



SAARC AGRINEWS

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"Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals (GLDC)" Launch Meeting during 14-16 February 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



A group picture of attended participants

Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAC participated a launch meeting on "Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals Agri –food Systems CGIAR Research Program (CRP-GLDC)" held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during 14-16 February 2018 organized by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with support of the CGIAR Institutes. The GLDC launch meeting had three objectives:

- Launch a demand –driven CRP GLDC that will increase the productivity, profitability, resilience and marketability of critical and nutritious grain legume (chickpea, cowpea, pigeonpea, groundnut, lentil, soybean) and cereal (sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet) crops grown within the semi-arid and sub-humid dryland agroecologies of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia;
- Seek commitment from partners to join the GLDC network and prospectus to leverage joint actions towards its mission; and
- Establish priority GLDC activity planning for 2018 at the Flagship Program and Cross-Cutting Program levels.

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Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar presenting a paper as keynote speaker

Dr. Bokhtiar gave a presentation on "SAC Activities and Agricultural Research: Challenges and Priorities in South Asia" as keynote speaker in the CRP-GLDC launch meeting. The representative of CGIAR Institutes, Scientists of ICRISAT and guests from International & National organizations were attended in the meeting.

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Meeting with WINROCK International



Mr William Sparks, Winrock International presenting a paper on project activities

A meeting was held on 25 January 2018 between SAC and WINROCK in the conference room of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC). Director, Professionals and Technical Staffs of the centre attended the meeting. Mr. William Sparks, Project Director, Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers Project, and Engr. Maksudur Raman, Country Director, Bangladesh, Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers project, Winrock International were present in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to share Winrock's project objectives and explore the opportunities for possible collaboration with SAC. Dr. WART Wickramaarachchi, SPS (PS & PD) made a presentation on SAC activities in the meeting. WINROCK has shown their keen interests for collaborative programs on agricultural innovations especially Horticulture and Aquaculture with SAC in the future.

Meeting with Director General of IRRI



A view of attended participants to the meeting

A short meeting was held on 06 March 2018 between SAC and IRRI in the conference room of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC). Director and Professionals and Technical Staffs of the centre attended the meeting. Dr. Mathew Morell, Director General of IRRI, Dr. Nafees Meeh, IRRI, South Asia Representative and Dr. Humnath Bhandari, IRRI Bangladesh Representative were present in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to share information about SAC activities and explore the opportunities for possible collaboration with IRRI. Dr. WART Wickramaarachchi, SPS (PS & PD) and Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey, SPS (Crops) made a presentation on SAC activities and Future collaboration with IRRI in the meeting respectively. IRRI has shown their keen interests for collaborative programs on agricultural innovations especially research, policy and ICT with SAC in the future.

Meeting with Regional Director of Practical Action



A view of the attended participants in the meeting

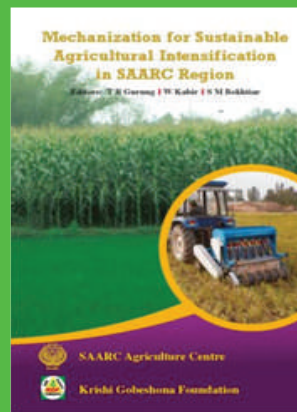
A meeting was held on 04 January 2018 between SAC and Practical Action in the conference room of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC). Director and Professionals and Technical Staffs of the centre attended the meeting. Mr. Achyut luitel, Regional Director and Upecrchra Shresttea, Head, Program Financing & Communication, South Asia Regional Office, Practical Action and Mr. Nazmul Islam, Head, Inclusive Agriculture, Practical Action, Bangladesh were present in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to share both organizational objectives and explore the opportunities for possible collaboration. Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey, SPS (crops) made a presentation on SAC activities in the meeting. Practical Action, BD has shown their keen interests for collaborative programs on agricultural innovations especially value chain development activities with SAC in the future.

