



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
**Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security**



Workshop report: National planning for phase 1 of the CCAC paddy rice component in Bangladesh

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Workshop Report

CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change,
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Keywords

Paddy Rice; AWD; Bangladesh.

Acronyms

AIS Agriculture Information Service

AWD Alternate Wetting and Drying

BADC Bangladesh Agricultural Development Cooperation

BARC Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council

BAU Bangladesh Agriculture University

BINA Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture

BRAC Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee

BRRI Bangladesh Rice Research Institute

CCAFSCGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

CEGIS Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Service

DAE Department for Agricultural Extension

DOE Department of Environment

GOB Government of Bangladesh

IFDC International Fertilizer Development Centre

MOA Ministry of Agriculture

NATP National Agricultural Technology Program, funded by the World Bank

RDA Rural Development Academy

USAID United States Agency of International Development

Introduction

This workshop was conducted as part of the mitigation strategies in rice production project, implemented with support from the agriculture initiative of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. The project is carried out in Bangladesh, Columbia, and Vietnam with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Climate Change (CCAFS), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and leading research and agriculture organizations in Vietnam.

The objectives of this workshop were to 1) share experiences with applying and scaling up the AWD technology for paddy rice in Bangladesh, 2) identify key areas, partners, and aspect of work that need to be addressed, and 3) develop a detailed national plan for Phase I of the CCAC Rice Component.



Program

Inaugural Session

Facilitator: Prof. Md. Saidur Rahman, National Project Coordinator

Day 1: Monday, 20 April 2015

9:00	Registration	
	Inaugural Session	Chair: Dr Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC)
9:30	Guests take their seats	
9:35	Recitation from the Holy Quran	
9:40	Introduction	Prof. Md. Saidur Rahman, National Project Coordinator
9:45	Self Introduction from the participants	All Participants
9:55	Welcome Address	Mr Md. Raisul Alam Mondal, Director General, Department of Environment (DOE)
10:10	Address of the Chief Guest	Mr Sayed Ali Nasim Khaliluzzaman, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, in place of the Secretary
10:35	Theme and objectives of the workshop	Dr Bjoern Ole Sander, Climate Change Specialist, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
10:50	Address of the Chair	Dr Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC)
11:00	Refreshments	
	First Session: In-country activities around AWD and water-saving (10 min. presentation, 5 min. discussion)	Chair: Dr Biswal Krishna Biswas, Director General, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)
11:20	CCAC and Bangladesh, projects/plans in DOE	Dr Sultan Ahmed, Joint Secretary DOE
11:35	IFDC's activities related to reducing methane emissions	Dr Yam Kanta Gaihre, Deputy Chief of Party, Accelerating Agriculture Productivity Improvement (AAPI) project, IFDC Bangladesh
11:50	BRRI's experiences and activities related to AWD	Dr Md. Towfiqul Islam, Head of Irrigation and Farming System division
12:05	Plan for AWD test sites	Mrs. Tahmia Begum, Director, Field

		Services, DAE
12:20	Presentation from BADC	Member Director, Minor Irrigation, Mr Md. Atahar Ali, BADC, Dhaka
12:35	BARC's experience with AWD testing	Dr Sultan Ahmed, BARC representative
12:50	Lunch and prayer break	
	Second Session: Activities related to water-saving technologies in Bangladesh conducted by international organizations (10 min. presentation, 5 min. discussion)	Chair: Dr M. A. Razaque, Project Director, National Agricultural Technology Program (NATP) of the World Bank
14:15	Relevant projects in Bangladesh	ADB
14:30	Relevant projects in Bangladesh	CIDA
14:45	IRRI's former and on-going AWD activities in Bangladesh	Tim Russell, IRRI, Bangladesh
15:00	Relevant projects in Bangladesh	RDA
15:15	Refreshments	
15:35	Relevant projects in Bangladesh	WFP
15:50	Relevant projects in Bangladesh	Md. Xinuzzaman, USAID
16:05	Brainstorming/discussion: Identification of priorities and opportunities for collaboration	All Participants
17:00	Day one closing remarks	
18:30	Dinner	

