



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



Bhutan



India



Maldives



Nepal



Pakistan



Sri Lanka

SAARC AGRICULTURE CENTRE

At a Glance



SAARC Agriculture Centre

At a Glance

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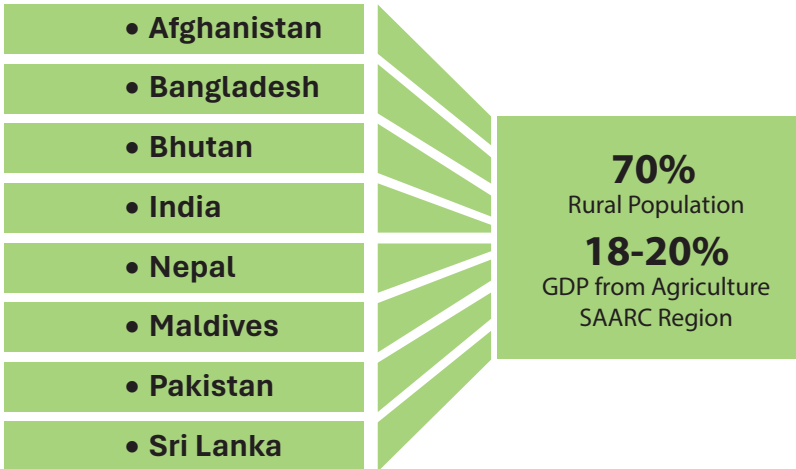
Motijheel, Dhaka-1000

SAARC Region



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

8 Member States



~2 Billion Population

3.5% Land Area

41% Global Poor

22% Stunted Children

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Message from the Director

It is with hope and optimism that we present this edition of SAC ‘At a glance’, offering a comprehensive overview of the programs, key achievements and strategic priorities of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC).

As a centre of excellence, SAC remains firmly committed to advancing agricultural innovation, fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening regional cooperation among SAARC Member States. Since its establishment, SAC has played a pivotal role in policy planning, capacity building, and technology transfer across the region.

SAC’s vision is to transform the Centre into a regional leader in agricultural knowledge and innovation, ensuring food and nutritional security for millions of people across SAARC Member States.

As we look to the future, the way forward for SAC is clear: to deepen integration among member countries, embrace digital transformation, empower farmers especially women and youth and lead the regional agenda for climate-smart and inclusive agriculture.

“SAC is a Center of Excellence and an agricultural knowledge and information hub in South Asia, promoting collective wisdom to address critical challenges such as food security, dwindling natural resources, and climate change faced by the region”.

Long Live, Spirit of SAARC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid".

Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid
Director, SAC

Genesis of SAARC Agriculture Centre

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established on the 8th December 1985 in Dhaka by the Heads of the founding Member States, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined as the 8th member state during 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi, India in April 2007.

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) is one of the most vibrant centers working under SAARC. The SAC (renamed in April 2007 from SAARC Agricultural Information Centre, SAIC) was established in 1988, with mandate to enhance regional cooperation and develop resilience in response to changing trajectory of the needs of farming communities, and relevant stakeholders and address common regional challenges of the food and agriculture sector, climate change, by strengthening agricultural research and extension systems, knowledge management, and appropriate agricultural policies and program development.

The SAC is based in the BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka is headed by the Director, accompanied by competent Professionals and the General Services Staff (GSS). Director of the Centre is deputed by the Government of the host country, i.e., Bangladesh while Professional Staffs are recruited from SAARC region via open competition.

Goal

Promotion of agricultural Research and Development as well as technology dissemination initiatives for sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation in SAARC Member States.

Mission

To promote advancement of agricultural research and development as well as technology dissemination initiatives for sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation in SAARC Member States.

Objectives

- To strengthen agricultural research and accelerate technology transfer through establishing regional networks on agricultural and allied disciplines, particularly among agricultural research and extension institutes, professionals, policy planners and stakeholders.
- To provide inputs for developing regional policies, strategies, projects, primarily through developing networks in crops, livestock and fisheries sectors; and for efficient management of soil, water and other natural resources.
- To promote new and innovative techniques and systems in agriculture, including production, post-harvest and processing.
- To facilitate collaborative studies, inter alia, on agricultural marketing and distribution systems, harmonization of agricultural related standards, promotion of agricultural trade, food security, risks and disaster management in agriculture.
- To facilitate and undertake collaborative capacity building programmes in agriculture and allied sectors with focus on skill development and research.
- To collate and disseminate information for agricultural advancement in the region.

Governing Board

Governing Board (GB) is an apex body to supervise functions of the Centre. The GB is composed of nominated Professionals/Scientists/Policy Makers in the focus of agriculture from each Member States. The GB approves the projects, programs and recommends the annual budget of SAC. A Chairman designated for a two-year term from the Member States by alphabetical rotation heads the Board. The GB meets usually once in a year and may meet more frequently if necessary.

Financial Management

The Centre is supported directly by the member states through their annual financial contributions based on the annual budget. In implementing the programs, the Centre aims to maintain the balance of expenditure between institutional cost and program cost. The program and institutional costs are shared by the Member States according to the SAARC proportion formula. The Government of Bangladesh provides the capital cost including infrastructure.

Type of Organization

SAC is an Intergovernmental Regional Organization controlled by the SAARC Secretariat, Nepal and governed by the Governing Board and the Programming Committee where one member in each committee involves from Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) & Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Bangladesh respectively.

Function of the organization

- Providing inputs for developing regional policies, strategies, programs, projects through networks in crop, livestock and fisheries sectors in the SAARC region.
- Production of regular publication (newsletters, bulletins, booklet, journal, etc.)
- Production of technical publications based on need-based priority programs (Book, Report, Workshop proceedings, etc.)
- Providing automated library services and online services on knowledge and information of different thematic areas.

- Organizing of workshops, seminars, symposium, consultation meeting and human resources development programs.
- Establishing institutional linkages with relevant national and regional relevant institutions.
- Undertaking activities leading to exchange the best practices for adaptation and/or adoption; time-bound short and medium terms projects and programs; and enhancing capacities of the agricultural communities of the SAARC countries.
- Awarding SAARC agriculture PhD scholarship among the SAARC Member States in the area of agricultural sciences.

Organizational Structure

The Centre is led by the Director, with competent Professionals and the General Service Staffs (GSS). Director of the Centre is deputed by the Government of the host country, i.e., Bangladesh while Professional Staffs are recruited from the regional competition among the applicants from the SAARC member states and GSS are recruited from the host country.

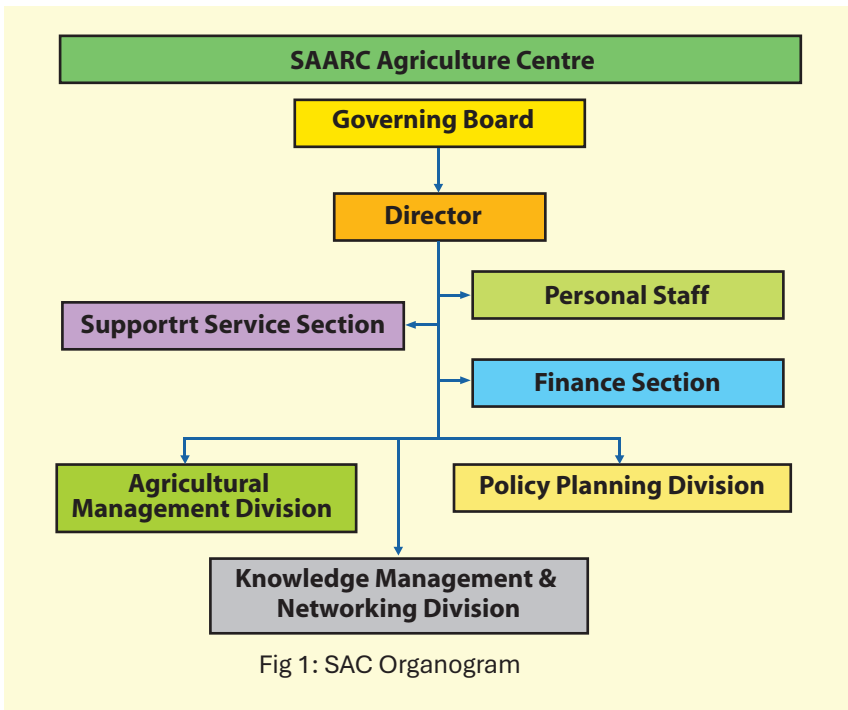


Fig 1: SAC Organogram

Agriculture Management Division is comprising six thematic areas: Crops, Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and policy planning & Priority setting (PSPD). Each thematic area is led by Senior Program Specialist (SPS).

Challenges to Agriculture in South Asia

- Due to rapid population increase, production of sufficient quality food is becoming a major challenge with the passage of time;
- SAARC Member States are facing different climate change issues like drought, heat, fog, smog and floods;
- Diminishing water resources;
- Slow adoption of latest technologies by the farming communities;
- Decreasing farm labour;
- Transboundary diseases and insects pests in crops;
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and transboundary animal diseases and pests;
- Significant losses during production, processing and storage;
- Poor value chain and processing for value addition is resulting in the form of less profit to the farming community;
- Improper & injudicious use of agro-chemicals;
- Poor integration and application of latest technologies for the development of various products, processes and services for strengthening of food, health and livelihood systems;
- Traditional extension works to reduce yield gaps between the research fields and the farmers' fields;
- Slow dissemination of latest technologies to the farming community;
- Weak Public-Private-Partnership in agriculture;
- Fair market price of agricultural products to the farming community.

Scope for Regional Collaboration

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) can foster collaboration in areas like developing regional policies and strategies for agriculture, promoting agricultural trade, enhancing food and nutrition security, food safety standard and managing natural resources through networks in Crops, Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries, Natural resource Management (NRM) and Policy Planning.

Priority Areas for Regional Collaboration

- IoT-based agriculture to support smart, data-driven decision-making
- Precision farming to optimize input use and enhance productivity
- Protected agriculture (Greenhouse and Controlled environments) for consistent, year-round production
- Agricultural mechanization to address labor shortages and improve operational efficiency
- Enhance agro-trade harmonization to facilitate smoother regional trade flows
- Expand market access for farmers, women and youth entrepreneurs
- Strengthen food safety through harmonized regional standards and regulations
- Food processing and value chain development to increase value addition and farmer incomes
- Promote One Health approach addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and transboundary animal diseases and pests
- Climate-smart agriculture to improve resilience and sustainability
- Strengthen agricultural biosecurity and plant health systems
- Regenerative agriculture to restore ecosystems and soil health
- Promotion of agroecological farming systems
- Adoption and scaling of cutting-edge agricultural technologies
- Efficient and sustainable use of natural resources
- Promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

SAC Programs

Program Development Framework and Execution Modalities

The Centre institutionalizes “Participatory need-based program building through consultations”. The process involves participation of stakeholders at country levels as well as synthesis and vetting at the expert’s level for program development. The SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (TCARD) also provides broad guidelines of program. The proposals are reviewed during the Governing Board (GB) Meeting for further direction. The annual program proposals recommended by the Governing Board are further reviewed by the SAARC Programming Committee and subsequently approved by the Standing Committee. The Council of Ministers of the Member States gives concurrence prior to the convening of the SAARC Summit.

SAC programs include regular programs, need-based programs and externally funded regional projects.

Regular Programs

The regular programs include publications-SAARC AgriNews, quarterly newsletter, SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA) publishing-bi-annual), SAARC PhD Scholarship Program, SAARC Charter Day observance, Participation in Amar Ekushey Book Fair, establishment of SAC book corner distribution of information materials, promotional activities etc.

SAARC AgriNews

SAARC AgriNews published quarterly by SAARC Agriculture Centre briefly showcasing highlights of regional consultation meetings, networking and other important accomplishments during the specified period of a quarter.



SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA)

SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA) is one of the most important formation products of SAC published twice a year. The SJA is a peer-reviewed journal publishing articles based on empirical assessments, field surveys, reviews, and case studies, on the fundamental, applied

and management related aspects of crop science, horticulture, animal science, fisheries, natural resource management, post-harvest processing, rural development, climate change etc. The SJA can be freely accessed by clicking <https://www.sac.org.bd/journals>

Annual Report

Every year SAC publishes the Annual Report comprising briefs of endeavours accomplished during that year. All previous reports are freely available and can be access by clicking <https://www.sac.org.bd/annual-report>

Edited Books

Edited Books are published regularly by the SAARC Agriculture Centre. It comprises country papers presented by SAARC Member States focal persons, policy dialogues etc. and all information is compiled in the form of edited books. Published books are freely available and can be access by clicking www.sac.org.bd/publication

Library and Digital Repositories

The Centre has a well-maintained library inside the office premises. Groups and individuals seeking information on regional issues of agricultural research and development may visit SAC library and look for the immense sources of information including books, journals, reports, manuals and many more resources collected and maintained therein.

SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarships Program

SAARC Agriculture Centre initiated the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program in 2017 and 5 fellows from SAARC member states (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India) have completed their PhD degree by 2024. Four Fellows from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh are undertaking their PhD program at PGIA, University of Peradeniya, Bangladesh Agriculture university and Gazipur Agricultural University.

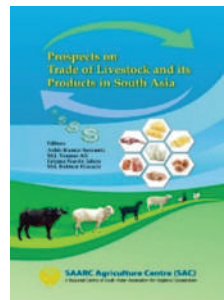
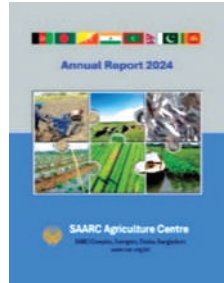
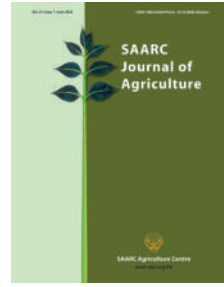


Table-1: SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarships to date

PhD Scholar	Country	Status	Host Institute	Area of Research
Rafaza Begum	Bangladesh	Completed	Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh	Soil Science
Sara Sahibzada	Afghanistan	Completed	PGIA, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	Agri Economics
Ankur Poudel	Nepal	Completed	IARI-ICAR, India	Agri Bio Technology
Anas K.K.	India	Completed	CIFT-ICAR, India	Fish Technology
Sowjanya Lakshmi	India	Completed	IVRI-ICAR, India	AMR in Livestock
Aruna S. Maheepala	Sri Lanka	Final stage of PhD	PGIA, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	Fisheries Economics
Mohammad Rasheed	Pakistan	Initial Stage	PGIA, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	AMR in Poultry
A.A.M. Mohammad Mustakim	Bangladesh	Admitted	PGIA, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	Biotechnology
Khan Jahan Ali	Bangladesh	Admitted	Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh	Biotechnology

Skill Enhancement Program

Each year SAC organizes Skill Enhancement Program for General Service Staff to fostering teamwork, enhancing coordination, Standard Operating Procedure related to administration, finance, procurement, IT security, and SAC journal management etc. External resource person hired from different academic, research and development organizations.

