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Sri Lanka

Annual Report 2025



SAARC Agriculture Centre

BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Website: www.sac.org.bd

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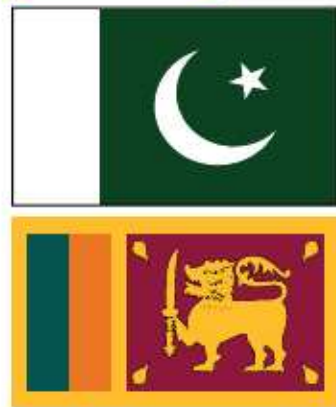


Table of Contents

No.	Topics	Page No.
	Abbreviations	09
	Message from the Director	11
	Genesis of SAARC Agriculture Centre	12
	Executive Summary	13
01.	Agriculture Management	16
1.1	Regional Consultation Meeting on Promotion of Regenerative Agriculture in SAARC Member States	17
1.2	Regional Training on Exploitation of Cutting-Edge Technologies for Yield Enhancement of Crops and Genetic Purity of SeedGenesis of SAARC Agriculture Centre	18
1.3	Regional Consultation Meeting on Agricultural Biosecurity for Plant Health in South Asia	19
1.4	Regional Training on Recent Advances in Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops in SAARC Member States	22
1.5	SAARC regional training on “Molecular Diagnosis and Laboratory Surveillance of PPR”	23
1.6	Regional workshop on “Sustainable Family Farming in the Livestock Sector for Achieving the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) and the SDGs”	25
1.7	Regional Workshop on “Assessing Impact of Transboundary Animal Diseases”	27
1.8	Ninth SAARC CVOs Forum Meeting held in Sri Lanka	28
1.9	Regional Training on “Development of Inventory for Livestock Origin Greenhouse Gases and its Mitigation by Appropriate Feeding Strategy”	30
1.10	Regional Experts Meeting on Role of Agroforestry in Improvement of Rural Livelihood and Build Climate Resilient Communities	31
1.11	Regional Training on Prospects and Challenges of Carbon Trading in Agriculture Sector	33

No.	Topics	Page No.
2	Policy Planning	38
2.1	Regional Workshop on Fostering Regional Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards"	38
2.2	Regional Workshop on "Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems"	40
3	Projects Activities and Salient Accomplishments	44
3.1	Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS)	44
3.1.1	Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory Research Sites Established in Bangladesh	45
3.1.2	Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory Research Sites in Pakistan	45
3.1.3	Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory Research in Sri Lanka	46
3.1.4	Inventory of Potential CSA Technologies, Success Stories & Capacity Building Meeting with Regional Collaborators ahead of Results presentation workshop	46
3.1.5	Results Presentation and Way Forward Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka	47
3.1.6	Publications and Knowledge Products	49
3.2	Livelihood Enhancement of the Small Farmers in SAARC Region through Small Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development	49
3.2.1	SAARC Regional Follow-up Training on "Developing Regional Agri-Business, Product Development and Marketing"	50
3.2.2	Meeting on Agro-Processing Project Formulation for SAARC Member States and Follow-Up Visit at Rural Development Academy (RDA)	51
3.2.3	Project Completion Workshop on "Livelihood Enhancement of Small Farmers in the SAARC Region through Small Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development"	51

No.	Topics	Page No.
4	High Level Meetings and Coordination	53
4.1	60 th Session of the Programming Committee (PC)	53
4.2	17 th Governing Board Meeting	53
4.3	41 st Anniversary of the SAARC Charter	54
5	Knowledge Management and Networking	58
5.1	SAARC AgriNews	58
5.2	SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA)	58
5.3	Annual Report-2024	58
5.4.1	Sustainable Family Farming in Livestock Sector for Attaining UNDF and the SDGs in South Asia	59
5.4.2	Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems in South Asia	59
5.4.3	Potentials of Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural Development and Climate Resilient Farming in South Asia	59
5.4.4	Fostering Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards in South Asia	60
5.5	New Arrivals of Books, Journal	60
5.6	Establishment of SAC Book Corner	66
5.6.1	SAARC Agriculture Centre Book Corner Inaugurated at Gazipur Agriculture University (GAU) , Bangladesh	66
5.6.2	SAC Book Corner inaugurated at University of Agriculture Faisalabad	67
5.6.3	SAC Book Corner Inauguration at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	68
5.6.4	SAC Launches Book Corner at Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU), Bangladesh	68
5.6.5	SAC Book Corner Inaugurated at Habiganj Agricultural University (HAU), Bangladesh	69
5.7	Participation in the Amor Ekushey Book Fair, 2025	70
5.8	Visit and participation in the workshop by the SAC Director, Professionals and Staffs of SAC	70
5.8.1	World Animal Nutrition Conference-2025	70

No.	Topics	Page No.
	5.8.2 Training of Trainers Program on Gender-Inclusive Agricultural Service	71
	5.8.3 Field Visit on Women-Led Organic Agriculture, Poultry Farming, and Community Service Provider Activities at WHH, Sirajganj	71
	5.8.4 Editorial Workshop	72
	5.8.5 National Seminar on “Bridging the Gap between Gender and Climate Justice in Bangladesh”	73
	5.8.6 National Agricultural Policy Dialogue	73
	5.8.8 International Conference on “Advancing Sustainable Food Security: Highlighting Regenerative Agriculture Strategies in SAARC Countries.”	74
6	Capacity Development and Skill Enhancement	78
	6.1 SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarships Program	78
	6.2 Skill Enhancement Program for General Services Staff	78
	6.3 Best Employee of the Year -2025	79
7	Warm Reception of Newly Appointed Professionals and General Services Staff	80
8	Partnership and Collaboration	84
	8.1 Director SARSO Paid Visit to SAC	84
	8.2 SAC and ACDI/VOCA Collaborate for Workshop on Livestock GHG Mitigation in South Asia	84
	8.3 Discussion Meeting with CABI and SAARC Agriculture Centre	85
	8.4 ACDI/VOCA Explores Strategic Partnership with SAARC Agriculture Centre on Climate-Resilient Agri-Livestock Transformation	85
	8.5 Memorandum of Understanding between SAC and IFPRI in USA	86
9	Notes to financial statements	90
10	Annexure	93

Abbreviations

AFA	Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ARD	Agriculture and Rural Development
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BAU	Bangladesh Agricultural University
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
CIRDAP	Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia Pacific
CoP	Community of Practice
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
C-SUCSeS	Consortium for Scaling-Up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia
CVOs	Chief Veterinary Officers
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAU	Gazipur Agricultural University
GB	Governing Board
GHG	Green House Gas
GSS	General Support Staff
HAU	Habiganj Agricultural University
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
LSD	Lumpy Skin Disease
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NARC	National Agricultural Research Centre
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PARC	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council

Abbreviations

PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
PC	Programming Committee
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
RDA	Rura Development Academy
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SARSO	South Asian Regional Standards Organizations
SAC	SAARC Agriculture Centre
SDF	SAARC Development Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPS	Senior Program Specialist
SJA	SAARC Journal of Agriculture
SAU	Sylhet Agricultural University
TADs	Transboundary Animal Diseases
TCARD	Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
UAF	University of Agriculture Faisalabad
UNDF	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
WTO	World Trade Organization
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health



Message From the Director

I am pleased to share the achievement of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) Annual Report for the year 2025. This report gives a brief overview of activities carried out by SAC team during the year 2025. SAC is one of the centre working under SAARC Secretariat, Nepal. The centre serves as a hub of knowledge and information in agriculture and allied sciences in SAARC Member States. South Asia is home to nearly 2.04 billion human beings, a quarter (25%) of the world's population living on 4.5% land mass. The region is facing several demographic and environmental issues such as high population growth and density, climate change induced food insecurity and infant malnutrition. The food production ecosystem of the region is facing issues of low fertilizer use efficiency, particularly in case of nitrogen, imbalance fertilizer application, lower water use efficiency, insufficient certified and healthy crop seeds, lower land holdings, coupled with climate change induced shift in rainfall occurrence and frequency, rising temperatures, heat waves, floods, landslides, and recurring drought and disrupted supply chains. The unprecedented and ever-accelerating trajectory of climate change has jeopardized agricultural productivity. Higher yield gaps led to lower crop productivity and farm income, particularly of small landholders and paving the way to food crises and ultimately poverty in the region. According to UNDP, 2024 reports over 400 million (35%) of the world's total poor live in South Asia. In this gloomy situation achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be an uphill challenge. In the context of these and other expected challenges, SAC is in close coordination with align agencies of Member States, regional national and international organizations, and thriving best to harness opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors by developing a common strategy among the Member States to cope with these challenges. Therefore, I acknowledge all the SAC staff who contributed to prepare this report. I strongly believe that working together we can cope with these challenges successfully toward a food secure and climate resilient South Asia.

"SAC is the Centre of Excellence and hub of information bringing SAARC regional States to adopt collective wisdom to help relieve burning issues like food security, dwindling natural resources, and climate change faced by inhabitants of the region"

Long Live, the Spirit of SAARC

Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid
Director, SAC, Bangladesh

Genesis of SAARC Agriculture Centre

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established on the 8th of 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 centre 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 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 through open competition.

Executive Summary

In 2025 SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) carried out various activities encompassing regular programs, need-based programs, publications and knowledge management and externally funded project-based activities. This annual report briefly highlighted activities, achievements, and impacts of these programs. During 2025 regular programs such as publication of the SAARC Journal of Agriculture (bi-annual), SAARC AgriNews (quarterly), and other materials like the edited books were published. SAC successfully shortlisted a PhD scholar from Pakistan and supervised research activities of ongoing PhD scholar from Sri Lanka under the SAARC Agriculture PhD Program. Skill development of General Support Staff (GSS) as well as participation in the Amar Ekushey Book Fair was also carried out and announced the Best Employee Award, showcasing organizational excellence. SAC hosted various high-level meetings, including the 17th Governing Board Meeting, which reviewed the 2025 activities and approved the 2026 work plan. The Centre observed the 41st SAARC Charter Day at BARC Complex in Dhaka and facilitated visits and interactions with national and international research organizations, academic institutions, and collaborative partners. SAC expanded its networks and collaborations by establishing SAC book corners and organizing exchange visits within the region to enhance networking and demonstrations. SAC prioritized collaborations in the fields such as Agroforestry, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), agricultural mechanization, food safety, carbon trading, value chain development, rural livelihoods, and establishing technology forums. Each year, SAC supports initiatives like the SAARC CVO forum, Seed Bank and Food Bank while addressing transboundary agricultural challenges. This year SAC signed MoU with IFPRI and MoUs with CIMMYT, CABI, ICIMOD are in process. Year 2025 marked the successfully completion of two projects: Consortium for Upscaling The Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia and Livelihood Enhancement of the Small Farmers in SAARC Region through Small Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development. Both projects achieved milestones and substantially contributed to adoption of climate smart agriculture and livelihood development in South Asia.

In conclusion, SAC continued its mission of addressing the real needs of South Asian agriculture through innovative, collaborative, and impactful programs, effectively tackling emerging challenges like climate change, resource degradation, and evolving agricultural dynamics



Agriculture Management

1 . Agriculture Management

Under Agriculture Management, SAARC Agriculture Centre has six thematic areas: Crops, Horticulture, Livestock, Fisheries, Natural Resource Management and Policy Planning. Every year under each thematic area, a number of need-based programs, are conducted in the form of consultation meetings, trainings and workshops. A total of 15 programs were planned for 2025 (CROPS-3, HORT.-2, LIVESTOCK-5, FISHERIES-2, NRM-3). Out of these, 12 programs were successfully executed, three programs were carried forward to 2026, and two programs were cancelled due to inadequate nominations from Member States within the stipulated time frame. Among the 10 executed programs, three were consultation meetings, four were workshops, and five were training programs. Detail of the program are given below:

Table-1: List of Need Based Program Executed in 2025

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 Plannig	Workshop	Bhutan	29-31 July
2	Regional Workshop on Fostering Regional Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards”	Policy Plannig	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
5	Regional Consultation Meeting on “Promotion of Regenerative Agriculture in SAARC Member States”	Crops	Meeting	Virtual	04 - 06 August
6	Regional Consultation Meeting on “Agricultural Biosecurity for Plant Health in South Asia”	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

just an alternative approach but a transformative pathway to reverse environmental damage, rejuvenate soil and ecosystems and restore harmony between agriculture and nature. He further added that in the era of climate Vulnerability, regenerative practices offer strategic solutions to ensure long-term food security, improve farmer livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of agri-food systems in the region. Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAC presented overview and objectives of the consultation meeting. The keynote speaker Dr. Debashis Chakraborti, CIMMYT, Bangladesh talks about “Regenerative Agriculture: Restoring Earth’s Balance Through Soil, Science, and Stewardship”. Special Guest, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Nepal, highlighted the economic viability of Regenerative agriculture, noting that the approach not only improves soil and environmental health but also delivers financial returns to farmers and called upon the importance of building a collaborative regional framework involving governments, scientists, and the private sector to scale up regenerative practices. Ambassador Md. Abdul Motaleb Sarker, Additional Foreign Secretary and DG SAARC & BIMSTEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh as the Chief Guest stressed the urgent need to restore soil health and biodiversity across South Asia through regenerative approaches and called upon the integration of digital tools and practical strategies, urging SAC to lead this regional movement for agricultural transformation. The consultation meeting featured country paper presentations highlighting the current status, challenges, and opportunities of Regenerative agriculture at the national level. Interactive discussions emphasized technology adoption, research priorities, machinery needs, economic and social considerations, extension services, and the roles of government, NGOs, INGOs, and the private sector.

1.2 Regional Training on Exploitation of Cutting-Edge Technologies for Yield Enhancement of Crops and Genetic Purity of Seed



A four-days regional training on Exploitation of Cutting-Edge Technologies for Yield

Enhancement of Crops and Genetic Purity of Seed was organized virtually from 22-25 September 2025. Scientists, researchers, and experts from SAARC Member States participated in this training program. The aim of the event was to provide wider exposure to scientists of SAARC Member States on the use of the latest available cutting-edge crop breeding technologies for the development of improved varieties of different crops, testing the genetic purity of seed, and gaining knowledge on the latest crop management practices. The training was inaugurated by Dr. Md. Mahmudur Rahman, Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAC presented the objectives and overview of the program. A keynote address was delivered by Dr. Velu Govindan, Head of Bread Wheat, CIMMYT, Mexico emphasizes on the importance of cutting-edge agro-technologies in South Asia. The technical sessions provided comprehensive exposure to advanced and emerging agricultural technologies, significantly enhancing participants' knowledge and strengthening regional scientific collaboration. Based on the discussions and country presentations, participants emphasized the need to accelerate the adoption of modern breeding tools, digital agriculture, and precision farming technologies to improve crop productivity and resilience across SAARC Member States. The training also highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional capacity, research collaboration, and technology transfer mechanisms to ensure effective application of these innovations in national agricultural systems.

Recommendations

- Future programs should include more in-person or hybrid formats, with field visits and demonstrations to enhance practical learning.
- Training content should be made more focused, with fewer but deeper sessions on critical areas such as seed purity, molecular breeding and gene editing.
- Short video demonstrations, animations, or simplified case studies should accompany complex technical presentations for better understanding.
- Organizers should share training materials (presentations, case studies, reports) with participants for future reference and institutional learning.
- More time should be allocated to interactive sessions such as Q&A, group discussions and sharing of regional success stories.
- Specific sessions on climate-smart agriculture, robotics, AI, and big data applications in South Asia should be included in future programs.
- Opportunities for regional collaborative projects and follow-up activities should be created to sustain the momentum beyond the training.