Valuable Publications Made by SAC



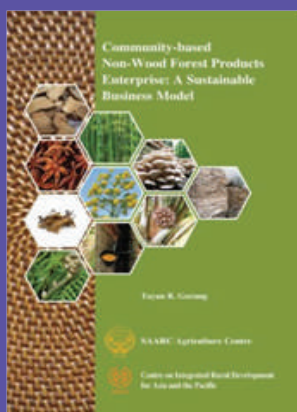
Agricultural Research in SAARC Region: Common Challenges and Priorities

This publication is consolidated efforts of National Agriculture Research System (NARS) of the SAARC Member States and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The publication may contribute to attain and sustain high agricultural growth in SAARC region a synergy among policies, institutions, environment, technologies and natural resources to increase investment in the sector. It also may contribute to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as Agricultural Research and Development has direct relation with the some goals.



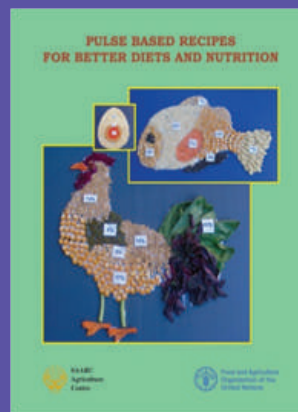
Mechanization for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification in SAARC Region

This book is an attempt to bring together the agriculture mechanization scenario in the region. The publication is compilation of the papers and proceedings of the SAARC country strategy status of agricultural mechanization which may contribute to rapid growth in agriculture as well as to create employment opportunity for rural people. The book is divided into eleven chapters. First chapter provides a mechanization trend in the region, followed by seven chapters on agricultural mechanization of SAARC countries. The last three chapters including topics related to business models for agricultural mechanization.



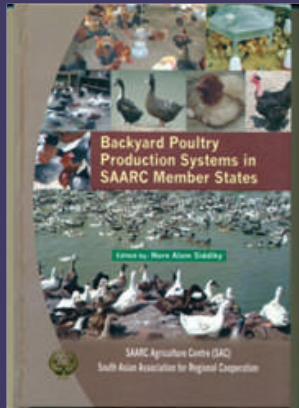
Community-based Non-Wood Forest Products Enterprise: A Sustainable Business Model

The publication considered the diversity of NWFPs and its role in sustainable livelihood of the communities in the region. The publication may also help to develop a business model in sustainable harvesting of the NWFPs and maintain sustainable flow of income and benefits. The main objective of this published book is to generate interactions and exchange of knowledge and information within SAARC Member States.



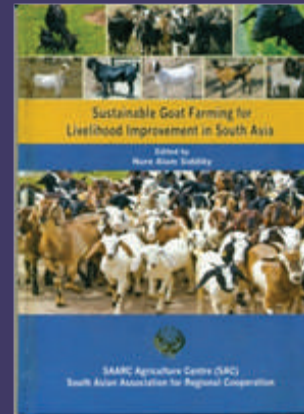
Pulse Based Recipes for Better Diets and Nutrition

It may provide a clear concept on pulse nutrition and diversification towards enhancing the use of pulses in our daily diet. The publication may also help to promote community –based nutrition education in combination with home based cooking demonstrations, messaging and processing to expand the consumption of locally available, nutrient dense foods such as pulses. The purpose of this published book is to use the policy makers, researchers and development partners from all relevant sectors in the betterment of food security and nutrition in Bangladesh.



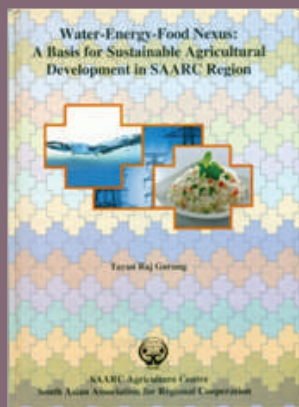
Backyard Poultry Production System in SAARC Member States

This publication is the compilation of the country status reports. The publication has immense potential to improve livelihoods of the rural poor and growth of the rural poultry sector that can contribute to reduce poverty alleviation. This publication may also to the rural women in many countries to establish a small business as income generating activities. This will be very useful and informative for the professional, Academia and Researchers.



Sustainable Goat Farming for Livelihood Improvement in South Asia

Goat farming can contribute to improve livelihood as well as nutrition security in SAARC region. Goat farming is well integrated in the farming system of the small and marginal farmers of South Asia due low investment, easy handling especially by the women and ability to adopt in versatile conditions. The country status reports of SAARC Member States are accumulated in the publication which may useful of different stakeholders to improve their knowledge on goat farming.

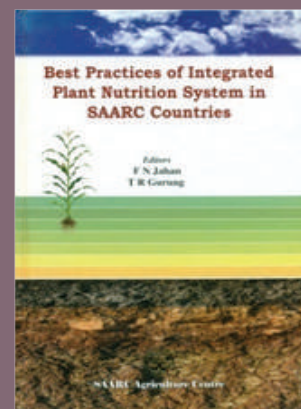


Water-Energy-Food Nexus: A Basis for Sustainable Agricultural Development in SAARC Region

The publication is a collection of papers from the SAARC Member States about the Water-Energy-Food Nexus for Sustainable Agricultural Development. The main objectives of this publication as follows:

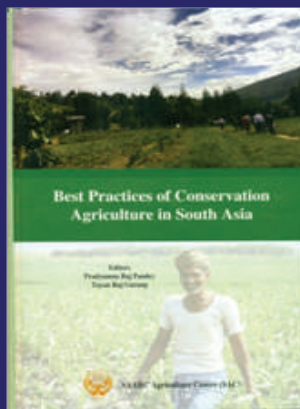
- Documenting the best policy practices in Water-Energy-Food to harmonize the policy
- Preparing strategic policy brief for regional integration

It may contribute to emerge shift in global thinking towards sustainable futures and resilient ecosystem. This publication may also help to researchers and professional of SAARC member States to make policy paper.



Best Practices of Integrated Plant Nutrition System in SAARC Countries

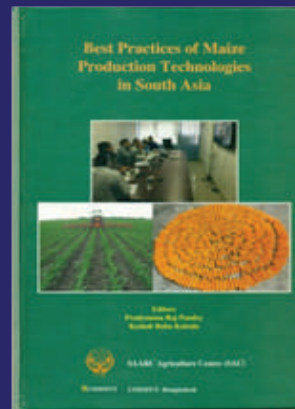
This book on Integrated Plant Nutrient System, dealing with various aspects of plant nutrition, is an attempt to provide support to the ongoing efforts directed at enhanced and sustainable agricultural production. The book is the compilation of the country status report of seven Member States which may help the different stakeholders to improve their ability to identify and resolve constraints relating to plant nutrition. It may also help to contribute a technical economic and social or policy and to demonstrate on the field practical ways of increasing production.



Best Practices of Conservation Agriculture in South Asia

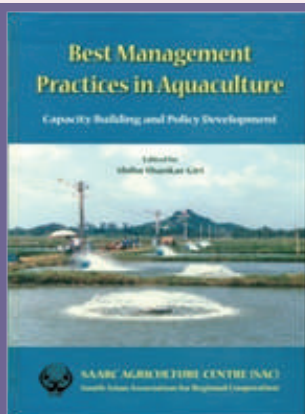
The book is the compilation of the country status report of seven Member States. Conservation agriculture has potential impact on the goal of crops sustainability, improving and making more efficient use of natural resources through integrated management of soil, water and biological resources, combined with judicious use of external inputs. The publication may help the different stakeholders to improve their ability to identify and resolve constraints relating to conservation agriculture. The main objectives of the recent published publication are as follows:

- Identifying the best practices of conservation agriculture;
- Promoting and sharing the best practices and technologies among the south Asian Countries.



