

BRRI *at a Glance*



Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
Gazipur 1701, Bangladesh

Background

Rice, as a staple food, accounts for about 92% of the total food grains produced in the country. It is the main source of energy for our people. Seventy-five percent of necessary calories and 55% of protein are met from rice in the average daily diet. It shares 76% to the total crop value and rice is the source of cash income for many farmers. Moreover, rice production employs 44% of our total labour forces. It also ensures political stability for the country and provides a sense of food security to the people.

Rice research started in this part of the sub-continent in 1910. However, the modern era of rice research and development started in the mid sixties of the last century.

The demand for rice will be increasing in future with increasing population size. Realizing the importance of rice in the socio-economy and politics, an autonomous organization in the name of East Pakistan Rice research Institute (EPRRI) was established on 1 October 1970 with an 76.82 hectare of land at Joydebpur, Gazipur; 36 km away to the north of the capital city Dhaka. After liberation in 1971, it was renamed as the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) through the Parliamentary Act, 1973 (Act X of 1973). In order to bring dynamism in the management system, an amendment was made by a parliamentary act, 1996 (Act V of 1996).

BRRI operates with 19 research divisions and nine regional stations for research, three support service divisions and five sections. Total manpower of the Institute is 673, of which 249 are scientists. Most of them are highly trained professionals with MS and PhD degrees.

Mandate

- Conduct research on all aspects of rice improvement and production technologies
- Establish research centers and substations in different regions of Bangladesh for conducting research on different problems of rice
- Establish project areas for demonstration of new varieties of rice developed by the institute and organize training of framers for the cultivation of these rice varieties
- Train agricultural extension personnel and progressive farmers on modern techniques of rice production
- Publish annual reports, monographs, bulletins and such other documents relating to research activities of the institute
- Advise the government on rice related policy issues.

Governance

BRRI is an autonomous public organization under the Ministry of Agriculture. A 13 member Board of Management (BOM) headed by the Director General determines and executes the polices and undertakings of the institute.

Research programme and management

Nineteen research divisions at BRRI HQ and nine regional stations across the country execute the research and technology development programme of BRRI. Multi-disciplinary, problem orientated annual research programmes are developed and executed by involving all level of scientists. Research at BRRI is organized in seven programme areas. Each programme area is composed of one or more research divisions called the programme performing units (PPU). The programme areas, component research divisions and regional stations are:

Programme Area	Component Divisions/PPU
Varietal Development	Plant Breeding, Biotechnology, Genetic Resources and Seed Grain Quality and Nutrition
Crop-Soil-Water Management	Agronomy, Soil Science, Irrigation and Water Management Plant Physiology
Pest Management	Entomology and Plant Pathology
Rice Farming Systems	Rice Farming Systems
Farm Mechanization	Farm Machinery and Post Harvest Technology Workshop Machinery and Maintenance
Socioeconomic and Policy	Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Statistics, Farm Management
Technology Transfer	Adaptive Research, Training
Regional Stations	Nine Regional Stations in different parts of the country

BRRRI regional stations in details

Name	Year of establishment	Main research area
BRRRI RS, Barisal	1970	Tidal non-saline ecosystem
BRRRI RS, Habiganj	1970	Deep water ecosystem and Boro
BRRRI RS, Comilla	1970	Favourable ecosystem
BRRRI RS, Sonagazi	1977	Coastal ecosystem
BRRRI RS, Rajshahi	1978	Drought prone ecosystem
BRRRI RS, Bhanga	1986	Deep water ecosystem and boro
BRRRI RS, Rangpur	1991	Cold and upland ecosystem
BRRRI RS, Kushtia	1996	Upland ecosystem of gangetic flood plain
BRRRI RS, Satkhira	1999	Saline ecosystem

Annual research programme is developed and finalized in three steps:

a) Intra and inter-divisional interaction within the scientists, b) Programme area meeting and c) Programme committee meeting.

Annual research plans are prepared based on priority areas and implemented under different ecosystems. After finalization, the research programme is executed by the programme performing units at HQ and as well as at regional stations and at the farmers' field. The concerned heads of the research division monitor the programme approved for execution. In addition, Director (Research) and the Director General supervise the overall research activities of the institute. Thereafter, results of the executed programme are presented in the Annual Internal Research Review workshop, where all the scientists of the institute and also expert members from other institutions take part as a final evaluation process. Director (Research) is the chief coordinator of all research activities of the institute assisted by a Coordinator for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR).

Major achievement

Since its establishment in 1970, BRRRI has made outstanding contribution to the national development through the release of high yielding varieties of rice and improved packages of production technologies. The major achievements are:

