



SAARC AGRINEWS



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Sri Lanka

April-June, 2026

Strengthening Regional Animal Health Cooperation: Tenth SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers' Forum Successfully Concluded in Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Tenth Meeting of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers' (CVOs) Forum was successfully held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 18–19 June 2026, the event was jointly organized by the Agriculture and Rural Development Division of the SAARC Secretariat, the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Forum brought together Chief Veterinary Officers from the SAARC Member States Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka along with representatives from SAARC institutions and international development partners to strengthen regional collaboration on veterinary services, animal health and sustainable livestock development.



The inaugural session was graced by Mr. D. P. Wickramasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation of Sri Lanka, who welcomed the delegates and reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to supporting regional cooperation through such technical forums. He emphasized that strengthening animal health systems is fundamental to ensuring food safety, promoting rural livelihoods and facilitating regional trade. In inaugural address, H.E. Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC, expressed appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the Forum for the second consecutive year and acknowledged the continued technical support of WOAH and FAO.

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Highlighting the growing importance of the livestock sector in South Asia, he called for sustained technical, logistical and financial cooperation from development partners to advance regional initiatives.

The meeting also featured remarks from Dr. S. Piyasiri, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka; Dr. Tomoko Ishibashi, WOA Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific; and Dr. Scott Newman, FAO, who underscored the significance of the CVOs Forum as a vital regional platform for advancing animal health, veterinary governance and transboundary disease management. Representing the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dr. Harunur Rashid, Director, highlighted SAC's ongoing contributions to regional cooperation in livestock and agriculture through research, capacity development and knowledge sharing. He reaffirmed SAC's commitment to supporting Member States in strengthening veterinary services and achieving sustainable livestock productivity. Over the two-day deliberations, participants exchanged experiences, reviewed regional progress, discussed emerging animal health challenges and explored opportunities for enhanced collaboration in disease surveillance, veterinary capacity building, antimicrobial resistance and One Health initiatives. The meeting concluded with renewed commitments from Member States and development partners to work collectively towards improving animal health, safeguarding food security and promoting resilient livestock systems across the SAARC region. The closing session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. S. Kurugala, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, DAPH, Sri Lanka.

SAARC Regional Consultation Concludes with Call for Sustainable Cropping Systems and Biodiversity Conservation

The three-day Regional Consultation on "Cropping Intensity and Biodiversity in South Asia" concluded successfully on 25 June 2026, bringing together agricultural scientists, biodiversity experts, researchers, policymakers and development partners from across the SAARC region. Organized virtually by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), the consultation served as a regional platform to deliberate on strategies for enhancing agricultural productivity while conserving biodiversity and ensuring long-term environmental sustainability.



In inaugural remarks, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre, emphasized that increasing cropping intensity is essential to meet the growing food demand of South Asia. However, he stressed that agricultural intensification must be pursued in harmony with biodiversity conservation to sustain ecosystem services, improve soil fertility, enhance pollination and strengthen climate resilience.

Presenting the objectives of the consultation, Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAC, noted that increasing pressure on agricultural land requires innovative and science-based approaches to improve productivity without compromising ecological integrity. Delivering the keynote presentation, Dr. Pashupati Choudhary, Biodiversity Expert and International Consultant to UNDP and FAO, discussed the impacts of agricultural intensification on ecosystems, pollinators, soil biodiversity and natural habitats. He advocated the adoption of sustainable crop management practices, crop diversification, conservation agriculture and biodiversity-friendly technologies to minimize environmental degradation while maintaining agricultural productivity. Special Guest, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation, knowledge exchange and coordinated policy actions to address common agricultural and environmental challenges across South Asia.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), emphasized that food security and biodiversity conservation should be pursued as complementary objectives rather than competing priorities. He called for stronger regional research collaboration, evidence-based policymaking and greater investment in sustainable agricultural technologies.