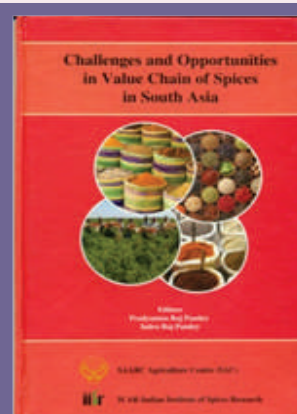
Best Practices of Maize Production Technology in South Asia

This publication is the compilation report of the Member States. Maize is the one of the important crops in South Asia which contributes to improve livelihood of the small and marginal farmers. The publication may be useful of the researchers, professionals, development workers and academia to find out the necessary information of SAARC region on maize cultivation easily. This book may also help to identify the opportunities and challenges and way forward of Maize Industry in south Asia.



Best Management Practices in Aquaculture; Capacity Building and Policy Development

The Best Management Practices in Aquaculture is the compilation report of the Member States expert which has potential significant to improve livelihood of the small and medium scale fishermen. The publication also may help to share information on present practices in aquaculture in SAARC Member States. The main objective of the publication is to support capacity building and policy development for BMP in aquaculture by the member countries.



Challenges and opportunities in Value Chain of Spices in South Asia

This book "Challenges and Opportunities in Value Chain of Spices in South Asia" is a collection of papers contributed by the experts from SAARC Member States. The core objective of the publication is to share the current status and level of production technologies for spices crops available in the SAARC Member States with a special focus on black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, ginger and turmeric. The publication may be useful by the different stakeholders to develop harmonize and common market development.

Exposure Visit on “Conservation Agriculture, Commercial Vegetable Production and Rural Development in Bangladesh”



A group photo of exposure visit participants

An exposure visit “Conservation Agriculture, Commercial Vegetables Production, and Rural Development in Bangladesh” held at Rangpur and Bogra, Bangladesh on 26-31 March 2018. SAARC Agriculture Centre organized this exposure visit in collaboration with CIMMYT, RDA and Practical Action for NARES Executives from SAARC Member States. About 26 participants from different Member States were attended in the exposure visit. The main objectives of the exposure visit as follows:

- Showcase the successful technologies for conservation agriculture for sustainable intensification (CASI) of agriculture and rural development in Bangladesh and enhance policy advocacy and support;
- Promote exchange of experiences and technologies among the SAARC MSs.

The opening ceremony of the exposure visit held on 27 March 2018 at RDRS conference room, Rangpur. In the inauguration ceremony, Dr. S.M. Nazmul Islam, Former Agriculture Secretary, Government of Bangladesh graced as a Chief Guest while Dr. Md. Kabir Ikramul Haque, Executive Chairman was present as Special Guest in the occasion. Among others, Mr. Hamidur Rahman, Ex DG, DAE, Mr. M. A. Matin, DG, RDA, Ms. Hasin Jahan, Country Director, Practical Action Bangladesh, Dr. Wais Kabir, ED, KGF, Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar, Director, SAC, Professor Dr. Abdul Wahab, BAU and Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, Ex SPS (NRM), SAC were present as guest of honor in the program.

Through this exposure visit, the successful technologies, model on conservation Agriculture and use of sandbar for food security and rural development would be helped to replicate to other Member States that may contribute to reduce poverty.

Farewell Ceremony of Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung and Ms. Mafruha Begum



A group photo of farewell function

A farewell ceremony of Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung and Ms. Mafruha Begum held on 08 March 2018 at SAC Conference, Dhaka. The different levels of Colleagues of SAC attended the farewell ceremony and gave their emotional remarks. Dr. S.M. Bokhtiar in his remark, he expressed that Dr. Tayan’s valuable contribution in the SAC is not hidden to all of us. His contribution for SAC would be in mind forever he also added. Ms. Mafruha retired early of last year and Dr. Gurung has completed his five years tenure from SAC. Finally, Dr. Gurung and Ms. Mafruha received crest each from Director of SAC.

