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Boost rice production as demand rises: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque directed the scientists, extension workers and officials to find out ways to augment the production of rice as the demand for the crop rises.

“Demand for rice has been increasing each year as the population increases. But the production of rice is still slightly less compared to the demand,” he said while speaking at a review meeting on Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation progress at the conference room of the ministry in the capital on Sunday.

“We must keep the self-sufficiency in food, so that rice doesn't have to be imported each year. For this, the production of rice should be increased with the pace of the demand for rice,” said the minister.

Calling for a large and specific programme to increase the production of various crops including rice in the saline land in the country's southern region, Dr Razzaque said currently the saline area in the southern part of the country has the most potential for increas-



Agriculture Minister Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque speaks at a review meeting on ADP at the conference of his ministry in the capital on Sunday.

ing production.

“The country has salinity tolerant crop varieties and technologies. We need to expand these varieties and technologies rapidly by taking up mega projects there,” he said.

The agriculture minister also said the project should be implemented successfully and at the same time, the impact of the project implementation among the people in the project area should also be measured.

“It will not be possible to sit idle after inventing new breeds and technologies,” he said, adding that “You also have to take into consideration how many of them reach the farmers' field in proportion to the varieties and technology innovations.”

In the fiscal year 2022-23, a total of 72 projects were taken under the agriculture ministry with the allocation of Tk 4,318 crore. Of the allocation, Tk 660 crore was allocated for agriculture mechanisation.

Agriculture Secretary Sayedul Islam presided over the meeting attended by other officials of the ministry and chiefs of different organisations under the ministry.