Networking Activities

SAC staffs also join in different trainings, workshops, consultation meetings and exposure visits organized by different national and international organizations.

Amar Ekushey Book Fair

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) regularly Participate in the Amar Ekushey Book Fair (21st Book Fair) held every year in Bangla Academy Premises, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The main objective for participation in the fair is to create

awareness about the SAC activities and showcase the accomplishments of the centre to broad array of visitors including students, researchers, public and civil society. Every year around two thousand people visit the book stall and show their interests in the work of SAARC Agriculture Centre.

SAC Book Corner

A number of dedicated SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC) Book Corners have been established in the libraries of leading universities and research centres across SAARC Member States, with the aim of improving access to South Asian agricultural research and fostering stronger academic collaboration throughout the region.

Need Based Programs

Need Based programs are broadly grouped under six thematic areas of Crops, Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries, NRM and Policy Planning based on the current demand and interest of regional priorities of the Member States. Every year approximately 15 to 20 programs are organized by the centre through regional expert consultation meetings, workshops, trainings. During 2025 there were 18 programs were planned and 12 programs were conducted by the centre.

Table-2: Brief on 12 conducted programs

No	Program Name	Thematic Area	Modality of Program	Venue	Date
1	Regional Workshop on “Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems in South Asia	Policy Planning	Workshop	Bhutan	29-31 July
2	Regional Workshop on Fostering Regional Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards”	Policy Planning	Workshop	Nepal	27-29 August
3	Regional Training on Exploitation of Cutting-Edge Technology for Yield Enhancement of Crops and Genetic Purity of Seed	Crops	Training	Virtual Mode	22-25 September
4	Regional Experts Meeting on “Role of Agroforestry in Improvement of Rural Livelihood and Build Climate Resilient Communities”	Natural Resource Management	Meeting	Virtual	23-25 September

No	Program Name	Thematic Area	Modality of Program	Venue	Date
5	Regional Consultation Meeting on “ <i>Promotion of Regenerative Agriculture in SAARC Member States</i> ”	Crops	Meeting	Virtual	04- 06 August
6	Regional Consultation Meeting on “ <i>Agricultural Biosecurity for Plant Health in South Asia</i> ”	Crops	Meeting	Virtual	19 - 21 August
7	Regional Training on “Recent Advances in Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops in SAARC Member States”	Horticulture	Training	Virtual	24 - 26 November
8	SAARC Regional Training Program on Molecular Diagnosis and Laboratory Surveillance of PPR	Livestock	Training	Nepal	14-18 July
9	Regional workshop titled “Sustainable Family Farming in the Livestock Sector for Achieving the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) and the SDGs ”	Livestock	Workshop	Nepal	11–13 August
10	Regional Workshop on “ <i>Assessing Impact of Transboundary Animal Diseases</i> ”	Livestock	Workshop	Sri Lanka	10 - 11 December
11	Regional Training on “ <i>Development of Inventory for Livestock Origin Greenhouse Gases and its Mitigation by Appropriate Feeding Strategy</i> ”		Training	Virtual	22 to 24 December
12	Regional Training on “Prospects and Challenges of Carbon Trading in Agriculture Sector”	NRM	Training	Virtual	29 - 31 December

Overview of Need-Based Programs Conducted during 2014–2024

“SAARC Agriculture Centre has played a significant role in addressing regional agricultural priorities over the last decade. Between 2014 and 2024, a total of 106 need-based regional programs were implemented across six major thematic areas: Crops, Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries, Natural Resource Management and Policy, Planning and Program Development. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no program could be conducted during 2022 and 2023.

In terms of implementation modality, out of the 106 programs, 82 were conducted in physical mode, while 22 were organized virtually, demonstrating the Centre’s flexibility and continued commitment to regional cooperation even during challenging times. The physical programs were implemented across SAARC Member States, with India hosting 27 programs, Bangladesh 22, Nepal 13, Sri Lanka 9, Bhutan 6 and Pakistan 5. This reflects a broad regional engagement and shared commitment to agricultural development (Figure-2 & 3).

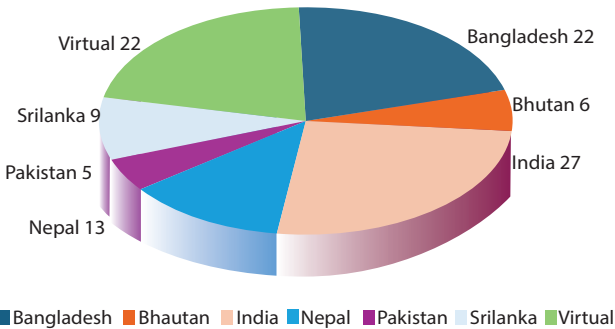


Fig-2: Implementation of physical programs across SAARC Member States



Fig-3: Year wise program conduction scenario during last decade

Regrading implementation, the majority of the programs (69) were organized as consultation meetings, followed by training programs, 6 workshops, and 3 exposure visits. This indicates a strong emphasis on dialogue, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and practical learning (Figure-4).