1.3 Regional Consultation Meeting on Agricultural Biosecurity for Plant Health in South Asia

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) organized a three-days regional consultation meeting on "Agricultural Biosecurity for Plant Health in South Asia" from 19 to 21 August 2025 through the virtual platform. The consultation brought together 42 participants including experts,

policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders from the SAARC Member States, regional institutions, and international organizations working in the field of plant health and biosecurity. The objective of this regional consultation meeting was to bring together experts and stakeholders from the



SAARC Member States to exchange knowledge, identify regional priorities, and strengthen collaborative approaches for ensuring agricultural biosecurity in the field of plant health. The meeting was inaugurated with a welcome address by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC, followed by an overview of the consultation meeting objectives and program by Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAC. The keynote address on “Plant Biosecurity in South Asia: Status and Challenges” was delivered by Dr. V. Celia Challam, ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, India. Remarks were given by Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, SAARC Secretariat, and Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Executive Chairman, BARC, while the meeting was formally inaugurated by Ambassador Abdul Motaleb Sarker, Additional Foreign Secretary and Director General (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh. The consultation meeting featured comprehensive country paper presentations from all SAARC Member States, highlighting national plant biosecurity status, challenges, and existing regulatory and institutional frameworks. Technical sessions addressed key thematic areas including Plant biosecurity and the One Health approach, Invasive alien species management, Biosecurity related to LMOs and GMOs, Emergency response mechanisms, Pest surveillance and monitoring, Phytosanitary regulations under WTO and IPPC, Science-based pest risk analysis, and Public-private partnerships in phytosanitary measures. Interactive discussions and breakout sessions focused on regional biosecurity challenges, research and laboratory capacity, national and regional biosecurity measures, policy gaps, implementation challenges, and capacity building needs in terms of human resources and infrastructure. The consultation meeting concluded with a set of recommendations presented by Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, emphasizing regional

collaboration, harmonization of policies, strengthening surveillance systems, and capacity development to enhance plant health biosecurity across South Asia. The program ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC.

There was detailed discussion on the different aspects of Agricultural Biosecurity and Plant Health in these three days regional consultation meeting. Recommendations of this meeting are given below;

Recommendations

1. Monitoring and Surveillance

- Adoption of international standards of surveillance system.
- Data keeping regarding pest outbreaks and invasive species.
- Update of pest risk analysis (PRA) and host-pest data bases.
- Pest risk analysis, molecular level pest diagnosis, remote sensing technologies and AI based forecasting.

2. Capacity Building

- Human Resource Development
- Regular trainings of the Quarantine officials, staff, inspectors and Extension workers on pest diagnostics, surveillance, and import risks analysis.
- Sufficient skilled manpower engagement.
- Strengthening of Facilities
- Establishment of sufficient plant quarantine Accredited laboratories with sufficient financial resources for rapid testing of plant and plants products.
- Upgradation of infrastructure of plant quarantine stations, with greenhouses, proper inspection desks etc.
- Establishment of sufficient treatment plants and packing houses.
- Availabilities of pest and disease rapid testing kits.
- Sufficient availability of government allocated budget for biosecurity programs.
- Labs having molecular facility, reference collections, barcoding and digital image libraries etc.

3. Rules and Regulations

- Provisions and update of Acts, Rules and Regulations.
- Harmonization of SAARC Member States frameworks and standards of plant biosecurity.
- Gaps minimization of pre and post border biosecurity.

4. Networking on Biosecurity

- Establish data and information sharing platform.
- Regional collaborations of labs for quick and cost-effective testing of samples of plants insects/pests/diseases.
- Regional pest surveillance and early warning systems, data sharing on pest outbreaks

- and invasive species.
- Information sharing regarding emerging pests, invasive species and various quarantine pests.

1.4 Regional Training on Recent Advances in Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops in SAARC Member States

A three-days regional training was organized virtually on Recent Advances in Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops in SAARC Member States from 24-26 November 2025. The training aimed at sharing of knowledge, best practices, and recent advances in hybrid vegetable seed production, while strengthening participants' technical skills in seed production and crop management of vegetables, seeking collaboration and come up with actionable recommendations for strengthening hybrid seed production across the region.



The event was live streamed on social media platforms and received wide visibility through print and online media coverage, enhancing outreach and awareness among stakeholders and the general public. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre, deliver welcome remarks emphasizing the critical role of hybrid seed technology in ensuring food and nutrition security in South Asia. He highlighted the need for strengthened research capacity, improved seed quality, climate-resilient innovations and enhanced regional collaboration. Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAC, outlined the training objectives, noting that the sessions cover vegetable hybridization techniques, seed processing and marketing to improve production efficiency across the region. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director General (Flowers, Vegetables, Spices and Medicinal Plants), ICAR, New Delhi, India, who highlighted recent advances and future prospects in vegetable breeding and hybrid seed production. Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder,

Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Nepal, attended the event as the Special Guest and underscored the timeliness of the training in light of regional nutrition priorities. The training program was graced by Dr. Md. Mahmudur Rahman, Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest. His remarks noted that hybrid vegetable seeds are vital for increasing productivity and farmers' income, while calling for stronger capacity building and quality seed availability with SAARC Member States under the leadership of SAC. The program brought together more than 50 scientists, researchers, breeders, seed technologists, and extension professionals from SAARC Member States including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, and Maldives. Maximum nominations for this training were received from Bhutan. National focal points, nominated officers, and scientists from government institutions, research organizations, universities, and private seed companies actively participated in the training. A pre-training and post-training assessments were conducted to measure the impact of the training and to assess improvements in participants' knowledge and understanding.

Recommendation based on the participant feedback

Strengthen Practical and Field-Based Learning Increase the emphasis on hands-on training through field demonstrations, on-site hybrid seed production exercises, study tours, and the use of pictorial, video-based, and flowchart-style learning materials. **Expand and Regularize Capacity-Building Programs** Conduct more in-person training programs with longer durations, offer advanced and crop-specific modules, and organize such programs regularly to ensure continuous professional development. **Promote Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange** Foster stronger collaboration among SAARC countries through germplasm exchange, joint research initiatives, and greater opportunities for sharing expertise on key vegetable and fruit crops. **Enhance Training Design and Resource Accessibility** Improve the structure of future programs by minimizing repetitive content, engaging experts from diverse institutions, and providing centralized access to all training materials through shared online platforms. **Integrate Emerging Technologies into Training** Introduce participants to modern agricultural technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), drones, digital agriculture tools, and other innovative approaches to improve breeding and seed production practices.

1.5 SAARC regional training on "Molecular Diagnosis and Laboratory Surveillance of PPR"

The SAARC regional training on "Molecular Diagnosis and Laboratory Surveillance of PPR" was held on 14-18 July, 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal and Gram Unnayan Karma, Bangladesh. The objective of the training was to develop the capacities of scientists/ professionals of national laboratories of the SAARC Member States on advanced laboratory techniques for the diagnosis of PPR and its

surveillance mechanism. The training was attended by the participants of six SAARC Member States, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in addition to international speakers from FAO Rome, IAEA Vienna and NIVEDI-CAR India attended as speakers in the training program. H.E. Dr. Deepak Kumar Kharal, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal graced the occasion as the “Chief Guest” and



conveyed her greetings to SAARC Agriculture Centre and SAARC Secretariat for undertaking the important training program like PPR. At the closing session of the training program H.E. Ambassador Mr. Golam Sarwar was graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and distributed the certificates among the participants.

Key Recommendations

- Strengthen national and regional laboratory capacity for molecular diagnosis and surveillance of PPR.
- Promote harmonized diagnostic protocols and standardized surveillance systems across SAARC Member States.
- Enhance continuous training and skill development of laboratory scientists and veterinary professionals.
- Improve regional coordination for data sharing, early warning, and outbreak response mechanisms.
- Strengthen laboratory infrastructure, including molecular diagnostic facilities and quality assurance systems.
- Foster collaboration with international organizations such as FAO, IAEA, and regional research institutions for technical support.
- Develop a coordinated regional strategy for the control and progressive eradication of PPR in South Asia.
- Promote integration of laboratory surveillance data into national animal health decision-making systems.

1.6 Regional workshop on “Sustainable Family Farming in the Livestock Sector for Achieving the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF) and the SDGs”

The SAARC regional workshop titled “Sustainable Family Farming in the Livestock Sector for Achieving the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF) and the SDGs” was successfully conducted from 11–13 August 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The three-day workshop was jointly organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal, the Asian Farmers Association (AFA), and Heifer International, Nepal.



Participants from six SAARC Member States—Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—took part in the workshop. Additionally, representatives of farmer organizations from Mongolia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and India attended the event, demonstrating wider regional participation. The objective of the workshop was to develop strategic approaches and an action plan to strengthen family farming in livestock and pastoral systems, thereby supporting the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF) and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia. The inaugural session was honored by the presence of Dr. Govinda Prasad Sharma, Secretary (Agriculture Development), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal, as the Chief Guest. Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, and Dr. Ram Nandan Tiwari, Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Nepal, attended as Guests of Honor. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock) at the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka. A total of 65 participants, including national and international experts, panelists, researchers, and academics, actively contributed to the discussions. The closing session were held at the SAARC Secretariate, where H.E. Ambassador Mr. Golam Sarwar SAARC Secretary General was graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The participants proposed a set of coordinated recommendations to strengthen sustainable livestock and pastoralism systems in the region by improving productivity, resilience, market access, and

institutional collaboration. They emphasized the need for inclusive and well-funded national policies that support smallholder farmers while ensuring active participation of farmers' organizations in planning and implementation. A holistic approach was recommended to enhance climate resilience, livestock health, market linkages, financial access, and the empowerment of women and youth through targeted capacity building, improved services, and stronger institutional support.

Key Recommendations

1. To Governments

- Develop and implement well-funded policies promoting sustainable livestock and pastoralism management.
- Ensure active involvement of farmers' organizations and cooperatives in decision-making and program delivery.
- Scale up integrated programs to improve climate resilience, livestock health, market access, financial inclusion, and social empowerment.
- Promote climate-smart practices such as rotational grazing, improved breeding, manure management, biogas production, and agroforestry.
- Strengthen One Health approaches, vaccination programs, and community-based veterinary services.
- Improve market systems, infrastructure, price information, and access to affordable finance.
- Empower women and youth through legal recognition of farmer organizations, capacity building, and targeted incentives.

2. To SAARC Agriculture Centre

- Organize regional policy dialogues, expert consultations, and knowledge-sharing platforms on livestock development.
- Promote harmonization of policies on credit access, transboundary disease control, and capacity building of farmer organizations.
- Develop a regional project proposal on climate-resilient and integrated livestock and pasture management using a One Health approach for implementation with development partners.

3. To Farmers' Organizations

- Strengthen institutional capacity and organizational management of livestock and pastoralist groups.
- Enhance collective action through cooperatives for inputs, advisory services, financing, and marketing.
- Engage more actively in policy dialogue and evidence-based advocacy with governments and regional stakeholders.

1.7 Regional Workshop on “Assessing Impact of Transboundary Animal Diseases”

A two-day Regional Workshop on “Assessing Impact of Transboundary Animal Diseases in South Asia,” followed by the SAARC CVOs Forum Meeting, was held on Wednesday (10 December 2025) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event was jointly organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka and the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka, bringing together leading policymakers, scientists, veterinary experts and development partners from the SAARC Member States (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), WOAHP Asia and Pacific, FAO RAP, ACAPSI and Regional and International Organizations. The workshop aimed to strengthen regional coordination and assess the growing threat of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), which continue to affect livestock productivity, food security and rural livelihoods in South Asia. Delivering the address of the Chief Guest, Mr. D.P. Wickremasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land & Irrigation called for stronger investment in technology, laboratory capacity and early-warning systems. He emphasized that safeguarding animal health is key to ensuring food safety, supporting rural economies and enhancing regional trade. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Palika Fernando, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land & Irrigation, highlighted Sri Lanka’s ongoing efforts to strengthen veterinary services and disease surveillance. She noted that regional workshops such as this provide vital opportunities for countries to learn from each other’s experiences and align their strategies. Representing the SAARC Secretariat, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Nepal, underscored the importance of integrating regional frameworks with national



disease-control programs. He noted that the SAARC Secretariat will continue to support cross-border collaboration, capacity-building and harmonized reporting systems. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), in his special remarks, reiterated SAC’s commitment to promoting evidence-based policymaking and fostering collaboration among SAARC Member States. He stressed that South Asia, with one of the world’s largest

livestock populations, must adopt a unified strategy to mitigate disease risks. “No single country can tackle TADs alone. Only through shared knowledge and joint action can we build resilient livestock systems,” he said. The session concluded with remarks by the Chairperson, Dr. K.K. Sarath, Chief Veterinary Officer and Director General of DAPH, who stressed the need for sustained regional commitment. The program began with an overview presentation by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), SAC, who highlighted the economic and social consequences emphasized that regional disease surveillance, joint research and rapid response mechanisms are essential to safeguard livestock-dependent communities. Mention that, the two-day workshop featured technical sessions, country presentations, and focused group discussions. Key recommendations will be submitted to the SAARC CVOs Forum for policy action. The meeting reaffirmed the region’s commitment to strengthening cooperation against transboundary diseases and safeguarding the livelihoods of millions who depend on livestock.

Policy Implications and Recommendations for Future Preparedness

- The Criticality of Regional Cooperation and Synchronization
- Strengthening Veterinary Services and Surveillance
- Strategic Investment in Research and Development
- Establishment of genomic surveillance capacity in laboratories.
- Improvement in cold chain and increase in vaccination coverage.
- Cost-benefit analyses of vaccination programs to justify sustained funding.
- Enforce and incentivize farm biosecurity, improve quarantine at livestock markets and border points. Implement traceability pilots (ear tags, movement permits).
- Design rapid, transparent compensation or emergency support for producers affected by culling/outbreaks to encourage reporting.
- Fund studies to model disease spread (FMD, LSD, ASF), quantify economic impact and test optimal control strategies (vaccination timing, movement restrictions).
- Strengthen joint surveillance & response with adjoining states and regional bodies.
- Invest in behaviour-change communications, rapid alert systems (SMS), and farmer field schools focused on early reporting and biosecurity.

1.8 9th SAARC CVOs Forum Meeting held in Sri Lanka

9th Meeting of SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers’ (CVOs) Forum was held on Thursday (11 December 2025) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event was organized by the Agriculture and Rural Development Division of the SAARC Secretariat in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land & Irrigation, Sri Lanka and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka. Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Dr. Md. Abu Sufiun (Bangladesh), Dr. Rinzin Pem (Bhutan), Dr. Praveen Malik (India), Mr. Indunil Amaranath Jayawickrama (Maldives), Dr. Ram Nandan Tiwari (Nepal), Dr. S. Murtaza Hassan Andrabi (Pakistan) and Dr. K.K. Sarath (Sri Lanka) participated in the Meeting. Addressing as the representative of SAARC Secretariat at the opening session, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), highlighted the collective initiatives and collaborations among the SAARC Member States enhancing the



capacity in the veterinary sector of this region. Later, as representative of the Secretary General of SAARC, he formally opened the Meeting. Dr. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), in his remarks, stated that there is tremendous scope of collaboration among the Member States regarding Veterinary Services. He assured the Forum of SAC's supports for all SAARC initiatives. Dr. Hirofumi Kugita, World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific conveyed his appreciation to the SAARC Secretariat, SAC and the Government of Sri Lanka for organizing and hosting the meeting. He conveyed commitment for the supports from WOAHA for the initiatives taken by the SAARC. Mentioning the priority areas like PPR, LSD, EpiNet, Dr. Kugita emphasized on the possible collective mechanism and ways to work together. As the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr. Scott Newman emphasized on the sustainable food production and biosecurity with controlling animal diseases in the South Asian Countries in coordinated manner. Mr. Scott, mentioning action plan and upcoming activities of FAO, expressed his willingness and expressed possibility of connecting the FAO activities to the initiatives of SAARC. With participation from Chief Veterinary Officers of the Member States, the Forum rigorously discussed relevant agenda, took important decisions relating to veterinary activities & services and chalked out plan for upcoming years. The meeting concluded with the strong appeal and urge for collaboration for the welfare of SAARC region.

