



Anwar Faruk (Right), former agriculture secretary, speaks at a roundtable titled "Quality Vegetable Seed Production and Certification" at the Daily Star Bhaban in the capital on Saturday. Jibon Krishna Biswas, Director General of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) was present.

## Self-Sufficiency in Food

# Stress on building seed production capacity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable on Saturday said that if it is not possible to build own capacity in seed production then self-sufficiency of the country in food will be vulnerable.

They urged the government to take a long-term effort through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) designating the reputed private companies in seed production, not giving loan but allocating grants for them.

The Daily Star and Katalyst jointly organised the roundtable styled "Quality vegetable seed production and certification" at the Daily Star Bhaban in the capital. Former agriculture secretary Anwar Faruk attended the roundtable as chief guest while Director General of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Jibon Krishna Biswas was present as special guest.

Anwar Faruk said, Bangladesh is gradually gaining self sufficient in seed production, and the quality of locally produced seeds is very high. Now some varieties of seeds are also being exported to other countries after meeting local demands, he added.

Mentioning adulteration in seed, Anwar Faruk said all the problems will be resolved if the market monitoring system is strengthened. "Adulteration is causing harm to seed, this has to be stopped at any cost, if necessary there should have punitive measures taken by adopting regulations in this regard. Although we have laws, there is no such implementation of it", Faruk added. He said the government is not for doing business, the private sector will do business and government will provide policy supports and facilitate the private entrepreneurs. This is also not government's job to bring the sector under a binding, he added.

Mentioning that the changes are being brought in the policy, he urged the private sector stakeholders to give input so that the law can be stronger. Laying emphasis on conducting research in seed production, he said research is a tough job and much more expensive and so research has to be conducted in joint venture. Special Supplement Editor of Daily Star, Shahnoor Wahid, Chief of Seed Wing, Agriculture Ministry, Azim Uddin, General Secretary of

Bangladesh Seed Association, FR Malik, Deputy Director of Seed Certification, Gazipur, Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Producer of 'Mati o Manush' of BTV, Rejaul Karim Siddik, Managing Director of Lal Teer Seed Company, Mahbub Anam, Senior General Manager of Mital Agro, Krishibid Afzal Hossain, Professor of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University, Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Principal Scientific Officer of BARI, Dr. Md. Touhidur Rahman, Producer of Agriculture Program of ATN Bangla Mir Emdad Ali, Program Head of BRAC Agro, Sudhir Chandra Nath, Executive Coordinator of Partex Agro, Abdus Sattar and Dr. Ferdousi Begum were present in the roundtable.

Regional Farm Broadcasting Officer, Agriculture Information Service, Rangpur region, Md. Abu Sayem presented keynote paper while Reaz Ahmed of Daily Star moderated the roundtable.

In the keynote paper, Abu Sayem said Bangladesh over last decade has made significant improvement in vegetable production. According to FAO, Bangladesh is dominating in vegetable production and is occupying 3rd position in the world in vegetable production.