Fig- 4 : Programs implementation Modality during 2014-2024

As per thematic area **Livestock** received the highest attention with **22** programs, followed by **Crops** with **21** and **Policy Planning** with **20**, **Horticulture** with **16**, **Fisheries** with **14**, and **Natural Resource Management** with **13** programs. reflecting the evolving needs and priorities of the region

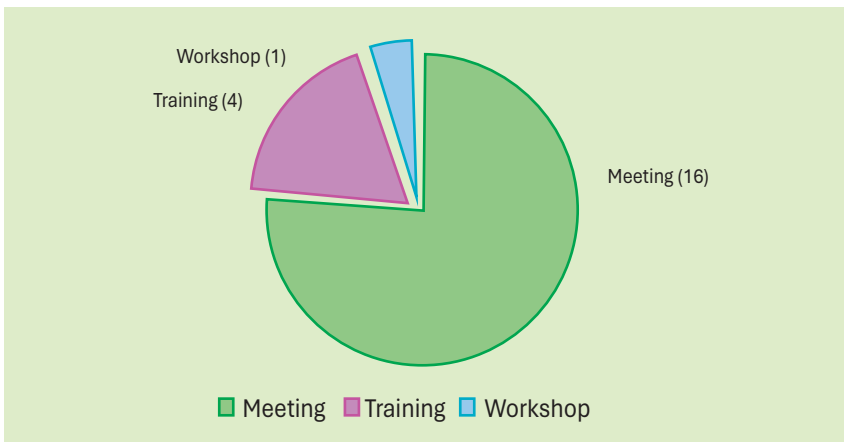


Fig- 5: Programs implementation under different modality in Crops

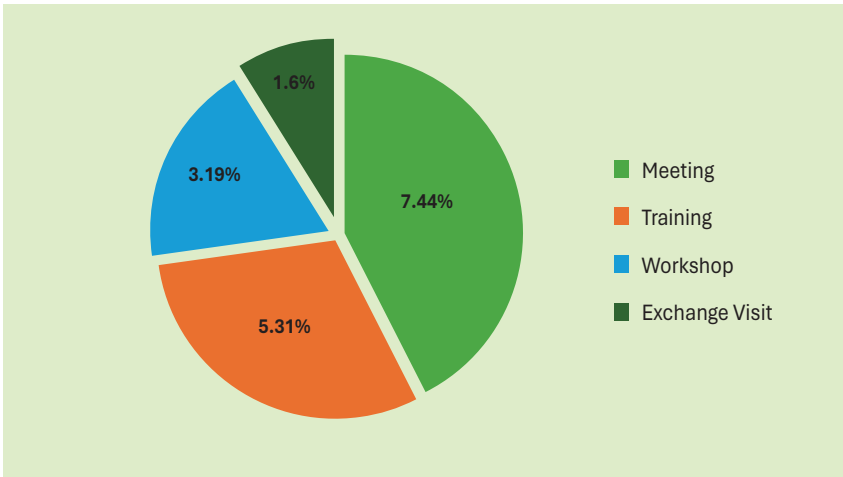


Fig- 6: Programs implementation under different modality in Horticulture

Considering thematic contributions, the programs under Crops focused on sustainable farming, improved seed systems, pest management, and climate resilience. Horticulture programs emphasized productivity, food safety, nutrition, and value chain development.

The Livestock programs focused on animal health, genetics, disease surveillance, and antimicrobial resistance preparedness, while Fisheries programs supported sustainable aquaculture, technical capacity, and food security.