Key Recommendations

- Strengthen regional coordination mechanisms among SAARC Member States for effective animal health management and veterinary service delivery.
- Enhance collaborative surveillance, early warning systems, and information sharing for transboundary animal diseases.
- Promote joint action and regional preparedness for priority diseases such as PPR, LSD, and other emerging zoonotic threats.
- Improve biosecurity measures and sustainable livestock production practices across Member States.
- Strengthen capacity building of veterinary professionals through regional training and knowledge exchange programs.
- Foster stronger partnerships with international organizations such as WOA and FAO for technical and institutional support.
- Develop a coordinated regional action plan for animal health security and veterinary service improvement.
- Encourage integration of veterinary initiatives with broader food security and sustainable livestock development strategies in South Asia.

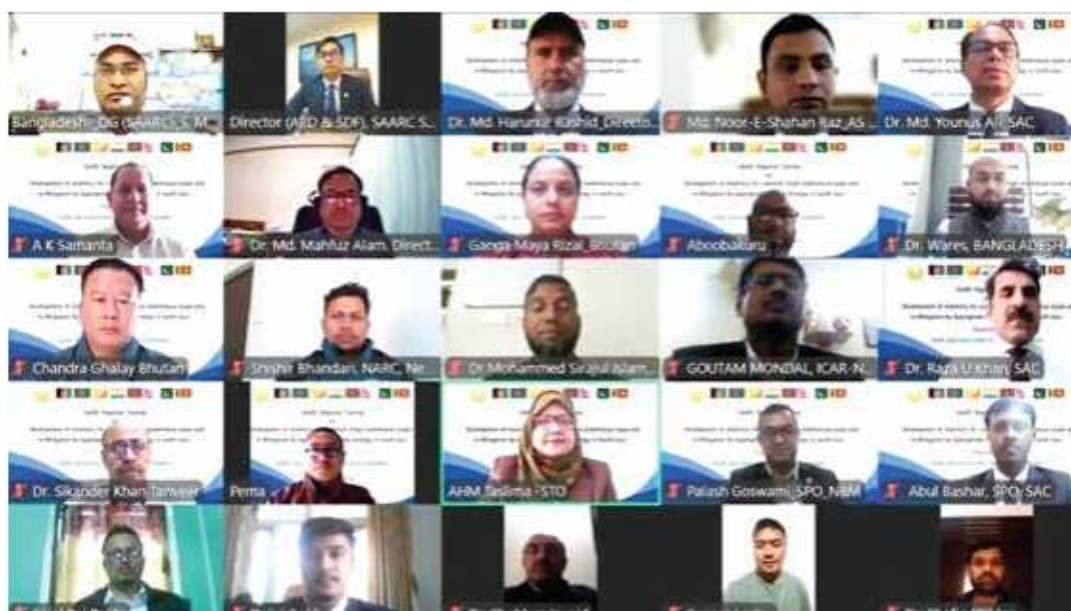
1.9 Regional Training on “Development of Inventory for Livestock Origin Greenhouse Gases and its Mitigation by Appropriate Feeding Strategy”

Regional Training on “Development of Inventory for Livestock Origin Greenhouse Gases and its Mitigation by Appropriate Feeding Strategy” from 22 to 24 December 2025 through virtual mode. The training brought together livestock scientists, researchers, and technical experts from SAARC Member States to enhance regional capacity in greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory development and mitigation strategies in the livestock sector. The training was inaugurated with a welcome address by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC. He highlighted the importance of livestock for food security, nutrition, and rural livelihoods, while emphasizing the need for reliable emission inventories and science-based interventions to reduce environmental impacts without affecting productivity.

Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Nepal, as Special Guest, reaffirmed SAARC’s commitment to climate-resilient agriculture. Dr. A. K. Samanta, Assistant Director General, ICAR, India, as Guest of Honour, emphasized integrating nutrition research with national inventory systems. The keynote address was presented by Dr. Nitin Tyagi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NDRI, India on key challenges in South Asia, including smallholder-dominated systems, low-quality feed resources, and data gaps. The training overview was presented by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), SAC, who outlined the objectives and focus on IPCC-recommended methodologies for greenhouse gas inventory development.

A pre-training and post-training assessments were conducted to measure the impact of the

training and to assess improvements in participants' knowledge and understanding.



The technical sessions covered key aspects of livestock-related GHG emissions, including concepts and methodologies for national GHG inventory development, rumen microflora and biochemical pathways associated with emissions, in vitro and in vivo methane quantification techniques, life cycle assessment of milk production under smallholder systems, and appropriate feeding strategies to reduce emissions. Country-specific experience on national livestock GHG emissions was shared through a presentation from Sri Lanka, providing valuable regional perspectives.

The training significantly improved participants' technical knowledge and practical understanding of livestock-origin greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory development and mitigation approaches, as evidenced by the pre- and post-training evaluation results. It reinforced the importance of applying IPCC-recommended methodologies, strengthening data collection systems, and adopting improved feeding strategies that can reduce methane emissions while maintaining livestock productivity. The discussions also highlighted the need for stronger regional collaboration, enhanced institutional coordination, and greater integration of scientific research into national livestock and climate policy frameworks. In addition, participants emphasized supporting smallholder livestock producers through climate-smart practices, improved feed management, and continued research on emission measurement and mitigation technologies.

1.10 Regional Experts Meeting on Role of Agroforestry in Improvement of Rural Livelihood and Build Climate Resilient Communities

Regional Experts Meeting on Role of Agroforestry in Improvement of Rural Livelihood and Build Climate Resilient Communities in the Region was conducted virtually from 23-25 September 2025. The event has brought together nearly 30 researchers, policymakers and practitioners from six member countries of SAARC to discuss, how agroforestry can transform

rural economies and strengthen climate resilience. The aim of the event was to highlight the



role of agroforestry in rural development and climate resilience of South Asia, and to chalk out a roadmap and course of actions for scaling up agroforestry practices and procedures in the region. Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, Senior Program Specialist (NRM), inaugurated the consultation meeting and highlighted the objectives of the program. Dr. Shiv Dhyani, Fellow, CIFOR-ICRAF the keynote speaker talked about the Agroforestry as a Strategy for Addressing Climate Change Impacts, Promoting Inclusive and Fostering Sustainable Development in the Region. Special Guest, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat highlighted the commitment of SAARC and SAC in addressing the key issues of climate change and rural development and call upon strengthening regional collaboration. Chief Guest, Dr. Md. Mahmudur Rahman, Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh underlined the importance of the program and talked about enhancing regional collaboration to learn from each other experiences.

The technical sessions focused on stocktaking of agroforestry practices and its improving rural livelihoods and climate resilience. Country presentations from SARRC member countries highlighted national experiences, policy environments, challenges, and opportunities in this regard. Experts talked about the agroforestry contributions to resilient food systems, ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation, community-centred approaches, agroecological innovation, and socio-economic sustainability across South Asia.

The final day featured advanced technical discussions on climate change mitigation potential, ecosystem services, and the current status and future prospects of agroforestry in South Asia, followed by a brainstorming session. Discussions emphasized the need for enabling policies, community participation, research and extension support, institutional coordination, and regional collaboration for scaling up agroforestry practices.

The meeting emphasized the strong potential of agroforestry in transforming rural livelihoods across South Asia by improving food security, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing climate resilience. Participants stressed that achieving these benefits at scale will require coordinated

efforts through supportive policies, stronger institutions, increased investment, and active engagement of local communities. The discussions also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation among SAARC Member States to facilitate knowledge exchange, promote innovation, and integrate agroforestry into broader climate and rural development frameworks. It was further recommended that a structured regional roadmap be developed to guide joint actions and strengthen capacity building for long-term sustainability.

1.11 Regional Training on Prospects and Challenges of Carbon Trading in Agriculture Sector of South Asia

Regional Training on “Prospects and Challenges of Carbon Trading in Agriculture Sector of South Asia” was held from 29 to 31 December 2025 through a virtual platform. The training was designed to build a strong technical understanding of carbon markets, explore emerging opportunities for agriculture-based carbon credits, and discuss institutional and policy challenges specific to Carbon trading South Asia. The program was live-streamed on social media platforms and received wide visibility through print and soft media coverage, enhancing outreach and awareness among stakeholders and the general public.



The program brought together more than 40 participants comprising scientists, researchers, policymakers, extension professionals, and technical experts from SAARC Member States. The participants represented ministries of agriculture, research organizations, universities, national focal institutions, and development agencies, ensuring a balanced mix of technical, policy, and field-level stakeholders. A pre-training and post-training assessments were conducted to measure the impact of the training and to assess improvements in participants’ knowledge and understanding. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC, who welcomed participants and emphasized the growing importance of carbon trading in achieving climate-smart agricultural development. The objectives and overview of the training were presented by Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, Senior Program Specialist (NRM), SAC, who highlighted the relevance of the program in strengthening regional capacity and policy dialogue on agricultural carbon markets.

The Keynote address was delivered by Mr. Kaushal Bisht, Lead Partnership and Strategic Alliance, Varaha, India who presented the current and future scenario of carbon trading in South Asia's agriculture sector. He highlighted global carbon market trends and the potential of practices such as soil management, agroforestry and methane reduction in generating agricultural carbon credits.

In the opening remarks, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, emphasized the vulnerability of South Asian agriculture to climate change and highlighted carbon trading as a potential financial mechanism to promote climate-smart practices and improve rural livelihoods. Special Guest Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, highlighted the need for regional policy alignment, harmonized standards and capacity building. Chief Guest, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, stressed the importance of strong research support, reliable carbon accounting and safeguarding farmers' interests while ensuring food security.



The technical sessions conducted over the three days covered a broad range of topics, including science-based targets for agriculture, carbon credit prospects in Bangladesh, Pakistan's experience in developing and verifying carbon projects, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems, Sri Lanka's carbon crediting initiatives, and other success stories of carbon credit projects in South Asia. The sessions were chaired by distinguished experts and featured both international and regional resource persons, facilitating in-depth technical discussions and effective knowledge exchange.

The training concluded with interactive discussions that led to the formulation of recommendations aimed at strengthening policy alignment, enhancing institutional capacity, improving readiness, and promoting regional cooperation to unlock the potential of agriculture-based carbon markets in South Asia. Overall, the program successfully achieved its objectives by significantly improving participants' understanding of carbon trading mechanisms, identifying opportunities for agriculture-based carbon credits, and fostering

constructive dialogue on existing challenges and possible solutions within the South Asian context, as reflected by pre- and post-training evaluation results. The event also made an important contribution to recognizing agriculture as a key driver of climate change mitigation and sustainable development in the region.

Key Recommendations

- Enhanced engagement with smallholder farmers for greater impact by gauging their needs, capacity, willingness and support.
- Promote inclusive, transparent and effectively co-design and co-executed carbon trading programs among farmers clusters to reduce transaction costs.
- Provision of training and capacity buildings to smallholder farmers on the basics of carbon trading, carbon credits market, sustainable farming practices, mitigation potential, and the certification process.
- Policies focusing on financial and non-financial incentives to smallholder farmers should be developed to encourage their farmers participation in carbon trading.
- Support the financial acquisition to smallholder farmers, including grants, loans, and other forms of financial assistance to ensure double wins of unlocking finance and enhancing resilience simultaneously.



Policy Planning

2 . Policy Planning

A total of three (3) programs were planned for 2025. Out of these, two programs were successfully executed as workshops and one program was carried forward to 2026. Detail of the program are given below:

2.1 Regional Workshop on Fostering Regional Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards

The Regional Consultation Workshop on “Fostering Regional Agricultural Trade including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards in South Asia” commenced on 27 August 2025 with a formal inaugural session held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop aimed to identify opportunities for regional harmonization of food safety standards, particularly for fortified foods, to enhance agricultural trade and address micronutrient deficiencies in the region. The session was chaired by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Nepal. Mr. Dal Prasad Pudasainy, Senior Agriculture Economist, MoALD delivered the welcome address followed by the opening remarks and an overview of the workshop objectives by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC). The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Jeevan Prabha Lama, Food Safety and Trade Expert,



who highlighted the challenges, opportunities, and policy perspectives on harmonization of food standards in South Asia for agricultural trade. The session also featured addresses from distinguished guests, including Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC virtually joined the meeting Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, and Dr. Zivai Murira, Regional Nutrition Advisor, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia. underscored the importance of regional cooperation in ensuring food safety, improving nutrition outcomes, and facilitating trade through standardized approaches. The inaugural session concluded with the address of the Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Govinda Prasad Sharma, Secretary Agriculture Development, MoALD, Nepal. The session was chaired by the Director General, Department of Agriculture, Nepal. The workshop featured a series of technical sessions focusing on global experiences, regional perspectives, and country-level initiatives

related to food safety standards, food fortification, and regional agricultural trade in South Asia. Experts from FAO, UNICEF, SAARC Member States, academia, and regional trade organizations shared insights on harmonization of food safety regulations, international best practices, and opportunities for promoting safe and fortified foods within the region.



The group discussions identified several interconnected challenges affecting food safety, food fortification, and regional agricultural trade across South Asia. Participants highlighted fragmented governance systems, lack of harmonized food safety and food fortification standards, weak policy frameworks, and poor institutional coordination as major barriers to effective implementation and regional trade facilitation. The discussions further revealed significant infrastructure and capacity limitations, including inadequate accredited laboratories, cold chain facilities, modern packaging systems, and shortages of skilled professionals and trained personnel across the food value chain. The participants emphasized the need for a coordinated regional approach to strengthen food safety and food fortification systems across South Asia. A Key recommendation was to develop a SAARC Harmonized Framework for Food Safety and Food Fortification aligned with international standards, supported by a regional expert advisory mechanism to guide its implementation. They further stressed strengthening regional laboratory networks, promoting mutual recognition of certification systems, and establishing digital knowledge-sharing platforms to improve information exchange and capacity development among Member States.

Key Recommendations

- Develop a SAARC Harmonized Framework for Food Safety and Food Fortification aligned with international standards, supported by a regional expert advisory mechanism.
- Strengthen regional laboratory networks and testing infrastructure for food safety and quality assurance.
- Promote mutual recognition of certification systems to facilitate smoother regional trade.
- Establish digital platforms for knowledge sharing, data exchange, and capacity building.
- Enhance regional collaboration in research, investment, and training on climate

resilience and food fortification.

- Promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture and innovation-driven solutions in food systems.
- Implement public awareness campaigns on safe and fortified food consumption.
- Strengthen policy support for formal agricultural trade and export promotion across South Asia.

2.2 Regional Workshop on “Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems”

The SAARC regional workshop on “Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems in South Asia” was during 29 to 31 July, 2025), in Thimphu, Bhutan. The three-day workshop has been jointly organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Bhutan and Welthungerhilfe. The initiative aims to assess the present state of agroecological policies, programs and practices in South Asia and to chart a pathway for wider adoption across SAARC member countries. More than 40 participants were joined including delegates and experts from five SAARC nations- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka- are attending the event, alongside a host of national and international speakers, panelists, academics and professionals in agriculture and environmental sciences.



