

Research for viable food production

Human development is often termed the biggest contributor behind the progress the country has made in the last fifty years. While garment and migrant workers get appraised from different corners of society for their input in economic progress of the country, the role of the agriculture sector in poverty reduction in rural areas remains unrecognised mostly. It is true that in recent years proportion of agriculture in national economy has reduced considerably, but it is not for reverse journey of the sector, rather for coming up of others. The agriculture sector is still continuing to make effort and impact in the same pace it did a few decade ago, which is why the country has achieved self-dependency in food production despite the reduction of arable land and the increase of population. Actually, the sector provides us with the strong foundation to dream of becoming a developed country.

Innovation of high-yielding and climate resilience crop varieties, extensive irrigation and mechanisation and diversification of agriculture

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are the key contributors of country's immense success story. The brains behind the growth of the sector are the agricultural scientists and researchers who still have a long way to go given that climate change is threatening us with its multifaceted problems, including the rise of the sea level, salinity along the costal belt, extreme drought, excessive rainfall, etc, all of which will impact our agriculture negatively in the future. Therefore, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rightly pointed out the problems and stressed the importance of conducting further research

to boost food production overcoming that challenges. Simultaneously, her call for not wasting food and finding out ways whether others' needs can be met from surplus food is of the essence of mitigating food crisis in poorer countries of the world.

There is no option but to conduct research on different fronts in unison since it will help the country shun unpleasant incidents like famine and brave the food-related challenges like achieving Zero Hunger goal of SDG. Concurrently, it will offer us enormous opportunities to earn foreign exchange once the country would produce surplus food. We hope that like in the previous fifty years our unsung heroes (agricultural scientists and researches) will continue surprising the country with smart inventions and strengthening the country's economy further.