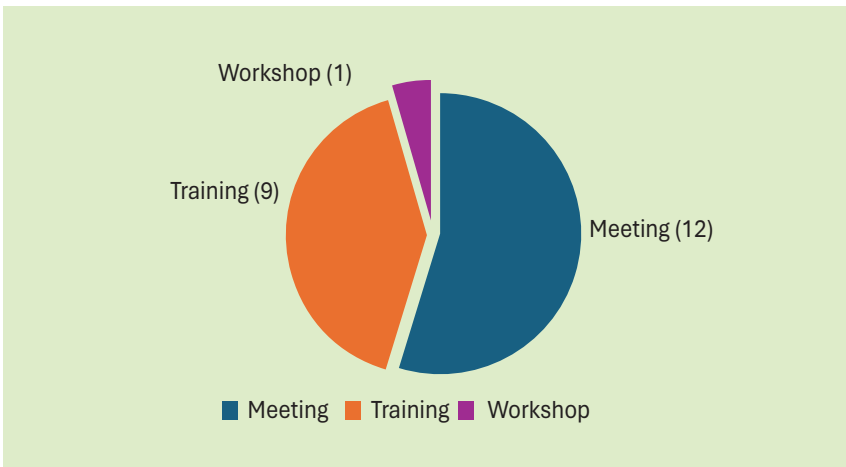


Fig- 7: Programs implementation under different modality in Livestock

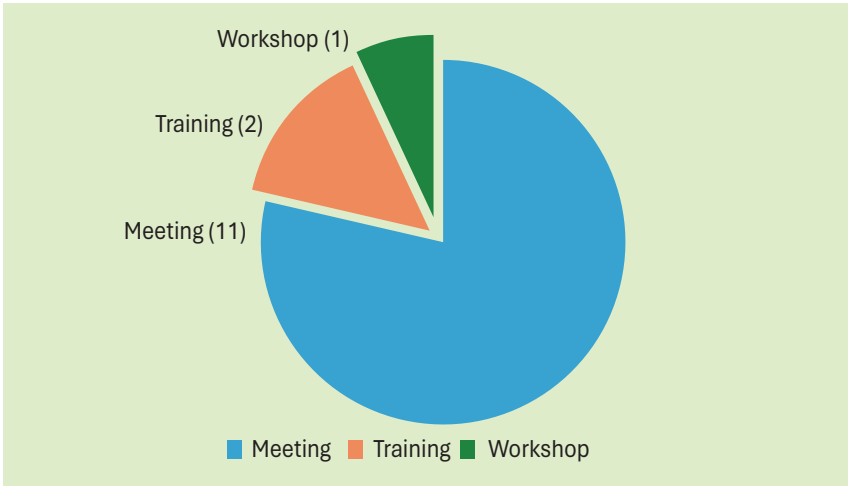


Fig- 8: Programs implementation under different modality in Fisheries

Natural Resource Management activities promoted sustainable soil, land, and water use through climate-smart approaches. At the same time, Policy, Planning and Program Development contributed to stronger agricultural policy, rural development, women’s empowerment, and nutrition-sensitive food systems. Taken together, these interventions demonstrate the SAARC Agriculture Centre’s strong commitment to regional cooperation, innovation and sustainable agricultural transformation across South Asia.”

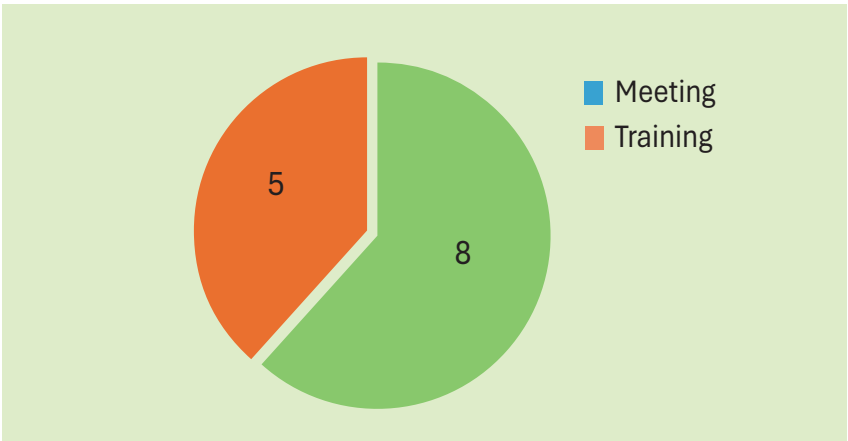


Fig- 9: Programs implementation under different modality in NRM

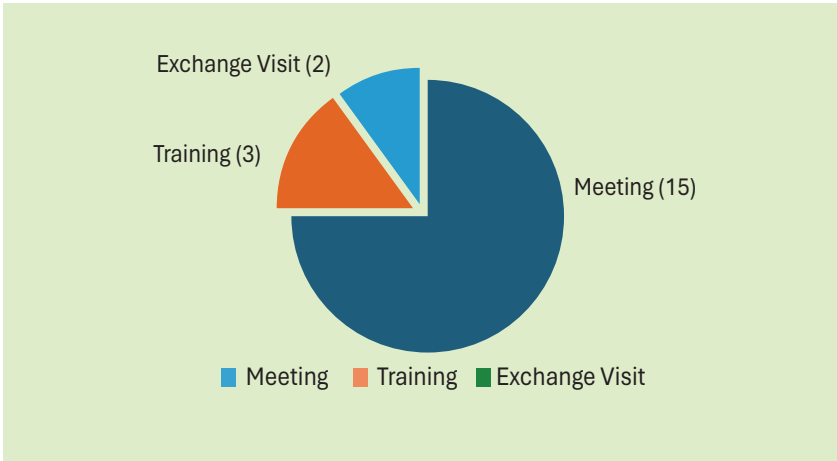


Fig-10: Programs implementation under different modality in Policy Planning

Regional Projects

SAARC Agriculture Centre implemented two projects those were completed on 2025:

Salient Achievement

- **3093 farmers benefited**
- **32% Women farmers**

Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and SAARC Development Fund (SDF), cofinanced project on Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS) an initiative by the SAARC Agriculture Centre in SAARC member countries.

The project aims at promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture practices through participatory research demonstration of Climate Smart Agriculture technologies and



- **5833 farmers & ASP (Agricultural service provider) trained**
- **8926 farmers, researchers, extension agents directly benefited**

capacity building of small landholding farmers in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Since its inception in Nov. 2021 and completed in June 2025, achieved remarkable milestones as highlighted.