Thinley Namgyel, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Bhutan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF) at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu and Yonten Gyamtsho, Director of the Department of Agriculture, Bhutan, were present as Guests of Honour.

Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), chaired the inaugural session, which was attended by around 65 participants representing various institutions and governments of the SAARC region.

The three-day workshop was conducted in a highly participatory and interactive manner. On the first day, country representatives presented the current status of agroecological approaches in their respective nations. On the second day, regional experts from various organizations shared their experiences and insights on promoting agroecology across South Asia. On the final day, participants collaboratively developed a roadmap to guide the promotion and

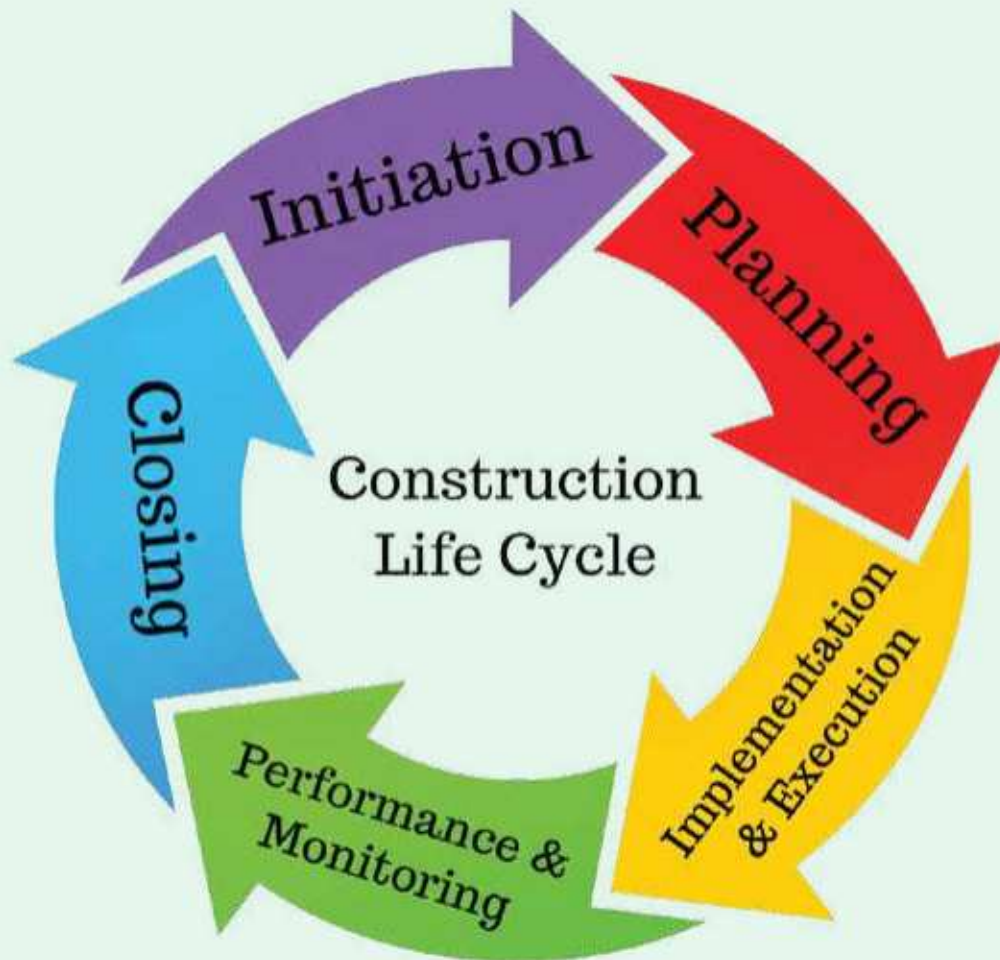
scaling up of agroecological practices in their respective countries.

The workshop emphasized the need for a coordinated regional and national effort to advance agroecology as a pathway toward sustainable, climate-resilient, and inclusive agri-food systems. Participants recommended integrating agroecological principles into national agricultural and food security policies across SAARC Member States, while strengthening regional cooperation through a dedicated SAARC platform for knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practices. The discussions further highlighted the importance of promoting climate-resilient and resource-efficient farming systems, enhancing research and innovation through collaboration among National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), universities, and the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), and empowering smallholder farmers through cooperatives, farmer field schools, and inclusive value chains. In addition, the workshop underscored the need to conserve agro-biodiversity, promote gender equality, engage youth in agroecological entrepreneurship, build capacity of stakeholders, and encourage public-private partnerships to strengthen sustainable agri-food value chains. The development of certification and incentive mechanisms for eco-friendly products, along with a strong regional network for agroecology, was also identified as a key priority.

Key Recommendations

- Mainstream agroecology into national agricultural and food security policies across SAARC Member States.
- Strengthen regional cooperation by establishing a SAARC platform for agroecological knowledge sharing and best practices.
- Promote climate-resilient and resource-efficient agroecological farming systems.
- Enhance research and innovation through collaboration among NARS, universities, and the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC).
- Empower smallholder farmers through cooperatives, farmer field schools, and inclusive value chains.
- Conserve agro-biodiversity and traditional crop varieties to support food sovereignty and sustainability.
- Strengthen gender equality and promote youth engagement in agroecological entrepreneurship and leadership.
- Build capacity of farmers, extension agents, and policymakers on agroecological principles and practices.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to develop sustainable agri-food value chains and market linkages.
- Develop certification, labeling, and incentive systems for organic and eco-friendly agricultural products.
- Establish a national and regional agroecology network for knowledge sharing, technology exchange, and capacity development.

Projects



3. Projects Activities And Salient Accomplishments

SAARC Agriculture Centre has been executing two projects: Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS) and, Livelihood Enhancement of the Small Farmers in SAARC Region through Small Scale Agribusiness Focusing on Value Chain Development. During 2025 following activities were accomplished in these projects

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

Salient Achievement



- 3093 farmers benefited
- 32% Women farmers
- 5833 farmers & ASP (Agricultural Service Provider) trained
- 8926 farmers, researchers, extension agents directly benefited

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), executed by the SAARC Agriculture Centre and International Foodpolicy Institute in Six SAARC Member working.

The project aims at promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture practices through participatory research demonstration of Climate Smart Agriculture technologies and capacity building of small landholding farmers in South Asia. Since its inception in Nov. 2021 and Closure on June 2025 the project has 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 and 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

3.1.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory Research Sites in Bangladesh



A team of researchers from SAC consist of Dr. Harunur Rashid, Director SAC, Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, SPS (NRM) and RPC, Mr. Palash Chandra Goswami, SPO (NRM) and Mr. Shazan Islam, Account Officer, C-SUCSeS carried out monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of participatory research sites in Pabna, Rajshahi and Rangpur districts in Bangladesh. The team evaluated different sowing methods and technologies and its impact on crop productivity, and general impression of the farmers about its adaptation and suitability in the area.

Dr. Md. Samim Hossain Molla, Dr. Arif, Dr. Apurbo Kumar Chaki and Dr. Md Zannathul Firdous briefed the the team about the participatory research activities carried out in the project and shared their experience with farmers and their intentions to continue climate smart agriculture technologies in the future.

3.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory Research Sites in Pakistan



Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory research sites in different location of Rawalpindi, Gujranwala in Pakistan was carried out on 15-17 April 2025 by Dr. Raza Ullah Khan SPS (NRM), RPC along with Mr. Haseeb, ASO, PSD, PARC, Mr. Idress, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension, and Dr. Shahbaz , PARC. Participatory research sites: involved incorporation of Sesbenia (Janther) before wheat sowing, wheat varieties Pakistan-13 and Markaz-19 in wheat-maize cropping system were visited. In Gujranwala rice of Wheat variety NARC super after rice harvest crop residues incorporation by Happy seeder to cope with rice residues burning issue was visited Farmer expressed his desire to continue the practice even

though the project finish its life cycle and added that the seed would be kept for sowing and further distribution among the farmers of the area and showed satisfaction on the services and help provided by PARC and regional agriculture institutes assured to continue the practice and distribute the seed among the farmers of the region.

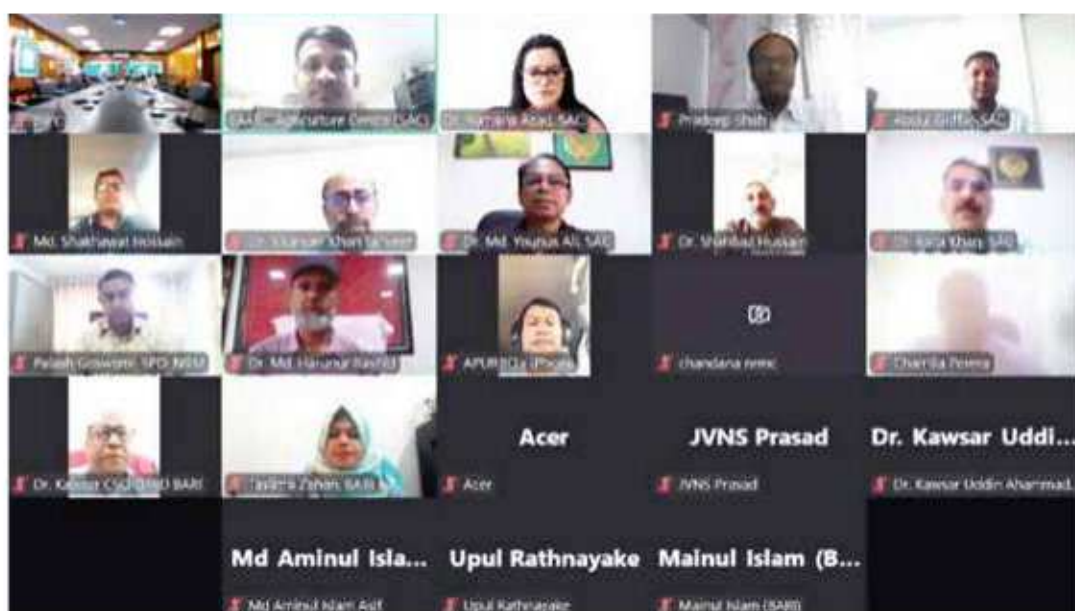
3.1.3 Monitoring and Evaluation of Participatory Research in Sri Lanka

A team of researchers from SAC comprising of Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, SPS (NRM), RPC Dr. Rumana Azad, and Md. Abdul Goffar, visited participatory research sites in different locations of Sri Lanka from 24–25 June 2025. The team was briefed by Mr. R. A. C. J. Perera,. The team visited Climate Smart Farmer Training School (CSFTS) and nearby participatory research sites in Thirappane, Anuradhapura. The visit highlighted increased women's participation, improved crop productivity through solar-powered micro irrigation, and successful adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies.



3.1.4 Inventory of Potential CSA Technologies, Success Stories & Capacity Building Meeting with Regional Collaborators ahead of Results presentation workshop

A virtual meeting on “Inventory of Potential CSA Technologies, Success Stories & Capacity Building” under the C-SUCSeS Project was held on 3rd June 2025, 28 participants from six SAARC countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka Participated. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC, inaugurated the session, emphasizing the importance of shared learning for policy and institutional adoption of CSA technologies. Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, SPS (NRM)RPC, urged member countries to present 2–3 key success stories during the upcoming Results Presentation Meeting National Focal Points and corresponded scientists shared impactful outcomes from participatory research and stressed the need for continued training and collaboration. The meeting reiterated the commitment to scale up climate-smart practices across the region. The meeting concluded with a note of thanks from the Director SAC, underline the worth of cross-country collaboration, learning and timely progress.



3.1.5 Results Presentation and Way Forward Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Two days 'Results Presentation and Way Forward workshop' was held on 27-28 June 2025 at Hotel Ramada, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop was attended by Mr. Abdulkarim, Sma, Lead Economist IFAD, Ms. Irosha Cooray, Officer In charge (OIC) SDF, Dr. Shahidur Rashid, Director IFPRI, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director SAC, Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, SPS (NRM)RPC, C-SUCSeS project, focal points and scientists of SAARC member attended physically and focal point from India joined virtually.



Mr. D.P. Wickramasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session, while Mr. Abdulkarim Sma, Ms. Irosha Cooray, Dr. Shahidur Rashid were Special Guests.



The Chief Guest elaborated the investment plan, Sri Lankan Government is pursuing to develop agriculture sector of the country and emphasized on learning from each other to develop collective wisdom against climate change impacts. Focal points resource persons from IFPRI talked about the importance of including fisheries and crop sectors in phase-II, scalability, and dissemination of the project Dr. Shahidur Rashid, IFPRI emphasized on the need for partnership and upscaling, broaden our partnership. Ms. Irosha Cooray, OIC-SDF stressed the need to look whether the proposed phase-II of the C-SUCSeS project is aligned with the institutional mandate, goals and the thematic priorities. Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Nepal stressed the need for the second phase of the project and called upon inhouse capability to ensure intime and qualitive assurance in deliver abilities of the project. Mr. Abdulkarim Sma, Chief Economist. IFAD talked about developing a scaling up strategy for the phase-II of the C-SUCSeS project. The two-day meeting ended by vote of thanks remarks by Director SAC Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, he thanked all stakeholders, organizers for the two days meeting and highlighted the ceaseless efforts behind the success and praised the strong interaction among the NARES of SAARC MCs developed in this journey.



Participants highlighted the importance of strengthening regional collaboration, improving implementation efficiency, and developing a structured scaling-up strategy to ensure wider impact across SAARC Member States. The discussions also underscored the need for stronger integration of agriculture, fisheries, and climate resilience priorities, along with enhanced coordination among development partners, governments, and regional institutions.

3.1.6 Publications and Knowledge Products

During 2025 the participatory research outcomes were compiled and published. It includes participatory research report of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. All six participatory research reports were summarized jointly in the form of “Synthesis Report titled “Comparative Analysis of Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices in South Asia”. All reports along with other deliverables were shared with SDF and IFAD. All reports can be accessed by clicking <https://c-suces.sac.org.bd/publication/>



3.2. 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 on 25 October 2025.

The project aimed to enhance small farmers’ livelihood 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 centres, machinery procurement, and marketlinkage development. Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka successfully initiated production of value-added products such as chips, tomato ketchup, moringa powder and capsules, dried fruits, and cassava-based snacks. Maldives is progressing with machinery procurement and marketing linkages.

Salient Achievement



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

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 centres. 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.

3.2.1 SAARC Regional Follow-up Training on “Developing Regional Agri-Business, Product Development and Marketing”

The SAARC regional follow up training on “Developing regional agri-business, product development and marketing” under the livelihood enhancement project of SAC was held on 25-28 February, 2025 at ICIMOD headquarter, Kathmandu, Nepal. The training was organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The objectives of the training included: (i) To build the capacities of implementing agencies in agribusiness management, with a focus on value chain development. (ii) To enhance knowledge of relevant technologies and processes within the agro-processing sector.



The training was attended by the participants of five SAARC Member States, namely Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This event highlights the significant progress and challenges in value chains of dairy, banana, moringa, FMCG products like biscuits, cookies, etc. across Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka. Training in value addition and processing has empowered entrepreneurs and farmers, particularly in India and Bangladesh, where advanced processing systems and strong market linkages have boosted employment and income. However, Nepal and Sri Lanka lag in infrastructure with inadequate storage and logistics leading to post-harvest losses.

3.2.2 Meeting on Agro-Processing Project Formulation for SAARC Member States and Follow-Up Visit at Rural Development Academy (RDA)



On 10 April 2025, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), and Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock) & Regional Project Coordinator of the Livelihood Enhancement Project, visited RDA, Bogra, Bangladesh.