The consultation concluded with a comprehensive set of recommendations focusing on promoting sustainable cropping systems, conserving agricultural biodiversity, strengthening regional research collaboration, enhancing policy support and encouraging the adoption of climate-resilient and biodiversity-friendly farming practices. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to advancing regional cooperation and scientific innovation to ensure resilient agricultural systems and sustainable food security across the SAARC Member States.

SAC hosts regional meet, calls for stronger partnerships in South Asian agriculture

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Bangladesh and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), South Asia, organized a regional “Coordination Meeting with Development Partners and Investors” in Dhaka on Wednesday (29 April 2026), bringing together policymakers, researchers’ investors and development partners to strengthen cooperation in agriculture.

H.E. Nazrul Islam Khan, Political Adviser to the Prime Minister and Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh was as Chief Guest of the event, he underscored the central role of agriculture in the region’s economy and emphasized the need for modernization, including the use of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and highlighted climate change as a pressing challenge requiring increased investment. He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to farmers and called for sustained regional cooperation for the greater welfare of the region.



Ambassador A.K.M. Shahidul Karim, Additional Foreign Secretary (SAARC & BIMSTEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh was Special Guest, he stressed the importance of deeper collaboration, practical and technology-driven approaches and the sharing of technical expertise. He noted that agriculture remains the backbone of South Asia and called for a transition from food deficit concerns to a more sustainable agricultural future, moving from challenges to solutions and from solutions to concrete actions. Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Nepal highlighted the progress made by SAARC nations in agriculture and stressed the need for stronger public and private partnerships to achieve actionable outcomes, with a clear focus on delivering practical and measurable results across the region.

Dr. Shahidur Rashid, Director, IFPRI, South Asia, India, attended virtually and described agriculture as a sector facing multiple challenges collaboration with SAC is cost effective and work with several nations for common issues in the region and reaffirmed IFPRI continued support for SAC and the people of South Asia. Dr. Rudaba Khondker, Country Director, GAIN Bangladesh, emphasized the need for collective action to upscale South Asia’s food systems to the next level. She highlighted the importance of collaboration among partners to drive meaningful change. She also stressed ensuring affordable and sustainable food systems for all. She also emphasized the mainstreaming of nutrition in food systems and innovative financing for food systems.

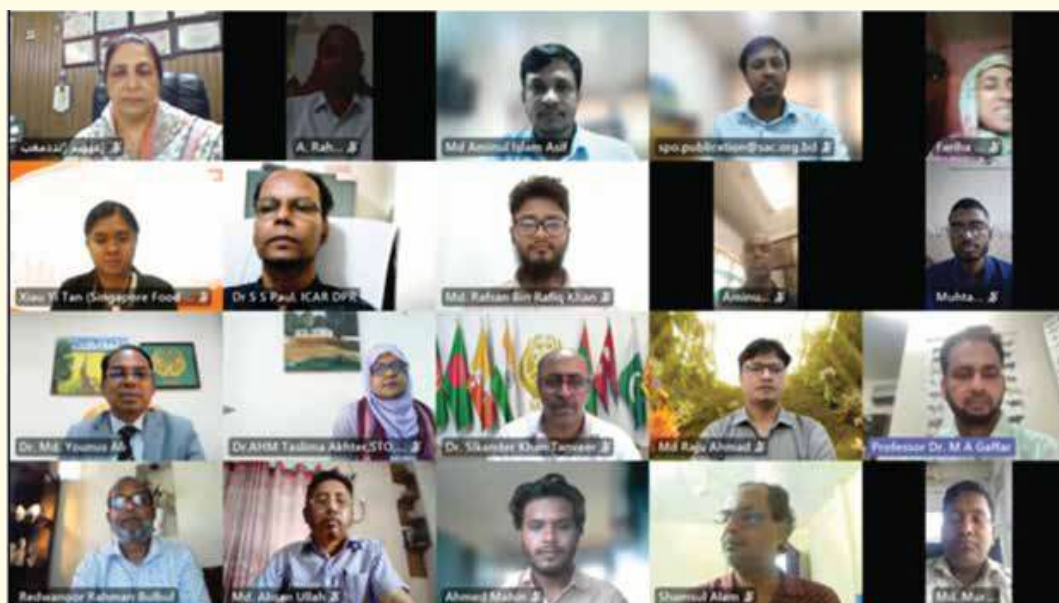
In his welcome speech Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), emphasized the importance of regional collaboration to strengthen agriculture, livestock and food systems across SAARC Member States. He also highlighted the significance of the program in fostering partnerships and advancing shared agricultural priorities in the region. In his remarks as Chair, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre highlighted SAC strategic priorities and highlighted the need for stronger regional collaboration to address shared agricultural challenges.