SAC Technical Staff Participated Financial and Economic Appraisal of Projects

SAC Technical Staffs Md. Nure Alam Siddiky, Senior Program Officer (Livestock) Ms. Fatema Nasrin Jahan Senior Program Officer (Natural Resource Management) and Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Technical Officer participated in the training program on “ Financial and Economic Appraisal of projects” conducted by NAPD (National Academy for Planning and Development), Dhaka during 07-11 January, 2018. The objectives of the course:

- To acquaint the participants with different techniques of financial appraisal;
- To improve the understanding about the rationale and tools for economic appraisal

The major course contents of the training were; concept and methods of financial appraisals and concepts and tools of Economic appraisals. Overall, the training course was enjoyable, informative and understandable of the participants and hope the training would be helpful in the future endeavors of the SAC.



SAC Technical Staff Participated Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Training “Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security Decisions”

SAC Technical Staffs Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Technical Officer and Ms. Fatema Nasrin Jahan, Senior Program Officer (Natural Resource Management) participated in the training program on “ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)” organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with the support of USAID and European Union during 14-17 March, 2018 held at Dhaka. The objectives of the training course:

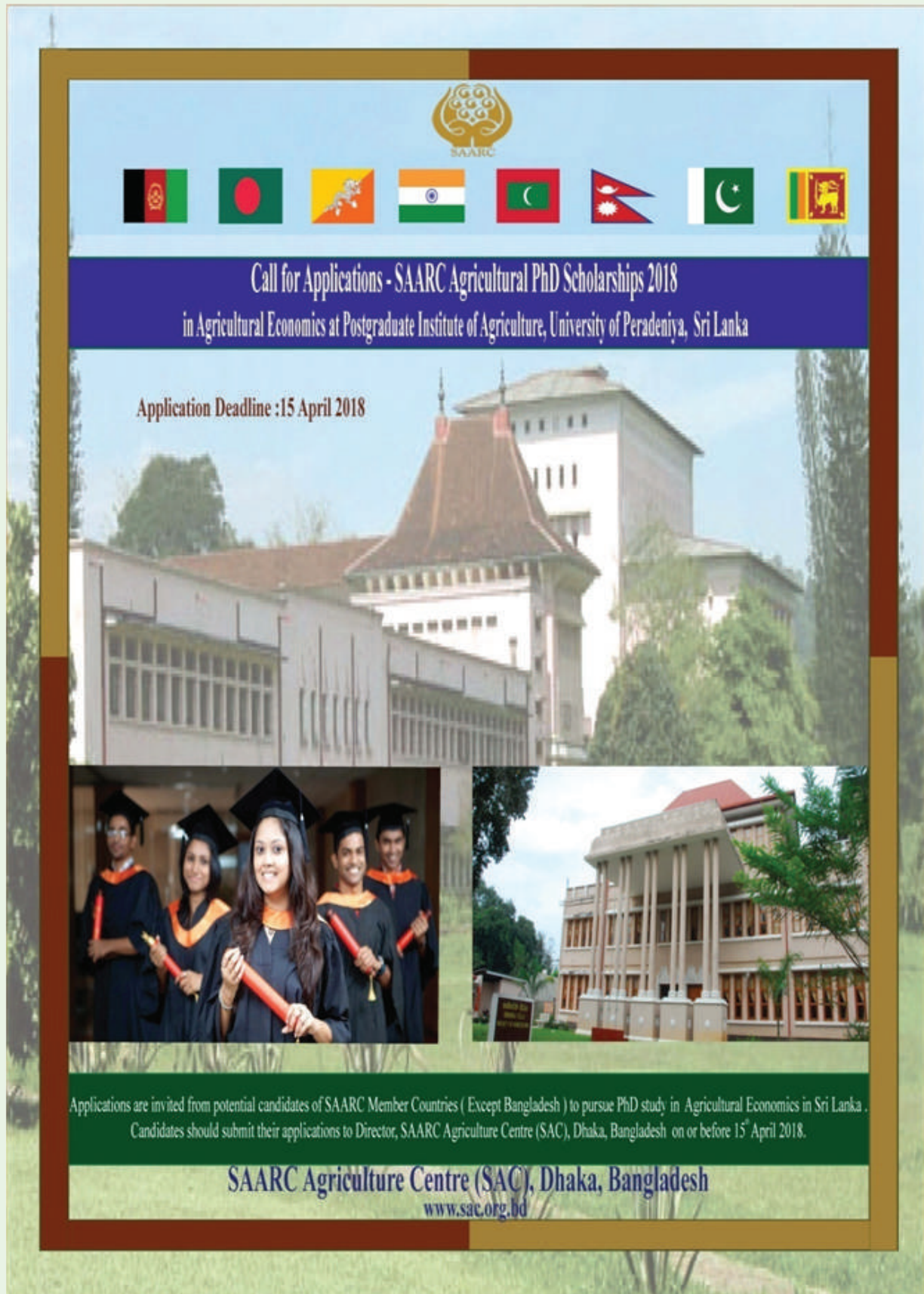
- To provide food security analysts with technical standards and guidelines for conducting IPC analysis;
- To introduce the revised standards version 2.0 based on field application and expert consultation.