Day 2: Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Venue: BARC Auditorium, Farm-gate, Dhaka

Facilitator: Prof. Md. Saidur Rahman, National Project Coordinator

10:00	Guests take their seats	
10:05	Day 1 Summary	Chair: Dr Sultan Ahmed, Department of Environment, GOB
10:15	Discussion in breakout groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of AWD adoption barriers ▪ Identification of AWD adoption opportunities ▪ Identification of key issues to address in CCAC paddy rice work in Bangladesh 	All participants
11:30	Refreshments	

11:50	Report back from groups	
12:10	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final decision on key issues to address in Phase I ▪ Outlook on Phase II ▪ Information sources on AWD in Bangladesh ▪ Outreach/Communication 	All participants
13:05	Remarks from the chair and closing	
13:15	Lunch and prayer break	
14:30	Internal working group meetings	



Summary

The workshop began with a speech by the National Coordinator, Professor M. Saidur Rahman. Mr Quazi Sarwar Imtia Hasmi, who welcomed all participants to the workshop.

Climate change specialist, Dr Bjoern Ole Sander of IRRI, then presented the theme and objectives of the workshop, including insights of the CCAC Paddy Rice Component in Bangladesh

The Chief Guest of the workshop was supposed to be the Honourable Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture but due to cabinet meetings he could not attend the workshop. Mr Sayed Ali Nasim Khaliluzzaman, Additional Secretary, was present as the Chief Guest. He conveyed the following main messages:

- The CCAC component will help Bangladesh reduce methane emissions.
- The CCAC component, through water saving in irrigated rice fields, will reduce farmer's cost of production while increasing yields in many cases.
- With the expansion of AWD practices, Bangladesh will be able to save scarce groundwater for future generations.

The Executive chairman of BARC presided over the inaugural session. He advised that relevant organizations actively participate in the documentation of the total assessment of AWD in Bangladesh.

- Mr Md. Nazmul Alam of ADB suggested to install a multidisciplinary team to work together
- Dr Sylima Islan, Senior Development Advisor of DFAID, Canada, proposed to work with the coordination of all development organizations in Bangladesh.
- Dr Md. Azgar Ali Sarker suggested to consider the actual groundwater situation and to work accordingly

The Director General of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Dr Jiban Krishna Biwas, presided over the session in which presentations were made by: Dr Yam Kanta Gairhre of IFDC, Dr Sultan Ahmed of BARC, Dr Md. Towfiqul Islam of BRRI, Mrs Tahmia Begum of DAE, Mr Md. Atahar Ali of BADC, and Dr M. A. Ghani, former World Bank staff. The presentations showed the organizations' AWD experiences.

Dr Biswas concluded the session with the suggestion that research and extension organizations should work together to enable widespread AWD application in Bangladesh.

The second round of presentations started with Dr M.A. Razaque, Project Director of NATP. There were presentations from IRRI, RDA, ADB, WFP, USAID, CIDA, all concerning the successful use of AWD.

The second day started with a presentation from Dr Sultan Ahmed, Joint Secretary of the Department of Environment and an active partner of this component and the CCAC Agricultural Initiative. Professor M. Saidur Rahman also presented his PhD research work, which is related to the application of AWD in farmers' fields. The session was presided over by the Director of Field Services of DAE, Mr Sheikh Hemayet Hossain.

To understand and effectively share the participants' views, they were divided into two sub-groups. The participants discussed three key questions regarding the barriers, opportunities and most suitable places for the case studies, with Dr Sultan Ahmed of DOE.

The main barriers to widespread AWD adoption are:

1. Lack of awareness
2. Lack of incentives
3. Lack of timely water supplies

The opportunities to expand uptake of AWD are:

1. It is proven technology
2. It can reduce the cost of production
3. Government policies are in agreement with or specifically favour AWD-related practices and outcomes

The areas of Rajshahi, Comilla and greater Mymensingh were identified as the most suitable s to prioritize dissemination efforts of AWD practices.

The participants also suggested that the paddy rice component also conduct activities with partners in research and extension. BRRI, RDA, BAU, and CEGIS were identified as having expertise in research, and DAE, DOW, LGED/BWDB, BMDA were identified as having expertise in extension.