He emphasized innovation, climate resilience and investment partnerships to accelerate sustainable agricultural development across SAARC Member States. There were working sessions, participated by investors, development partners, collaborators, scholars and researches from various SAARC Member States.

Webinar on Safe Poultry Production and One Health Approach

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) successfully organized an international webinar titled “Safe Poultry Production in the Context of One Health Approach” on Monday (8 June 2026). The webinar brought together renowned experts, researchers, policymakers, academicians, private practitioners, students and professionals from across the region to discuss strategies for ensuring safe, sustainable and resilient poultry production while addressing emerging challenges related to human and animal health and environmental sustainability through the One Health approach.



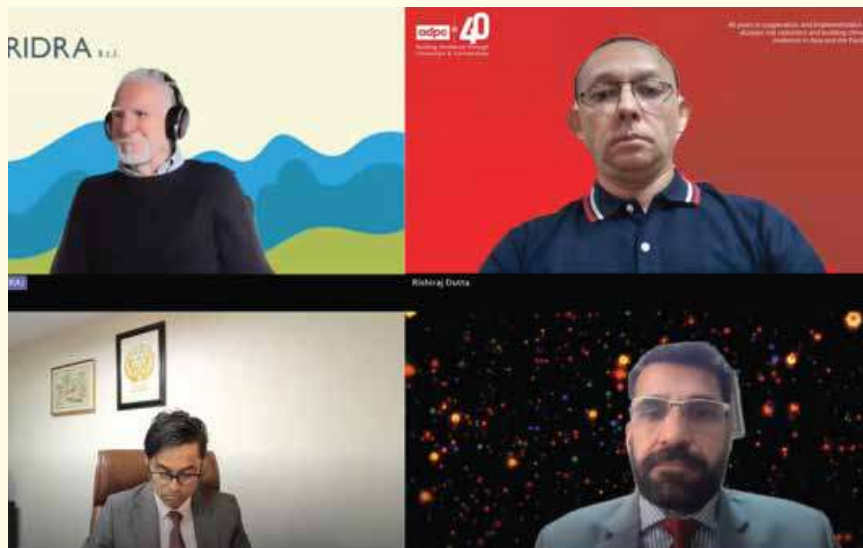
In opening remarks, Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), highlighted the growing importance of safe poultry production in ensuring food security, public health and environmental sustainability. He emphasized that the One Health approach provides a practical framework for addressing emerging challenges in the poultry sector.

Dr. Shyam Sundar Paul, Head of the Division of Poultry Nutrition at ICAR–Directorate of Poultry Research, India, delivered a keynote presentation on scientific poultry management and nutrition. He stressed that improved biosecurity, balanced nutrition and responsible farming practices are essential for enhancing productivity while safeguarding animal and human health. Ms. Xiau Yi Tan, Senior Scientist at the National Centre for Food Science, Singapore Food Agency, shared insights on food safety and disease prevention in poultry production systems. She underscored the need for stronger collaboration among veterinarians, public health experts and farmers to minimize risks throughout the food chain.

The session was moderated by Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), SAC, who facilitated discussions and interactions among participants. The webinar attracted participants from SAARC member states and beyond, reflecting growing regional interest in promoting safe, resilient and sustainable poultry production through the One Health approach.