The visit began with a meeting with the Director General of RDA to explore opportunities for formulating a regional project focusing on agro-processing, aiming to benefit the SAARC Member States through value addition and enhanced livelihoods. As part of the visit, SAC team also conducted a follow-up inspection of activities under the SDF-funded Livelihood Enhancement Project implemented by RDA. They observed RDA's ongoing initiatives in producing and marketing value-added products such as Jackfruit and Mango chips, which are being successfully sold at the consumer level.

3.2.3 Project Completion Workshop on “Livelihood Enhancement of Small Farmers in the SAARC Region through Small Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development”

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) successfully conducted a two-day Project Completion Workshop on 17 October 2025 at the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, to mark the conclusion of the regional project “Livelihood Enhancement of Small Farmers in the SAARC Region through Small-Scale Agro-business with a Focus on Value Chain Development.” The project was funded by the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and implemented in five SAARC Member States – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. The workshop brought together policymakers, researchers, development professionals, project partners, and representatives from relevant national institutions to review project outcomes, exchange country-level experiences, and explore opportunities for scaling up successful interventions. Discussions emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing shared

challenges faced by smallholder farmers, particularly in improving market access, enhancing value addition, and strengthening agri-based enterprises.



The workshop recommended scaling up successful small-scale agro-business and value chain models across SAARC Member States through stronger regional cooperation, increased investment, and sustained institutional support. Participants emphasized improving market linkages, strengthening rural processing infrastructure, and promoting public-private partnerships to enhance value addition and reduce post-harvest losses. The need for continuous capacity building, support to producer groups, and policy measures to strengthen agro-enterprises was also highlighted, along with the importance of knowledge sharing and regional platforms to replicate successful livelihood enhancement initiatives and ensure sustainable income generation for smallholder farmers.

4. High Level Meetings and Coordination

4.1 60th Session of the Programming Committee



60th Session of the Programming Committee (PC) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 28-29 April 2025. National Focal Points of SAARC Member States, SAARC Regional Centres and SAARC Specialized Bodies participated in this meeting. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC and Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock) joined the meeting and presented the SAC activities. Director SAC presented the Governing Board Annual Report of SAC for 2024 focusing on 2024 programs implementation and proposed programs and budget for the year 2025.

4.2 17th Governing Board Meeting

The 17th Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) of SAC was convened on 13-14 October 2025 at Hotel InterContinental, Dhaka. The meeting brought together senior policymakers, agricultural experts, and representatives from SAARC Member States with the objective of enhancing regional collaboration in agricultural research and development.



The meeting was attended by Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC); Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu; Mr. Md. Abdul Motaleb Sarker, former Secretary (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh; and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director of the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Representatives from embassies of SAARC members states, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Bangladesh, National Agricultural Research System (NARS) institutions, and international organizations were also present. In the welcome remarks, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid reaffirmed SAC's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture, ensuring food security, and facilitating regional knowledge sharing, with a particular emphasis on strengthening climate resilience. Mr. Ali Amir, Chairperson of the 16th GB, attended the meeting virtually and highlighted the significance of regional solidarity, collaborative research, and technology transfer in achieving food security across South Asia. During the technical session, the Chairpersonship of GB was handed by Maldives to Nepal. Ms. Sabnam Shivakoti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal, assumed role of Chair. Governing Board members from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka attended the meeting in person, while representatives from India, Bhutan, Maldives, and Pakistan participated virtually. The meeting served as a valuable platform for reviewing progress, exchanging experiences, and adopting strategic directions to advance agricultural development across South Asia.

4.3 41st Anniversary of the SAARC Charter

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) commemorated the 41st SAARC Charter Day on 8th December 2025 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) complex in Dhaka, underscoring the importance of regional collaboration in building a resilient and sustainable agricultural future. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the Centre's ongoing activities and strategic priorities.

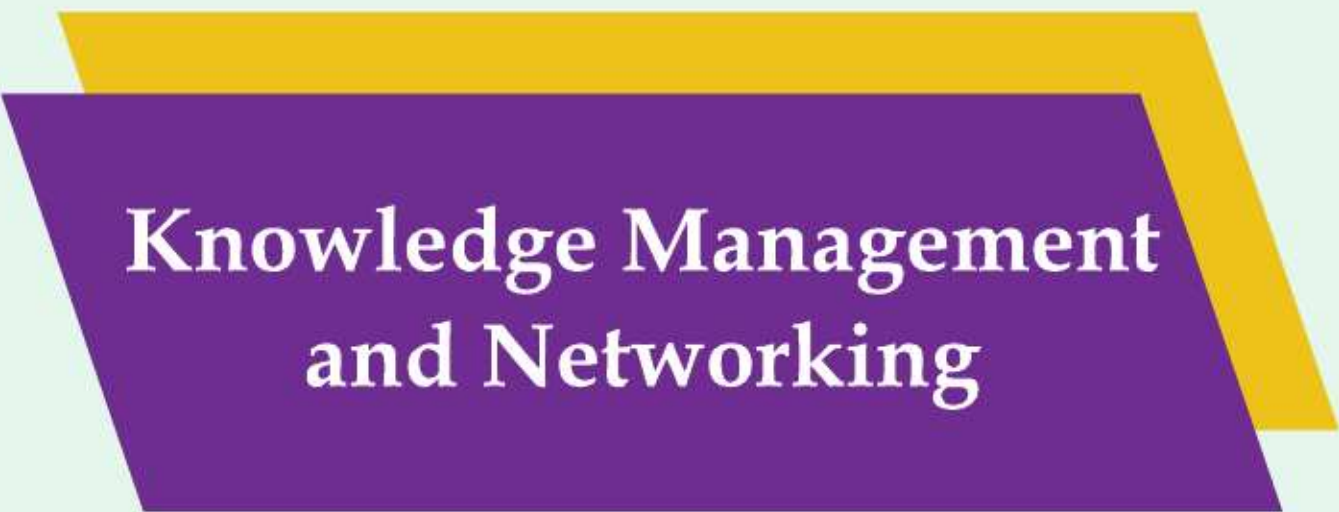


Mr. S. M. Mahbubul Alam, Director General (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, attended the event as Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted the vital role of SAARC in addressing common climate-related challenges

impacting agriculture, food security, and public health across South Asia, and stressed the need for enhanced regional coordination through the One Health approach.



The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Anjum, Director (Animal Production), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). He emphasized the importance of collaborative research, data sharing, and cross-border cooperation to develop and scale up climate-smart livestock systems aligned with One Health principles. The session was chaired by Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Executive Chairman of BARC, who underscored the significance of scientific collaboration and regional solidarity in addressing emerging agricultural and health challenges. The event was attended by representatives from SAARC Member State missions, senior government officials, researchers, development partners, and non-governmental organizations. On the occasion, SAC also launched two new publications focusing on sustainable family farming in the livestock sector and productivity enhancement of oilseed crops across SAARC Member States.



Knowledge Management and Networking

5. Knowledge Management and Networking

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), as a Centre of Excellence, functions as a regional hub for agricultural information & knowledge management and regularly produces a wide range of publications. In this regard, SAC publishes the SAARC Journal of Agriculture, SAARC AgriNews, edited books, and training manuals covering diverse themes such as food security, climate change, and food systems. These knowledge products are widely disseminated among stakeholders across the region and are freely accessible through the SAC website. Detailed information on these publications and their sources is provided below.

5.1 SAARC AgriNews

SAARC AgriNews is published quarterly and highlights regional consultation meetings, networking, lesioning and other important accomplished during that quarter. During 2025, four issues of SAARC AgriNews were published: Issue-1 (Jan-March 2025), Issue-II (April – June 2025), Issue -III (July-September 2025), Issue-IV (October–December 2025). The published AgriNews highlighted the different need based and regular programs) and other activities such as participation of SAC professional and General Support Staff in the events such as conferences, workshops, dialogues with different line agencies, Govt functionaries, SAARC missions etc. These Newsletter can be accessed by clicking <https://www.sac.org.bd/newsletter/>



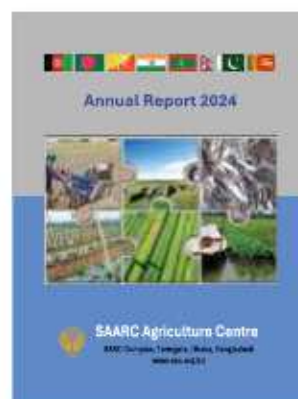
5.2 SAARC Journal of Agriculture

SAARC Journal of Agriculture (SJA) is 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/>. During 2025 two volumes of the journal were published.



5.3 Annual Report-2024

SAARC Agriculture Centre Published Annual Report 2024. The Report briefly showcased all activities and accomplishments carried out during the year 2024. Current and previous annual reports can be accessed by clicking <https://www.sac.org.bd/annual-report/>

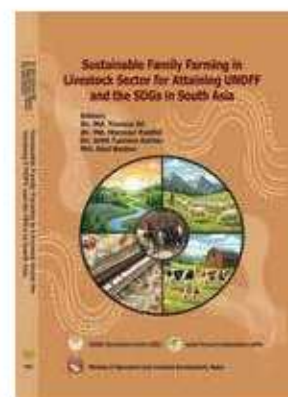


5.4 Edited Books

During 2025 several edited Books were published SAARC Agriculture Centre. These edited books are consisting of country papers presented by SAARC Member States focal persons, policy dialogues etc, recommendations and way forward. Published books are freely available and can be accessed by clicking [www.sac.org.bd.](http://www.sac.org.bd/) /edited books

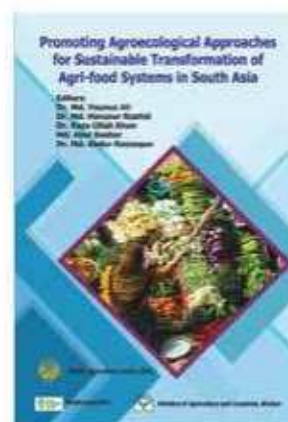
5.4.1 Sustainable Family Farming in Livestock Sector for Attaining UNDF and the SDGs in South Asia

Book Title “Sustainable Family Farming in Livestock Sector for Attaining UNDF and the SDGs in South Asia” edited by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Dr. AHM Taslima Akhter and Md. Abul Bashar. This book contains the country papers and proceedings of the SAARC Regional Workshop held from 11 to 13 August 2025.



5.4.2 Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems in South Asia

Book Title “Promoting Agroecological Approaches for Sustainable Transformation of Agri-food Systems in South Asia” edited by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, Md. Abul Bashar and Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque. This book contains country papers and proceedings of the SAARC Regional Workshop held from 29 to 31 July 2025.



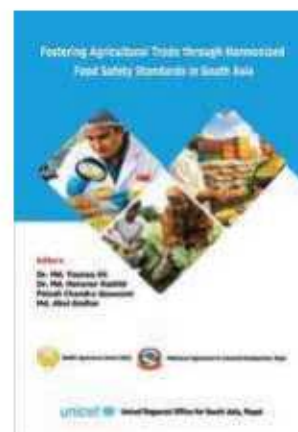
5.4.3 Potentials of Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural Development and Climate Resilient Farming in South Asia

Book Title Potentials of “Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural Development and Climate Resilient Farming in South Asia” edited by Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Chandra Goswami, and Md. Abul Bashar. This book contains country papers and proceedings of the SAARC regional expert meeting held virtually on 23 to 25 September 2025.



5.4.4 Fostering Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards in South Asia

Edited books on “Fostering Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards in South” Asia edited by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Palash Chandra Goswami and Md. Abul Bashar. This book contains the country papers and proceedings of the SAARC Regional Workshop on "Fostering Regional Agricultural Trade Including Fortified Foods through Harmonized Food Safety Standards in South Asia "held during 27 to 29 August, 2025 in Nepal.



5.5 New Arrivals of Books and Journals

In 2025, the Library of SAC procured as well as got gifted some books, annual report and monographs as listed in Table below. These books are available for in-house reading at SAC library

Books Purchase and Gift

- 01 **Disaster Risk and Management Under Climate Change** by Anil Kumar Gupta Pritha Acharya, Singapore, Springer Nature Switzerland Pte Ltd., 2024.
- 02 **Climate Change Science; Causes, Effects and Solutions for Global Warming** by David S-K. Ting & Jacqueline A. Stagner(ed.), Elsevier, Radarweg 29, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2021.
- 03 **Climate Crisis; Adaptive Approaches and Sustainability** by Uday Chatterjee....at all. (ed.), Switzerland, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2023.
- 04 **Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Challenges and Prospects for the Blue Bioeconomy** by Alexander Geraldovich Arkhipov, Switzerland, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022.
- 05 **Biology and Ecology of Fishes** by James S. Diana and Tomas O. Hook, USA, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, 2023.
- 06 **Industrial Wastewater Treatment; Emerging Technologies for Sustainability** by Thirugnanasambandhan Karchiyappan....et all, (ed.), Switzerland, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022.
- 07 **Climate Change is an Opportunity; Why We Need Principled Capitalism** by David Blockley, USA, CRC Press, 2385 NW Executive Centre, Suite 320, Boca Raton, 2024.
- 08 **Water and Environment for Sustainability; Case Studies from Developing Countries** by Naeem Shahzad (ed.), Switzerland, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2023.
- 09 **Groundwater and Water Quality; Hydraulics, Water Resources and Coastal Engineering** by Ramakar Jha....et. all (ed.) Switzerland, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022.

- 10 **Climate Change in Bangladesh: A Cross Disciplinary Framework** by Md. Jakariya and Md. Nazrul Islam (ed.), Switzerland, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2021.
- 11 **Gene Editing; Principles and Applications** by B. D. Singh and N.S. Shekhawat, India, Scientific Publishers, 2021.
- 12 **Technologies in Plant Biotechnology and breeding of Field Crops** by Kamaluddin....et al (ed.) Singapore, Springer Nature Singapore Pte. Ltd., 2022.
- 13 **Plant Breeding and Cultivar Development** by Dhan Pal Singh, Asheesh K. Singh and Arti Singh, UK, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y, 5AS, 2022.
- 14 **Advanced Technologies for Water Quality Treatment and Management** by Mehraj U. Din Dar.....et al, (ed.), CRC Press, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 3000, Boca Raton,
- 15 **Thousand Plants of Bangladesh; A Pictorial Compendium, Vol. (1-11)** by Dr. Mohammed Yusuf....et al, Chattogram, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, June 2023.
- 16 **Soil Organic Matter and Feeding the Future: Environmental and Agronomic Impacts** by Rattan Lal, CRC Press, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 3000, Boca Raton, 2022. 2023.
- 17 **Sustainable Soil and Land Management and Climate Change** by Shah Fahad.....et al, (ed.), CRC Press, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 3000, Boca Raton, 2021.
- 18 **Soil and Fertilizers: Managing the Environmental Footprint** by Rattan Lal, CRC Press, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 3000, Boca Raton, 2020.
- 19 **Artificial Intelligence; A Morden Approach** by Stuart J. Russell & Peter Norving, Pearson Indian Education Services Pvt. Ltd, 2015.
- 20 **Agricultural Extension System; The Way Forward** by Sarthak Chowdhury and Debabrata Mondal, New Delhi, CBS Publishers & Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 2021.
- 21 **Bangladesh Education Statistics 2024** by Bangladesh Bureau of Educational, Information, Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) March 2025.
- 22 **Artificial Intelligence and Smart Agriculture Applications** by Utku Kose....et al. (ed), USA, CRC Press, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 3000, Boca Raton, 2023.
- 23 **Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Practice** by George F. Luger, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2025.
- 24 **Policy Studies & Research Activities of BIDS; January 2021 – June 2024** by Binayak Sen & Humayra Ahmed, Dhaka, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, August 2024.
- 25 **Climate- Smart Agriculture: Concepts, Challenges and Opportunities** by Pratap Bhattacharyya....et al, (ed.), Singapore, Springer Nature Switzerland Pte Ltd., 2020.
- 26 **Rural Mechanisation; a Driver in Agricultural Change and Rural Development** by Sattar Mondal....et. al. (ed), Dhaka, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development, 2017.
- 27 **Agroforestry: The Future of Global Land Use** by P. K. Ramachandran Nair & Dennis Garrity (ed.), New York, Springer Science Business Media, 2012.
- 28 **Practical Manual on Plant Cytogenetics** by Ram J. Singh, CRC Press, 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 3000, Boca Raton, 2018.
- 29 **Theory of Soil Science** by Wesley Lawrence, Canada, Bibliotex.com, 2022.

