



SAARC AGRINEWS



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July–September 2024

Regional Experts Consultation Meeting: Accelerating the Process of Transformation for Sustainable and Nutrition-Sensitive Agri-Food Systems in South Asia, 8-10 July

The SAARC Agriculture Centre organized a Regional Experts Consultation Meeting titled Accelerating the Process of Transformation for Sustainable and Nutrition-Sensitive Agri-Food Systems in South Asia. The meeting was held from July 8-10, 2024, at Hotel Golden Tulip, Banani, Dhaka, in collaboration with Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Country Program Bangladesh.



Dr. Md. Sheikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, then Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) inaugurated and addressed the Meeting as the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre chaired the inaugural session and Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Country Director WHH welcomed the meeting Dignitaries and the participants. Ambassador Abdul Motaleb Sarker, Director General (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat Kathmandu, and Ms. Silke Schmeer, Political, Press and Cultural Attache from the German Embassy in Bangladesh addressed the meeting as the Special Guests. The dignitaries in their inaugural address highlighted the significance of the meeting when the agrifood systems in South Asia are facing multiple and intertwined challenges of ensuring food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability and addressing socioeconomic inequality.

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Editors

Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya
Senior Programme Specialist (PSPD)
Mr. Palash Chandra Goswami
Senior Program Officer (NRM)
Mr. Md. Monirul Islam
Senior Program Officer (Publication)
Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid
Director, SAC

Graphics
Ms. Sanjida Akter

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)
BARC Complex, Farmgate
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
Tel: 880-2-55027712
Fax: 880-2-55027714
Email: director@sac.org.bd
Website: www.sac.org.bd

The main purpose of this Meeting was to assess the obstacles and challenges that SAARC member countries have been facing in the process of developing sustainable and nutrition sensitive agri-food systems, reaffirming political will, and maintaining momentum for transformation. Through shared expertise and concerted efforts, the meeting aimed to strategize the accelerated transformation process for enhanced food security, improved nutrition outcomes, and heightened sustainability practices.

More than 50 participants, including national focal point experts from the SAARC Member Countries, government officials, nutrition specialists, policymakers, and relevant development partners from the region participated in the meeting, marking a significant collaborative effort towards reshaping agri-food systems in South Asia. The country focal point experts from the SAARC Member States- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka presented the country status paper on the food system transformation process in their respective countries. On top of that, there were three panel discussion sessions involving renowned food system experts from the region and 10 thought provoking, technical paper presentations from the experts associated with the government agencies, academia and development partners including CIMMYT, IFPRI, FAO, ICIMOD, and Helen Keller International.

At the end of the meeting participants developed a consensus roadmap of the agrifood system transformation for achieving the sustainability and food and nutrition security goals. The key take ways of the Meeting were:

Malnutrition is a multidimensional problem and requires a multisectoral, multi actor approach- government, civil society, private sector

Political commitment is key and Food System Transformation needs clear, non-dualistic policies.

Triple nexus- crop diversification, dietary diversity and market access is the key roadmap,

SAARC Regional Training: “Sustainable and Affordable Solutions for Climate Resilient Agriculture of Smallholder Farmers in South Asia”, 28-31 July, Kathmandu, Nepal

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Country Program Nepal, organized a regional training on “Sustainable and Affordable Solutions for Climate Resilient Agriculture of Smallholder Farmers in South Asia” during 28-31 July 2024, at Hotel Himalaya in Lalitpur Nepal.

The four days long training program was inaugurated and addressed by Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal Mr. Ram Nath Adhikari as the Chief Guest. H.E. Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of the SAARC and Dr. Izabella Koziell, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD graced the inaugural occasion and addressed the participants as Special Guests. Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director (ARD & SDF) SAARC Secretariat chaired the inaugural session of the training program. This training aimed to build capacity on sustainable and affordable solutions in climate-resilient agriculture for smallholder farmers in South Asia. The focus was on showcasing solutions for resilience building with a particular emphasis on nature-based solutions.

On the first day of the training program, the participants were oriented on fundamentals of climate change and the resilience building processes. On the second day, participants gained deeper insights about the practical and sustainable solutions to climate change risks particularly in the small-holder farming contexts. On the third day, participants were taken to the field for their exposure to the practical applications of the sustainable solutions learnt during the training session. On the fourth day, the participants reflected upon their learnings of the last three days and developed an individual plan to contribute to development from the learning of this training program.