Webinar on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience in South Asia

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) organized a regional webinar on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) on 19 May, 2026. The event brought together researcher, academicians, experts, policymakers and students from SAARC member states and other region to discuss sustainable approaches for addressing climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risks mitigation in South Asia. The program was moderated by Dr. Raza Ullah Khan, Senior Program Specialist (NRM), SAC.



In opening remarks Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC stressed the urgent need for stronger regional cooperation to promote sustainable natural resource management. He said that NbS could play a crucial role in enhancing climate resilience, ensuring food and nutrition security and protecting ecosystems throughout the SAARC region. Delivering the presentation, Dr. Rishiraj Dutta, Program Manager (Nature-based Solutions) Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand, highlighted the importance of integrating NbS into national development strategies added that these approaches can reduce disaster vulnerability while creating significant environmental and social benefits. Sharing success stories from across the Asia, he called for stronger policy support and greater community engagement to ensure effective implementation. “Nature-based Solutions are no longer optional but essential for building climate resilience and protecting livelihoods across South Asia,” he said.

Dr. Fabio Masi, Technical Director IRIDRA and Vice President Global Wetland Tech. Association, Italy, showcased sustainable and low-cost methods for wastewater treatment and water recycling through NbS. He explained how circular economy strategies and treatment wetlands could help recycle water, recover nutrients and support climate-resilient communities.

The webinar concluded with an interactive discussion session where participants exchanged views on the practical application of NbS in agriculture and environmental management. In his closing remarks, Tanvir Ahmad Torophder appreciated the initiative of SAC and reaffirmed the commitment of the SAARC Secretariat to promoting regional collaboration for sustainable and climate-resilient development.

SAC highlights climate-smart solutions for smallholder farmers

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) organized a webinar on “Adoption of Alternate Cropping System for Risk Minimization for Smallholder Farmers” on Thursday (16 April 2026). The event brought together experts and practitioners from across the region to address emerging agricultural risks and resilience strategies for the adoption of resilient alternate cropping systems.

Opening the session, Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAC, welcomed participants and set the context, highlighting the urgent need for adaptive and sustainable cropping system approaches to safeguard smallholder livelihoods. The expert speakers were Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director of SAC and Dr. Meraj Alam Ansari, Senior Scientist (Agronomy) at ICAR-IIFSR, India.

In his Speech, Dr. Md Harunur Rashid emphasized the importance of linking cropping systems with value chains and strengthening farm-to-consumer marketing systems and the role of early warning systems daily, monthly and seasonal to support site-specific crop management decisions. Dr. Rashid also highlighted the growing relevance of GIS and remote sensing in precision agriculture, enabling data-driven planning and efficient use of resources. He noted that modern technologies such as drones and sensors can help optimize water and fertilizer use, while

improved resources in potential cropping systems.

Dr. Meraj Alam Ansari outlined the multiple risks faced by smallholder farmers, including climate-related challenges such as drought, terminal heat, erratic rainfall and floods. He also pointed to market risks like distress selling and price instability, along with structural issues such as fragmented land holdings and low mechanization. Financial constraints, biological threats including pests and diseases and resource degradation, particularly water scarcity and soil fertility loss, were also identified as key concerns.



The session concluded with an engaging discussion, where participants interacted with the speakers. Closing the event, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, Director (ARD & SDF), SAARC Secretariat, Nepal, reaffirmed the importance of regional collaboration to promote resilient and sustainable agricultural systems. He noted that South Asian countries shared common agricultural challenges and should work together to develop practical, scalable solutions. He emphasized the need to strengthen knowledge exchange, technology transfer and policy coordination across the region.

Training on Digital Skills and Professional Etiquette for GS Staff

The Training on Digital Skills and Professional Etiquette for General Support Staff (GSS) was successfully conducted over two days to strengthen the digital competencies, workplace professionalism, and overall efficiency of GS staff members. The program combined practical digital skill development with sessions on workplace wellbeing, cybersecurity, and professional conduct.