As envisioned in workplan, C-SUCSeS project achieved all deliverables such as documented CSA technologies in SAARC region, participatory research reports of six SAARC member countries, synthesis report, six training manuals on CSA technologies, annual progress report. Several policy documents, cost benefit analysis and business models have been developed to assess the institutional and policy constraints and develop trouble shooting mechanism. High level discussion meetings, online and physical trainings have been conducted across the region. Successful completion of C-SUCSeS project marked deep impacts on climate resilience of production systems in South Asia.

Salient Achievement



- **18–55% increases in family income**
- **Production of 155–650 kg of value-added products through processing centers.**
- **Reduced post-harvest losses by 4–34%,**
- **More than 1,100 individuals trained across participating countries.**

Livelihood Enhancement of the Small Farmers in SAARC Region through Small Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development

The project “Livelihood Enhancement of Small Farmers in the SAARC Region through Small Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development” was funded by the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) with a total budget of US\$ 2.25 million (SDF grant: US\$ 1.81 million; Implementing Agencies’ contribution: US\$ 0.44 million) for a two-year period. It was coordinated by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and implemented across five SAARC Member States - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka (Pakistan later withdrew due to administrative reasons). The project was approved in 2017 following recommendations of the Third Meeting of SAARC Agriculture Ministers and formally launched in 2018. After multiple no-cost extensions, it concluded in 25 October 2025.

The project aimed to enhance small farmers’ livelihoods by promoting small-scale agro-business and strengthening value chains for processed agricultural products. Key interventions included producer group formation, baseline and end-line surveys, technical training, establishment of processing centers, machinery procurement and market linkage

development. Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka successfully initiated production of value-added products such as jack fruit chips, tomato ketchup, Moringa powder and capsules, dried fruits, and cassava-based snacks. Maldives is progressing with machinery procurement and marketing linkages.

An independent impact study (2023–24) reported significant outcomes: beneficiary households experienced 18–55% increases in family income, generated additional employment within families, and produced 155–650 kg of value-added products through processing centers. Post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables were reduced by 4–34%, and substantial skill development was achieved, with over 1,100 individuals trained across participating countries. The project fostered entrepreneurship, strengthened rural value chains, and demonstrated sustainable income-generating models for smallholder farmers in the SAARC region.

Partnership and Collaboration

SAC as the regional platform promotes programs on agricultural policy, research and capacity development in South Asia through close integration with NARS, IARS, International Specialized bodies and donor communities. The center boldly embraced networking as a strategy to take forth the SAARC regional agricultural agenda to regional and international institutions and forums.

Table-3: Partnership and Collaboration through MoU

Partner	Year of MoU
International Rice Research Institute	2013
International Center for integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	2014
FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific	2015
International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)	2022-2025
International Sericulture Commission (ISC)	2016
International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	2016
Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)	2016
World Agroforestry Center (WAC)	2016
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)-South Asia, New Delhi	2025

Table-4: Partnership and Collaboration with other organisations

World Animal health organization (WoAH)	Asian Farmers Association for sustainable Rural Development (AFA)
Nourish poultry	Action Aid International
International Livestock Research Institute -ILRI	Rural Development Academy (RDA)
Welthungerhilfe	M S Swaminathan Research (MSSRF)
Indian Council for Agricultural Research	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Gram Unnayan Kendra (GUK)	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
Practical action	

Words of Encouragement and Appreciations

His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC appreciated the excellent work done by the SAC in carrying out the activities despite lots of challenges during his visit on SAC on 3rd Dec. 2024

SAARC Agriculture Ministers reiterated provision of all possible support to make the SAARC Agriculture on 3rd Ministerial meeting.

Appreciated the SAC's attempts to integrate the agriculture with nutrition and health is appreciated by Professor M.S. Swaminathan, on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day and International Year of Soils 2015.

53rd Programming Committee meeting of SAARC appreciated the excellent work done by the SAC in carrying out the activities.

His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Arjun B. Thapa, Former Secretary General of SAARC made remarkable expression as "SAC is the real SAARC" during his courtesy visit to SAARC Agriculture centre, Dhaka Bangladesh on 8th April 2016.

Witnessed of Notable Moment of SAC



The Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Tarique Rahman MP, visited the stall of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), accompanied by members of his family. Representatives of SAC warmly welcomed the Prime Minister and presented him with a token gift consisting of the Centre's recent publications.



The MoU signing ceremony between International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) was held on 23rd September in New York, USA. H.E. Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal was graced the ceremony as a guest of honour. Dr. Johan Swinnen, Director General, IFPRI, Washington attended the occasion as a special guest.

Way Forward

- o Strengthen SAC's role as a knowledge hub and facilitator of innovation
- o Intensify Regional Cooperation
- o Strengthen collaboration among SAARC Member States on shared agricultural challenges
- o Facilitate joint research, policy dialogue, and cross-border knowledge exchange
- o Promote Food Security and Inclusive Growth
- o Enhance Capacity-Building Efforts
- o Strengthen academic initiatives like scholarships and skill enhancement programs
- o Engage Diverse Stakeholders
- o Foster partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, and academic institutions
- o Encourage participation of farmer organizations and grassroots networks
- o Focus on Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- o Align programs with regional food and nutrition security goals.