- 30 **Farming System and Sustainable Agriculture** by Alok Kumar Patra, NIPA Genx Electronic Resources & Solutions P. Ltd, 101, 103, Vikas Surya Plaza, New Delhi, 2023
- 31 **Prompt Engineering for Generative AI: Future-Proof Inputs for Reliable AI Outputs** by James Phoenix and Mike Taylor, USA, O' Reilly Media, Inc., 1005 Gravenstein Highway North, Sebastopol, 2024.
- 32 **Scientific Publication of Dr. Md. Abdul Quayyum; Former Chief Scientific Officer, OFRD, BARI** by Agronomy Division, BARI-1701, Bangladesh, January 2021.
- 33 **The AI Glossary: Demystifying 101 Essential Artificial Intelligence Terms for Everyone** by Richard R. Khan, USA, CRC Press, 2385 NW Executive Centre, Suite 320, Boca Raton, 2025.
- 34 **Complete Adobe Photoshop (Advanced and Professional) with Lightroom & Bridge with Special Effect** by Bappy Ashraf, Gyankosh Prokashani, Banglabazar, Dhaka, 2021.
- 35 **Discussion Paper; Is the Family Farm Disappearing? The Political Economy of Agrarian Futures in Bangladesh** by Geof. Wood and M. A. Sattar Mandal, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207, August 2024.
- 36 **Organic Evolution (Evolutionary Biology)** by Veer Bala Rastogi, New Delhi, Scientific International (Pvt.) Ltd. 2024.
- 37 **AI, EDGE and IOT-Based Smart Agriculture** by Ajith Abraham.....et al.,(ed.), UK, 125 London Wall, London, 2022.
- 38 **Joynob** by Dr. M. Rofiqul Islam Mondal, Dhaka, Vision Media, June 2024.
- 39 **Agriculture 4.0; Smart Farming with IOT and Artificial Intelligence** by Sheetanshu Gupta....et al., (ed), UK, CRC Press, 4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, 2025.
- 40 **Advances in Seed Science and Technology for More Sustainable Crop Production** by Julia Buitink. USA, Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing Limited, 2022.
- 41 **Plant Biotechnology; Experience and Future Prospects** by Agnes Ricroch...et al. (ed), Singapore, Springer Nature Switzerland Pte Ltd., 2021.
- 42 **The 31st BSVER; Annual Scientific Conference (BSVER ASC on XXXI)** by Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh Society for Veterinary Education and Research, 2025
- 43 **Agricultural Transformation and Rural Poverty in Bangladesh; Essays in Memory of Mahabub Hossain** by KAS Murshid & Atiqur Rahman, Dhaka-1215, University Press Limited, 74/B/1, Green Road, 2021.
- 44 **Agamy Bangladesh er dosh koronio (Bangla)** by Nazrul Islam, Dhaka, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, January 2024.
- 45 **BINA Udvabito Krishi Projukti (A Hand Book of Improved Agricultural Technologies Developed by BINA)** by Dr. Mirza Mofajjol Islam...et al. ed., Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Mymensingh, January, 2024.
- 46 **Coastal Disaster Risk Management in Bangladesh; Vulnerability and Resilience** by Mahbub Nasreen....et al. (ed.), New York, Routledge, 605 Third Avenue, NY 10158, 2023.
- 47 **Thesis; Evaluation of Efficiency of Complimentary Symbiotic as an Alternative to Antibiotic Growth Promotor in the Diets of Neonatal Dairy Calves**, by Dr. Kasi Sowjanya Lakshmi, R, Roll No. P-2366, Submitted to the Deemed University, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, India, 2024.

- 48 **Allele Mining for Negative Regulators Associated with Nitrogen Use Efficiency in Indian Rice Germplasm** by Ankur Poudel, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012, 2025.
- 49 **Climate Smart Agriculture; Reducing Food Insecurity** by Samiha Ouda and ABD EL-Hafeez Zohry, Switzerland, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022.
- 50 **Directory of Annual Agricultural Research Program of NARS Institutes 2023-2024** by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka -1215, Bangladesh, December 2024.
- 51 **Basic Horticulture** by Jitendra Singh, New Delhi, Kalyani Publishers, 2025.
- 52 **Mainstream Economics and Bangladesh's Economy: Seven Challenges and opportunities, Series No. (11)** by Ahmad Ahsan, Dhaka, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, E-17, Agargaon, Sher- e-Bangla Nagar, January 2024.

Journals: (Gift)

- 01 **Bangladesh Agronomy Journal, Vol. 28(1-2) June & December 2025** by Dhaka, Bangladesh Society of Agronomy.
- 02 **Bangladesh Journal of Agriculture, Vol. 49 (2, December 2024** by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka -1215.
- 03 **SAARC Culture, Vol. (10) 2024** by Sri Lanka, SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo.
- 04 **The Bangladesh Development Studies, Vol. (41) March 2024, Vol. 43(3-4) Sept.-Dec. 2020, Vol. 46(1-4) March-Dec, 2023, Vol. 47(1-2) March - June 2024** by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207.
- 05 **Bangladesh Journal of Nuclear Agriculture Vol. 37(1-2) June 2023** by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, BAU Campus, Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh.
- 06 **Bangladesh Journal of Forest Science, Vol. 37(1-2) January -December 2021** by Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Chattogram, Bangladesh
- 07 **SAARC Journal of Agriculture, Vol. 23 No. (1) August 2025, Vol. 22(1-2) June, December 2024** by SAARC Agriculture Centre, BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka - 1215
- 08 **Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Research, Vol. 49(1-4) March-December 2024** by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Gazipur-1701, Bangladesh
- 09 **COCOS; The Journal of the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Vol. 19(2) December 2010** by Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Lunuwila 61150, Sri Lanka

Annual and Research Reports

- 01 **Annual Report 2022-23** by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh.
- 02 **Annual Report 2024, Edited by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid,...et al., SAARC Agriculture Centre, BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka - 1215, September 2024.**
- 03 **Technical Report on Bangladesh GAP Validation Trial 2023-24** by GAP Unit, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka -1215
- 04 **Annual Report 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 (Towards building advanced intelligent**

system for agriculture) by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka -1215, Bangladesh, June 2025.

Monograph

- 01 **Mobile Lives: The Quotidian Use of Mobile Phone; (Research Report-207)** by Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 October 2024.
- 02 **Auditor's Checklist of Bangladesh GAP Standard** by GAP Unit, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka -1215 March 2025.
- 03 **Aspiration Freedom and Growth** by Mohiuddin Alamgir; (BIDS Public Lecture No. (02) Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) August 2022.
- 04 **National Action Plan of Bangladesh for Combating Fall Armyworm; Action Framework 2024 to 2028** by Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, January 2024.
- 05 **Looking at the Past to See the Future** by S. Nazrul Islam, (BIDS Public Lecture No. (04) Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) November 2022.
- 06 **Training Manual; Regional Workshop on Pest Risk Analysis using CABI Decision Support Tools, June 2024** by NIPHM
- 07 **The Quality Crisis: New Evidence on Learning in Primary Education in Bangladesh (Research Report-201)** by S M Zulfiqar Ali & Sibana Shahana, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 July 2024.
- 08 **How Have Women Contributed to Bangladesh's Development?** by Sajeda Amin, (BIDS Public Lecture No. (03) Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) October 2022.
- 09 **CABI in Bangladesh; Activities and Initiatives** by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Farmgate, Dhaka-1210
- 10 **Performance Assessment of the Pilot Program of Shishu Bikash Kendra (Research Report-204)** by S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury & M. A. Mannan, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 March 2024.
- 11 **Understanding Economic Development: Some Exploratory Ideas; (BIDS Public Lecture No. (01)** by Wahiduddin Mahmud, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) August 2022.
- 12 **Standards of Bangladesh Good Agricultural Practices** by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka -1215.
- 13 **Trends and Inequalities of Childhood Underweight in Bangladesh: A Decomposition Approach** by Abdur Razzaque Sarker & Kashfi Rayan, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 September 2024.

- 14 **Health Status and Healthcare-seeking Behavior Assessment among Elderly Citizens in Bangladesh; (Research Report-204)** by Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 July 2024
- 15 **Teaching and Learning Experience at the National University Affiliated Tertiary Colleges in Bangladesh; (Research Report-198)** by Badrun Nessa Ahmed and Rizwana Islam, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 March 2024.
- 16 **Learning at a Distance: Assessing the Effectiveness of Remote Learning in Bangladesh (Research Report-203)** by S m Zulfiqar Ali...et al., Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 July 2024.
- 17 **Bangladesh GAP Protocol: Pineapple (doc. 13(1), Potato (doc. 14(1), Snake gourd (doc. 15(1), Citron (doc. 16(1), Cabbage (doc. 17(1), Bitter gourd (doc. 18(1), Stolon of Aroid (doc. 19(1), June 2025** by GAP Unit, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
- 18 **Present Conditions of Homestead Plantation: A Case Study on Cumilla District** by Md. Saleh Ahamed and Abdulla -Al-Mamun, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Kotbari, Cumilla, Bangladesh.
- 19 **Aspirational Momentum: The Development Story of Bangladesh; (Research Report No. 197)** by Tawfiq-e-Elahi Choudhury and Mahir A. Rahman, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 October 2023
- 20 **Agglomeration and Resilience: Impact of COVID-19 on Clustered and Non-Clustered SMEs in Bangladesh; (Research Report No. 197)** by Kazi Iqbal...et al. Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 November 2023

Newsletters (Gift)

- 01 **BFRI Newsletter, Vol 7(4) April-June 2022, Vol. 8(1-2) July-December 2022, Vol. 8(3) January-March 2003** by Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Chattogram.
- 02 **BARC Newsletter; Towards Building Advance Intelligent Systems for Agriculture, Vol. 19(4) Oct.-December 202, Vol. 22(2-4) April-December 2024, Vol. 23(1) Jan.-March 2025** by Agricultural Information Centre (AIC), BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka - 1215.
- 03 **BOBP Breeze; A Quadrimester Newsletter, Vol.1(3) September-December 2022** by Bay of Bengal Program Inter-Governmental Organisation, Chennai 600 018, India.
- 04 **The Atmosphere; A Scientific Journal of Meteorology and Geo-physics, Vol. 9(1) June 2022** by Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Dhaka.
- 05 **BARI News, Vol. 15(4) 2024, Vol. 16(1) 2025** by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Joydebpur, Gazipur-1701
- 06 **BARI Songbad (Quarterly), Vol. 36(4) 2024, Vol. 37(1) 2025** by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Joydebpur, Gazipur-1701.

- 07 **SAARC Cultural Centre Newsletter; South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Vol. 14(2), December 2024** by SAARC Cultural Centre, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.
- 08 **BMD Newsletter Vol. 6 (1, 3) June, December, Vol. 7(1-2) March, June 2022** by (Bangladesh Meteorological Department), Agargaon, Dhaka- 1207.
- 09 **Protttoy, Vol. 10 (33) June 2025** by Bureau Bangladesh, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.
- 10 **BIDS Newsletter, Vol. 9 (1-2) January -December, 2021. Vol. 10(1) June 2022** by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka -1207 September 2024.

5.6 Establishment of Book Corner

5.6.1 SAARC Agriculture Centre Book Corner Inaugurated at Gazipur Agriculture University, Bangladesh

SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC) Book Corner was inaugurated on 22 July 2025 at Gazipur Agricultural University (GAU). The book corner was jointly inaugurated by Professor Dr. GKM Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Gazipur Agricultural University and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director of the SAARC Agriculture Centre, aiming to enhance access to South Asian agricultural research and promote greater academic collaboration across the region.



The inauguration ceremony was graced by Professor Dr. M. Moynal Haque, Pro-Vice Chancellor of and Professor Dr. Md. Safiul Islam Afrad, Treasurer and Professor Dr. Md. Yunus Miah, Chief of the GAU Library from GAU, and Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock); Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops); and Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, Senior Program Specialist (Natural Resource Management) from the SAC. Large number of faculty members and students were present at the inaugural event.

SAARC Agriculture Centre donated around 200 books, periodicals and journals covering a wide range of agricultural themes such as crops, horticulture, livestock, poultry, fisheries, natural resource management, climate-smart agriculture, and policy and adaptation strategies for drought and salinity affected areas.



5.6.2 SAC Book Corner inaugurated at University of Agriculture Faisalabad



The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) inaugurated a Book Corner on 9th September 2025 at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Punjab, Pakistan to strengthen regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing in agriculture across South Asia. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, inaugurated the book corner and praised the initiative as a significant step towards expanding access to agricultural research and information. He said that, the SAC Book Corner would support researchers and students in addressing the pressing challenges of climate change and global food security. The event was attended virtually by Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director, SAARC (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu Nepal; Muhammad Adeel Pervaiz, Director (South Asia and SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, along with other representatives from the SAC, Bangladesh and the SAARC Secretariat, Nepal. The SAC Book Corner is expected to serve as a valuable resource hub, enhancing regional collaboration and providing access to climate-smart agricultural knowledge for Pakistan and the wider South Asian region.

5.6.3 SAC Book Corner Inauguration at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) inaugurated SAC Book Corner at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, marking a step forward in regional academic collaboration. The ceremony was held on Friday and led by Prof. D K N G Pushpakumara, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), who praised the initiative for enriching academic engagement and expanding opportunities for students and researchers across South Asia. The event was attended by Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD and SDF) SAARC Secretariat, Nepal, Dr. Md Harunur Rashid, Director of SAC and Dr. W A R T Wickramaarachchi, Director General of Agriculture, Sri Lanka. Senior SAC officials and academics from the University of Peradeniya, including Dr. Md. Younus Ali, also participated. Dr. Rashid highlighted SAC efforts to deepen regional collaboration and noted that shared knowledge platforms like the Book Corner support evidence-based policymaking. The corner will serve as a dedicated hub for SAC publications, providing students, faculty and scholars with resources on agricultural innovation, climate resilience, food security and sustainable development in South Asia.

5.6.4 SAC Launches Book Corner at Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU), Bangladesh

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) inaugurated Book Corner at Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU) Central Library on 22 November 2025, enhancing access to regional and global agricultural knowledge. Vice Chancellor SAU Professor Dr. Md. Alimul Islam inaugurated the book corner. The event was attended by Director, SAC Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid and Senior Program Specialists: Dr. Md Yunus Ali, Dr. Sikandar Khan Tanveer, Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, Md. Abul Bashar, Md. Aminul Islam Asif and faculty members of SAU. In a discussion session Director SAC underlined initiatives to enhance interaction with higher education institutes across the SAARC region enhance research collaboration and skill development for students and faculty. The initiatives were welcomed by officials and students of SAU and considered it as a valuable step toward fostering research, innovation and regional cooperation in agriculture.



5.6.5 SAC Book Corner Inaugurated at Habiganj Agricultural University (HAU), Bangladesh



The SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) Book Corner was inaugurated at the Central Library of Habiganj Agricultural University (HAU) on 23rd November 2025. Vice-Chancellor HAU, Professor Dr. Syed Sayem Uddin Ahmed inaugurated the book corner. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Md Harunur Rashid, Director SAC, Senior Program Specialists: Dr. Md Yunus Ali, Dr. Sikandar Khan Tanveer, Dr. Raza Ullah Khan with other SAC officials including HAU Librarian, faculty and students. A set of books published by SAC was formally handed over to the university library for display at the corner to be upgraded periodically, for students and researchers.

5.7 Participation In the Amor Ekushey Book Fair, 2025

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) Participated in the 21st Book Fair 2025 (Amor Ekushey Boi Mela) held at Bangla Academy Premises, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 01-28 February 2025. Around 210 books of different categories focusing on agriculture and allied disciplines published by the SAARC Agriculture Centre were put on display at the book stall. The participation aimed at enhancing public awareness about SAC and showcase SAC publication to public for enhance interaction and collaboration. Around two thousand people visited the book stall, and they were made aware about the SAC activities.



Some books were sold in the fair. Ambassador Md. Abdul Motalib Sarker, Director General (SAARC and BISMSTEC), MoFA visited the SAC stall, and expressed his satisfaction on the SAC stall 12th February 2025, as the Chief Guest unveiled the book title “Transformation for Sustainable and Nutrition Sensitive Agri-Food System in South Asia” coedited by Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Senior Program Specialist (PSPD) and Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC. Mr. Sarker added that it would help to increase visibility of regional cooperation of SAC among the visitors. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC and other SAC officials were also present at the event.

5.8 Visit and Participation in the Workshop by The SAC Director, Professionals and Staffs of SAC

5.8.1 World Animal Nutrition Conference-2025

Dr. Md. Younus Ali SPS (Livestock), SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) was honored to serve as the key note speaker on “Farm to Fork: Role of Nutritional Interventions in Poultry Production of Bangladesh” at the world Animal Nutrition Conference-2025 organized on 22-23 January 2025 by the department of Animal Nutrition, Nagpur Agricultural University, Maharashtra, India.



5.8.2 Training of Trainers Program on Gender-Inclusive Agricultural Service



A Training of Trainers (ToT) Program on Gender-Inclusive Agricultural Services was jointly organized by the Department of Agricultural Extension and CABI International on 23–24 April 2025 at SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka. Senior Technical Officer (STO) SAC, Dr. AHM Taslima Akhter participated in the program. CABI experts from Pakistan served as the key resource persons. At the conclusion of the two-day training, certificates were awarded.

5.8.3 Field Visit on Women-Led Organic Agriculture, Poultry Farming, and Community Service Provider Activities at WHH, Sirajganj

A team consisting of an expert from CABI, along with Dr. Md. Yunus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), SAC, paid a visit to see project activities carried out under the "Rural Advisory Services for Women Empowerment" initiative on 25 April 2025 in Sirajganj District, Bangladesh. The visit covered women-led organic agriculture and poultry farming initiatives, as well as Community Service Provider activities. The program was jointly organized by Welthungerhilfe, FIVDB, and Uttaran.



5.8.4 Editorial Workshop

Mr. Md. Abul Bashar, Senior Program Officer (Publication), and Mr. Md. Aminul Islam Asif, IT Manager (Software)—participated in a workshop titled “Strengthening Editorial Policies and Workflows,” held on 23 June 2025 at the National Science and Technology Complex, Dhaka.



The workshop was organized by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), with support from Ubiquity Press (UK) and NMST and focused on enhancing editorial standards, peer-review processes, and journal management, particularly for publications hosted on BanglaJOL. The session was presided over by Emeritus Professor Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury and aimed to improve the visibility and credibility of Bangladeshi research. Reflecting on the event, Mr. Bashar stated that it was an honor to represent SAC in an important initiative dedicated to strengthening research publishing in Bangladesh.

5.8.5 National Seminar on “Bridging the Gap between Gender and Climate Justice in Bangladesh”



Senior Technical Officer (STO) Dr. AHM Taslima Akhter represented SAC at the event from the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) titled “Bridging the Gap between Gender and Climate Justice in Bangladesh,” held on 10th December 2025 at Hotel Bengal Blueberry. The seminar was organized by Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB).

Dr. Shamsul Bari, Chairperson of Research Initiatives Bangladesh, presided over the seminar. Experts from various national and international organizations participated and shared their insights on reducing the gap between gender and climate justice in Bangladesh.

Ms. Farida Akter, Honorable Advisor to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, attended the seminar as the Chief Guest and highlighted current and future initiatives aimed at strengthening climate justice in climate-vulnerable areas.

5.8.6 National Agricultural Policy Dialogue

Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) talked as distinguished speaker at National Agricultural Policy Dialogue titled “Different Aspects of the National Agricultural Policy and the Challenges and Way Forward for Implementing the Agri-Food System”. The event was held on 6th November 2025 and The event was graced by Dr. Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest. The dialogue was jointly organized by Agroecological Coalition Bangladesh, PKSf, Welthungerhilfe, and Bonik Barta. Dr. Rashid shared insights on agroecological approaches practiced across SAARC Member States to promote resilient and sustainable agri-food systems and highlighted opportunities for adapting and replicating successful agroecological initiatives from neighboring SAARC countries within the context of Bangladesh.



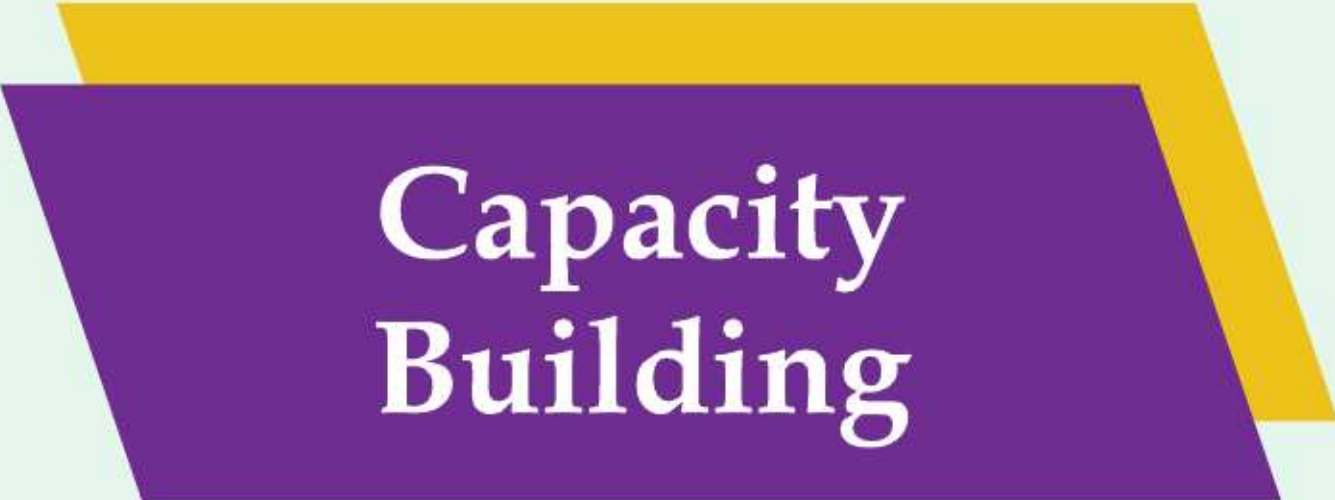
5.8.8 International Conference on “Advancing Sustainable Food Security: Highlighting Regenerative Agriculture Strategies in SAARC Countries.”



Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), actively participated in the two-day International Conference on Regenerative Agriculture for Sustainable Food Security, held on 12-13 December 2025 at Gazipur Agricultural University (GAU), Gazipur, Bangladesh. The conference brought together leading agricultural scientists, policymakers and practitioners from across the region to discuss innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food security.

During the conference, Dr. Tanveer delivered a comprehensive presentation titled “Regenerative Agriculture in SAARC Member States: Present Status and Future Strategies.” His presentation provided an in-depth analysis of the current adoption of regenerative agricultural practices in SAARC countries, highlighting both the successes and challenges faced by farmers in implementing sustainable techniques.

He emphasized the critical role of regenerative agriculture in enhancing soil health, increasing farm productivity and building resilience against climate change, and strategic pathways to scale up these practices across the region.



Capacity Building

6. Capacity Development And Skill Enhancement

Capacity Building of human resources plays a significant role in the growth and development of an organization. Focusing the aspect, SAC is undertaking several long-term, medium and short-term training programs. SAARC Agriculture Scholarship and others skill development program tailored to the need of General services staff, and the best employee of the SAC was carried out in 2025. Details are given below.

6.1 SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarships Program

SAARC Agriculture Centre initiated the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program in 2017 and as of now 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 research program at PGIA, University of Peradeniya and Bangladesh Agriculture university and Gazipur Agricultural University. Complete list of PhD Scholar is given the table below:

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

6.2 Skill Enhancement Program for General Services Staff

SAARC Agriculture Centre organized skill development program on “Advancing Workplace Excellence: Office Management, Communication, AI and Photography” for general service staff from 2–4 September. Resource persons from different academia, International and research organizations were hired for this purpose. Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC, inaugurated the program and expressed his commitment to develop skill and capacity of the

staff for overall increase of institute efficiency and performance.



The orientation session, facilitated by Dr. AHM Taslima Akhter, STO, featured interactive activities to foster engagement and teamwork. Training covered diverse topics aimed at enhancing workplace efficiency and digital literacy



6.3 Best Employee of the Year -2025



It is important to nurture working culture and enhance organization efficiency by selecting the

best employee so that everyone enhances their deliverability accordingly. During 2024 employees were evaluated against common set criteria at preliminary stage (round-1), followed by second tier evaluation of shortlisted candidates (round-2). Based on two tier evaluation process, Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Personal Officer to Director and Md. Harunur Rashid, Messenger were identified as Best Employees of SAC for the Year 2025 and awarded on 8th December at 41th SAARC Charter Day.



7. Warm Reception of Newly Appointed Professionals and General Services Staff

7.1 Dr. Rumana Azad Joined as Project Program Officer for the C-SUCSeS Project

Dr. Rumana Azad joined SAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh, in February 2025 as Project Program Officer for the “Consortium for Scaling-Up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS)” project. She completed her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Botany from the University of Dhaka and obtained her Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, in 2017. Dr. Azad previously worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB), Bangladesh, and as an Independent Biotechnologist at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland. With more than seven years of experience in research and development projects, her expertise includes crop protection, food safety, natural resource management, and agricultural biotechnology. She has published fourteen research papers contributed to books and book chapters, and also serves as an active scientific reviewer.



7.2 Mr. K. Md. Abdul Goffar Joined as Finance Officer for the C-SUCSeS Project

Mr. Md. Abdul Goffar joined the SAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh, in April 2025 as Finance Officer for the “Consortium for Scaling-Up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS)” project. He completed his BBA and MBA in Finance from the University of Dhaka. Prior to joining SAC, he worked in a globally oriented start-up, managing financial operations in dynamic business environments, and also gained regulatory experience through his engagement with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission. He has participated in several professional development initiatives, including financial planning at IDLC and the Young Bangla Idea Competition, reflecting his strong interest in finance, strategic management, and innovation.



7.3 Abul Bashar Joined as Senior Program Officer (Publication)

Mr. Md. Abul Bashar, a seasoned agriculturist, environmentalist, and communication strategist, joined the SAC on May 18, 2025 as Senior Program Officer (Publication). Mr. Basher is a graduate of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) with degrees in Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Science. Prior to this, he served as Senior Monitoring Officer at BARC’s PARTNER Program and was Project Director of Mission Green Bangladesh—an award-winning platform recognized for its contributions to afforestation and climate resilience. In addition to his technical expertise, Md. Abul Bashar has made a notable mark in the field



of agricultural journalism and contributed in-depth reporting and thought leadership to national media, including Kaler Kantho, and has consistently amplified the voices of farmers, researchers, and rural communities. Mr. Bashar also brings extensive experience in agricultural journalism and has been recognized with multiple national awards for his impactful communication work. His appointment is seen as a major stride in SAC’s commitment to enhancing regional knowledge dissemination, research visibility, and agricultural communication across South Asia.

7.4 Mr. Rakiubl Sarder Joined as Driver

Mr. Rakiubl Sarder joined SAC on 1st July 2025 the Centre as a driver. Mr. Sarder brings with him extensive professional experience in the hospitality and service sector, having previously served at renowned establishments including the Navigator Agent, Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel, Four Points by Sheraton and Mohiuddin Zarda Factory. Mr. Sarder holds a Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) in Humanities. and is known for his dedication, professionalism and commitment to providing high-quality service.



7.5 Mohammad Kamrul Hasan Joined as Account Assistant

Mohammad Kamrul Hasan joined the SAC as an Accounts Assistant on 2nd September 2025. He holds a BBA in Finance and Banking from the International University of Business Agriculture & Technology. Prior to joining SAC, he gained over five years of experience in the apparel industry, working in accounts and finance positions at Shin Shin Group and NEW ASIA GROUP. His expertise includes cost control, cost accounting, inventory management, shipment follow-up, and Cost of Goods Sold (COGS), along with experience working in diverse international business environments. His career began at Shin Shin Group, where he served as a Jr. Executive in Admin and Accounts. He later advanced to an Executive (Accounts and Finance) position at NEW ASIA GROUP. Throughout these roles, he has honed his skills working with diverse foreign management, giving him a unique global perspective on financial operations. His specialization in cost control is well-documented. Mr. Hasan's experience includes detailed cost accounting for fashion products, managing and following up on shipments, Cost of Goods Sold (COGS), and inventory.



7.6 Dil Afrose Joined as MLSS

The SAC is pleased to welcome Ms. Dil Uprose Joined SAC as a Member of the MLSS. She officially joined the Centre on 20 August 2025. Ms. Afrose holds a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) in Humanities from the Bangladesh Open University. Before joining SAC, she worked as an Office Peon at Jeans Plus Ltd. from April 2019 to September 2024 where Ms. Uprose worked with dedication, reliability, and willingness to contribute to a positive work environment.



7.7 Dr. Md. Shariful Islam joined as Senior Program Specialist (Fisheries)

Dr. Md. Shariful Islam joined the SAC as Senior Program Specialist (Fisheries) on 29 December 2025. He holds a BSc (Hons.) in Fisheries and MS in Fisheries Management from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh. He obtained his PhD through a British Council-supported sandwich program of Middlesex University, UK and BAU. He completed course on water quality management from UN IHE Delft, The Netherlands. He also accomplished course on GIS from The Netherlands. Dr. Sharif joined SAC on deputation from the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI), where he served as Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) and Head of the Technical Training, Technology Testing and Communication Division. He has been with BFRI since 2012. Earlier, he worked as a Research Associate in a DFID-funded INSPIRE Climate Change project. He also served as Aqua-Internship Program Manager under a European Union (EU) funded initiative jointly implemented by Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand and BAU.



Dr. Sharif is a GOBESHONA Young Research Fellow of ICCCAD and currently serves as the Focal Point of the Climate Change Cell at BFRI. He is also a member of the National Climate Change Cell, Department of Environment and contributes to the Bangladesh National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). He has authored three books on climate change and fisheries and published over 35 peer-reviewed scientific articles. He has presented his work in more than 40 countries across Europe and Asia. He actively engaged in science communication, mass media and has written hundreds of articles extensively for national daily newspapers. Dr. Sharif previously also served as General Secretary and President of the BAU Journalists' Association.

8. Partnership and Collaboration

8.1 Director SARSO Visit to SAC



A delegate comprises Director of South Asian Regional Standards Organizations (SARSO) paid a visit to SAARC Agriculture Centre on 18 March 2025. During a meeting various venues of potential collaboration particularly standard technical committee membership from Agriculture, Livestock and NRM sectors came under discussion. Director SAC, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid along with Professionals, STO & SPOs assured delegates from SARSO for all possible help and coordination in this regard, later Director SAC, presented a book on Food Safety in South Asia to Director, SARSO.

8.2 SAC and ACDI/VOCA Collaborate for Workshop on Livestock GHG Mitigation in South Asia



A meeting was held between the Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre and Vice President of MERL, ACDI/VOCA on April 13, 2025, at the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka. The meeting objective was to share the concept note on the SAARC Regional workshop on “Development of Inventory for Livestock Origin Greenhouse Gases and its Mitigation by Appropriate Feeding Strategy in South Asia” with the dignitaries for implementation of the program smoothly. The workshop is supposed to be held in collaboration with the ACDI/VOCA, Bangladesh Climate Smart Livestock Activity in September 2025, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Later on, some books from SAC were handed over to Dr. Emmanuel Dormon, Managing Director, ACDI/VOCA and Dr. Bidyuth Kumar Mahalder, Chief of Party, ACDI/VOCA, Bangladesh Climate Smart Livestock Project. Dr. Md. Younus Ali, SPS (livestock), SAC officials and senior officials of the ACDI/VOCA joined the meeting.

8.3 Discussion Meeting with CABI and SAARC Agriculture Centre



A meeting was held between the CABI and SAARC Agriculture Centre on 19th April, 2025 at the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka with the aim to discuss the scope of collaboration for sustainable agricultural development in the SAARC Member States. Later on, a book on women’s empowerment for agriculture development in South Asia: enabling policies was handed over to CABI UK office. CABI Pakistan and CABI Bangladesh and SAC officials also joined the meeting.

8.4 ACDI/VOCA Explores Strategic Partnership with SAARC Agriculture Centre on Climate-Resilient Agri-Livestock Transformation

Representatives from ACDI/VOCA held a high-level meeting with the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) on 7 December 2025 to explore potential partnership opportunities aimed at advancing climate-resilient agri-livestock transformation in Bangladesh and other SAARC Member States. The ACDI/VOCA delegation comprised Ms. Elitza Barden, Managing Director and Mr. Nurul Siddiquee, Group Business Development Advisor. The delegation met with Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC, to discuss areas of mutual interest, strategic collaboration and opportunities for joint initiatives aligned with regional priorities on climate-smart agriculture, livestock development and sustainable natural resource management. Senior



Program Specialists from SAC Dr. Md. Yunus Ali (Livestock), Dr. Sikandar Khan Tanveer (Crops) and Dr. Raza Ullah Khan (Natural Resource Management) also participated in the discussion and shared insights on SAC's ongoing and planned regional initiatives. They highlighted SAC's experience in facilitating regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy support among SAARC Member States.

8.5 Memorandum of Understanding between SAC and IFPRI in USA



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) was held in New York, USA on 23th September, 2025. Ambassador Md Golam Sarwar, Secretary General SAARC, graced the ceremony as the guest of honor, while Johan Swinnen, Director General IFPRI, attended as the Special Guest. The event was also attended by Dr. Md Harunur Rashid, Director SAC, Dr. Shahidur Rashid, Director IFPRI South Asia, New Delhi; Purnima Menon, senior Director of IFPRI, Washington and Teunis Van Rheenen, Director of business development and external relations at IFPRI, Washington. This collaboration aimed at enhancing cooperation in key areas such as agricultural research, extension services, nutrition and policy development. Ambassador Md Golam Sarwar expressed that the MoU between SAC and IFPRI would be

highly beneficial in strengthening collaborative efforts. He added that such a partnership would play a vital role in advancing technology development and effective dissemination in agriculture and allied disciplines across the region.



The IFPRI DG stated that cooperation in the areas of knowledge generation and management, agricultural trade, policy innovation and capacity building would be enhanced. Finally, the ceremony concluded with a set of commitments aimed at building a food-secure, resilient, and prosperous South Asia.

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Financial Report 2025

9. Notes To Financial Statements Fund

Two types of budgets are prepared for each fiscal year: Institutional and Program Cost budgets. During implementing the programs, the Centre aims to maintain a balance of expenditure between the Institutional and Program costs. The Institutional and Program costs are shared by all the SAARC member countries according to the SAARC proportion formula. As the host, the Government of Bangladesh provides capital costs and other infrastructure facilities. The capital cost supports infrastructure facilities including office premises, furniture, vehicles and equipment etc. or any other items based on its requirement.

01. The shares of contribution for each SAARC country are as follows.

Name of Country	Share of Institutional cost (%)	Share of Program cost (%)
Afghanistan	3.09	5.26
Bangladesh	47.87	11.28
Bhutan	3.09	5.26
India	18.76	31.92
Maldives	US\$ 500 (Fixed)	0.00
Nepal	6.63	11.28
Pakistan	13.93	23.72
Sri Lanka	6.63	11.28
Total	100	100

02. Contribution from Member States

Details of the contributions received from SAARC Member States and contribution that were due in the year 2025 are given below:

Amount in US\$

S/N	Member States	Assessed Contribution made in 2025 Budget after adjusting with savings/deficit	Contribution Received in 2025	Net outstanding contributions for 2025	Excess	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Afghanistan	64,823.81	-	64,823.81	-	
02	Bangladesh	1,73,170.16	1,73,170.16	-	-	
03	Bhutan	(55,405.04)	-	(55,405.04)	(55,405.04)	
04	India	3,04,451.73	-	3,04,451.73	-	
05	Maldives	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	-	
06	Nepal	1,06,760.78	76,125.91	30,634.87	-	
07	Pakistan	1,23,815.89	58,285.77	65,530.12	-	
08	Sri Lanka	20,523.67	20,523.67	-	-	
	Total	7,39,141.00	3,29,105.51	4,10,035.49	(55,405.04)	

03. Statement of Expenditure for the year of 2025

Institutional budget for the FY- 2025

Amount in US\$

No	Expenditure Head	Amount (US\$)	Expenditure incurred up to December 2025	Closing Balance
1	Allowances for Director and Professional staff	2,13,490.00	88,722.21	1,24,767.79
2	Salary and allowances for GSS staff	2,06,598.00	1,82,876.77	23,721.23
3	Travel cost and per diem	2,500.00	2,361.08	138.92
4	Utilities, Services and Maintenance	29,100.00	17,634.75	11,465.25
5	Printing and Stationery	2,500.00	2,192.54	307.46
6	GB Meeting, Selection committee and their local hospitality, etc.	24,700.00	12,861.31	11,838.69
7	Vehicle, generator and central AC	16,300.00	8,422.83	7,877.17
8	Contingencies	14,200.00	7,742.03	6,457.97
9	Loss Gain on FC Transaction	7,000.00	10.02	6,989.98
	Total (Institutional) budget	5,16,388.00	3,22,823.54	1,93,564.46

Program budget for the FY- 2025

Amount in US\$

No	Expenditure Head	Amount (US\$)	Expenditure incurred up to December 2025	Closing Balance
1	Regular Program	64,300.00	48,071.94	16,228.06
2	Carry forwarded Program	1,40,250.00	11,540.37	1,28,709.63
3	Need based Program New	2,25,500.00	1,08,494.78	1,17,005.22
4	Incidental Charges	3,000.00	796.00	2,204.00
	Total (Program) budget	4,33,050.00	1,68,903.09	2,64,146.91
	Total Institutional & Program budget 2025	9,49,438.00	4,91,726.63	4,57,711.37

04. Project Details for the year of 2025

Receipts		Payments		Remarks
Project Name	Fund Receipts in US\$ (Up to date on 31st December 2025)	Payments Details	Member States	
SDF Funded Projects: "Livelihood enhancement of the small farmers in SAARC region through small scale agro-business focusing on value chain development"	Up to date US\$: 1,33,324.00	Expenditure from project inception to December 2025	Up to date: US\$: 1,32,659.38	The project started in 2019
C-SUCSeS Project IFAD & SDF	Up to date US\$: 21,51,498.00	Expenditure from project inception to December 2025	Up to date US\$: 21,43,430.00	The project Started in 2021. Note that SDF is also involved as co-financing in receipt and expenditure of the said fund.

List of Members of the Governing Board of SAC, as of September 2025

S. N.	Name	Designation
1.	Afghanistan	Member
2.	Dr. Md. Mahmudur Rahman Additional Secretary (PPC) Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Tel.: +880-2-55100021 (O) Email: addlsecyplan@moa.gov.bd	Member
3.	Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim Executive Chairman Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Farmgate, New Airport Road, Dhaka - 1215, Bangladesh Tel: +880-2-41025252 (O); E-mail: ec.barc@barc.gov.bd	Alternative Member
4.	Mr. Karma Tshering Chief Planning Officer, Policy and Planning Division Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Royal Govt. of Bhutan Thimphu, Bhutan Cell: +975 - 17116505, E-mail: karmat@moal.gov.bt	Member
5.	Dr. Sanjeep Gupta Assistant Director General (Seeds) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110 001, India Mobile: +919336119397 Email: adgseedicar@gmail.com	Member
6.	Mr. Ali Amir Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare Government of Maldives Male, Maldives Tel: +960 3322625, Cell: +960 7787254 Email: ali.amir@agriculture.gov.mv	Member

7.	Mr. Mohamed Anees Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare Government of Maldives Male, Maldives Tel: +960 9691330 Email: mohamed.anees@agriculture.gov.mv	Member
8.	Ms. Sabnam Shivakoti Joint Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal Cell: +9851244238, E-mail: Shabnam.shivakoti@gmail.com	Chairman
9.	Dr. Muhammad Qasim Kakar Member, SAC GB and Deputy Secretary (International Cooperation) Ministry of Food Security and Research Islamabad, Pakistan Cell: +92 3337863875 Email: qasimkakar@gmail.com	Member
10.	Dr. W.A.R.T. Wickramaarachchi Director General of Agriculture Department of Agriculture (DoA) P.O. Box. 01, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka Tel: +94-812-386484 (O) Cell: +94-7759-745043 Email: dg@doa.gov.lk; dgagriculture@gmail.com	Member Confirmed as a member
11.	Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder Director (ARD&SDF) SAARC Secretariat Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4221784 (O) Cell: +977-9701157880; E-mail: dirban@saarc-sec.org	Member Confirmed as a member
12.	Ms. Mahfuza Sultana Director (SAARC & BIMSTEC) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Shegun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000 Tel.: +880 1719987565 Email: dirsaarc@mofa.gov.bd	Member Confirmed as a member

List of SAC Staff Members

No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid	Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre
Professionals (Regionally Recruited)		
1.	Dr. Md. Younus Ali	Senior Program Specialist (Livestock)
2.	Dr. Md. Sikander Khan Tanveer	Senior Program Specialist (Crops)
3.	Dr. Md. Raza Ullah Khan	Senior Program Specialist (NRM)
4.	Dr. Md. Shariful Islam	Senior Program Specialist (Fisheries)
General Services Staff (Locally Recruited)		
5.	Md. Abdul Salam	Senior Finance Officer
6.	Dr. AHM Taslima Akhter	Senior Technical Officer
7.	Mr. Palash Chandra Goswami	Senior Program Officer (NRM)
8.	Md. Abul Bashar	Senior Program Officer (Publication)
9.	Md. Saifur Rahman	Administrative Officer
10.	Md. Mizanur Rahman	IT Manager (Database)
11.	Md. Mizanur Rahman	Personal Officer to Director
12.	Sanjida Akter	Graphic Designer
13.	Md. Emdadul Hoque	Store & Procurement Officer
14.	Md. Aminul Islam Asif	IT Manager (Software)
15.	Md. Nurul Wara	Communication and Media Officer (CMO)
16.	Nazmoon Nahar	Librarian
18.	Md. Kamrul Hassan	Account Assistant
17.	Md. Nurul Amin	Driver
18.	Md. Ruhul Amin Sarder	Driver
20.	Md. Kamrul Islam	Liftcum-Generator Operator
21.	Md. Rakib Sarader	Driver
22.	Md. Harunur Rashid	Messenger

The Director
SAARC Agriculture Centre,
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Subject: Joint Audit Report on the Accounts and Operations of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka for the period of 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

Dear Sir,

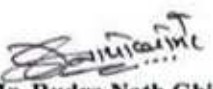
Enclosed please find Joint Audit Report on the Accounts and Operations of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka for the period of 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). The Audit Report consists of the following four parts:

- Part I: Auditors' Report on the Statement of Receipts & Payments of the SAARC Agriculture Centre for the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024;
- Part II: Management Letter including Observations and Recommendations;
- Part III: Follow-up of the Joint Audit Team (JAT 2023) Recommendations; and
- Part IV: Brief Profile of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC).

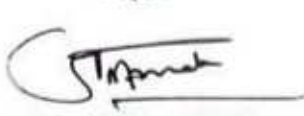
We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the Director and Staff of the Centre for cooperation and assistance extended to us. This indeed was instrumental in facilitating the timely completion of audit.

Yours sincerely,


(Mr. Rudra Nath Ghimire)
Audit Officer,
Office of the Auditor General,
Nepal


(Mr. Muhammad Asif)
Director (SSA),
Auditor General of
Pakistan


(Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudyal)
Director,
Office of the Auditor General,
Nepal


(Mr. Alif Jan Afridi)
Director General (B&A),
Office of the Auditor General of
Pakistan

Joint Audit Team
Dhaka, Bangladesh
28-29 July 2025

PART I

AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE RECEIPT & PAYMENT STATEMENTS OF THE SAARC AGRICULTURE CENTRE (SAC), DHAKA FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2024 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024.

Report on the Financial Statements

The SAARC Standing Committee at its Twenty-eighth Session held in Kathmandu on 19th -20th August 2002 decided that the audit of the accounts of the SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Japan Special Fund and the SAARC Regional Centers will be performed by Auditors each from the current Chair and the next Chair. Accordingly, the Governments of Nepal and Pakistan have appointed Auditors for the Joint Audit Team 2024 to carry out audit of the Accounts of the SAARC Organization. The Joint Audit Team (JAT2024) comprised of **Mr. Alif Jan Afridi**, Director General (B&A) office of the Auditor General of Pakistan, **Mr. Muhammad Asif**, Director (SSA), Auditor General of Pakistan, **Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudyal**, Director Office of the Auditor General, Nepal; **Mr. Rudra Nath Ghimire**, Audit Officer, Office of the Auditor General, Nepal was constituted.

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements based on the financial rules and regulations of the SAARC Regional Centers, which comprise the Receipt and Payment Statements and notes forming part of the financial statements for financial year ended 31st December 2024 respectively.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Rules. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audit. We conducted the audit in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). Those standards require that we comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on auditor's judgment, including the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on effectiveness of the entity's internal controls.

The audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.



We believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements comprising of Receipt and Payment Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 and the fund balance as on date, in all material respects, give a true and fair view of the results of operations and financial positions of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC).


(Mr. Rudra Nath Ghimire)
Audit Officer,
Office of the Auditor General,
Nepal


(Mr. Muhammad Asif)
Director (SSA),
Auditor General of
Pakistan


(Mr. Bishnu Prasad Poudyal)
Director,
Office of the Auditor General,
Nepal


(Mr. Alif Jan Afridi)
Director General (B&A),
Office of the Auditor General of
Pakistan

Joint Audit Team
Dhaka, Bangladesh
28-29 July 2025.