The training commenced with welcome remarks by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC. On the first day, participants received hands-on training on using CapCut for basic video editing and creating engaging social media reels. These sessions enhanced participants' ability to produce digital content for office communication. Another key session introduced AI tools for office work, demonstrating how artificial intelligence can support translation, document formatting, note-taking, presentation design, and visual communication.

The second day focused on Google Drive management and cybersecurity awareness, where participants learned secure file sharing, collaborative work practices, and methods to identify common cyber threats such as phishing and malware. A session on workplace stress management highlighted practical techniques for maintaining physical and mental wellbeing while improving productivity. The final technical session covered the Annual Confidential Report (ACR), emphasizing its importance, structure, confidentiality, and common preparation errors. The program concluded with participant feedback and closing remarks by the Director, SAC.

Overall, the training successfully enhanced participants' digital literacy, awareness of cybersecurity, professional etiquette, and workplace wellbeing. The interactive sessions, practical demonstrations, and expert facilitation equipped GS staff with valuable knowledge and skills that can be effectively applied in their daily responsibilities, contributing to improved organizational performance and service delivery.

Hands-on Training on R Software for Data Analysis, Presentation and Reporting

The Hands-on Training on R Software for Data Analysis, Presentation and Reporting was organized from 17 to 25 May 2026 to strengthen the analytical and data management skills of SAC staff through the application of R Software. The training combined conceptual lectures with intensive hands-on sessions, enabling participants to gain practical experience in statistical computing, data visualization, and reporting using real datasets. The program commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAC, followed by sessions introducing the R programming environment. Participants learned how to install and configure R and RStudio, manage packages, create scripts, and establish reproducible workflows. Subsequent sessions focused on data management techniques, including importing, examining, cleaning, filtering, and exporting datasets using R. The training further covered descriptive and inferential statistical analyses, where participants practiced calculating summary statistics and conducting commonly used statistical tests, including correlation, Chi-square, Wilcoxon rank-sum, Kruskal–Wallis, and Kolmogorov–Smirnov tests. They also learned to interpret statistical outputs and prepare concise analytical summaries.



Advanced sessions introduced participants to linear regression models, analysis of variance (ANOVA), mixed-effect models, and Principal Component Analysis (PCA). Through practical exercises, participants developed statistical models, compared model performance, conducted post hoc analyses, and interpreted PCA results using sample datasets. The final sessions emphasized the preparation of publication-ready tables and graphical outputs using R. Participants created professional-quality visualizations, including bar charts, box plots, violin plots, histograms, density plots, heatmaps, correlation plots, and multi-panel figures using the ggplot2 package and related tools. These exercises enhanced participants' capacity to communicate analytical findings effectively for reports and scientific publications.

The training was facilitated by Dr. Mohammed Abu Sayed Arfin-Khan, Professor of Forestry and Environmental Science, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Bangladesh. His expert guidance and interactive teaching approach enabled participants to develop practical competencies in statistical programming and data analysis. The competencies acquired through the program are expected to contribute significantly to evidence-based research, project monitoring, and informed decision-making within the organization. The program concluded with participant feedback and closing remarks by the Director of SAC.

Skill Development Program on Tally Software for Streamlined Financial and Procurement Management

A three-day Skill Development Program on Tally Software for Streamlined Financial and Procurement Management was organized from 12 to 14 May 2026 to enhance the capacity of staff in the effective use of Tally Prime for financial accounting, procurement, banking, and inventory management. The program was designed to strengthen participants' practical knowledge through a combination of conceptual sessions and hands-on exercises using real-life office data. Training commenced with an introduction to Tally Prime, familiarizing participants with its dashboard, accounting features, and financial management tools. Participants learned key accounting functions, including receivable and payable management, budget and control monitoring, chart of accounts, cost and profit centres, multi-currency accounting, company consolidation, and ledger management. The afternoon practical session focused on banking operations in Tally, covering cheque-book management, post-dated cheque handling, payment advice generation, deposit slips, and interest calculations.



