



SAARC AGRINEWS



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



Bhutan



India



Maldives



Nepal



Pakistan



Sri Lanka

April-June 2022

SAARC Secretary General Visited the SAC

His Excellency Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary General of SAARC along with his spouse madam Krishanti Weerakoon arrived in Dhaka on 04 June for five days state visit. This was the first visit of the SAARC Secretary General in Bangladesh. Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed was accompanying the Secretary General in Dhaka. Director SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain and Additional Foreign Secretary (SAARC & BIMSTEC) Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque received the honorable guests at the VIP lounge of Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka with a floral bouquet.



His Excellency along with madam Krishanti Weerakoon visited SAARC Agriculture Centre on the 6th of June. Additional Foreign Secretary (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque, Dr. Shaikh Bokhtiar, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) and SAC GB Member, Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director (ARD & SDF) were present in the meeting.

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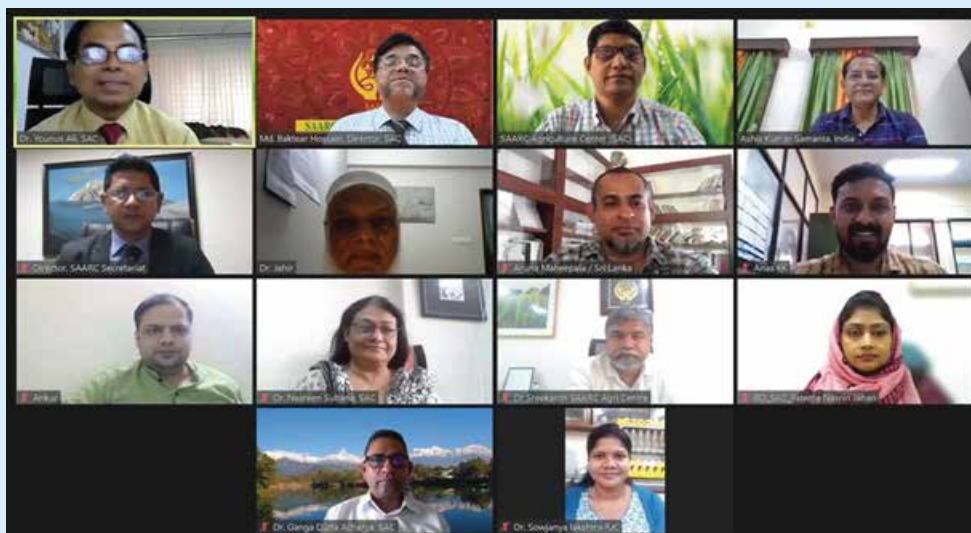
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A fruitful discussion on the challenges and accomplishments of SAARC Agriculture Centre was held with His Excellency during the meeting. After the meeting, the dignitaries observed some of the showcase products of Livelihood Improvement project implemented by Rural Development Academy (RDA) Bagura, Bangladesh.



Progress Sharing Meeting: SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholars

The SAARC Agriculture Centre organized a PhD progress sharing meeting under the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship program on 22 June 2022 in virtual mode where four PhD fellows, Mr. Ankur Poudel, Mr. Anas K.K., Dr. Sowjanya Lakshmi and Mr. Aruna Maheepala presented their research and academic progress. They made excellent academic progress and satisfactory research activities. Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director (A&D and SDF), SAARC Secretariat attended as chief guest and Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Director, SAC Chaired the meeting.



SDF Funded Livelihood Enhancement Project: Quarterly Progress Sharing Meeting

The quarterly progress sharing meeting of the Livelihood Enhancement Project was held on 28 June 2022. Four implementing agencies of the SAARC Member States of Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka participated in the virtual platform. Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), addressed the meeting as Chair and Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Technical Officer (STO) and the project coordinator of Livelihood project facilitated the meeting.



Officials of MoFL visited the SAC

Two senior level officials from Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Bangladesh, Mr. SM Ferdous Alam, Additional Secretary, and Mr. Shyamol Chandra Karmakar, Additional Secretary along with other high officials of the same ministry made a short visit to the SAARC Agriculture Centre on 28 June 2022. Director, SAC, Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain welcomed them at his office and handed over two recently published books on Livestock to the dignitaries.



Meeting with APAARI

On 15 June 2022, a meeting was held between Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and SAARC Agriculture Centre. Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, APARI, Thailand visited SAC with his Bangladeshi team. Due to the pandemic, the Centre was not able to meet many relevant partners during the last couple of years physically. Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Director SAC, lead the SAC team along with Professionals. Dr. Nasreen Sultana, Senior Program Specialist (Horticulture), Dr. Grinson George, Senior Program Specialist (Fisheries) and Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Senior Program Specialist (PSPD) and Dr. Younus, Ali, Senior Technical Officer (STO) joined the discussion. The meeting ended with the hope to strengthen the collaboration between two parties for the improvement of agriculture and allied sectors in the region.



Virtual meeting on veterinary education as per OIE & International Accreditation

Director SAARC Agriculture Centre Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain attended a virtual meeting on 29 May 2022 as the Guest of honour at the Online Workshop and panel discussion on "outcome based veterinary education as per OIE & International Accreditation" organized by Indian Veterinary Association for the SAARC Countries. The Chief Guest of the session was Dr. Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Dr. C. Kadian, President, Indian Veterinary Association (IVA), India, chaired the session.



Meeting with a team from Gram Unnoyon Karmosuchi (GUK)

On 17 May 2022, a meeting was held at the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) with a team of Gram Unnoyon Karmosuchi (GUK). The GUK team led by Dr. Khandakar Alamgir Hossain, Executive Director, GUK and two other directors as members, Mr. Md. Raihanus Saadat, Director ICT and Md. Humayun Khaled, Director Admin and internal Audit. Director of SAC Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain led the SAC team. Other senior specialists of SAC were also present at the meeting. The two parties discussed on their current activities and possible collaboration.



Meeting with MoFA team

Additional Foreign Secretary (SAARC & BIMSTEC) Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque along with Director (SAARC & BIMSTEC) Mr. Md. Aminul Islam Khan, and Senior Assistant Secretary (SAARC) Ms. Tahsina Afrin Sharmi of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Bangladesh paid a courtesy visit to SAARC Agriculture Centre on the 17th May 2022. The visiting dignitaries were cordially welcomed and shared the activities of SAARC Agriculture Centre. The MoFA team advised the way forward and committed to help SAC to solve some of the issues.



Meeting with GIFS, Canada

Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh has established a partnership with Global Institute of Food Security (GIFS) of the University of Saskatchewan, Canada to strengthen collaborations between agricultural researchers from Canada and Bangladesh. On 05 May 2022 Mr. Stephen Visscher, Chief Operation Officer, GIFS, Professor Dr. Andrew Sharpe, Bangabandhu Research Chair, GIFS along with Mr. Hasan Pervej Ahmed International Program Development Manager, GIFS and Dr. Sreekanth Attaluri, representative of GIFS in Bangladesh visited SAARC Agriculture Centre. Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Director SAC along with all Senior Specialists shared the objectives and activities of SAC. Both agencies agreed to identify possible collaboration between two institutions.



Reflections on the SAARC Journal of Agriculture: the editorial board members in a brainstorming

The two decades of our journal making relevant strides in South Asian Agriculture and the possible interventions for improving the same were brain-stormed in the recent editorial board meeting, held virtually. Editorial board members from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan attended in the meeting. Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, the Chief Editor of the journal and Director of SAARC Agriculture Centre chaired the meeting and reiterated the commitment of the Centre to improve the journal. Dr. Grinson George, Managing Editor of the Journal updated about the recently introduced provisions of online submission of the manuscript and peer review process in the meeting. Dr. Fatema Nasrin Jahan, Associate Editor of SJA made a presentation on "SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA) Status and Way Forward". The expert opinions and suggestions from the professionals were compiled for bringing out quality manuscripts in the best way possible.



Dr. Grinson Goerge participated a training of BARC as Resource Person

On April 26, Dr. Grinson Goerge, Senior Program Specialist (Fisheries), SAC delivered an invited lecture on climate resilient aquaculture and fisheries as part of the ongoing training program to the 5th batch of the training programon "Climate Change, Carbon Sequestration and Adaptation Strategies" organized by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). The training program is an initiative by the country to create awareness among the NARS scientists.



The farewell ceremony of SPS, Crops

The farewell ceremony of Dr. Sreekanth Attaluri (SPS, Crops) was held on 29 June 2022 at SAC conference room. He served at SAARC Agriculture Centre from 19 November 2019 to 30 June 2022 and was going to join GIFS-BARC as Program Manager from July 01, 2022. The SAC Director, Professionals and the entire SAC family wish Dr. Sreekanth a great success in the future endeavors.





Publications

A book entitled “Prospects on Trade of Livestock and its Products in South Asia” was published by the thematic group of Livestock of SAC. Dr. Ashis Kumar Samanta and other editors are addressed the time driven and present status of trade on livestock and other related issues of South Asian Livestock sector in the book.

