetic Resources of SAARC Countries : Their Conservation and Management

The Plant Genetic Resource (PGR) provides the main source of food, feed, fodder, fibre, fuel, shelter and products of industrial and pharmaceutical importance besides its contribution in maintaining the agro-ecosystems. The importance of PGR has greatly enhanced today with the realisation that it can meet the rising demands of the population while ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural systems and security of the environment.

The main objective of this compilation of information on PGR of SAARC countries is to harmonise the procedures for exploration, collection, introduction, evaluation, documentation and conservation of plant genetic diversity of food crops and their wild relatives for the region.

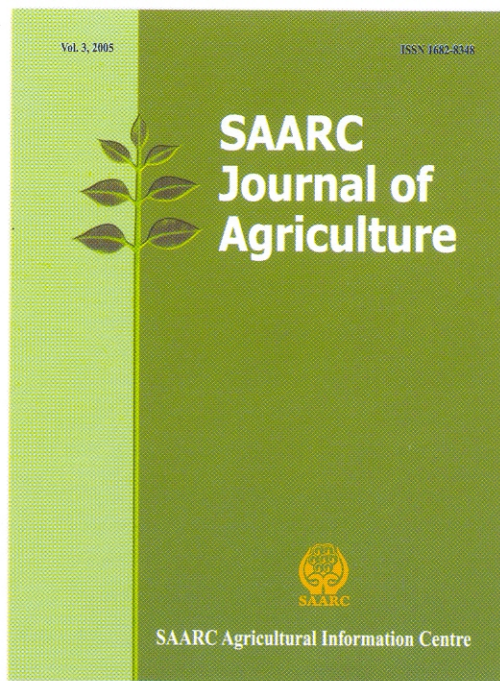
PGR evolution is a continuous process and the genetic resources are not

distributed uniformly all over the region. The self-sufficiency in PGR cannot be attained by a country as it cannot accumulate all resources to satisfy the present needs and future requirements. Therefore, it is imperative for all the members of the SAARC region to collaborate at various levels for the acquisition and conservation of the germplasm, sharing of information and technologies, and also for mutually respecting the regulatory mechanisms, management and use of the resources. The first edition of this book was published during 2003. During 2005, SAIC published the 2nd revised edition which includes the additional chapter from Bhutan.



SAARC Journal of Agriculture

SAIC has been publishing the SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA) since 2003. The SJA contains scientific papers on original research and reviews in the field of agriculture and allied disciplines in SAARC member countries. The SJA is envisaged to provide a common platform for exchanging of latest knowledge on breakthrough topics that are of current concern for researchers, extension workers, policy makers and students in the region. The third issue of SAARC Journal of Agriculture contains 21 research articles in the field of agriculture and allied disciplines. Now a days, The SAARC Journal of Agriculture is considered a vital



tool for exchange of contemporary scientific knowledge among the researchers and scientists of SAARC region.

Statistical Bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data - 2005

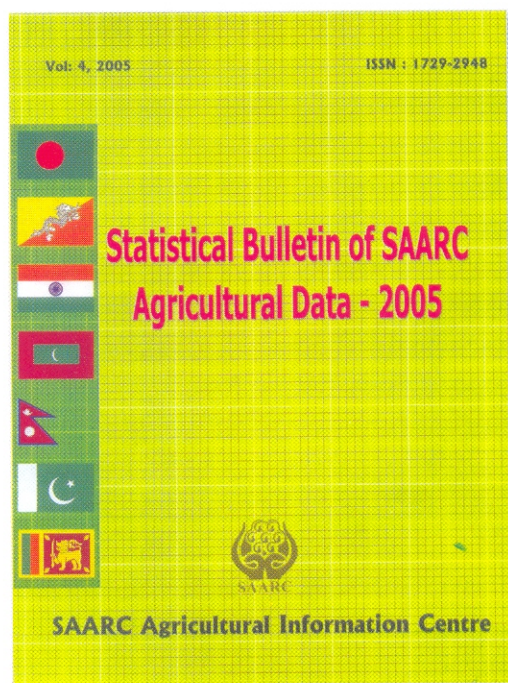
This publication is the fourth in the series. The publication contains latest available data on population, land use, production and yield of major food crops, cash crops, oil crops, etc., of SAARC member countries. The publication may serve as a ready reference for important statistical information at a glance for the researchers, planners and administrators engaged in decision-making process in the SAARC region.