On the second day, participants gained practical experience in sales and purchase management, including invoicing, purchase and sales order processing, and maintaining sales and purchase registers. The hands-on exercises enabled participants to understand how Tally can streamline procurement and financial documentation while improving accuracy and efficiency.

The final day focused on inventory management, where participants learned to generate warehouse-wise reports, manage multiple units of measurement, analyze item-wise and invoice-wise profitability, prepare stock summaries, monitor batch-wise inventory, categorize stock items, and maintain reorder levels. These practical sessions provided participants with the skills required to effectively manage inventory and support informed decision-making.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Shishir Palma and Mr. Ismail Hossain, Senior Executives (Support & Service), who delivered interactive demonstrations and supervised practical exercises throughout the program. The program concluded with participant feedback and closing remarks by the Director of SAC.

Visits BAU and BINA to Follow Up on SAARC PhD Scholarship Research

Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), visited Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh, on Wednesday (10 June 2026) to follow up on and monitor the research activities of a SAARC Fellow under the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Programme in the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding.



During the visit, the Director held a meeting with Dr. Jobedaatun Naher, Head of the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, BAU and other faculty members to discuss the progress of the fellow's research and explore opportunities for strengthening regional agricultural research collaboration. The SAC delegation also visited the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), where discussions were held with scientists and officials regarding ongoing research activities and potential areas of cooperation in agricultural innovation and technology development. Other participant were Dr. Md. Younus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock), SAC and Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAC.

SAC Book Corner Inaugurated at Rajshahi University

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) inaugurated the "SAC Book Corner" at the Agriculture Building, University of Rajshahi, aiming to strengthen academic resources and promote regional knowledge exchange in agriculture and aligned desipline on Sunday (12 April 2026). The ceremony was graced by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rajshahi, Dr. Md. Faridul Islam, as the Chief Guest.

Special guests included Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid, Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC); Dr. Mohammad Main Uddin, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajshahi; Dr. Md. Farid Uddin Khan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajshahi; Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Rajshahi; and Dr. K. M. Mozaffor Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science, University of Rajshahi. Among others, SAC Senior Program Specialists, Senior Officers, University faculty members and students were also present at the programme.

The event was chaired by Dr. Md. Mostafizur Rahman Mondol, Dean, Faculty of Fishries, Rajshahi University. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Md. Yeamin Hossain, Professor, Department of Fisheries, University of Rajshahi. The session was conducted by Prof. Md. Tariquul Islam, Department of Fisheries, University of Rajshahi.



In address, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Faridul Islam highlighted the importance of accessible academic resources in advancing agricultural research and education. He noted that the SAC Book Corner would support students and researchers in exploring regional innovations and emphasized stronger collaboration with SAARC and SAC to promote knowledge sharing and sustainable agricultural development.

Director, SAC Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid emphasized SAC's commitment to promoting knowledge sharing among SAARC Member States. He stated that the initiative would support evidence-based research and foster collaboration among young scholars and professionals in agriculture. He also highlighted the importance of connectivity and access to quality reference materials in strengthening academic and research capacities.

Empowering Women for Sustainable Agri-food System

A three-day International Online Training Program on "Redefining Women's Roles in Agri-food Systems of the Asia-Pacific Region" was launched on 15 June 2026 by CIRDAP in collaboration with SAARC.



The program was inaugurated by Dr. P. Chandra Shekara and Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Torophder, bringing together 167 participants from 20 countries, including policymakers, researchers, academicians and development practitioners. The training serves as a valuable platform for sharing experiences and exploring pathways to strengthen women's participation, leadership and entrepreneurship in agri-food systems. Discussions focus on gender-responsive policies, equitable access to resources and markets, climate resilience, digital agriculture and inclusive value chains.