Overall the training course was enjoyable, informative and understandable of the participants and hope the training would be helpful for collaboration in the future between SAC and Development Partners.



Participants of the training program

SAARC Agriculture Ph.D. Scholarship 2018



The poster features the SAARC logo at the top center, flanked by the flags of the member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Below the flags, the text reads: "Call for Applications - SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarships 2018 in Agricultural Economics at Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka". The application deadline is stated as "15 April 2018". The background of the poster is a collage of images: a large building with a traditional roof, a group of graduates in black gowns and caps holding red diplomas, and a modern building with a red roof. At the bottom, the text reads: "Applications are invited from potential candidates of SAARC Member Countries (Except Bangladesh) to pursue PhD study in Agricultural Economics in Sri Lanka . Candidates should submit their applications to Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh on or before 15th April 2018. SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh www.sac.org.bd".

SAARC

Call for Applications - SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarships 2018
in Agricultural Economics at Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Application Deadline :15 April 2018

Applications are invited from potential candidates of SAARC Member Countries (Except Bangladesh) to pursue PhD study in Agricultural Economics in Sri Lanka .
Candidates should submit their applications to Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh on or before 15th April 2018.

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh
www.sac.org.bd

Introduction

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) under the framework of SAARC has been working for strengthening agricultural research and technology transfer through regional networks among agricultural research and development institutions and policy makers in South Asia. SAC has taken initiatives to support aspiring agricultural scientists of the region to pursue their PhD degree programs in selected agricultural universities and institutions in South Asia. SAC is pleased to announce the offer of annual PhD scholarships for the academic year 2018. It is delighted to state that SAARC PhD Scholarship opportunity for 2017 has already been offered to Bangladesh. Thus, applications for PhD scholarships for 2018 are invited from SAARC Member countries except Bangladesh to pursue PhD in the field of Agricultural Economics for 3 years. The scholarships are competitive and merit-based providing opportunities for regular employees of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System to gain their PhD qualifications.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a citizen of SAARC Member Countries except Bangladesh (Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and must be a regular employee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System of the respective Member Countries. Applicants must be age of 45 years or below on the date of the application deadline (15th April 2018). Applicants should have a relevant postgraduate qualification (MSc/ MS/ MPhil) in agricultural economics, agribusiness and related discipline with a substantial research component of not less than one year. Candidates are expected to have excellent academic records and good command of spoken and written English. Further, candidates having publications on agricultural economics would get preference. Applicant must be available full time for the PhD study in Sri Lanka from 2018 for 3 years.

How to apply

Applications are invited from potential candidates who are interested to pursue PhD study on Agricultural Economics. Candidates should submit application along with PhD synopsis and supporting documents (certified copies of postgraduate and basic degree certificates, title page of postgraduate research thesis, current CV, copies of publications, English version of birth certificate, passport copy, proof for English proficiency) to Director, SAC through the relevant ministries and SAARC Division under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / External Affairs of the home country with endorsements on or before 15th April 2018. A scanned copy of the set of application may be sent directly to Director, SAC via email as an advance copy. Admission Circular and Application Performance are available on www.sac.org.bd.

PhD research synopsis

Applicants are requested to submit a synopsis (brief proposal) of maximum 8 pages for PhD research under the given thematic area of "Trade and Development" comprising trends of agricultural food exports in South Asia, opportunities for inter and intra regional trade, determinants of bi- and multi-lateral export of agri food items, regional policies and regulatory framework of South Asia and proposed regional institutional arrangements for enhanced the competitiveness of regional and global trade adhering to the format given here. The PhD research synopsis will be reviewed to assess whether the proposed research is in accordance with given thematic area and the scientific quality of research proposal. The outputs of research must lead to advance the existing knowledge and to fill up the gap of the knowledge in the field of "Trade and Development".

Synopsis format

1. Title 2. Introduction 3. Objectives 4. Review of literature 5. Plan of work and methodology 6. Expected outputs 7. References

Selection process

Applications received from member countries by the deadline will be pre evaluated by the Committee headed by Director, SAC according to the following criteria:

1. Academic records of the candidate (Bachelor degree and postgraduate degree)
2. Publications and experience in relevant field
3. Relevancy and quality of PhD research synopsis

The short listed applications are finally evaluated by a committee comprised of regional expert team for the selection of the most suitable candidate.

Tenure and Placement

Awards are tenable at an Agricultural University of SAARC countries designated by SAC. Funding is for 03 years with fulltime basis. SAC will facilitate the placement and admission.

PhD Program and thematic areas for research

NO	Name of the PhD Program -2018	Thematic Area of the PhD Research
1	Agricultural Economics	Trade and Development

Host Institute

The successful candidate will be admitted to Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya (PGIA-UoP), Sri Lanka (<https://www.pgia.ac.lk>) to pursue PhD in Agricultural Economics. PGIA-UoP is a premier institute for higher education in agricultural sciences in Sri Lanka offers postgraduate programs in 31 disciplines with emphasis of providing most updated knowledge while facilitating research programs. Over the past four decades, it has achieved substantial progress and has emerged as a "Centre of Excellence" in higher education in agricultural sciences in Sri Lanka.

Scholarship and its inclusions

1. Economy class air fare from home country to Sri Lanka and return at the end of PhD study
2. Tuition fee (partially waived by the host institute)
3. Living allowances at the rate US\$ 600 per month (up to 3 years)
4. A one-time grant of US\$ 1000 to cover up expenditure for books, study materials, computer and thesis production.
5. A grant of US\$ 1000 per year to cover up research and other costs with the recommendation of PhD supervisor.

Grant Conditions

The scholar shall not change the specified course of study, thematic area of the research as indicated in the application nor transfer of registration for any other PhD course. The withdrawal of the course is not permitted. If the course is withdrawn, SAC reserves the right to recover entire expenditure from the scholar. The award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress or attendance or if the registration is suspended or terminated by the university for any reason.

Further contact

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SAARC Agriculture Centre

SAARC Journal of Agriculture SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) has been publishing half yearly peer reviewed journal "SAARC Journal of Agriculture" since 2003. It is a half yearly publication for the centre and serves as a platform for exchange of latest knowledge on breakthrough topics that are of current concern. It publishes original research articles as well as review articles in all areas of agriculture, animal sciences, and fisheries from SAARC Countries.