SAIC Newsletter

SAIC has been regularly publishing the quarterly SAIC Newsletter. It contains information on applied technologies generated on various fields of agriculture such as crops, fisheries, forestry, livestock, etc., for the scientists, researchers and farmers of SAARC member countries. The SAIC Newsletter Vol. 14, No. 4 and, Vol. 15: No 1, 2, and 3 were published and distributed among the readers in the region during the period.

SAIC Annual Report

The first issue of the Annual Report was published in November 1994 and since then, it was published regularly every year. The report includes information about SAIC objectives, major functions, and completed activities and programmes. SAIC has duly published the Annual Report 2004 and distributed them among the member countries.



Food-grain Situation in SAARC Countries

The Bulletin provides information on the situation of major food grains of the member countries. The information includes production, anticipated demand, likely shortfalls, surplus, etc. of major food grains of SAARC countries. The information is useful for researchers, national planners and policy makers. During 2005 SAIC published one issue of the publication on Food-grain Situation in SAARC Countries.

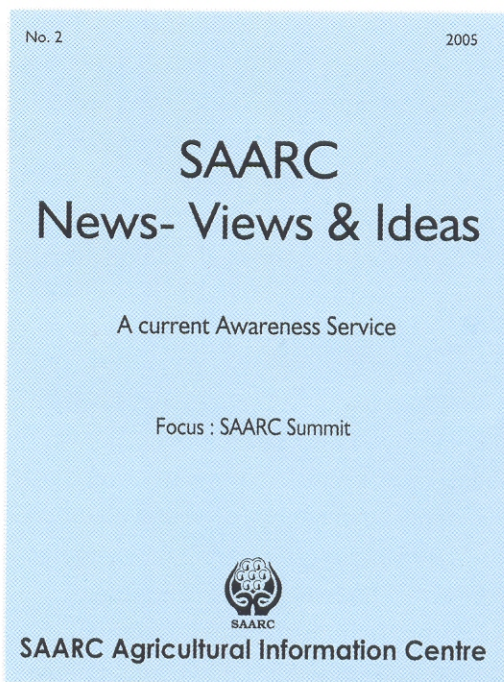
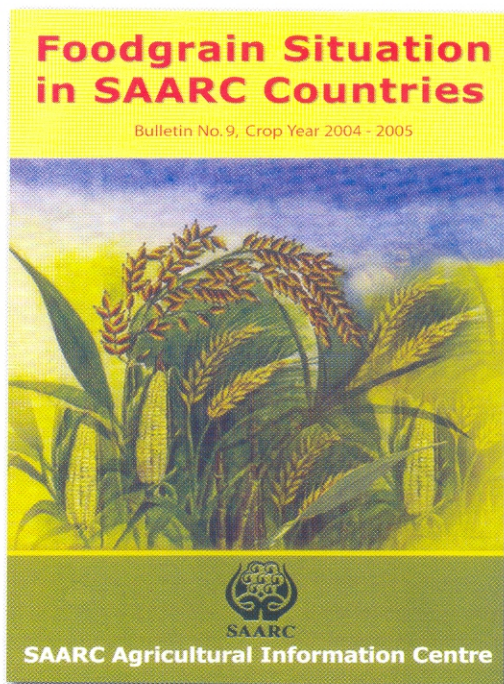
SAARC Agrinews

This is a compilation of articles from leading daily Newspapers from the SAARC countries. This compilation includes articles on agricultural technologies generated by different research institutes and universities related to crops, livestock, poultry, fisheries, etc. During 2005 SAIC published 2 issues of SAARC Agrinews and distributed them to selected group of readers.

Handbook on Fish and Crustacean Diseases in the SAARC Region

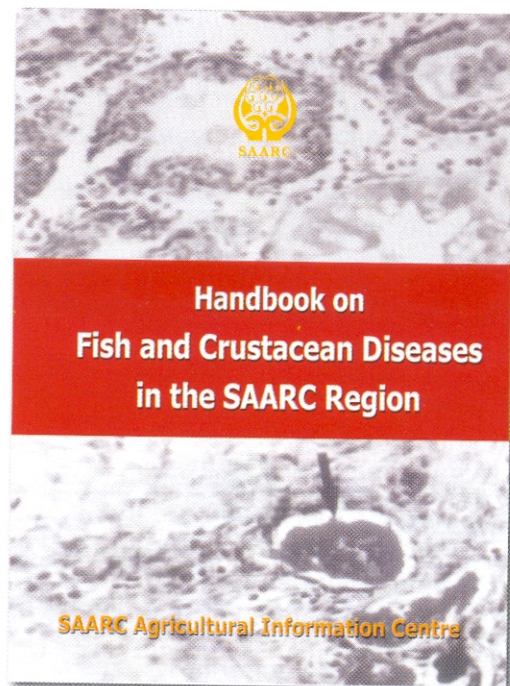
Fishes and crustaceans play a vital role in the economy of SAARC countries and therefore, disease management is crucial to improve the productivity and income of farmers engaged in the fish and crustacean sector. SAIC has compiled the available information on fish and crustacean diseases in this handbook.

The handbook provides information on stocking, treatment of diseases and management practices of fish and



crustaceans resources in SAARC countries. The information compiled on fish and crustacean diseases is from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

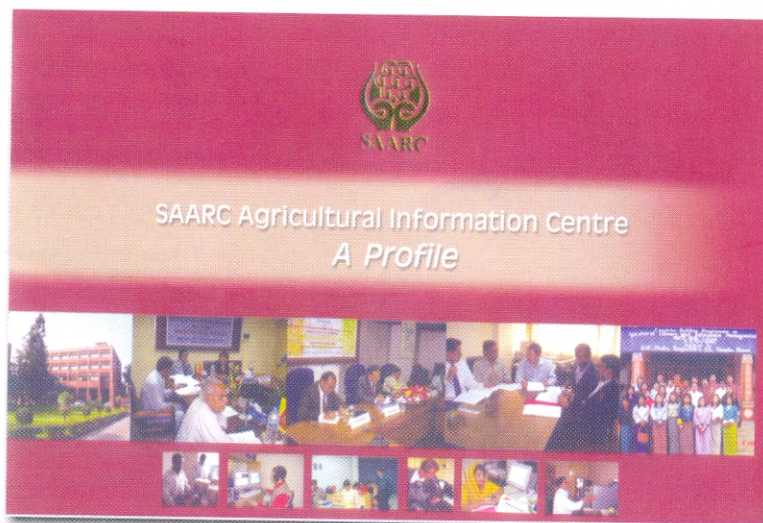
The handbook format includes a brief introduction, causal agents, susceptible species, pathology, diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment. It would be highly useful to all the fisheries scientists and technologists including research, extension and training as a guide to prevent and manage the fish and crustacean diseases in member countries.



Booklet on Profile on SAARC Agricultural Information Centre

As one of the SAARC regional centres with a mandate to establish regional information network on agriculture, SAIC harnesses the tools of information and communication technologies (ICT) to facilitate exchange of knowledge and best practices in agriculture and allied sectors.

A booklet, titled 'SAARC Agricultural Information Centre : A Profile', reflecting the detailed illustration of the Centre was published during the year. The Booklet includes the mandate, objectives, programmes, priorities, activities and strategies of SAIC.



New Arrivals in SAIC Library

In 2005, the SAIC Library subscribed and procured 526 publication from SAARC member countries and other international organizations. Among the purchased

publications, there were 199 books, 78 journals, 79 Annual reports, 109 Newsletters and 61 magazines.

Table : New arrivals in SAIC library

Country	Books	Journals	Annual Reports	Newsletters	Newspapers Magazines	Total
Bangladesh	80	15	22	20	20	157
Bhutan	4	-	-	4	4	12
India	56	45	20	44	10	175
Maldives	-	-	1	6	-	7
Nepal	10	3	12	8	5	38
Pakistan	5	6	8	7	4	30
Sri Lanka	14	4	6	5	3	32
Others	30	5	10	15	15	75
Total	199	78	79	109	61	526

Audiovisual Media Production and Reproduction

Production of videos

SAIC facilitated in the production of the following videos during 2005.

1. Ornamental Fish breeding and culture in India
2. Post harvest technologies of major fruit crops in Sri Lanka
3. Milk production co-operative system in Nepal

Computer Mediated Communication

CD-ROM publishing and acquisition

During the year 2005, SAIC procured and updated CD-ROM Databases like, AGRICOLA, Crop Science Database, Soil Science Database and Veterinary Science

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

CD-ROM Search Services

In 2005, a total of 256 requests through e-mails were received from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as a result of which 42, 550 abstract information were sent through the e-mail to researchers as indicated in the following table. SAIC is trying to reach as many clients as possible so that more people will be benefited by this service.