Together, participants are working towards a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future for agriculture across the Asia-Pacific region.

Director of SAC held a meeting with GAIN

A productive meeting was held on Thursday, 2 April 2026, between the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) to discuss upcoming donor coordination meeting. The meeting was attended by SAC Director Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid and Dr. Rudaba Khondker, Country Director of GAIN Bangladesh.

Among other Officials, specialists and team members from both organisations actively participated in the discussion, sharing insights and exploring ways to strengthen joint efforts in advancing nutrition and sustainable agriculture across the region. The engagement reflects a shared commitment to impactful collaboration and effective donor coordination for a healthier and food-secure future.



SAC and IFDC Strengthen Collaboration for Sustainable Agriculture

The Director of the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dr. Md Harunur Rashid, held a meeting with Mr. Muntasir Saqib Khan, Resident Representative and Country Director of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), at the IFDC office in Bangladesh on 07 April 2026. The meeting brought together key representatives from both organizations. Among those Dr. Md. Yunus Ali, Senior Program Specialist (Livestock) and Dr. Sikander Khan Tanveer, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), Bilash Mitra, Head of Program Development, along with senior officers from SAC and officials from IFDC were present.

Discussions focused on critical areas shaping the future of agriculture in the region. These included food security, nutrition security, food safety, climate change, soil health, regenerative agriculture, greenhouse gas emissions and emerging opportunities in carbon trading.



Both sides emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to address evolving agricultural challenges across SAARC member countries. The exchange highlighted shared priorities and a strong commitment to promoting sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both organizations expressing interest in strengthening partnerships and exploring joint initiatives to support regional development and long-term food system sustainability.

Strengthening Regional Agricultural Cooperation: SAC Meets AFA, Heifer International and Adorshopariseba

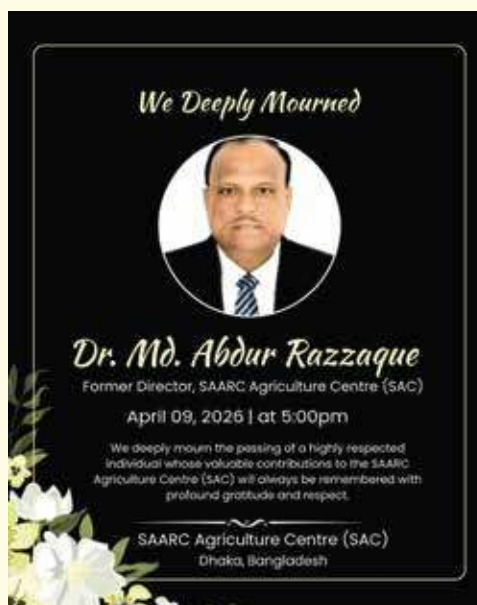
Productive discussions were held today, 24 May 2026, between the Director of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and representatives from Asian Farmers Association (AFA), Heifer International and Adorshopariseba focusing on collaborative initiatives for the development of agriculture across the SAARC region.



The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening regional cooperation in sustainable agriculture, farmer empowerment, climate-smart farming, food security, youth engagement and innovative agricultural technologies. The participating organisations expressed their commitment to working together for the welfare of farmers and the advancement of resilient agricultural systems in SAARC Member states.

SAARC Agriculture Centre Mourns Passing of Former Director Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque

Dr Razzaque was widely regarded as a visionary leader in regional agricultural development and food security. During his tenure at SAC as Director, he played a key role in strengthening regional cooperation and advancing major agricultural initiatives across the SAARC region.



Colleagues described him as a committed professional whose leadership helped bridge policy and practice in the agricultural sector. His guidance and strategic foresight contributed significantly to the growth of the institution and inspired many researchers and professionals. The SAC community extended heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues, praying for strength and patience during this difficult time. His contributions to agricultural development in the region will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude.