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Matia for developing GM crops to boost output

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury on Sunday said the government will intensify its efforts to develop genetically modified varieties of crops to meet growing demand of foods, reports BSS.

"We have to go for GM crop cultivation to boost production from our limited arable land for fulfilling food demand of people," she told a seminar on "Expansion of appropriate agriculture technology: Experience of PKSf" here. Palli Karma -Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) organized the seminar in its auditorium.

Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Dr Shelina Afroz, Managing Director of PKSf Md Abdul Karim, Director General of Bangladesh Development Research Centre Dr Mostafa K Mureri, agriculture scientists, representatives of different non-government organizations and farmers, among others, addressed the seminar with chairman of PKSf Dr Qazi Kholiquzaman Ahmad in the chair.

Deputy Managing Director (programme) of PKSf Golam Touhid placed the keynote paper at the seminar.

Matia said the government is attaching priority to research and development to enhance agricultural production through inventing high yielding varieties of crop as well as introducing appropriate technology.

Agriculture sector is getting high yielding of different crop varieties as the government took initiatives to expand hybrid seeds, she said adding, "There is no alternative to introducing genetically modified varieties of crops to meet our food demand."

"Our scientists have successfully decoded the genome sequence of jute and developed genetically modified Bt Brinjal," the minister said expressing her hope the agriculture sector of the country will get a boost because of these landmark inventions of the scientists.