The training sessions were conducted by well experienced experts of the relevant theme and fully adopted the adult learning principles. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal graced as the Chief Guest at the closing session of the training program and distributed certificates and token of appreciation to the training participants. In his closing remarks Dr Mishra appreciated SAC and collaborating partners for organizing such an important training program involving multiple stakeholders as part of capacity-enhancement initiative. Total 25 participants including National Focal Point Experts (government representatives) from six SAARC Member States- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka- community facilitators, academicians and farmer representatives from the South Asian countries attended the training program.

In the closing session of the training program the representatives of the trainees reflected that the training provided a crucial platform for learning and experience sharing on efforts to build resilient farming communities in different contexts of the SAARC Member States.



SAARC Regional expert consultation meeting on “Preparedness of Member Countries for Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Livestock”



The SAARC regional expert consultation meeting on “Preparedness of Member Countries for Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Livestock” was held on 29th and 31st July, 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting was organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka in collaboration with Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK) Bangladesh, One Health Poultry Hub Project Sri Lanka and Department of Animal Production and Health, Kandy Sri Lanka. The Programme was conceptualized, coordinated and executed by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Programme Specialist – Livestock, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka. The objectives of the expert consultation meeting include: (i) Improve public awareness and understanding, and promote education and training of professionals; (ii) Continuously monitor antimicrobial resistance and usages of antimicrobials; (iii) Follow the “good animal husbandry practices” for reducing the use of antibiotics; (iv) Promote judicious usages of antimicrobials in veterinary healthcare and livestock-based food system; (v) Promote research and development on antimicrobial resistance and alternatives to antimicrobials for innovative veterinary solutions through appropriate policy and investment to prevent, diagnose and treat the antimicrobial-resistant infections. The meeting was attended by the focal experts of six SAARC Member States, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in addition to international experts from Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)- National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) India, SAARC PhD Fellow (ICAR-IVRI) India, Department of Animal Production and Health Sri Lanka and One Health Poultry Hub Project India. Besides, the participants list of the above expert consultation meeting includes one health poultry hub project, professionals of Anti- Microbial Resistance, Department of Animal Production and Health and SAARC Agriculture Centre. Around 55 persons attended the meeting.



SAARC Regional Training on “Poultry Production and Management for Safe Food Production”



The SAARC regional training on “Poultry Production and Management for Safe Food Production” was held on 19th and 23rd August, 2024 in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The meeting was organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka in collaboration with Nourish Poultry and Hatchery Limited, Bangladesh and Department of Animal Production and Health, Kandy Sri Lanka. The training programme was conceptualized, coordinated and executed by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Programme Specialist – Livestock, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka. The objectives of the expert consultation meeting include: (i) improving human nutrition, providing food (eggs and meat) with high quality nutrients and micronutrients; (ii) generating small income and savings, especially for women, thus enhancing the capacity to cope with shocks and reducing economic vulnerability; (iii) providing manure for vegetable garden and crop production. The training was attended by the focal experts of six SAARC Member States, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in addition to international speakers from Bangladesh, India and USA. Most of the speakers hired from Department of Animal Production and Health, Kandy Sri Lanka for conduction of the training program.



A Regional Consultation Meeting on “Development and Dissemination of Biofortified Varieties of Different Crops in the SAARC Member States”

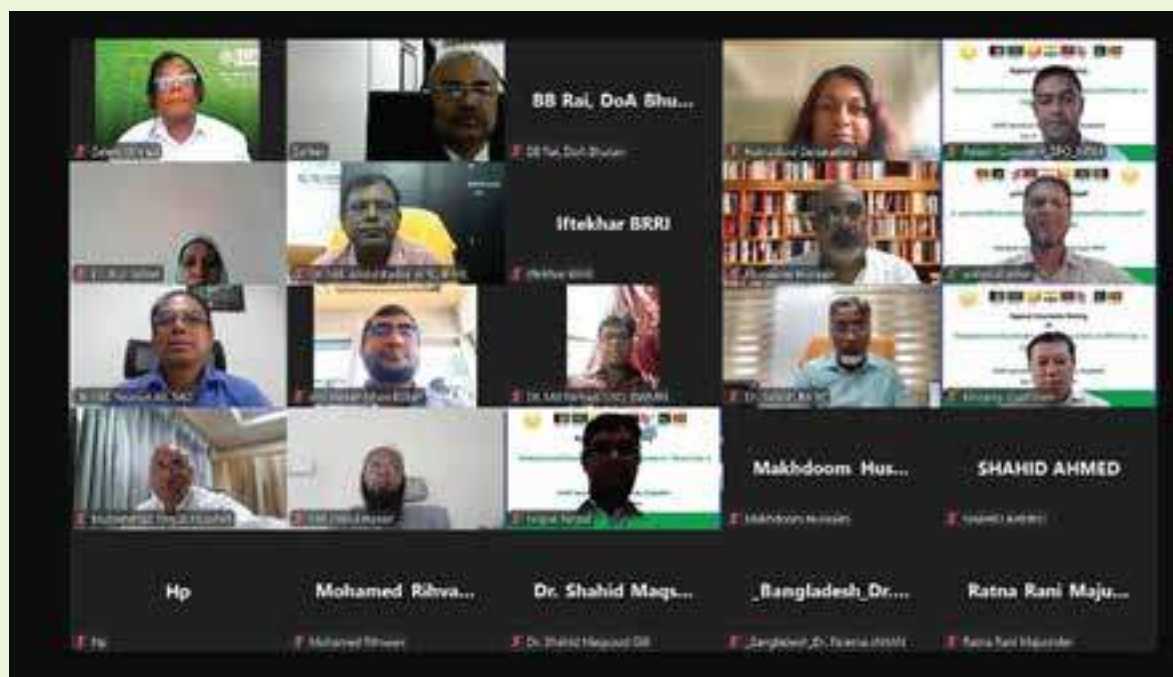


A three days (2-4 September, 2024) regional consultation meeting was conducted by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in virtual mode on “Development and dissemination of Biofortified varieties of different crops in the SAARC Member States”. This meeting was attended by the Focal points of 6 SAARC Members States i.e., Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, scientists of different research organizations, Universities, and international organizations HarvestPlus.

Ambassador Mr. Abdul Motaleb Sarker, Director General SAARC and BIMSTEC Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bangladesh was the Chief guest of this meeting. Dr Nazmun Nahar Karim, Executive Chairman BARC, attended this meeting as the Special guest, Mr. Jamalud Din Ahmad, Director ARD & SDF, SAARC Secretariat Nepal and Mr Rovinder Grover, Global Business Manager HarvestPlus Solutions were the Guests of Honor. Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer Senior Program Specialist (Crops) gave presentation about the importance of Biofortification of crops and about the purpose of conducting of this meeting. Dr Khalida Islam, Chairman Department of Nutrition Dhak University gave a detailed presentation on the importance of proper nutrition for human health. Country papers were presented by the nominated focal persons of the different SAARC Member States.

There were 5 different technical sessions and these were chaired by the eminent scientists. There were eight invited guest speakers who gave presentations regarding the development of biofortified crops and other related aspects of biofortification of crops like their marketing etc. Dr Hummanth Bhindari, Country Representative for Bangladesh and Senior Agricultural Economist IRRI gave presentation on Biofortified Rice-experience of IRRI; Dr. Abdur Rahman Bashir, Seed Systems Specialist Asia CIMMYT Nepal gave presentation on Maize Biofortification initiatives by CIMMYT in South Asia; Dr Javed Ahmad, Chief Scientist / Director Wheat Research Institute, Ayub Agriculture Research Institute Faisalabad Pakistan gave presentation regarding Biofortified wheat varieties production in Punjab-Pakistan; Mr. Md. Wahidul Amin, Country Coordinator HarvestPlus Bangladesh gave presentation regarding Rice varieties in Bangladesh: Ways to impact and policy support; Dr Velu Govindan, Senior Scientist Wheat Breeding Global Wheat Program, CIMMYT, Mexico gave presentation on Wheat Biofortification at CIMMYT; Dr. Arif Hussain Khan, Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University Mymensingh Bangladesh gave presentation on Bio-fortification in Potato and Sweet potato and Dr. Yaqub Mujahid, Country Manager, HarvestPlus Pakistan gave presentation on Akbar-2019, a success story of Biofortified wheat in Pakistan. There were detail discussions and questions and answers after each technical session.

It was concluded that biofortification of crops for different nutrients is very important to minimize the issue of malnutrition, which in the form of hidden hunger is causing a number of problems for all the people but poor people are facing this issue on large scale. Through biofortification of different crops, maximum people will get their needed nutrients i.e., Zn, Fe and other vitamins through their normal diet especially through their staple diets and there will be no need of fortification of crops. However, for this purpose along with the more research and development work, awareness of common people, and farming community is needed. Governments of all SAARC Member States should include the biofortification of crops in their policies.



High-level Policy Roundtable Meeting on ‘Effective Implementation of Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) among SAARC Member Countries’ 11-12 September, 2024, Kathmandu, Nepal

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in collaboration with IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) organized a “Policy Roundtable Meeting on Effective Implementation of the Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) among SAARC Member States” during 11-12 September, 2024 in Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, Nepal. Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mr. Ram Nath Adhikari graced the inaugural session of the program as Chief Guest and inaugurated the two-day long event on the 11th of September 2024. The inaugural session of the Roundtable was chaired by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre. Prof. Dr. Shiva Raj Adhikari, Honorable Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission, Nepal and Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Director, SAARC Secretariat, (Current Duty Charge of the Secretary General) delivered their remarks as Special Guests on the occasion. Dr. Swati Nayak, IRRI South Asia's Lead for Seed System and Product Management also delivered her remarks in the inaugural session as special guest.

Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Senior Program Specialist, from SAARC Agriculture Centre welcomed the guests and participants and delivered objectives of the Policy Roundtable. The Meeting was attended by the high-level government officials from six SAARC Member States namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. While the relevant experts on trans-boundary movements of planting/breeding and genetic materials, seed entrepreneurs and civil society actors from all South Asian countries attended the Meeting. Altogether 30 international and national delegates engaged fully in deliberations and discussions of the two days long policy roundtable.

On the first day of the Meeting the participants were sensitized on various international policies, legislations and practices with respect to the cross-border genetic materials exchanges. Three thematic papers were presented by the relevant experts and a panel discussion was held on the first day. On the Second day the representatives of the SAARC Member Countries presented the national policies and legislations as well as the institutional mechanism with respect to the transborder germplasm exchanges in their respective countries. At the end of the Meeting the participants reiterated the significance of transboundary germplasm exchanges among the SAARC Member States and effective implementation of MTA can drive agricultural research, innovation and development in the region.



The Meeting participants agreed that :

1. There are three different frameworks for cross-border sharing of biological materials in the region: SAARC Seed bank, Seeds Without Borders, and global MTA (ITPGRAF). However, all three frameworks vary in their scope and process, none are functioning effectively due to legal, institutional, political, socio-economic, logical, and ethical challenges. Therefore, the scope of each framework should be clearly defined and simplified, their operational procedures should be streamlined and harmonized, and annual meetings should be organized to discuss operational issues among SAARC Member States.
2. SAARC Seed Bank's (SSB) scope may be limited to cross-border sharing of seeds-particularly the released/registered varieties. Therefore, MTA may be separated from SSB Agreement. SAC should facilitate this discussion further and review the Agreement.
3. SAC should convene annual meetings and experts' consultations to discuss SSB and MTA operational issues. The stakeholders should include the government, the private sector, farmers, and relevant international organizations.
4. SAC should influence and facilitate the process of reviewing, simplifying, and harmonizing the legal framework and process on seed system, SSB, and MTA among SAARC Member States. The framework and process must meet the basic standard but should be simple for effective implementation.



5. SAC may influence and facilitate the Member States to establish clear institutional mechanisms and a nodal cell for effective implementation of SSB and MTA including developing a database on germplasm for SSB and MTA purpose with a catalogue of which germplasm can and cannot be shared.
6. SAC may consider developing a mechanism to involve the private sector in the SSB and MTA framework.
7. SAC may collaborate with CGIAR and other national and international organizations to develop capacities on MTA, research and innovation of the SAARC Member States and for effective communication and sharing of data, information, and knowledge.



Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia



Drought is a complex and least understood phenomenon commonly manifested by significant scarcity of water for agriculture and jeopardizes the livelihoods and socio-economic of people. The high dependency of South Asia (SA) on agriculture and agro-based related activities rendered the regional states most vulnerable to the impacts of drought. The recurrence of drought and the way it deteriorates the social economic fabrics of the SA, creating food insecurity and mass migration emphasis on the need for having a comprehensive and all-time tested strategy so that the community can be made resilience through adopting proactive instead of reactive response mechanisms. Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in collaboration with United National Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have drafted Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia to address these challenges by igniting resilience and capacity building of the SA community. The strategy called for strengthening the early warning and monitoring, empowering institutional capacity, and popularizing sustainable and climate smart agriculture and natural resources management practices. It was learnt that the draft resolution would be finalized to present in forthcoming COP16 Conference to be held in Saudia Arab this year. In this regards a four (04) days consultation workshop was held in Sri Lanka co-organized by UNCCD and ADPC to sensitize the regional players in providing feedback in improving the draft strategy. This event, held from September 9-12, 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, focuses on developing and validating a regional strategy to manage and mitigate drought risk across South Asia. From SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC) Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, SPS (NRM) and Mr. Palash Chandra Goswami SPO (NRM) from SAC participated in this workshop. Collaboration between ADPC and SAC:



Dr. Raza Ullah Khan showcases the SAARC Agriculture Center, talks about SAC flagship program, and potential for engagement with regional and international organizations. A side meeting and discussion was held with Dr. Senaka Basnayake, Director ADPC, Dr. Denial Tsegai program Officer UNCCD, and other officials to explore the prospects and potential for future collaboration between ADPC, UNCCD and SAC. Dr. Senaka shows his desire to work with SAC and wish for writing preface or acknowledgement by Director SAC in current draft strategy, also shows willingness to work with SAC in drought and other common areas in the interest for the betterment of the people of SAARC region. Dr. Lalith Kumar Dashora Program Manager also expressed his desire that ADPC and SAC can co-organize a training program on drought management and mitigation. Professor Jesse E. Bell, Department of Environmental, Agricultural, and Occupational Health, University of Nebraska and Dr. Dr. Hemu Kafle, University of Kathmandu, Nepal the latter told to do work with SAC in forthcoming proposal to Asia Pacific Network (APN), she is currently working on project funded by APN.

2. Consequent upon the discussion in the workshop, a draft document titled “Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia” Draft Strategy Report was reviewed and forwarded with preface from the Director SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC).



Participated in the Regional Farmers’ Workshop and AFA’s 11th General Assembly (GA)

Regional Farmers’ Workshop and AFA’s 11th General Assembly (GA) was held in Nepal on 18-20 September 2024. On behalf of the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dr. Md. Yunus Ali Senior Programme Specialist (Livestock) joined the programme to represent the SAC. Dr. Ali presented a paper “Climate Resiliency with Family Farming Organizations focusing on adaptation, agro ecological practices” on 20 September 2024. The meeting was jointly organized by the Asian Farmers’ Association (AFA), National Land Rights Forum Nepal (NLRN) and the Central Tea Cooperative Federation (CTCF) with the following objectives;

- share and learn from the initiatives of AFA member organizations on climate resiliency
- provide feedback and inputs on (i) key messages to promote climate resiliency (ii) design and activities of current and potential projects
- Discuss, affirm, approve the agenda for the 11th GA business proper, including the (i) composition of new Execom 2024-2026; (ii) election of new set of officers and (iii) appointment of new Secretary General.



Webinar by iCARE-ADPC on Climate Smart Irrigation

Attended an online webinar on “Scaling Innovative soil and solute water monitoring tools for climate resilient smallholders' irrigation” organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness center, Thailand. This webinar, held from September 24, 2024. The guest speaker was Dr. Richard Stirzake, Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA). The speaker nicely described the soil and water nexus and talked about a user-friendly sensor-based tool “Chameleon” developed by VIA. The tool has prob to insert at varying soil depth to see the moisture level and show it by different color band i.e blue signal no need for irrigation, and yellow color band signal need for irrigation. The tool has been used by farmers across different countries in the world for water and nitrogen management and reportedly found to enhance water and nitrate-nitrogen use efficiency on farmer field. Nitrogen is the trickiest and most used fertilizer-based nutrient; however, the high nitrogen use is not being reflected in terms of increase in crop productivity or soil fertility instead heavy use of nitrogen-based fertilizer is blamed for Greenhouse gases emissions and groundwater pollution. In this context the management of soil solute particularly NO₃-N is most critical.

Dr. Richard also talked about the scaling theories that aim at diffusion of new tools among the farming communities. As the “Theory of Change” suggests, every invention takes time to being fully adopted by end-users. He added that there exists a body of tacit knowledge and explicit knowledge, the former related to what farmers do and the latter what he/she wants to do. Most of the time the teaching stuff consists of explicit knowledge. He said that we don't need to teach farmers but must keep trying on what farmers know and drive out of his knowledge the solution to problem. That is a nice hybrid of what scientists and researchers know and what a real time practitioner knows.

Newly Appointed Staffs at SAARC Agriculture Centre:

Dr. Raza Ullah Khan Appointed as Senior Program Specialist (SPS), Natural Resources Management (NRM) of SAARC Agriculture Centre

Dr. Raza Ullah Khan assume charge as Senior Program Specialist (SPS), Natural Resources Management (NRM) in SAARC Agricultural Center (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The SAC is one of the regional centers working under South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) having secretariat at Nepal and serves as center of excellence focus on promoting thematic discussion and capacity building in agriculture & allied sectors and instrumental in enhancing livelihood, food and nutritional security in South Asia. Mr. Khan is 2nd scientist from Pakistan, and PARC to join the apex regional Agriculture setup in the recent years, previously he worked as Principal Scientific Officer/National Coordinator (Land Resources), NR at PARC, Pakistan Wish him all the best and hope his work in SAC



would further strengthen collaboration among SAARC countries on sustainable management of natural resources to achieve UN-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. AHM Taslima Akhter Appointed as Senior Technical Officer (STO) of SAARC Agriculture Centre

Dr. AHM Taslima Akhter joined the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as a Senior Technical Officer (STO) in August 2024. She holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and a Master's in Veterinary Microbiology from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) as well as an additional MS in Public Health from American International University (AIUB)-Bangladesh.

With over 16 years of professional experience, Dr. Taslima has specialized in program and project management, implementation, supervision, and facilitation across various development sectors including FAO of UN, British Council and Asian Disaster and Preparedness Center Bangladesh. Her expertise includes animal health management, value chain analysis, food safety, public health, climate change, capacity building, and livelihood improvement.



Mr. Palash Chandra Goswami Appointed as Senior Program Officer (Natural Resource Management) of SAARC Agriculture Centre

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Palash Chandra Goswami as the Senior Program Officer (Natural Resource Management) at the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) 13 August 2024. Mr. Goswami brings a wealth of experience in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management, with a track record of impactful contributions to regional and international projects. He has more than 14 years' experiences in managing and leading multi-disciplinary team, different agricultural development projects & research organization in on farm research activities, trial, cropping system, mixed farming systems, crop



intensification, biofortification, climate smart agriculture, nutrition sensitive agriculture, project management, climate change and disasters management, food security, livelihood, agricultural value chain, socioeconomic research studies & natural resource management. He has academic background in Agriculture (MS in Agronomy) from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. Mr. Goswami worked in different development projects & research organization; HarvestPlus-International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), IRRI (International Rice Research Institute), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Pran-RFL Group, SDS (Shariatpur Development Society), NCPL, Practical Action Bangladesh & Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Gaibandha and also has 8 publications in international and national level journal.

Md. Aminul Islam Asif Appointed as IT Manager (Software) of SAARC Agriculture Centre

Md. Aminul Islam Asif is a seasoned IT professional currently serving as the IT Manager (Software) at the SAARC Agriculture Centre. With a solid foundation in computer science and a wealth of experience in diverse IT roles, Asif has consistently demonstrated his technical expertise and dedication to innovation.

Prior to his current position, Asif held the role of Assistant Network Engineer at the Connected Bangladesh project of the Bangladesh Computer Council under the ICT Division. In this capacity, he played a crucial role in driving the nation's digital transformation initiatives.

Before that, he served as a seniorsystem administrator at the IFAD Group, where he was responsible for ensuring smooth system operations and resolving technical challenges.

Mr. Asif holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering from the National University of Bangladesh. His academic qualifications, combined with his hands-on experience, have equipped him with the necessary skills to tackle complex IT challenges and deliver innovative solutions.

Mr. Asif, an experienced IT professional passionate about leveraging technology to solve problems and enhance organisational efficiency. He likes to learn about new IT technologies and research their usability.

