

U. S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DACCA, BANGLADESH

MEMO

To : Mr. Arnold J. Radi, Chief(A), AGR December 16, 1978
From : Akhter Uddin Ahmed, Agriculture Dev. Specialist, AGR
Subject : Field Trip Report on Wheat Program in the Northern Region

I made a field trip to Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur and Dinajpur Districts of Rajshahi Division from December 6 thru 11, 1978 to appraise the 1978-79 wheat strategy in this region. This report briefly covers research, seed production, seed distribution, extension and cultivation aspects of wheat.

Research:

I visited the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Ishurdi and observed the experimental strains of wheat in the research fields. Mr. Matiur Rahman, Senior Scientific Officer, informed that at present emphasis is mainly on screening and selection of materials which are grown in the research fields. The name of materials, number of experiments and number of lines/strains grown are shown in Annex 'A'. Selections are made on the basis of yield, maturity, disease resistance, quality and other agronomical characters such as plant height, tillering, head type, etc. Experiments are conducted on both irrigated and non-irrigated conditions. The main objective of research work is to recommend improved varieties for general cultivation.

Seed Production:

I visited BADC's Tebnia Seed Multiplication Farm at Ishurdi. Mr. Harun Rashid, Farm Superintendent reported that, 225 acres of farm land are under wheat cultivation for this season, of which 189 acres are under Shonalika and 36 acres are under Norteno varieties. In addition, contract farmers are cultivating wheat in about 1000 acres around Tebnia farm for seed production for BADC. The seed produced at Tebnia farm and procured from the contract growers are processed at the seed Processing Center (near Tebnia Farm) and then despatched to different Districts.

Seed Supply:

BADC supplies wheat seeds (locally produced and imported) to different districts. The despatching program of locally produced and imported wheat seeds to Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur and Dinajpur Districts are shown in Annex B, C and D. After receiving the consignment, respective District Seed Officers (DSO) of BADC send the seed to different thana sales stores from where farmers buy seed. The DSO, Bogra reported that it is inconvenient to buy seed for many farmers who live far from the thana sales stores. He recommends that there should be seed sales stores at the union level. However, BADC supplies only about 15 percent of the total seed required. The remainder comes from seed that farmers save themselves and sell to each other.

Extension:

I visited the District Extension Office at Bogra and met Mr. Rafiq Ahmed, District Extension Officer, and Mr. W. Zaman, Crop Production Specialist (Cereal). They reported that last year's targetted acreage of wheat cultivation in Bogra District was 24,000 acres, and 33,000 acres were brought under wheat cultivation in this District. Districtwise targetted acreage of wheat cultivation for the current season for Bogra, Pabna, Rangpur and Dinajpur Districts are presented here:

<u>District</u>	<u>Targetted Acreage</u>
1. Bogra	44,000 acres
2. Pabna	68,000 "
3. Rangpur	22,000 "
4. Dinajpur	35,000 "

As years go by, the farmers are cultivating more and more wheat.

The Village Extension Agents (VEA) train the farmers through training and visits and motivate them to adopt improved technology and cultural practices. VEAs also motivate the farmers to grow BR-3 and BR-4 varieties of T. Aman, which are harvested around mid-November so that the farmers growing wheat after T. Aman can sow wheat on time (within November) to get optimum yields.

Cultivation:

In many fields, wheat was at seedling stage. In Rangpur District, less wheat fields were noticed, and tobacco was widely grown, which seemed to be more profitable enterprise. In many fields, specially in Bogra, Rangpur and Dinajpur Districts, I found T. Aman crops yet to be harvested, which would cause late sowing of wheat if farmers at all cultivate wheat in those fields. Time of sowing is an important determinant of productivity. For optimum yields, wheat should be sown within November. As I travelled about, it became evident that quite a bit of land would remain fallow till the next aus season, some farmers reported that they cannot grow wheat or any rabi crops since irrigation facilities were not available. There was essentially no rains in late monsoon this year. The monsoon season draught hampers wheat and other rabi crop cultivation, because there is less moisture content in the soil.

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**WHEAT MATERIAL EXPERIMENT AT REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH STATION, ISHURDI**

**Number of Number of
Experiments Strains**

A. Irrigated Experiments:

1.	Preliminary Yield Trails ('A' trial)	5	100
2.	Secondary Yield Trials ('B' trial)	2	32
3.	Advance Yield Trial ('M' trial)	1	10
4.	International Bread, Wheat Screening Nursery (IBWSN)	1	465
5.	Bangladesh Screening Nursery (BSN)	1	57
6.	Regional Disease Trap Nursery (RDTN)	1	150
7.	Preliminary Observation Nursery (PON)	1	150
8.	Regional Wheat Yield Trial (RWYT)	1	24
9.	International Spring Wheat Screening Nursery (ISWSN)	1	25
10.	Observation Trial of Newly Evolved Wheat Variety	1	13
11.	Increase of Pure Seeds	-	9 reco- mmended varieties

B. Non-Irrigated Experiments:

1.	PYT ('A' trial)	1	20
2.	SYT ('B' trial)	1	16
3.	AYT ('M' trial)	1	10
4.	Observation trial	1	9
5.	Observation of Triticale and Durum	1	6
6.	PON	1	150

**DESPATCHING PROGRAM OF LOCALLY PRODUCED WHEAT
SEEDS FROM SEED PROCESSING CENTERS TO PABNA, BOGRA
RANGPUR AND DINAJPUR DISTRICTS**

Name of Processing Center	Consignee	Distribution (In Maunds)
Chuadanga	Pabna	1440
	Rangpur	500
	Dinajpur	1000
Tebnia	Pabna	2500
	Bogra	1000
Rangpur	Rangpur	3800
	Bogra	5300
	Dinajpur	4000

Source: BADC (Seed Processing & Preservation Division)
Date : October 7, 1978

**MOVEMENT PLAN OF IMPORTED INDIAN ^{1/} WHEAT SEED
TO PABNA, BOGRA, RANGPUR AND DINAJPUR DISTRICTS**

Consignee	Quantity to be despatched (In Maunds)	A C T I O N
DSO, Pabna	3300	Seed Agronomist, Chuadanga would send the seed by train to Ishurdi. Seed Agronomist, Tebnia would carry the seed by his truck and hand over the same to DSO, Pabna
DSO, Bogra	1000	Seed Agronomist, Chuadanga would send the seed to DSO Bogra by truck.
DSO, Rangpur	2800	Seed Agronomist, Chuadanga would send the seed by train to Saidpur and Seed Agronomist, Rangpur would take delivery from Saidpur railway station and hand over the seed to DSO Rangpur.
DSO, Dinajpur	7900	Seed Agronomist, Chuadanga would send the seed to Fulbari railway station. Seed Agronomist, Rangpur would take delivery from Fulbari Station and hand over the seed to DSO Dinajpur.

1/ 45,900 maunds of Sonalika wheat seed is imported from India, and reaches Indian Border at Darsana. Deputy Manager (Movement), BADC, Khulna would receive the seed and hand over to Seed Agronomist, Chudanga seed Processing Center, BADC.

MOVEMENT PLAN OF IMPORTED AMERICAN ^{1/} WHEAT
SEED TO BOGRA, RANGPUR, DINAJPUR AND PABNA DISTRICTS

Consignee	Quantity to be despatched (In Maunds)	A C T I O N
DSO, Bogra	1000	BADC Manager (Shipping) would hand over 13700 maunds seed to Seed Agronomist, Chittagong, who would despatch the seed to different consignees by truck/train.
DSO, Rangpur	1000	
DSO, Dinajpur	2200	
DSO, Pabna	1400	Manager (Shipping) would despatch 9000 maunds of seed to Khulna by river. Seed Agronomist, Chuadanga would receive the seed at Khulna Port and arrange despatch of the same to different consignees by truck/train.

1/ 45900 maunds of wheat seed is imported from America. Manager (Shipping), BADC, Chittagong would clear the consignment and despatch the seed as per program.

Source: BADC (Seed Processing & Preservation Division).
Date : October 7, 1978.