

For safe farming harvesting before flash flood discussed

Eduvista Desk

Scientists of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) have made a call to take all the necessary measures to harvest ripen crops in the coming Boro season before the flash floods. In this regard, they suggested to cultivate early maturing short duration rice varieties especially in the low lying areas of the country. The workshop titled 'Safe farming of Boro rice: warning and doing', was held at the BARC auditorium at Farmgate in the capital on 19 November. It was jointly organized by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury was chief guest at the inaugural session of the workshop, while Agriculture Secretary Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah presided over the programme. Director general of DAE Md Abdul Aziz, chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation Md Nasiruzzaman and executive chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Dr Bhagya Rani Banik, among others, spoke on the occasion.

BRRI director general Dr Md Shahjahan Kabir and BRRI director (Admin) Dr Md Ansar Ali presented two research papers on the issue.

Initiatives have been taken to finalize all the essential tips and suggestions on safe cultivation and harvesting of Boro crops in the upcoming season of rice cultivation before the flash floods. The suggestions have been processed in booklet form and arrangements have been made to deliver those soon to the concerned people including the agricultural officers throughout the country.



Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of the programme

According to the BRRI guidelines cultivation of BRRI dhan28, BRRI dhan45, BRRI dhan55, BRRI dhan74, BRRI dhan81, BRRI hybrid dhan2, BRRI hybrid dhan3 and BRRI hybrid dhan5 have been encouraged for the low lying areas of the country as they are comparatively short duration and early maturing varieties. And it is suggested to take special care such as early seeding if comparatively long duration varieties like BR14, BR16, BRRI dhan29, BRRI dhan58, BRRI dhan69 and BRRI dhan60 are to be cultivated, because flash floods can destroy the crops even though they yield higher than the previous ones. In case of belated seeding because of unavoidable reasons, it is suggested to follow direct seeding method by using drum seeder machine instead of transplanting, as the measure helps the crop to mature 7-10 days earlier. And it is also suggested to cultivate different varieties, instead of the

same variety, in different lands of a farmer.

Choosing cultivation of early maturing rice varieties, using drum seeder machine for direct seeding as well as early seeding and transplanting were among the suggestions that have been included in the hastily published booklets. The suggestions also included upazila based guidelines showing when, where, how and which varieties have to be cultivated in the country.

Boro cultivation is done in about 4.7 million hectare areas of the country and about 15.5 million ton clean rice is produced out of this season. High yielding rice varieties cover about 3.9 million hectare. BRRI sources said average yield of Boro rice is 5 ton per hectare and it can be increased up to 2 ton per hectare using appropriate agronomic management. If it could be done it would contribute a lot to the overall national development.