The Bangladesh Television broadcasted news of this CCAC workshop in Bangladesh as part of its regular broadcasting, called Janapad Sangbad.

Conclusion

The field trip planned for April 22-23 had to be cancelled due to political unrest. Instead, the CCAC team held meetings with USAID (Josh DeWald), IFDC (Ishrat Jahan, Ran Gahire), and World Bank (Patrick Verissimo) and visited BRRI's experimental station.

IFDC is implementing AWD training activities, and USAID is funding dissemination. It was agreed that IFDC and the CCAC paddy rice team will conduct and publish a joint case study on experiences and lessons learned from AWD in the district of Mymensingh.

The World Bank is in the process of designing a second phase of the NATP in Bangladesh. Potential opportunities for complementarity and/or integration with the CCAC paddy rice component were discussed.

List of participants by organization

	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Dr Bjoern Ole Sander	Scientist	IRRI
2	Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashim	ADG	DAE
3	Md. Jahangir Alam Khan	Super Interring Engineer	BMDA
4	Dr Jatish Chandra Biswas	CSO	BRRRI
5	Dr Md. Abdur Rashid	DD (res)	RDA, Bogra
6	Md. Sarwer Mawla	Executive Engineer	BADC
7	Jahirul Islam	Sr. Agronomist	BRAC
8	Dr Md. Asgar Ali Sarkar	Director (Admin.) & DG Machinery	BINA
9	Dr Tahmiua Begum	Deputy Director (Water)	DAE
10	Raffat Zerín	Sr. Associate	UNWFP
11	Dr Towfiqul Islam	PSO & Head	BRRRI
12	Mr Tim Russell	Chief of Party, CSISA-BD	IRRI
13	Sylema Islam	Senior Doc. Advisor	DFATD Canada
14	Md. Mustafizur Rahman	PTO	BARC
15	Md. Aminuzzaman	Director-Training	BARC
16	Dr Mohammad Shahjahan	CSO (Forestry)	BARC
17	Mohammad Abdur Rashid	Soils Asri Specialist	CEGIS
18	Md. Najmul Alam	Project Analyst	ADB
19	Yam Gaihre	DCOP	IF DC
20	Dr Humnath Bhandari	Project Leader, VDSA	IRRI
21	Md. H. U. Parvej	Ps to EC	BARC
22	Mary Archana Costa	Sr. Asst. Admin.	IRRI
23	Md. Abul Malek Siddique	L.A.	ALS
24	Md. Bakhtiar	CSO, BARC	BARC
25	Md. Baktear Hossain	PSO (soils)	BARC
26	Dr M. Kabir Ikramul Haque	MD (Fishery), BARC	BARC
27	Dr A.K.M. Zakaria	Director RDA	RDA, Bogra

28	Dr Md. Rafiqul Islam	Professor BAU, Soil Science	BAU
29	AKM Abdullah Al-Amin	Lecture BAU Dept. of Agricultural Economics	BAU
30	Md. Atahar Ali	MD (M I)	BADC
31	Mohammad Saiful Haque	V. Cameraman	AIS
32	Mohammad Golam Mawla	FBO	AIS
33	Md. Xinuzzaman	Project Agp Coordinator	USAID
34	Ms Dilshad Zahan Ethen	Lecturer	BAU
35	Ms Asha Roy	Student	BAU
36	Dr Md. Abdul Ghani	Consultant	Self
37	Dr Sultan Ahmed	MD (NRM)	BARC
38	SK Hemayet Hossain	Director, FSW	DAE
39	Md. Mahbubul Alam	Deputy Director (co-ordination) FSD, DAE	DAE
40	Md. Abdul Awal PhD	Chief Scientific Officer	BARC
41	M Saidur Rahman	Prof. Dept. of Agri. Economics	BAU
42	Michael Sheinkman	CCAC/IRRI Project	IRRI
43	Dr Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury	Member-Director (Crops-RC)	BARC
44	Sayed Tawhid	P.S.O	BARC
45	Mominul Islam	Project Anotsof, ADB-BARC	ADB