Table : CD-ROM search services

Sl. No.	Country	Beneficiary	No. of Abstracts sent
1	Bangladesh	59	12,893
2	India	68	12,050
3	Nepal	07	1,683
4	Pakistan	100	14,533
5	Sri Lanka	14	1,152
6	Others	05	239
	TOTAL	253	42,550

Networking and Internet connectivity

SAIC has now established the Local Area Network (LAN) with 40 nodes running over Windows Server Software and 20 PCs have been connected with the Server at SAIC. SAIC is also 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. This has been assisting SAIC to access the Internet and distribute the information to the valuable users among the member countries. After establishing the internet connectivity, appropriate actions have been taken to maintain the linkages to and from SAIC.

The Centre is maintaining a space of 200 MB in the server for enriching the site through uploading with more useful

information appropriate for the users of SAARC region.

Web publishing, updating, attending emails

The website of SAIC, <http://www.saic-dhaka.org> has been updated with the new programme of SAIC and other relevant information resources. Thousands of people have visited the SAIC website and a steady increase in the browsing trend has been observed.

Procurement of computer hardware / accessories / stationeries, etc.

During the year 2005, necessary operating system and other relevant Softwares were installed in all the computers and configured to the main server. Each computer is now supported with printers. The computers were fully upgraded with networking and able to share information

with other research centres, universities, international organization and relevant organizations in SAARC region.

Reproduction of Audio visual materials

During the year, SAIC converted the following video films into VCDs and distributed them to SAARC member countries:

1. Mandarin Cultivation in Bhutan
2. Ornamental foliage plant in Sri Lanka
3. Integrated Pest Management in Nepal
4. Tea Cultivation in Sri Lanka
5. Integrated Pest management in Sri Lanka

Up-gradation of Video Lab

The Non-linear video editing unit has been upgraded with another 36 GB SCSI Hard Drive and one VCD/DVD writer.

SAICNet programme

The term "SAICNet" is used to denote the Regional Agricultural Information Network of SAIC to realise the first objective of SAIC of 'establishing regional information network on agriculture and allied discipline.' The SAICNet is an interconnected network of individuals, institutions and other important information resources in the field of Agricultural Research, Extension and Development (ARED) in SAARC member countries. The degree of interconnection is highly dependent on the technology used, which is in turn

determined by commonalties of service, governance, geography or a combination thereof. The nature of access to content is dependent on the nature of content, level of its use, delivery format and the intended audience. SAICNet seeks to provide access to the networks and content for agricultural practitioners based on the information needs. Thereby, SAICNet enhances the existing agricultural knowledge and information systems of SAARC member countries and provide platform to exchange ideas, information and knowledge. In summary, SAICNet helps the agricultural community of SAARC member countries move closer to realizing a better life through agricultural development.

The SAICNet website, www.sacinet.org operates as the key interface for establishing the regional agricultural information network of SAARC. The website which would be launched soon will serve as the official website of the Centre. It would provide scopes for direct interactions with clients through options on information sharing of institutions, discussion forum and updates on technological advances and issues on key agendas in the field of agriculture, livestock, natural resources, research, development, etc. The SAICnet is going to be an interactive website with dynamic features and programmes to provide latest content and information. Most of the

dynamic information services would be based on the databases. Appropriate search forms and input forms are being created to retrieve and update the databases.

Lately, a collaborative initiative was established with the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) to provide technical support in designing and finalising the SAICNet website. Some of the outputs of this collaboration were planning, managing and designing of SAICNet website. Training of SAIC's staff was also organised as a part of this initiative.

Seminar on SAICNet

An in-house seminar on SAIC Net on 22 September 2005 in the SAIC Conference Room. Dr. Wais Kabir, Director, SAIC presided the seminar. The seminar focused mainly on the vision, objectives and feasibility of further strengthening the SAIC Net programme.

The seminar mainly discussed the issues like information and knowledge management in the field of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and allied disciplines. The seminar also discussed the strategies along with future challenges for implementation of SAICNet activities. During his presentation, Mr. Srinivasacharyulu, Information Specialist, SAIC highlighted the needs of networking the individuals, institutions and information resources for agricultural development of SAARC member countries.

At the end of the seminar, a team of computer experts from Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), who provided technical assistance in developing the website, demonstrated SAICNet website and its features.

Mr. Jobed Ali Sarker, Deputy Director (Systems), BCC was present in the seminar. All the Professionals and General Services Officers of SAIC attended the seminar and gave feedback to improve the SAIC Net programme.

Professional Development Programme

Mr. Samdrup Rigyal, Deputy Director, Policy Planning, participated in an international conference on "Agricultural and Rural Development in Asia: Ideas, Paradigms, and Policies Three Decades After" on 10-11 November 2005 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City, Philippines. The conference was organised by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

The conference envisioned drawing up policy lessons from the major ideas and paradigms that have influenced academic and policy thinking in agricultural and rural development in the past 30 years. By bringing together an international group of acknowledged research scholars in agricultural and rural development in dialogue with policymakers from the Asian region, it aimed to provide a venue

for articulating policy options on emerging development issues in the region. Discussions of several thematic and issue papers on agriculture and rural development, food security, population and environment, history, politics, institutions, and biotechnology, among others, were highlighted during the conference. The papers presented along with the discussants' comments are published by SEARCA with the end goal of identifying possible directions for future academic and policy research.

Mr. WAG Sisira Kumara, Deputy Director for Information, Communication and Audiovisuals (CIAV) participated in the "Third International Conference on Information and Technology and Multimedia (ICITMU 2005)" from 22-24 November 2005 in Malaysia. The Conference was organised by the University of Tanaga National (UNITEN) at the College of Information Technology, UNITEN, Kajang, Malaysia. The Conference discussed papers on media and IT some of which were communication networks, e-commerce and security, information systems, media arts and multimedia applications, etc. The conference provided wide exposure on the on-going research and development in the field of IT such as online clinic, information systems disaster recovery, multimedia content creation framework and many others.

During the participation at the conference, Mr. Sisira Kumara was also able to visit

the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) where they have made achievements in the Malaysian tropical fruit information system.

Building Capacity in the Region

SAIC organised a five-day 'Capacity Building Programme on Agricultural Library and Information Management' in Bhutan jointly with Information and Communication Services (ICS) of Ministry of Agriculture, The Royal Government of Bhutan at Natural Resources Training Institute (NRTI), Lobesa, Bhutan during 8-12 August 2005. The programme highlighted the trends such as 'Digital Libraries', 'ICT in Agriculture', 'Knowledge Management in Agriculture', 'Management of Agricultural Information and Knowledge Resources' and 'Website Creation and Management'.

The programme imparted concepts of these topics and provided hands on experience on tools and techniques. A total of 21 library and information professionals from different departments and organisations of Ministry of Agriculture participated in the programme.

Software tools such as CDS/ISIS on Windows, Greenstone Digital Library Software were also demonstrated in the training sessions. The training offered hands on experience to the participants to retrieve information from important

bibliographic CD-ROM databases using CDS/ISIS on windows and create webpages using HTML. A study visit to Bhutan National Library and National Archives, Thimpu was also arranged on the last day of the programme.

The resource persons of the programme included: Ms. Pema Lhamo, Programme Director, ICS and Chairperson, GB, SAIC; Mr. Samdrup Rigyal, Deputy Director, SAIC; A.Srinivasacharyulu, Information Specialist, SAIC; Mr. Jigme Tenzing, Department of Information Technology and Mr. Sangay Tenzin, ICS.

Human Resources Development

During 2005, the general services staff (GSS) of SAIC were trained in the following fields by various organisations situated in Dhaka.

1. Professional Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing
2. Digital and Online Librarianship
3. Web Page Development using HTML and
4. Microsoft Office and Microsoft Project.

The Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing course was attended by Mr. Ananda Chandra Kha, Typist. Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Steno-Typist and Mrs. Najmoon Nahar, Cataloguer attended the Certificate course on Digital and Online Librarianship from 1 June to 14 September 2005.

Mrs. Mafruha Begum, Artist, Mrs. Raihana Kabir, Production Assistant and

Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Data Entry Operator (II) participated in training on Web Page Development using HTML and Other Tools during September and October 2005.

The in-house Microsoft Office course was organised in July 2005 and was participated by the following GSS:

1. Mr. Md. Akhtar Hossain Chowdhury, Senior Finance Officer
2. Mr. Kamal Mustafa Hossain, Support Services Officer
3. Mr. ATM Mostafizur Rahman Mojumder, Accounts Assistant
4. Md. Nurul Wara, Video Production Assistant
5. Mr. Md. Iqbal Karim, Office Assistant

The following staff participated in the one-week training on Microsoft Project conducted during October 2005.

1. Mr. Mohammad Abdullah, Editor
2. Mr. Md. Akhtar Hossain Chowdhury, Senior Finance Officer
3. Mr. Kamal Mustafa Hossain, Support Services Officer
4. Mr. Shahalam Mowla Chowdhury, Video Production Officer
5. Mrs. Nasrin Akhter, Assistant Editor
6. Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Data Entry Operator (II)
7. Mrs. Najmoon Nahar, Cataloguer
8. Mr. Md. Nurul Wara, Video Production Assistant
9. Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Steno-Typist and
10. Mr. Md. Iqbal Karim, Office Assistant.

Seminar on Trade Liberalization

Professor Dr. Ramesh Chand, Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), ICAR, India and Member, SAIC Governing Board paid a visit to SAIC and presented a seminar on 9 November 2005. The seminar was titled

The seminar discussed the issues related to post WTO environment for agriculture with special emphasis for assessing the impacts of WTO on SAARC member countries, and other relevant issues related to food security and impact of trade



Dr. Ramesh Chand (3rd from left) speaks on trade liberalization in the seminar

'Trade Liberalization and Food Security in South Asia' and was organised jointly by SAIC and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). The seminar was chaired by Dr. Muslem Uddin Miah, Member Director (Natural Resources Management) of BARC. About forty professionals and scientists from BARC, SAIC and other national institutes in Bangladesh attended the Seminar.

liberalisation on net trade. Mr. VK Gupta, Director, National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi, India was also present in the Seminar.

Selection of New Professional Staff

Deputy Director (CIAV)

Mr. M A Rashid has been selected as Deputy Director for Communication, Information and Audiovisuals by the Selection Committee. Before joining SAIC, he was working as Principal at the Industrial Relations Institute (IRI) Deptt. of Labour, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



Information Specialist

Dr. Md. Golam Mostafa has been selected as Information Specialist, SAIC. Before joining SAIC, he was working as Assistant Librarian in the Rajshahi University Central Library, Bangladesh.



JAT Completed Audit for 2004

The annual audit for the year ending 2004 of the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) was conducted by a Joint Audit Team (JAT). The JAT 2005 audited the annual accounts and related statements of receipts and payments of the Centre and submitted their report on 25 June 2005.

The JAT 2005 found that the Centre appropriately maintained the necessary accounts. The two-member audit team, Mr. Mohammad Moslem Uddin, Director General, Foreign Aided Project Audit Directorate, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Iftikhar Ahmed, Director General, Defence Services (Audit), Rawalpindi, Pakistan submitted their joint financial statements that reflect the state of affairs of the SAIC for the year ended 31st December 2004.

Audit Certificate

The Annual Accounts and the related Statements of Receipts and Payments of the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) for the year ending 31st December 2004 were audited by a Joint Audit Team (JAT) comprising one Director General from the Supreme Audit Institution of Bangladesh and one Director General from the Supreme Audit Institution of Pakistan. Examination and review of financial statement were carried out in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) and accordingly included sample tests and other auditing procedures as we considered necessary to examine the evidence supporting the accounts and disclosures in the appended financial statements. We obtained information and explanations necessary for the purpose of this audit.

On the basis of our examination, we are of the opinion, that necessary books of accounts have been maintained by the Centre. To the best of our information so far received, the appended financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the SAIC for the year ended 31st December 2004 subject to the comments in the following sections.

Mohammad Moslem Uddin
Director General
Foreign Aided Project Audit Directorate
Office of the Comptroller and Auditor
General of Bangladesh
Dhaka, BANGLADESH

Md. Iftikhar Ahmed
Director General
Defence Services (Audit)
Rawalpindi, PAKISTAN

Joint Audit Team

DHAKA, BANGLADESH
25 June 2005

Statement of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2004

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount in US \$
A.	Institutional Cost	
1	Allowances to the Director and Professional Staff	81,003.43
2	Salaries and allowances to GS Officers and Staff	74,840.12
3	Travel Cost and Per diem	666.32
4	Printing, Stationery and Reproduction	1,586.19
5	Utilities, Services and maintenance	6,098.56
6	Local hospitality for Governing Board, Selection Committee	6,070.53
7	Vehicles, Generator, lift (POL, Insurance, Repairs etc.)	6,934.20
8	Contingencies (including loss/gain on exchange rates)	5,123.88
	Total Institutional Cost (A)	182,323.23
B.	Programme Cost	
1	Acquisition of conventional and non conventional publications in ag.	4,583.53
2	CD ROM and computer software	9,416.00
3	In house reproduction of various office and other information materials	523.46
4	Periodic services (current awareness/SDI services etc.)	933.60
5	Audio-visual media production and reproduction of technologies	13,156.71
6	SAIC Annual Report 2004	736.97
7	SAIC Newsletter	3,882.89
8	Distribution of SAIC publications and information collection	11,588.27
9	Computer mediated communication of information	8,756.92
10	Foodgrain Situation in SAARC countries	164.63
11	Statistical bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data	481.06
12	SAARC Journal of Agriculture	3,183.66

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount in US \$
13	Monitoring and backstopping support to programmes	821.10
14	Training of SAIC General Services Officers and Staff	2,051.53
15	Continuous Professional Development Programme	3,246.37
16	Promotional activities of SAIC and SAARC	2,047.62
17	Handbook on diseases of livestock and poultry	496.55
18	Hand book on diseases of Fishes and Crustaceans	5,868.63
19	Plant genetics resources of SAARC Countries: Their conservation and management	4,625.00
20	Risk in Agriculture in SAARC Countries: Their coping strategies	2,473.78
21	Training manual on presentation technology for effective Agricultural communication	3,000.00
22	Updating of SAIC brochure/ booklet and production of folders	3,714.07
23	Capacity building program for Agricultural Library and Information Prof.	5,730.09
24	SAIC Net	6,165.63
25	Miscellaneous charges for programmes	518.07
	Total Programme Cost (B)	98,166.14
	Total Institutional and Programme Cost (A+B)	280,489.37

Nineteenth Governing Board Meeting List of the Participants

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 : +975-2-321311 (O), 328167 (R)
Fax No. : +975-2-324520
E-mail : p_lhamo@moa.gov.bt

Dr. Ajit Gupte, Counsellor
High Commission of India, Dhaka
House # 2, Road # 142, Gulshan-1
Dhaka

Phone : 9888792 (O)
Fax : 00880-2-9893050
E-mail : pol2@heidhaka.org

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

Phone : 5525617, 5522248 (O), 4466735 (R)
Fax : 00977-1-5525189
E-mail : haridhal@hotmail.com

Dr. Rashid Anwar, Deputy Director General
Institute of Agri-Biotechnology and Genetic
Resources, National Agricultural Research
Centre, P.O. NIH, Islamabad, Pakistan

Phone: 92-51-9255203 (O), 2292593 (Res)
Fax: 92-51-9255201
E-mail : rashid194@yahoo.com

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

Phone : +948-2388100, 2388122, 2388106
(O), 215090 (R); Fax No. : +948-388608
E-mail : spmdo@sltnet.lk

Mr. M. Riaz Hamidullah, Director
(SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of the People's Republic of
Bangladesh, Shegun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000

Phone: 880-2-9559538 (O)
Fax: 880-2-955583
E-mail: rhamidullah@yahoo.com

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

Phone : +977-1-4221784 (O), 5553228 (R)
Fax No. : +977-1-4227033, 4223991
E-mail : dirban@saarc-sec.org

Dr. Wais Kabir, Director
SAARC Agricultural Information Centre
(SAIC)
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Phone: 8115353, 8126527 (O), 9014975 (R)
Fax: 880-2-9124596
E-mail: saic@bdonline.com

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 (3rd 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	8.0	220.00
12.	Women in Agriculture, Gender issues in South Asian Farming	7.50	10.00	352.00
13.	Agricultural Training in SAARC Countries	2.00	5.00	40.00

Title of the Publications		Price in US\$ for SAARC Countries	Price in US\$ for Other Countries	Retail Price in BD Taka
14.	Agricultural Information Needs, Mode, Mechanism and Information Flow in SAARC Countries	2.00	5.00	50.00
15.	Bibliography on Technologies for Drought-prone and Salt-affected AEZ in SAARC Countries	3.00	5.00	100.00
16.	Success Stories on Transfer of Farm Technology in SAARC Countries	2.00	3.00	50.00
17.	Hybrid and High Yielding Crop Varieties in SAARC Countries	2.00	3.00	50.00
18.	Innovative Agricultural Technologies in SAARC Countries	3.00	5.00	75.00
19.	Regional Workshop of Experts in SAARC Countries on Transfer of Technology in Agriculture	3.00	5.00	75.00
20.	Agricultural Information Systems and Services in SAARC Countries	3.00	5.00	75.00
21.	Union Catalogue of Ph.D. Thesis of SAARC Countries	3.00	5.00	75.00
22.	Development of Horticulture in SAARC Countries	3.00	5.00	75.00
23.	Agricultural Research and Extension Systems in SAARC Countries	4.00	6.00	130.00
24.	Quarantine and Phytosanitary Laws of SAARC Member Countries	6.00	10.00	150.00
25.	Statistical Bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data -2002	10.00	15.00	440.00
26.	Proceedings of SAARC Workshop on Soil Fertility Management for Increasing Productivity in Rice-based Cropping System	3.00	5.00	75.00
27.	Annotated Bibliography on Seed Quality, Production and Preservation in the SAARC Region	10.00	15.00	440.00

Title of the Publications		Price in US\$ for SAARC Countries	Price in US\$ for Other Countries	Retail Price in BD Taka
28.	Plant Genetic Resources of SAARC Countries: Their Conservation and Management	10.00	15.00	500.00
29.	Proceedings of SAARC Workshop on Post harvest Technology	5.00	8.00	80.00
30.	Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Poverty Alleviation through Agricultural Development in SAARC Countries	10.00	15.00	440.00
31.	SAARC Directory of Seed Companies/ Entrepreneurs 2003	5.00	10.00	150.00
32.	Statistical Bulletin of SAARC Agricultural Data-2005	10.00	15.00	440.00
33.	SAARC Journal of Agriculture Vol.3 (2005)	10.00	15.00	125.00
34.	Proceedings of the Regional Workshop on Attempts and Successes of ICT Roadmap to Villages in the SAARC Countries	10.00	15.00	
35.	Technologies on Livestock and Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation in SAARC Countries	5.00	7.00	150.00
36.	Handbook on Fish and Crustacean Diseases in the SAARC Region			
37.	Risk in Agriculture and Their Coping Strategies in SAARC Countries	5.00	7.00	100.00

- Note: (i) The Booksellers in SAARC countries will receive 25% commission on all SAIC Publications.
- (ii) Prices in the above list are inclusive of postal charges, applicable only in SAARC member countries.

SAIC Personnel (upto December 2005)

1. Dr. Wais Kabir, Director
2. Mr. Samdrup Rigyal, Deputy Director (PP)
3. Mr. WAG Sisirakumara, Deputy Director (CIAV)
4. Mr. R.D. Siripala, Audio Visual Specialist (AVS)
5. Mr. Saleemullah Sohoo, Computer Specialist
6. Dr. A. Srinivasacharyulu, Information Specialist
7. Mr. Mohammad Abdullah, Editor
8. Mr. Md. Akhtar Hossain Chowdhury, Senior Finance Officer
9. Mr. Kamal Mustafa Hossain, Support Services Officer
10. Mr. Shahalam Mowla Chowdhury, Video Production Officer
11. Mrs. Mafruha Begum, Artist
12. Mrs. Nasrin Akhter, Assistant Editor
13. Ms. Shahina Sultana, Assistant Librarian
14. Mr. Md. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Operation Officer
15. Mr. Md. Abdul Kadir, Data Entry Operator (I)
16. Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Data Entry Operator (II)
17. Mr. ATM Mostafizur Rahman Mojumder, Accounts Assistant
18. Mrs. Raihana Kabir, Production Assistant
19. Mrs. Najmoon Nahar, Cataloguer
20. Mr. Ananda Chandra Kha, Typist
21. Mr. Md. Nurul Wara, Video Production Assistant
22. Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Steno-Typist
23. Mr. Md. Iqbal Karim, Office Assistant
24. Mr. Md. Saifur Rahman, Store Keeper
25. Mr. Md. Nurul Amin, Driver
26. Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Driver
27. Mr. Md. Helal Uddin, Messenger
28. Mr. Md. Harunor Rashid, Messenger
29. Mr. Md. Akhter Hossain, Watchman
30. Mr. Md. Altaf Hossain, Sweeper
31. Mr. Md. Abu Taher, Scavenger