For Further Information

- <https://www.facebook.com/saarcagri>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/104652328/admin/dashboard/>

Pictorial Highlights on SAC Activities:



The 60th Session of the Programming Committee (PC) was held in Kathmandu on 28-29 April 2025



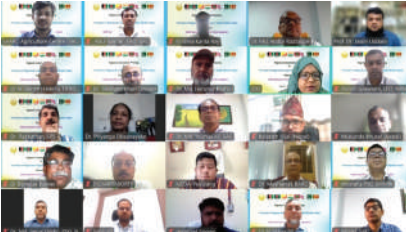
17th Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), held on 13-14 October 2025 at the Hotel InterContinental in Dhaka



H.E. Ambassador Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC visited SAC on 2 December, 2024



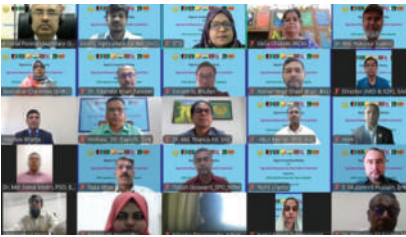
H.E. Ambassador Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC visited SAC on 2 December, 2024



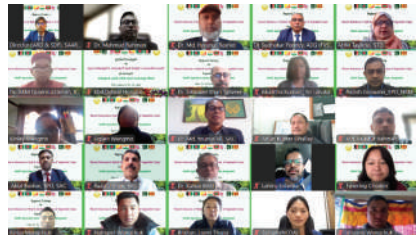
Regional Consultation Meeting on “Promotion of Regenerative Agriculture in SAARC Member States” held from 04 - 06 August 2025 in virtual mode



Regional Training on “Exploitation of Cutting-Edge Technologies for Yield Enhancement of Crops and Genetic Purity of Seed” held from 22 - 25 September 2025 in virtual mode



Regional workshop on “Agricultural Biosecurity for Plant Health in South Asia” held from 19-21 August 2025 in virtual mode during



Regional Training on “Recent Advances in Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops in SAARC Member States” held from 24-26 November 2025 in virtual mode



Regional training on “Molecular Diagnosis and Laboratory Surveillance of PPR held from 14-18 July, 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal



Regional workshop titled “Sustainable Family Farming in Livestock Sector for Attaining United Nations Decade Family Farming (UNDF) and the SDGs in South Asia” held from 11-13 August, 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal



Regional Workshop on “Assessing Impact of Transboundary Animal Diseases in South Asia,” was held on Wednesday (10 December 2025) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



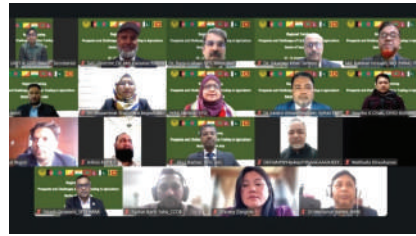
The SAARC CVOs Forum Meeting, was held on Wednesday (11 December 2025) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Regional Training on Development of “Inventory for Livestock Origin Greenhouse Gases and its Mitigation by Appropriate Feeding Strategy in South Asia” held from 22-25 December 2025 in virtual mode



Regional Experts Meeting on “Role of Agroforestry in Improvement of Rural Livelihood and Build Climate Resilient Communities” held from 23 - 25 September 2025 in virtual mode



Regional training on Prospects and Challenges of Carbon Trading in the Agriculture Sector in South Asia conducted from 29 -31 December 2025 in virtual mode



Regional consultation workshop titled “Fostering Regional Agricultural Trade including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards” held from 27-29 August 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal



Regional workshop on “Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems in South Asia” held from 29-31 July, 2025 in Thimphu, Bhutan



Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory Research in Sri Lanka from 24–25 June, 2025



Results Presentation and Way Forward workshop held in 27-28 June 2025 at Hotel Ramada, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Colombo, Sri Lanka



SAARC Regional Follow-up Training on "Developing Regional Agri-Business, Product Development and Marketing" held from 25 – 28 February, 2025 at ICIMOD headquarter, Kathmandu, Nepal



Closing workshop of "Livelihood Enhancement of Small Farmers in the SAARC Region through Small-Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development" held on 17 October 2025 at the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura



Release of pigeons and Balloons on 40th & 41th Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on December 8, 2024 and 2025 at the BARC Complex



"Advancing Workplace Excellence: Digital Skills and Professional Etiquette for GS Staff" on 19–20 April 2026 at the SAC Conference Room



"Advancing Workplace Excellence: "Office Management, Communication, AI and Photography" for GS staff on 2-4 September 2025 at the SAC Conference Room



SAC Book Corner inaugurated at the Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU) central Library on 22 November 2025



SAC Book Corner inaugurated at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Faisalabad, Pakistan on 9 September 2025



SAC Book Corner launched at University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka on 12 December 2025



SAC Book Corner inaugurated at the Rajshahi University (RU) central Library on 12 April 2026



SAC Participation in Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2025



SAC Participation in Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2026





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