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# RSSN 1990



Annual Report of the Rural Social Science Network  
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the Ford Foundation

# RSSN

# 1990



The logo on the cover of of this report showing the seven natural philosophers (i.e. Smith, Malthus, Mill, Marshall, Keynes, Ricardo and Marx) in critical discussions around the table, is a symbol of the Rural Social Sciences Network. The oval table is similar in shape to that used by rural social scientists from all over Bangladesh and abroad in the RSSN network office in the BARC. The logo is taken from the book, "Economists for Beginners," written and illustrated by Bernard Canavan (1982) published by the Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative Society Ltd., which our network member, Dr. M.A.S. Mandal, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics at the Bangladesh Agricultural University is at present translating into Bangla for students in Bangladesh.

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## FOREWORD

# BREACHING THE MUDWALLS OF THE MIND



*Farmers and fishermen participate in breaching mud-wall embankments (as in this photograph) to allow the free movement of water - outwards when stagnant rain water is ponded within, and inwards bringing river water for increased agricultural productivity.*

*The hundreds of women and men who breached the Dakatia embankment on September 18th, 1990 after Mahasamabesh (great mobilisation) may have shown the way ahead for the rural social sciences in Bangladesh.*

*This annual report of the network explores ways of strengthening human resource capacity through a lifelong approach to human resource development which breaches the mudwalls of the mind so as to allow the free inward and outward flow of information and a healthy freedom of expression with the give and take of ideas in an open society.*

The delta lands of Bangladesh traditionally have been resource rich. They have been rich in: fertile silts, aquatic resources (both inland and marine), energy in the form of natural gas, and perhaps the most important resource of all, the cultural heritage and people - a culture that rose above deltaic flooding and did not hide behind mud walls. Development of the delta's human resources is the key to Bangladesh's future prosperity.

In the 21st century, Bangladesh will require visionary leaders - men and women who will build again a rich civilisation from the delta and its hinterland - professionals with the passionate conviction to make Bangladesh the trading entrepot of Asia - people who are bent on shaking off poverty, hunger, and debt, and committed to building new institutions to sustain productivity for future generations. Such new vision requires not only that some of the inappropriately planned mudwalls of the deltaic landscape be removed, but rather that the mud walls of the mind, or cognitive blockages, be breached.

As with all resources, people are part of our inheritance, but productive leadership is derived from each person's environment of opportunities, from their culture, their world view, and their command over technology. Sustaining such leadership requires a continued striving for quality, critique, analytical honing and reflection. In a nutshell, the mudwall analogy is used to raise the question of how to maintain academic integrity and to cut through the deadwood and non-creative thinking of the establishment.

There are four distinct "mudwalls" which require breaching by human resource development:

- The often artificial line dividing the social and biological/environmental sciences. Winrock International's mandate "to reduce poverty and hunger" requires a multi-disciplinary approach and the picking up of future leaders from the social/physical/engineering and plant sciences.
- The lack of academic training and resulting lack of confidence to implement the research studies required in the national interest.
- Prevalent structural constraints in institutions which bar competent people from participating in such studies.
- The lack of negotiating and bargaining power with donors needed to redefine the research agenda such that it is in accordance with the goals of sustainable national development.

### **Traditional Human Resource Development Programs**

Traditionally human resource development programs in countries like Bangladesh have often contributed to the brain drain and have been likened to the flight of a hot air balloon." Little thought was given to helping students on their return from studies overseas to contribute their required skills to national needs. Students, often those with connections to the power structure rather than merit or aptitude, were sent off on a Ph.D. grant for three years to a western university, so as to quickly use up the remaining \$100,000 training money before the project period ended. Many Ph.D. programmes in the social sciences in western universities in reality

have a duration of at least four and often five years, if not more, when field-work in the home country is encouraged. The three year G.O. (government order) may initially be extended, but colleagues, with an eye on a vacant position, may manoeuvre to cut the umbilical cord - the students then lose their government job, and indeed may temporarily lose their "raison-d'etre," before joining lucrative positions overseas. The nation loses not only the \$100,000 investment for Ph.D. training, but also the lifelong returns on that investment. Most importantly, the nation loses the urge to invest further in foreign training - the urge to **"strengthen Bangladeshi machines abroad in order to build better machines at home."**\*

After their return to Bangladesh, there are some foreign degree holders who may prefer to stay in Bangladesh, but find that working conditions make it impossible to continue because of :

- Insufficient research support.
- Lack of financial incentives and poor salary structures.
- No critical mass of people for intellectual interaction in their particular areas of expertise.
- The structural constraints in institutions referred to earlier.

### **A Lifelong Approach to Human Resource Development**

What then can a grant-managing institution like the Human Resources Development Program of the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, with its mandate to **"reduce poverty and hunger through sustainable agri-**

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\*Reference adapted from 1987 HRDP (Winrock International) program review.

**cultural development and natural resource management," do to strengthen human resource capabilities so as to remove the mudwalls of the mind?**

Winrock International's Human Resource Development Program in Bangladesh began Ph.D. training for erstwhile East Pakistan, where the present President of Winrock International, Mr. Robert D. Havener, began work with the Comilla Academy for Rural Development. One of the antecedent organisations, the Agricultural Development Council (A/D/C) sent out the first scholar for Ph.D. training from the Bangladesh Agricultural University in 1959. The scholar returned and served on Bangladesh's first Planning Commission as a Divisional Chief. An office was then set up in Dhaka in 1975 to increase the number of trainees. Today almost 50 master's students and over 25 Ph.D's have been sent for training. At the end of 1990, in the transition to democracy, five Winrock returned trainees, and about 20 Rural Social Science Network Members served on the Presidential Advisor's Task Forces on Land, Water and Agricultural Issues.

The two objectives of the present TAPP (Technical Assistance Project Proposal) of the Program in Bangladesh should be reordered thus;\*

**Goal: To support the growth of self sustaining policy analysis capabilities within Bangladesh**

**Objectives:**

- **To strengthen social scientists' capacity for policy analysis in agriculture and natural resource management.**
- **To develop a Rural Social Science Network.**

This annual report for 1990 provides an opportunity for the Rural Social Science Network, which is managed by Winrock International in collaboration with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, to highlight some of the program achievements, the on-going work, and the foundations being laid for the future.

The program uses a **lifelong approach to human resource development** with emphasis on the individual to achieve its objectives. It does not merely send students off for foreign training, but rather tries to support their professional development before and after the main period of foreign training. In conceptual terms supporting the professional development of rural social scientists must include supporting the asking of critical questions about conventional wisdom, established paradigms, and received doctrines obtained from:

- **outside** the culture, and applied without critical assessment of their appropriateness to the Bangladeshi context.
- **inside** the culture ("**Guru-Mukhi Shikkha**"), without critical assessment of their continued relevance, given the changing environment of Bangladesh.

**The Roots of Human Resource Development**

Whether it be the hydrophobic roots of rice, the rhizophora or buttress roots of mangroves around the deltaic fringe, or the raised roots of bamboo grasses raised on the homesteads above the floodwaters of Bangladesh; it is the roots, or early years of life which are the foundations of capacity building, when individuals' abilities are strengthened to cope with the winds of change. Great efforts should be made to ensure that the cutting edges of research in natural

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\* The reordering was suggested by a meeting of the RSSN Coordination Committee who evaluated this foreword on March 9th, 1991.

resource and environmental management are transformed into story form for the school children of Bangladesh. Documenting knowledge of traditional technologies and traditional socio-cultural systems will also provide important knowledge gene-banks for the young. Greater emphasis in future should be given to the learning system of Bangladeshi children ensuring that their syllabus encourages a social understanding of the life sciences through visiting different village study sites. The learning systems of Bangladeshi high school children should be meshed with on-line computer simulations of agricultural systems such as will be possible with the HRDP-(Winrock International) computer network and village studies for secondary school pupils. The holistic mind of the child can, and must, mesh knowledge of local aquatic and terrestrial technologies with the sensitivities of the stockmarkets in Tokyo and the rice yields in Arkansas.

This learning process should not be one way, with children only learning from their elders, because the perceptions of children should also be captured for future policy analysis. Bangladesh in the 21st century will be their home and their country to nurture for their future children.

Agricultural research and natural resource development must therefore link with the school systems of Bangladesh. The brightest minds in the various school board examinations must and can be encouraged in that direction by visits to farming systems sites and perhaps by a personal congratulatory letter pointing to natural resource management as a future vocational challenge.

In the colleges and universities of Bangladesh the deltaic agro-ecosystems of the country should become the laboratories and the practical field sessions for students. The hard pan of petrified

knowledge, sanctified by patron-client relationships between student and professor, should be replaced by critical discussion groups challenging the old and welcoming the new. Local university degree programmes, both public and private should receive support for: theses, rural social science papers, research support, and the preparation and production of key textbooks in Bangla and English for distribution free of cost or at moderate cost to meet expenses. These are important for strengthening the social base of human development.

Before sending off students for foreign Masters' and Ph.D. training, reflections upon the aim of this capacity building exercise are in order. In the master's degree, the apprentice researcher sits at the feet of the master and learns the trade or the discipline until she or he has mastered the trade. This in some instances can sometimes be completed better within Bangladesh. Indeed the well run advanced training course in economics run by the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies in collaboration with faculty from the Bangladesh Universities and the National Agricultural Research System has the potential to be one of the strongest trade apprenticeships in the world. In contrast, someone wishing to secure master's level training in forest economics or the sociology of natural resource management, will have to undergo foreign training and then return to strengthen national training institutions, both public and private.

In contrast to those studying for a Masters degree, the student working towards a Ph.D. degree, rather than sitting at the feet of the master, has to use the master as a foil to test her or his own counter intuitive philosophy not only against that of the master, but against all known enquiring systems throughout the world. In some areas of enquiry, the cutting edge of the

knowledge to be challenged may rest with scholars in Bangladesh. In such cases a local Ph.D., with the opportunity to then travel and challenge the international system may be appropriate. In other cases the Asia - Pacific region may be the world centre of knowledge in some matters- tropical or environmental. The awe of western universities still exists and is often justified in terms of the breadth of enquiring systems developed across the centuries, but this is not always the case. It depends upon the specific needs of the student - the enquirer - the future "mudwall breacher".

Before sending off students for foreign training, great care must be taken in selecting the best options for the particular fellows going on training - sometimes such a course may be arranged as a sandwich course - with some of the degree programme taken at one university while the bulk of the degree is taken either at another university or at an international research institute.

### **Pre-Degree Training**

The preparation for degree training may be in the form of technical, linguistic, or vocational development. Prospective fellows may either strengthen their rural social science capabilities by further coursework or tutoring either in Bangladesh or abroad. Others from natural resource management related disciplines, like water resource engineering, genetics, or agronomy, can take the first steps into social science disciplines.

It is difficult for any student to write a foreign thesis in English, if they do not already have basic English essay writing skills. Bangla medium students from distant rural areas can make great strides in English with help in both

written and spoken English from the British Council. Future pre-degree training might require Japanese, and other Asian languages, although increasingly these countries are offering training in English.

Pre-degree training can also be vocational in the sense of integrating the student with the policy making process. Just as Policy Interpretation Internees were selected for the Ministry of Agriculture, this procedure might also be replicated in other ministries. In future the fitness of students for foreign training may also be judged by placing internees in field sites, on farming systems sites, with NGO's and with the private sector.

### **Degree Training**

Long term Ph.D. and Masters programmes should be very strongly maintained, because this program represents one of the few remaining opportunities for long term training which donors support and much more long-term training in the future is needed. It is regrettable that while talking of self-reliance, more donors are not talking of M.S. and Ph.D. programmes for leadership training.

When selecting students for training it may be more important to search for the less obvious potential and commitment for the future, rather than only for the certificates, publications, and experience of the past. Selecting potential "mudwall breachers," requires a continued struggle, for which a major battle was fought in 1990, to ensure open access, for candidates with both academic excellence and the ability to analyze and articulate the natural resource management problems of Bangladesh. Increasingly, in tagging the brightest social scientists into agricultural development, the question of commitment to the problems of poverty, hunger

and the national interest have also to be considered amidst other fellowship programmes which cream off the brightest with little thought for the future impact of that investment on national development.

Open access for fellowships can be improved by advertisements in both the English and Bangla newspapers, if not through other media. The growing Rural Social Science Network itself can link information to prospective candidates. While fellowship holders have traditionally been in government service and have thus been assured of a position on their return, the new intern program offers opportunities to non-government organisations and the private sector. In future, NGO's and firms may be willing to provide collateral for training.

Academic excellence certified from some institutions is not always coincident with the ability to analyze and articulate natural resource management problems. The graph in the later section on selecting leadership for strengthening Agricultural Research and Extension compares the certificates for academic excellence or degree scores with the essay scores or rankings of thirty candidates (points on the graph) from different institutions who in 1990 completed a one hour long essay test relating to sustainable agricultural production in Bangladesh. High rankings (i.e. 1st) for degree scores, (i.e. closer to the origin on the Y axis), are show no correlation with high scores or rankings (i.e. 1st) for an analytical and well articulated essay as marked independently by four senior Bangladesh social scientists ( i.e. closer to the origin on the X axis).

Commitment is perhaps the most difficult criterion to gauge before sending a fellow for foreign training. The bari location, homeplace, and past record of a candidate may be revealing in terms of their commitment to work with the problems

of the rural poor. The present domicile of other members of the nearest family may sometimes indicate a preference to work for the highest bidder rather than for the national interest.

Finally, perceptions of the future can reveal the vision of an applicant. Of about one hundred young people from Bangladesh asked "What do you hope to be doing 10 years from now?", most tend to reply, "I cannot even think so far ahead". A second group reply, (either expressing commitment or offering a weak palliative), "I want to do something to help my country." However, out of a hundred young people questioned by the program leader, two of their replies stand out:

- i) the first is by a young male student of economics, "I want to be a Professor at a Bangladesh University - I want to be a good teacher- to follow the inspiration of my father putting his dedication and feeling into teaching. When I myself teach junior students and I am able to explain something to them. I feel good. But now, with notable exceptions, the dedication to teaching new ideas and contemporary issues is lacking because many of the good teachers have left and many of those remaining are the one's who cannot leave.
- ii) The second reply is by a young woman, leading the women's programme in an NGO, "I would like to edit and publish a high quality journal for women - a Bengali language journal which would change the negative images of women's status in Bangladesh society portrayed in existing magazines."

Amidst the exhilaration of the foreign training adventure, how is the ultimate purpose and the fellow's professed attachment to Bangladesh to

be maintained? The rural social science network sees the stewardship of those on foreign training as going beyond the bureaucratic requirements of AETRs (Academic Enrolment and Term Reports).

Winrock International Staff visit each fellow on foreign training at least once a year. The Netline, the Newsletter of the Rural Social Science Network, keeps fellows abroad in contact with rural social science in Bangladesh. Ph.D. students abroad also provide the most up-to-date critique of research proposals being prepared in Bangladesh. In the information age of fax and soon E-mail, students at foreign universities will increasingly become part of the network. Ph.D. Dissertation Awards provide funds enabling both fellows and other Bangladeshi Rural Social Scientists studying for Ph.D.'s at foreign universities to write their theses on the problems of natural resource management in Bangladesh. The theses contribute to the national interest both in terms of knowledge and in terms of maintaining the student's link with Bangladesh. Sometimes a personal letter, or even a link to on-going research, may be more encouraging than visa requirements for the return of the scholar after training.

### **Post-Degree Support**

Some administrators have developed an axiom that every year's foreign training requires at least one year's retraining after the return to Bangladesh. This axiom is deceptive and should be questioned, because its implementation often frustrates the fresh graduate and may even lead to their emigration. All too often in the past, this "retraining" has meant closing the shutters on academic freedom and integrity, and putting shackles back on the pursuit of truth, so as to blunt the "kodal" (spade) of the "mudwall breacher." The returnee's questioning of existing

orthodoxy often risks the vilification and hostility of colleagues, if visionary leaders within the national system do not place them in key positions to use their talents in the national interest.

The Rural Social Science Network, can welcome the returnee, introduce them to on-going work in their area of interest, link them to networks of progressive scholars and advocate their talents to leaders in the agricultural development and natural resource management areas. Local research awards should also be immediately available for the returnees to pursue their interests and begin to set their own research agenda. The gratis rental of personal computers, and the back-up support of the Rural Social Science Computer Network, allows returnees to maintain their technical proficiency and to increase their productivity in the national interest. Greater attention must be given not only to link returned researchers into regional research networks, but also into comparative research of similar environments within the region to strengthen south-south cooperation. Returnees must also disseminate their new-found knowledge in the form of briefs, in both English and Bangla - for policy makers, for the public, and particularly for the school systems of Bangladesh. This "post-training support system" should be formalised so that returnees can immediately join the support system and remain active, technically proficient, interested and productive.

Returning Masters students may be energized by having long-term post-doctoral fellows to turn to for tutoring on research design, data manipulation, computer analysis, and report editing. Another catalyst for returnees may be in the form of an international academic, a world leader on a particular subject, visiting and facilitating the design of analytical frameworks for case studies. Returning masters students can also be linked

through the network to returned Ph.D. students to strengthen the "mentor chain."

Returning Ph.D. students first need to acquaint themselves with on-going work in Bangladesh and reflect carefully upon the national needs perhaps through developing an analytical bibliography. They work together to prepare briefs in support of improved policy making which should include a strong mix of empirical reality and analytical rigour. Returnees can often assist colleagues at home to reorientate their enquiring systems towards emerging areas like environmental issues which should in turn link to future post-doctoral opportunities which should be cautiously explored.

There is, in addition, the need for short courses, e.g. tailor-made computer training, how to analyse data how to analyse the effect of different policies, or how to make a research proposal for mid-level and senior professionals in their late 30's or early 40's. Such training should be job-related and an integral part of the life-long human resource development process as there has been a history of short-courses being like "water off a duck's back." The short term degree training, presently managed by the BARC, should be revised to include selection criteria and to formalise the system.

### **The Future**

Much has been achieved, but forces continue to erode the intellectual corpus of Bangladesh's creative vision. In 1990, a senior Bangladesh scholar-bureaucrat wrote that there were four categories of intellectuals in Bangladesh : viz. those who wanted to migrate; those who buried their head in the sand; those who would say whatever the highest bidder wished; and the reckless radicals. However the transition to

democracy in 1990 has also demonstrated the need for a fifth category - a small cadre of analysts committed to free enquiry and to asking impertinent questions related to resource management. **When grappling with the questions of sustainability one seeks support for this fifth group.**

A new institutional mechanism for financing, is required, both to institutionalise the existing support system to ensure sustainability and to take on the big challenge of developing the appropriate research agenda for the sustainable development of Bangladesh over at least the next 10 years. This may require an autonomous foundation which supports the spirit both of self mobilisation for resource management which was seen in the individuals and women in particular who breached the Dakatia embankment on September 18th, 1990.

There are possibly three forms of research for this new institutional mechanism to support in the future viz.

(a) Basic research which donors will not normally support, but which analyse:

- structures and processes which are beneficial or detrimental to the people and environment of Bangladesh, and
- threats which are damaging, and often irreversible for the people and environment of Bangladesh.

(b) Applied research which will examine particular projects in terms of their contribution to Bangladesh's national interest, rather than to justify and sustain the project or the next consultancy.

**(c) Policy research to sensitise policy-makers and the general public to processes and threats to the sustainable development of Bangladesh by using all available media.**

**If rural social science in Bangladesh is not to succumb to taught doctrines, fads and fashions, the mahasamabesh of September 18th 1990 must be sustained, to ward off the assaults on academic freedom and integrity that was seen earlier in 1990. The cost- effectiveness and high returns from long term investments in human resource development have already proven themselves this year in comparison with other investment policies. There is, however, a continuing need to nurture scholars with an attachment to enquiry and probity - men and women who are free to breach the mudwalls of the mind.**

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| A/D/C    | : Agricultural Development Council                     |
| ADAB     | : Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh    |
| ADB      | : Asian Development Bank                               |
| AERS     | : Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology           |
| AETR     | : Academic Enrolment and Term Report                   |
| AEZ      | : Agro Ecological Zones                                |
| Agrahyan | : The name of a Bengali month                          |
| AIC      | : Agricultural Information Centre                      |
| ANU      | : The Australian National University                   |
| APPLE    | : Symbol of Macintosh Computers                        |
| ARPII    | : Agricultural Research Project (Phase II)             |
| AST      | : Agricultural Sector Team                             |
| BADC     | : Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation      |
| BAES     | : Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Society            |
| BARC     | : Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council             |
| BARD     | : Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, Comilla    |
| BARI     | : Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute           |
| BAU      | : Bangladesh Agricultural University                   |
| BBS      | : Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics                      |
| BEA      | : Bangladesh Economic Association                      |
| BIDS     | : Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies          |
| BJRI     | : Bangladesh Jute Research Institute                   |
| BKB      | : Bangladesh Krishi Bank                               |
| BPATC    | : Bangladesh Public Administration Training Complex    |
| BRAC     | : Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee               |
| BRDB     | : Bangladesh Rural Development Board                   |
| BRRI     | : Bangladesh Rice Research Institute                   |
| BSFIC    | : Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation     |
| BUET     | : Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology  |
| BWDB     | : Bangladesh Water Development Board                   |
| CERDI    | : Central Extension Resource and Development Institute |
| CIDA     | : Canadian International Development Agency            |
| CSO      | : Chief Scientific Officer                             |
| CSS      | : Centre for Social Science                            |
| CSU      | : Colorado State University                            |
| D'BASE   | : Software used for data base management               |
| DAE      | : Department of Agricultural Extension                 |
| DANIDA   | : Danish Agency for International Development          |

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

|                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| DOS                | : | Disk Operating System                                       |
| DU                 | : | Dhaka University  |
| EEC                | : | European Economic Community                                 |
| EIA                | : | Environmental Impact Assessment                             |
| ERD                | : | Economic Relations Division                                 |
| EVC                | : | Executive Vice Chairman                                     |
| EWS                | : | Early Warning System  |
| EXCEL              | : | Software used for spreadsheet analysis                      |
| FAO                | : | Food and Agricultural Organisation                          |
| FIVDB              | : | Friends of Village Development in Bangladesh                |
| FPMU               | : | Food Planning and Monitoring Unit                           |
| FRI                | : | Forest Research Institute                                   |
| FSR                | : | Farming Systems Research                                    |
| GO                 | : | Government Order  |
| GDP                | : | Gross Domestic Product                                      |
| GoB                | : | Government of Bangladesh                                    |
| GTI                | : | Graduate Training Institute                                 |
| Guru Mukti Shikkha | : | As taught by the teacher                                    |
| HRDP               | : | Human Resource Development Program                          |
| IBM                | : | International Business Machines                             |
| ICIMOD             | : | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development    |
| ICLARM             | : | International Centre for Living Aquatic Resource Management |
| IDA                | : | International Development Agency                            |
| IFDC               | : | International Fertiliser Development Centre                 |
| IFPRI              | : | International Food Policy Research Institute                |
| IIMI               | : | International Irrigation Management Institute               |
| ILCA               | : | International Livestock Centre for Africa                   |
| ILO                | : | International Labour Organisation                           |
| IPM                | : | Integrated Pest Management                                  |
| IPSA               | : | Institute of Post Graduate Studies in Agriculture           |
| IRRI & F.C.        | : | Irrigation and Flood Control                                |
| ISNAR              | : | International Service for National Agricultural Research    |
| ISPAN              | : | Irrigation Support Project for Asia and the Near East       |
| IU                 | : | Islamic University  |
| IUCN               | : | International Union for the Conservation of Nature          |
| JAGO               | : | Junior Administrator/Group Organisation                     |
| JICA               | : | Japan International Cooperation Agency                      |
| JNU                | : | Jawaharlal Nehru University                                 |

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

|               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| JU            | : | Jahangirnagar University                             |
| Khas          | : | Bengali term used for government owned land          |
| Kodal         | : | Spade  |
| LGRD&C        | : | Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives |
| MD            | : | Member Director                                      |
| Mahasamabesh  | : | Great mobilisation                                   |
| MCC           | : | Mennonite Central Committee                          |
| MDU           | : | Management Development Unit                          |
| MIDAS         | : | Micro Industries Development Assistance              |
| MoA           | : | Ministry of Agriculture                              |
| MoL           | : | Ministry of Land                                     |
| MoP           | : | Ministry of Planning                                 |
| Mouza         | : | A Bengali term used to identify the revenue village  |
| MPO           | : | Master Plan Organisation                             |
| MS-WORD       | : | Wordprocessing software                              |
| NARS          | : | National Agricultural Research System                |
| NCS           | : | National Conservation Strategy                       |
| NCSU          | : | North Carolina State University                      |
| NGOs          | : | Non Government Organisations                         |
| NRDP          | : | Noakhali Rural Development Project                   |
| ODA           | : | Overseas Development Administration (British)        |
| ODI           | : | Overseas Development Institute                       |
| OFRD          | : | On Farm Research Division                            |
| P&E           | : | Planning and Evaluation                              |
| Pardah        | : | Bengali term for veiled seclusion                    |
| Ph.D.         | : | Doctor of Philosophy                                 |
| PPC           | : | Policy Planning Cell                                 |
| PSO           | : | Principal Scientific Officer                         |
| Raison d'etre | : | Justification for existence                          |
| RDA           | : | Rural Development Academy, Bogra                     |
| RDI           | : | Relief and Development Institute, London             |
| RSSN          | : | Rural Social Science Network                         |
| RU            | : | Rajshahi University                                  |
| S&I           | : | Soils and irrigation                                 |
| SAARC         | : | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation     |
| SCF           | : | Save the Children Fund                               |
| SFDB          | : | Small Farmer Development Bank                        |
| SFDBP         | : | Small Farmer Development Bank Project                |

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| SIDA    | : | Swedish International Development Agency                     |
| SO      | : | Scientific Officer   |
| SRO     | : | Senior Research Officer                                      |
| SSO     | : | Senior Scientific Officer                                    |
| T&V     | : | The Training and Visit System of Extension                   |
| TADP    | : | Tangail Agricultural Development Program                     |
| TAPP    | : | Technical Assistance Project Proforma                        |
| TCTP    | : | Technical Cooperation Training Project - (UK)                |
| Tricile | : | Thirty three and a third percent of the total frequency      |
| TTMU    | : | Technology Transfer Monitoring Unit                          |
| UK      | : | United Kingdom   |
| UNDP    | : | United National Development Program                          |
| UNFPA   | : | United Nations Fund for Population Activities                |
| UNSP    | : | Unspecified  |
| UPM     | : | Universiti Pertanian Malaysia                                |
| USA     | : | United States of America                                     |
| USAID   | : | United States Agency for International Development           |
| VIP     | : | Very Important Person  |
| VSO     | : | Voluntary Service Overseas                                   |
| W-M     | : | Wisconsin - Milwaukee  |
| WI      | : | Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development |

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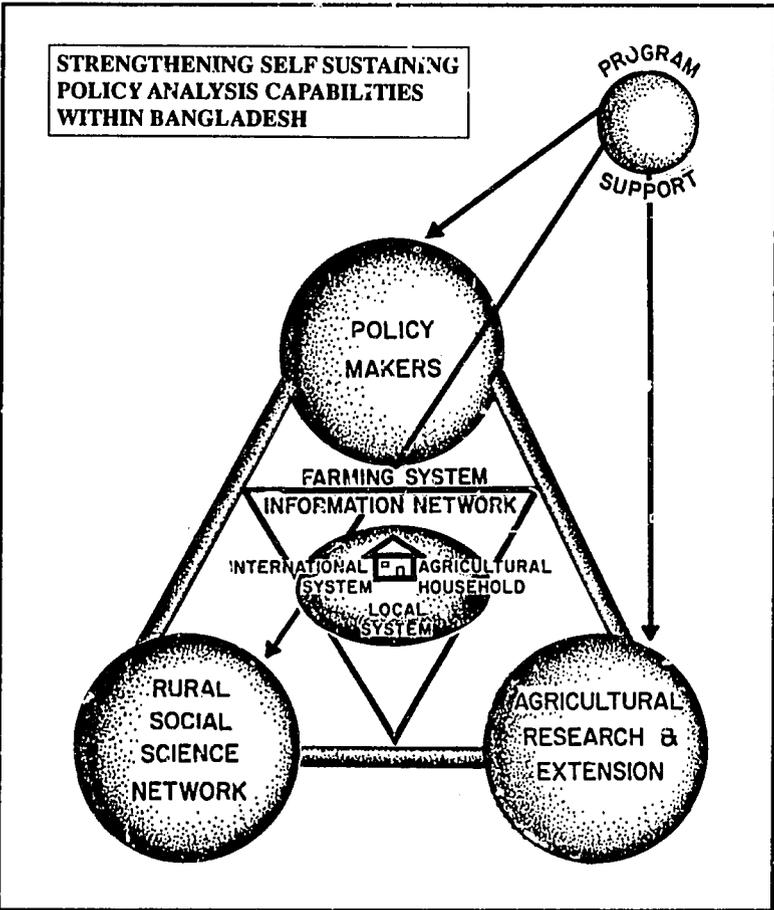
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# Introduction

The HRDP (Human Resources Development Programme) began as the A/D/C (Agricultural Development Council) program in erstwhile East Pakistan in 1959. Since placing a representative in Bangladesh in 1975, the program has sent out 50 Bangladeshis for MS level education and almost 30 for Ph.D level education in the rural social sciences. Increasingly these fellows (men and women) can be persons initially educated in the biological or engineering sciences who augment their strong technical knowledge with a Doctorate of Philosophy in one of the rural social sciences. The last program review by the Government of Bangladesh and the donors (USAID and Ford Foundation) which took place in 1987 after the merger of the A/D/C (Agricultural Development Council) program with Winrock International, recommended that Bangladesh maintain the "Human Resource Development" (then HRDD) as a separate entity of Winrock International in Bangladesh and even elsewhere.

This group of individuals who were trained by the A/D/C and later HRDP (Winrock International) together with other scholars and scientists constitute the Rural Social Science Network (Figure 1). Using each of the broad programme components, viz. academic services, degree training (pre and post), in country professional development and network support, including the computer network, the program has sought (as depicted in the figure below) and described in the following pages to strengthen the growth of self sustaining policy analysis capabilities within Bangladesh by: i) further developing the rural social science network, and ii) bringing them together to collaborate both with policy makers, and iii) the agricultural research and extension establishment.

The program (Figure 1) also has sought to facilitate the focusing of these three groups on the family, or farm household, as the basic unit of analysis - although intra-household variation, in terms of age and gender is also emphasised, as are the family's links with the common property resources of the deltaic environment. The network of human resources (bodies and minds) together with the growing network of computers, aims to later link macro-level analyses with micro-level farming systems analysis to evaluate and monitor the intra - and inter - household impacts of technological change, policy changes, and other socio-economic and environmental changes at the level of the family and the individual.



## THE COLLABORATIVE MODE OF OPERATION

When the A/D/C (Agricultural Development Council) first signed a agreement with MoA-GoB in 1975, this was a memorandum of understanding for collaboration with BIRRI (Bangladesh Rice Research Institute). The collaborative agreement was later transferred from BIRRI to BARC by the first A/D/C Associate, Dr. Edward Clay. This mode of operation was continued by subsequent A/D/C Associates, Dr. Carl Prey and Dr. Gerry Gill. It was Dr. Gill who oversaw the merger in Bangladesh of the A/D/C, along with two other antecedent organisations, to become the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development. The present programme leader took over in September 1986, and was encouraged to continue the A/D/C tradition by the then Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. A.M. Anisuzzaman.

As with predecessors, the present program leader/visiting researcher has worked, not as a consultant, but as an academic, pegged at the Associate Professor level, by Dr. David Nygaard, the then Vice President of the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development. The Technical Assistance Project Proforma with the Government of Bangladesh, presently operating with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, states "the job is flexible and set up in a way to encourage as much creativity as possible and allow him to respond to problems and take advantage of opportunities as they arise." The technical assistance project proforma also re-emphasises the previous mode of operating emphasising that the grant operates, unlike the contracts with private consulting firms, by "collaboration" rather than control.

## COLLABORATION WITH BARC DEGREE TRAINING

### Selecting Leadership for Strengthening Agricultural Research and Extension

At a recent seminar on strategic planning held in the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, chaired by Dr. M. S. U. Chowdhury, (Executive Vice Chairman, BARC), Dr. Moniruzzaman the Director of Research (BARI) asked: "How can we select the individuals who will make leading agricultural research scientists?" There are many approaches to answering this essential question because the selection of research scientists is both an art and a science.

The RSSN approach is outlined in the foreword to this annual report, but the specifics of how 15 of the best individual's have been selected by our program for a Ph.D. level education are outlined below.

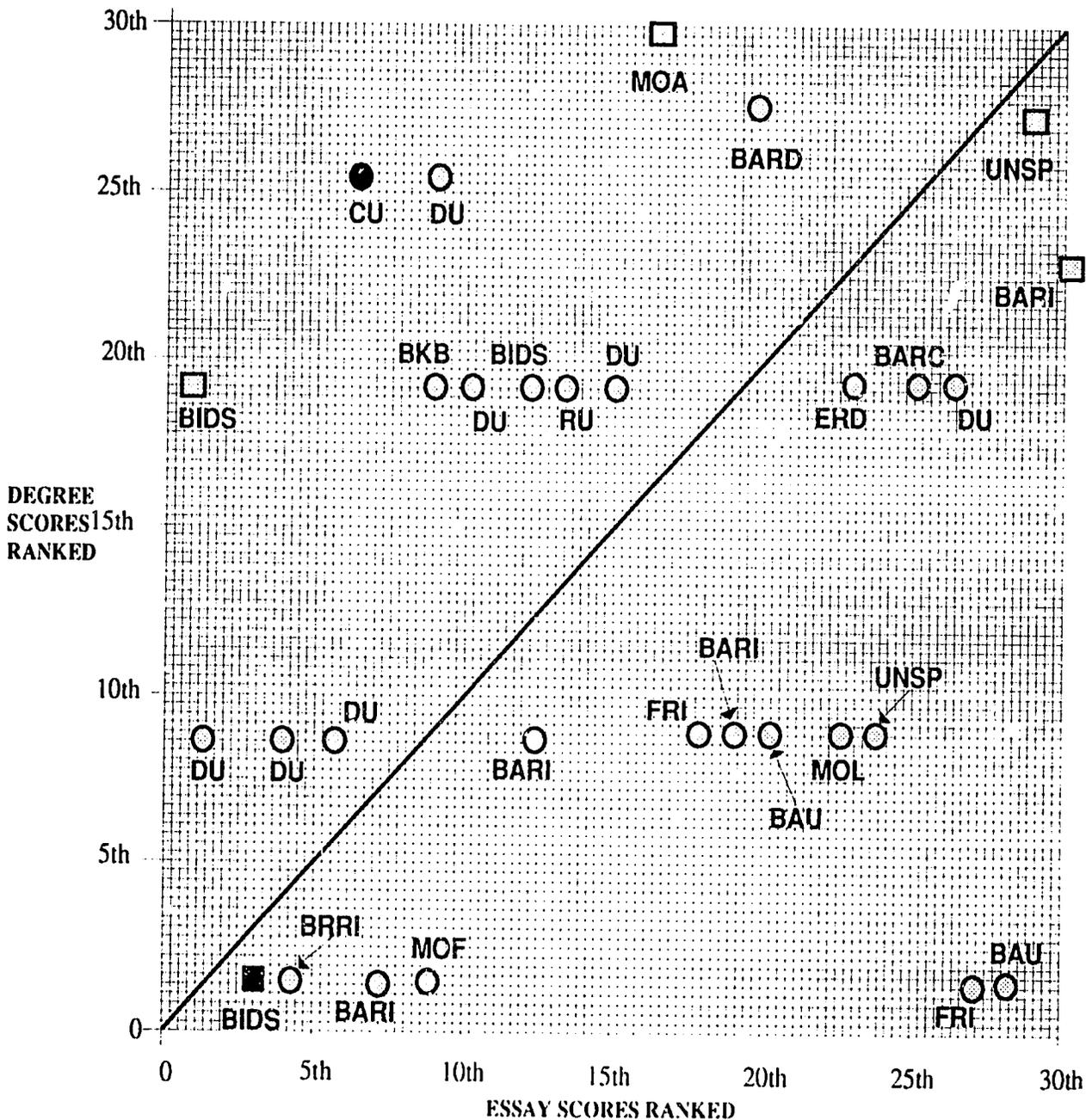
1. There is an independent academic on the ground in Bangladesh who understands the constraints on human resource development in Bangladesh and who operates in an academic capacity with both existing and potential researchers in Bangladesh.
2. There is an existing network of agricultural scientists and extension personnel and academics, who cut across the hierarchy of existing institutions, so as to provide information on potential candidates and strengthen non-partisan quality control.
3. Following the Ministry of Establishment directives, it is the Ministry of Education which places the advertisement in Bangla and English newspapers on behalf of the many sectors which support agricultural development and natural resource management in Bangladesh.
4. The secretariat to the Rural Social Science Network managed by the Human Resource Development Program (Winrock International) in collaboration with BARC then coordinates all the applications which are automatically forwarded to them by the Ministry of Education.
5. In collaboration with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, an essay test on an agricultural development or natural resource management topic is administered (see pages) and then marked by four Bangladeshi Professionals (three university professors and the M.D. Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology). (Despite the potentials for additional language training, it is believed that for anyone wishing to write a thesis in any language the person should be able to write an essay in that language prior to his or her departure for foreign Ph.D. training.
6. In selecting candidates for interview, both the essay scores and the academic scores are ranked as seen in the Graph on Page 4 and the Executive Vice Chairman, BARC, Dr. M.S.U. Chowdhury, then invites only the 12 highest ranked candidates from both rankings for in-depth interviews.
7. The in-depth interviews are carried out under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S.U. Chowdhury, the Executive Vice Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council with representatives of the University Grants Commission, two distinguished professional academics, one male and one female, from the Bangladeshi universities and one independent academic attending [1990 - Dr. M.A.S. Mandal - Chairman of Agricultural Economics at BAU and Professor Jahanara Huq - Winner of the Annual GoB Teaching Award 1990 for work on the social sciences and women's issues] and representatives of the various ministries concerned with agricultural development and natural resource management. Special mention should be made of the keen questioning of candidates by Mr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed representing the Planning Commission.

The interview, in addition to confirming that candidates hold the necessary GoB credentials for foreign degree training, again examines the candidates' academic records, their essay and also reviews their publications in refereed journals, weighted according to their age and access to publishing facilities, their spoken English, their reasoning ability, in the interview, and indicators of their commitment to agricultural development and natural resource management in Bangladesh.

After scrutiny of the proposed candidates by Selection Committee-I of the Ministry of Education, all papers are then forwarded along with a confidential report by an independent academic to the Regional Selection Committee which meets independently in Manila. There, academics independently scrutinize all applications from Bangladesh along with scripts from other Asian countries to determine the final merit ranking and thereafter assist fellows with their placement.

The External Resources Division of the Government of Bangladesh, then gives the final authority for the award of the Ph.D. fellowship to the future leader of agricultural research and extension.

**RANKING OF HRDP (WINROCK INTERNATIONAL) Ph.D. CANDIDATES  
BY DEGREE SCORES AND BY ESSAY SCORES (1990 - 1991)**



- Male candidate.
- ◻ Female candidate.
- Male candidate on other fellowship because of bureaucratic delay.
- Female candidate on other fellowship because of bureaucratic delay.

Note: Abbreviations are for the Agricultural Development Institutes employing candidates

## A BRIDGE TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The one hour essay topic in 1990: Discuss in essay form, using clear definitions and with the help of graphs, diagrams, equations, etc., how the opening of the Jamuna Bridge may affect the sustainable agricultural production of large, small, marginal and landless agricultural households in Bangladesh.

One sample essay written at the test is abridged here

### Introduction:

Bangladesh, classified as a "least developed country" by the international agencies, is still predominantly an agricultural economy. Its per capita income and per capita food availability are among the lowest. Of the population of 114 million, almost 45 million are classified as living below the poverty line. Economic growth has been about 4% per annum during the last decade. Agriculture, the mainstay of the economy, remains relatively backward, despite the diffusion of modern technology. To increase the diffusion of modern agricultural technology and to increase industrial development, infrastructural facilities such as easy and fast transport links are crucial.

### Poverty Trends and Distribution of Income

Trends in rural poverty and the distribution of income and assets provide a glimpse of the economic reality of Bangladeshi farmers without the Jamuna Bridge. Time series data from the various land occupancy surveys suggest increasing trends in the number and percentage of farmers identified as being small, marginal and landless (by definition, those who own land of less than one acre). While 30% of all farmers were in the category of marginal and landless farmers in the 1960's, they have increased to over 60% in 1983/84. These 60% own less than 15% of all the agricultural land, while the upper 15% of farmers own about 40% of the cropped land. Although the gini coefficients of land distribution have not shown significant changes in the late 80's, there were declines in the early 80's representing increasing inequality in income distribution. A large proportion of agricultural landless workers now have to seek employment outside agriculture, particularly in the transport and trading services. Sustainable agriculture should ensure a livelihood for those who now, and those will, depend, upon agriculture (85% of the total population) as well as for other sectors of the economy.

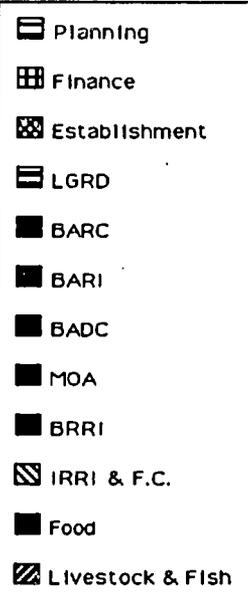
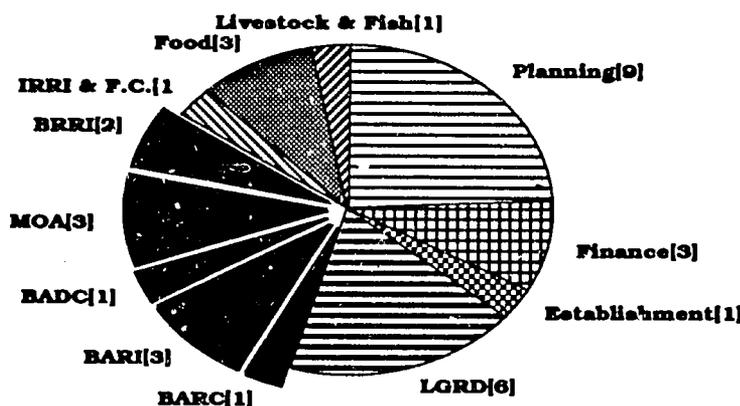
### Features of the Economic Life of the North

The northern part of the country, consisting of the districts of Rajshahi, Pabna, Dinajpur Rangpur (Old districts), lags relative to the rest of the economy. The north's links to the rest of the country still remain relatively under-developed, because of the relatively under-developed transport and other infrastructural facilities, and despite incentives given by the Government. Two major rivers, the Jamuna and the Padma, pose serious obstructions to road links with the rest of the country. Being mostly higher land, northern areas are less able to produce multiple crops because of the soil texture, and the lower retention of soil moisture in the dry season. While other parts of the country, have experienced rapid growth in HYV crops in the dry season (e.g., boro), the increase in HYV has been slow relative to potential in the north. Insufficient infrastructural development, in terms of transport facilities, creates considerable problems in applying HYV seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc., in time. There is also a considerable marketing problem for agricultural produce. The poverty trends and income inequality, are much worse in the north where the real wages of agricultural workers are lower by more than 50%.

### Opening of the Jamuna Bridge and its Impact on Rural Households

The Jamuna Bridge will establish quick and easy transport links (both road and rail) between the Northern part of the country and other areas and thus affect the economy in both areas. It is also intended to transfer natural gas from the east to the north. Agricultural inputs will be transferred more easily to rural households. Despite differential access to agricultural inputs, the bridge will speed up the diffusion of modern agricultural technology. Empirical studies have found an inverse relationship between farm size and productivity. Small farmers will be entitled to the gains from the diffusion of modern technology, although large farmers may be the most benefitted. Modern technology will increase demand for agricultural labour which will have a positive impact on agricultural real wages and subsequently on the livelihood of landless and marginal farmers. Increased agricultural production will have a positive impact on the alleviation of poverty and increasing food entitlement, throughout the country, will require trade and

**HRDP (WINROCK INTERNATIONAL) FELLOWS IN COLLABORATION WITH BARC  
BDG MINISTRIES**



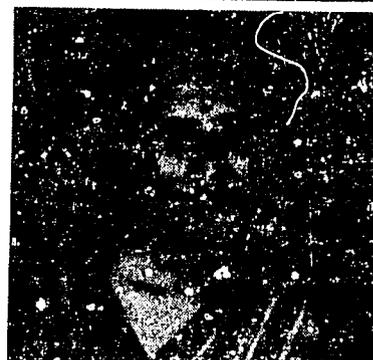
Excluding Universities - DU, JU, RU, BUET & BAU

**HRDP (WINROCK INTERNATIONAL) PH.D. FELLOWS  
IN COLLABORATION WITH BARC**



**NAZRUL ISLAM**

Associate Professor of Economics, Dhaka University. Previous work with BARC. Ph.D. Student (Resource Economics), Harvard University, USAID Funded.



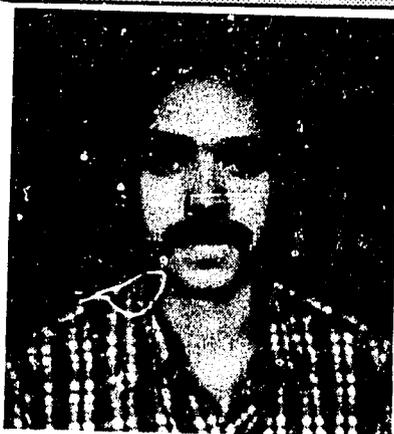
**TRINA HUQ**

Research Associate Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Ph.D. Student (Women and International Agricultural Trade), Cambridge University, ODA-British Council Funded



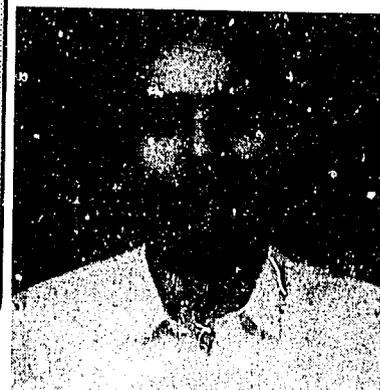
**REHNUMA AHMED**

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Dhaka University. Ph.D. Student, (Anthropology/Rural Sociology), University of Sussex, ODA-British Council Funded.



**I.M. FAISAL**

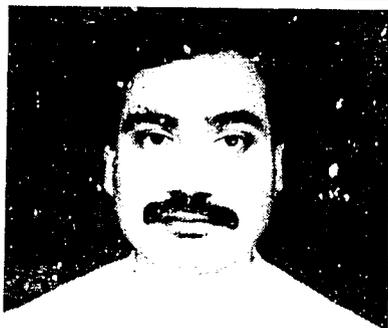
Lecturer in Water Resources Engineering, BUET. Ph.D. Student, (Water Resource Planning) Colorado State University, USAID Funded.



**BELAYET HOSSAIN**

Assistant Professor of Economics, Chittagong University, Ph.D. Student (Risk in Agriculture), North Carolina State University, USAID funded.

HRDP (WINROCK INTERNATIONAL) PH.D. FELLOWS  
IN COLLABORATION WITH BARC



MD. SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Assistant Professor, Graduate Training Institute, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Ph.D. Student, (Agro-ecosystems, Agricultural Economics), Oregon State University, USAID-FORD Funding.



MIR OBAIDUR RAHMAN

Director, Public Administration Training Complex, Savar, Ph.D. Student, (Labour Economics), University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, USAID- Univ. W-M. Funding.



S.M. FAKRUL ISLAM

Research Officer, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Ph.D. Student, (Agricultural Economics), University of the Philippines, Los Banos. USAID Funding.



MS. RITA AFSAR

Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies. Proposed Ph.D. - (Rural Sociology) - initially Delhi. Now Sussex University, Potential ODA British Council Funding.



MS. ANWARA BEGUM

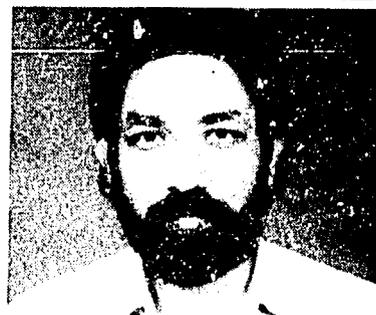
Research Associate, Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies. Proposed Ph.D. (Economic Geography), Asian Institute of Technology, Pre-degree training. Terminated by maternity leave. British Council- Commonwealth Fellowship.

**HRDP (WINROCK INTERNATIONAL) PH.D. FELLOWS  
IN COLLABORATION WITH BARC**



**UTTAM KUMAR DEB**

Scientific Officer, Agricultural Economics Division, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute. Ph.D. Student, (Agricultural Economics), U.P. Los Banos, and International Rice Research Institute. USAID-ODA Funding.



**MD. NAJMUL EHSAN  
FATMI**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Dhaka University, AST/CIDA/MoA. Ph.D. Student, (Economics of Nutrition/Food Policy), U.P. Diliman. USAID Funding.



**M.A. QUDDUS**

Agro Forestry, On Farm Research Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute. Ph.D. Student, (Forest Resource Economics), University of Philippines, Los Banos, ODA-British Council Funding.



**SULTAN UDDIN AHMED**

Lecturer, Department of Economics, Dhaka University. Ph.D. Student (Agricultural Economics) U.P. Diliman. USAID Funding.



**FAHMIDA AKHTER**

Research Associate, Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies. Proposed Ph.D. student (Labour Economics), Initially ANU changed to U.P. Diliman. Possible USAID Funding.

## **Collaboration with BARC Member Directors and Directors**

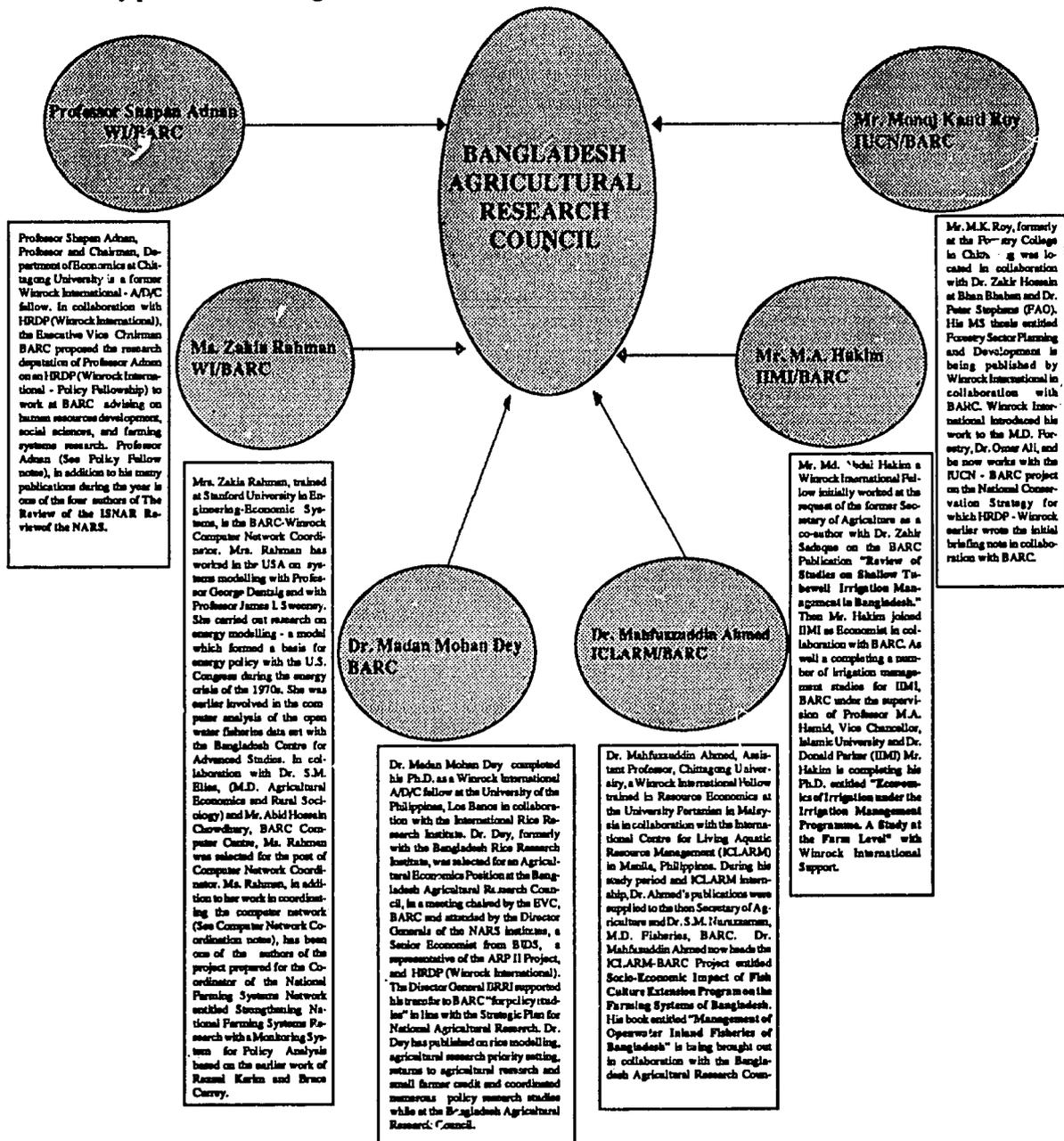
1. **Collaboration with Dr. M. S.U. Chowdhury,  
Executive Vice Chairman**
  - Ph.D. Fellowship Selection Committee
  - Local Research Awards Committee - MoA
  - Linking NARS with Universities - (see section of the report)
  - FAO paper on Resilience of Small Farmers in Bangladesh
  
2. **Collaboration with Professor Kazi M. Badruddoza,  
Scientist Emeritus**
  - Preparation of Comparative Proposal on Vietnam and Bangladesh-Technology Transfer in Flood- Prone Environments with Professor Shapan Adnan (CU), Dr. Monowar Hossain (BARI), Dr. Madan Mohan Dey (BARC) and Dr. Bruce Currey (WI).
  
3. **Collaboration with A.M. Aurungzeb -  
Member Director, Crops  
Coordinator National Farming Systems Research and Extension Network**
  - Development of Strengthening National Farming Systems Research with a Monitoring System for Policy Analysis.
  
4. **Collaboration with Dr. S.M. Elias,  
Member Director, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.**
  - Mapping of Agriculturally Vulnerable Environments -Joint Project.
  - Essay Test on Sustainable Agriculture for Selecting Ph.D. Candidates
  - Selection of Computer Network Coordinator
  - Distributing Material around Socio-Economists on Sustainable Agriculture.
  - Collaborative Request on Social Science Network for FAP 17 ODA (Fisheries Research)
  - Component as Drafted by Dr. Martin Greeley, IDS, Sussex.
  - BIDS Memorandum of Understanding with BARC signed by Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Director General.
  
- 5) **Collaboration with Dr. Z. Karim,  
Member Director, Soils and Irrigation**
  - Joint discussions with BIDS group on Agro-Ecological Zoning and Socio-Economic work.
  - Pre-Degree Training GIS -AEZ Socio Economic Zones of Bogra (Ms. Anwara Begum, BIDS).

6. **Collaboration with Dr. Omar Ali,  
Member Director Forestry**
  - Environmental Issues and Natural Resource Management in Bangladesh with Winrock Fellows.
  - Gathering and Reproducing Environmental and Forestry Material.
7. **Collaboration with Dr. M. Hamid Miah,  
Member Director Planning and Evaluation.**
  - Drafting of TAPP for BARC on Women's Network
8. **Collaboration with Dr. A.M. Nuruzzaman ,  
Member Director Fisheries**
  - Advocacy of Winrock Fellow, Dr. Mahfuzzudidin Ahmed, for BARC- ICLARM social science position relating Fisheries and Farming Systems.
  - Editing of Social Science and Fisheries Materials.
  - International Reviews of Social Science and Fisheries proposals.
9. **Collaboration with Mr. Nazmul Alam,  
Member Director, Agricultural Engineering**
  - Networking with Dr. Donald Slack University of Arizona and ISPAN (Irrigation Support Project for Asia and The Near East) and Dr. Don Parker (IIMI) International Irrigation Management Institute to assist the Ph.D. completion and return of Nurul Alam Akand, Scientific Officer, BARC.
10. **Collaboration with Dr. Mirza Jalil,  
Member Director, Livestock**
  - Requested Review of Phase 1; Factors affecting inter-regional and Seasonal Variation in the Availability of Livestock and Livestock Products in Bangladesh.
11. **Collaboration with Dr. M. Rahim,  
Director Nutrition Unit**
  - Paper at BARC seminar, "Nutritional Impact of Natural Disasters in Bangladesh" with SCF (UK).
12. **Collaboration with Mr. Ahmed Hossain,  
Director Training**
  - Provision of Global Training Directories for short term training.
13. **Collaboration with Dr. Munshi Siddique Ahmed,  
Research Management Training Specialist**
  - In-Country Professional Training (see page 12)

# IN COUNTRY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Collaboration with BARC ADVOCATING EXCELLENCE

The HRDP (Winrock International) Program during 1990 has advocated the research deputation of key rural social scientists in support of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council's prime mandate to identify problems in the agricultural sectors viz.



## IN COUNTRY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION WITH BARC

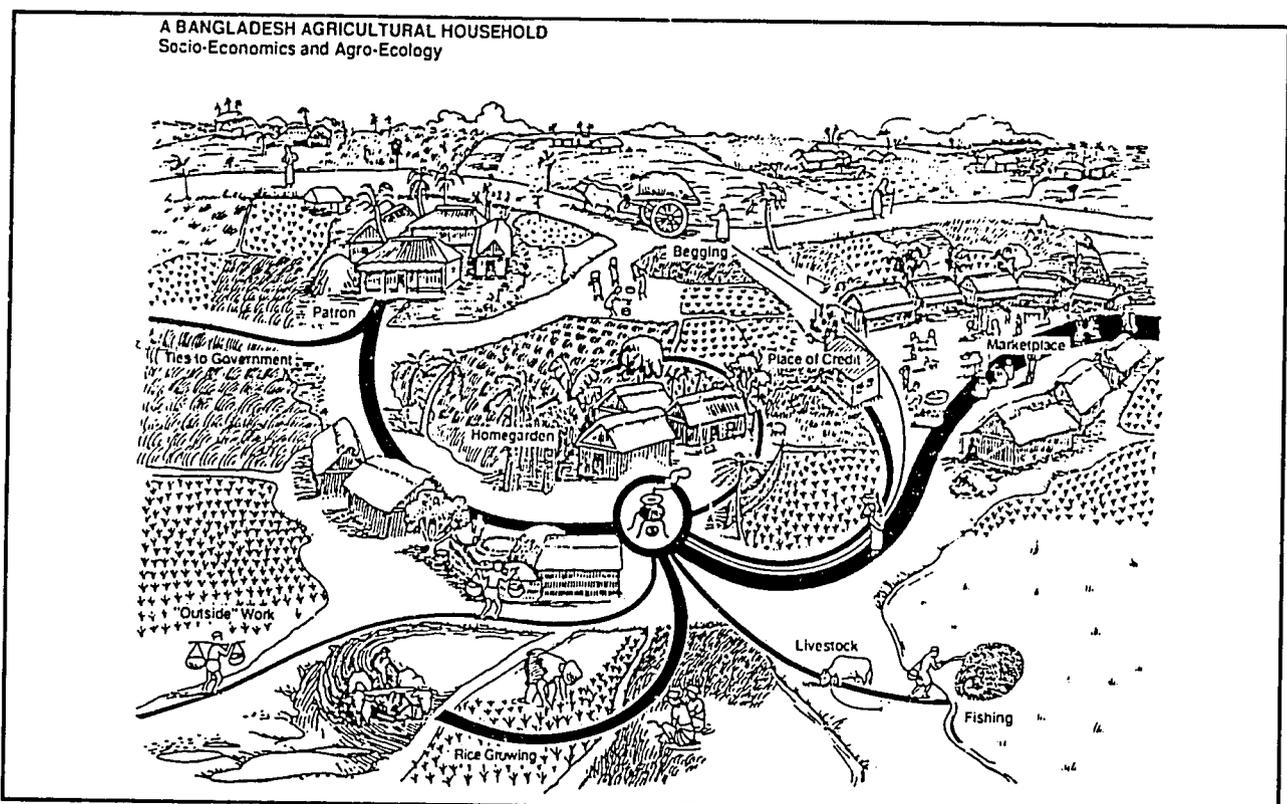
### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PLANNING: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIO ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF FARMERS

These classes are held in collaboration with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council as a module in the ARP II project. Seventeen short courses were held at the Graduate Training Institute (GTI) of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) during 1990. This allows the HRDP (Winrock International) program to interact with almost 500 agricultural scientists from all the institutes of the National Agricultural Research System mostly at the Scientific Officer and Senior Scientific Officer levels.

The classes are deliberately interactive, with each group of 30 participants being arranged geographically within the lecture hall according to their home agro - ecosystem. Thus participants from the Dinajpur-Himalayan piedmont sit in the rear left of the class and those with their home in the Chittagong coastal plain sit in the front right of the class. This facilitates interaction and also highlights the inter - agroecosystem differences as perceived by participants in the class.

Class participants are first provided with the reading material entitled "Assessing Farmers Needs in Designing Agricultural Technology" by the CIMMYT Economics staff. They are then introduced to 10 key discussion topics each designed to strengthen their capability in planning agricultural research giving importance to the socio-economic aspects of farmers.

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC LINKAGES OF FARMERS



Currey 1987

**1. UNLIKE THE FIELD OF RICE WHICH IS RELATIVELY STATIC, THE FARMER AND THE SOCIETY IN WHICH HE OR SHE OPERATES, ARE MORE DYNAMIC**

Research which involves understanding farmers' decision-making must recognise the diurnal, weekly, seasonal, and yearly rhythms of the rural community. Different types of farmers are in their homestead or field at different times varying with: prayer times, periodic market days, crop phenophases, seasonal labour migrations, high and low flood years, and family life cycles, etc., all affecting the availability of a representative group of farmers from any agroecosystem.

**Examples of Class Room Interaction**

- i) Where is the farmer in Dinajpur at 7.30 in the morning?
- Small farmers are normally already in the field - perhaps planting tobacco.
  - Some women may already be using the treadle pump for irrigation.
  - In winter, with the lower temperatures in North Dinajpur, farmers may go to their fields later.
  - Medium sized farmers may be instructing agricultural labourers whom they had contracted the previous evening to gather together for work.
  - Many of the large farmers are still asleep.
  - Some of the larger farmers from Dinajpur are asleep in the Gulshan Residential Area of Dhaka City.
- ii) Where were the farmers of Serajganj District at the beginning of the Aswin lean season in 1988?
- Some remained on raised matchan in their bari amidst the remaining flood waters.
  - Women and children were often grouped on the breached embankments.
  - Many agricultural labourers had migrated westwards to the Barind areas where supplementary STW irrigation and the compensatory moisture were producing bumper yields of BRII with ensuing demands for agro-processing like rice drying.

**2. A FARMER'S DECISION-MAKING IS AFFECTED NOT ONLY BY THE LOCAL CONDITIONS ON HIS/HER FARM, BUT ALSO BY THE MACRO - FRAMEWORK OF BOTH WORLD-WIDE AND NATIONAL EVENTS.**

The farmer's decision as to which technology to adopt is affected not only by the agro - ecological characteristics of the particular farm, but also by changes in world jute or shrimp prices - by changes in credit lines decided in Tokyo or Washington and by changes in exchange rates and world political structures.

### Examples of Class Room Interaction

- i) How might a potential war in the Gulf affect a farmer's decision-making in the Rangpur-Dinajpur Area?
- Increased fuel prices would increase transportation and irrigation costs
  - The transportation costs of agricultural inputs and the marketing of products by road and mechanized country-boat would increase
- ii) How might a potential war in the Gulf affect farmer's decision - making in the Chit-tagong-Noakhali-Comilla area?
- This area, unlike Rangpur-Dinajpur, has supplied a considerable number of workers to the Middle-East
  - Remittances might stop, thus lessening land rentals and also reducing investment in the transport sector
  - The return of semi-skilled labour might be disruptive to agricultural families.
  - The uncertainty of the repercussions of a Gulf War might induce hoarding and risk-averse farming strategies.

### 3. FARMERS' DECISION-MAKING TO ENSURE THEIR LIVELIHOODS IS LOCATION SPECIFIC.

The opportunity frontier for farmers to decide upon new technologies varies across the different agro-ecological zones, and across the different agrarian and political structures of Bangladesh - depending upon the proportion of large farmers, share-croppers, and their distance from markets. While the schematic diagram showing the socio-economic linkages of farmers is "typical" of many ( although not all) parts of Bangladesh, the particular mix of the flows linking the different types of households varies considerably among different agro ecosystems and this has significant social and structural consequences.

### Examples of Class Room Interaction

How do the ratios of institutional credit (BKB, etc.) and non-institutional credit (mahajan, etc.) which are available to small farmers vary between the Comilla plateau on the east and the Barind area in the northwest?

- Small farmers generally have greater access to institutional credit in Comilla although probably still less than 50% of small farmers have access to institutional credit.
- Small farmers in the Barind may have very low access to institutional credit.
- Institutional credit for agriculture usually has an interest rate of about 16%, but non-institutional credit may have interest rates of over 200%.

- Because of this "credit cascade" by which more fortunate farmers can borrow institutional credit at 16% and then lend it to the less fortunate farmers at over 200%, such differences in the ratio of institutional to non-institutional credit, may have very significant multiplier effects on access to the means of production in different parts of the country.

#### 4. INTERACTIONS AMONG DIFFERENT GROUPS OF FARMERS ARE AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE PROCESS OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

In the past, agricultural research in Bangladesh has sought to "compartmentalise" the different groups of farmers (i.e. large, medium, small, marginal and landless). Socio-economic research should rather examine the interactions among different groups of farmers, e.g. the hiring of labour by large farmers, the sharecropping contractual relationships between medium and small farmers, the kinship networks linking small farmers with urban markets, and the relationships between men and women in the agro-processing sector.

##### Examples of Class Room Interaction:

How is the harvesting of the rice in Sylhet organised from Faridpur?

- **In Faridpur :** There is often a labour surplus in the Aswin-Kartik slack period before the aman harvest. Labour organisers arrange seasonal out migration from Faridpur. These organisers are Faridpur farmers with 1) capital 2) traditional connection's with Sylhet 3) sometimes a country-boat and 4) managerial ability - The organisers usually travel twice from Faridpur to Sylhet before the harvest of aman rice in Sylhet. On the first visit, the organiser books the land for his labour group to harvest often by making a down-payment of Tk. 2-4,000.00 . The second visit is necessary to gauge the timing of the harvest so that the group do not have to sit around and wait once they arrive in Sylhet.
- The landless labourers and marginal farmers who join each group have to pay between 10-50 taka each to the labour organiser to join the group. They also have to raise 800-1,000 Takas for their food and transport for the month. They travel together in a country boat which often belongs to the organiser.
- **In Sylhet:** The organiser spends his time measuring the land to be harvested and weighing the paddy after threshing. The labourers who harvest and thresh the modern variety rice today receive only about 1/10 of the harvest (formerly it was 1/5). This means that each labourer receives about 8-12 maunds for the month's work for taking back to Faridpur at the end of Agrabhan.

#### 5. BEYOND "BENCHMARK" SURVEYS

Merely carrying out a field survey by filling in questionnaires and then cross-tabulating the results by groups for a report to the Chief Scientific Officer before proceeding to carry out another benchmark survey on another topic, does not constitute agricultural research. The benchmark survey is only one step on the way to exploring a hypothesis about the impact of a new agricultural technology. There has to be follow-through, evaluation and feedback. In addition there are many other ways of collecting information on farmers' choices of technology such as by participant observation, oral

histories, diaries self kept by school children, focussed group discussions, photography, and newspaper contents' analysis.

### **Examples of Class Room Interaction**

- There are a few individual farmers, often older, but also more progressive farmers - who keep diaries/accounts of their farm inputs and outputs - often on crumpled Hoechst/Squibb/Ciba-Geigy note-pads. These records, if carefully analysed, perhaps with some private sector funding, would allow in-depth "panel data" type analysis of the economics of technological change in Bangladesh.

## **6. HOW DOES THE FARMER MAKE DECISIONS?**

All of us here are part of the National Agricultural Research System purporting to increase the sustained productivity of farmers in Bangladesh and yet we don't know how farmers make decisions as to which technology to use on which plot of land. What is of even greater concern is that it is not clear that the existing social scientists - even the anthropologists - are developing methods of gaining a better understanding of the thought processes of the peasant. In an information age in which the thought processes of western "experts" are being inscribed on computer shells to develop "expert systems", it is indeed unfortunate that we cannot yet capture the "expertise" of deltaic farmers to better understand their technological choices.

### **Examples of Class Room Interaction**

Two "farmers" from the class explain how the decisions to grow two crops on two particular plots of land were made:

- **Brinjal** : My mother, who heads the farm after my father's death, decided to grow 10 decimals of brinjal on the large homestead. She may have first talked it over with my uncle, but she grew brinjal because it was a perennial crop contributing to her income stream throughout the year.
- **Sugar Cane**: The land was sandy, but I decided to grow sugarcane rather than ground-nut (a) because I have a social contact with the nearby sugar-mill which guarantees me immediate cash at harvest time, and (b) because sugar cane is more secure against theft than is groundnut.

## **7. RESEARCH REQUIRES A CLEAR HYPOTHESIS OR ARGUMENT FOR TESTING**

The search for a clear hypothesis or argument for testing is as difficult a challenge in agricultural research as in any other scientific endeavour. Often discussions between farmers and researchers can generate a hypothesis which is counter-intuitive, i.e., the farmer may suggest something which is different from the conventional taught doctrines of the researcher. Researchers should be sensitive to bureaucratic requests for surveys with 22 objectives. These represent a major threat to high quality research.

### **Examples of Class Room Interaction**

One of the best social science hypotheses was put forward by an agronomist from the on farm research division working in Pabna, viz:

**"The prime constraint on agricultural productivity of large parts of North Bengal is the absentee landlord who from his house in Dhaka specifies the varietal type to be grown on his land in Pabna, i.e. usually a tasty, but low productivity traditional rice variety"**.

- This hypothesis, (if it were then found that the productivity of plots where the varietal decision was made by absentee farmers was significantly lower than the productivity of locally decided plots) would form the basis for a major reorientation of extension services: (a) towards tenurial changes, and (b) for extension services to work with the urban absentee owners and the Parliament of the democratically elected Government of Bangladesh.

## **B. RESEARCH WITH AND FOR THE FARMER**

Farmers are often aware of the constraints limiting sustained increases in productivity. All researchers should spend at least one day a week with farmers, tree-growers and fishermen to learn from them and keep themselves up to date with the farmers' aspirations, just as one day per week should be spent in the library keeping up to date on the latest literature. Bureaucratic supervision and donor-driven research and extension unfortunately has the potential to make researchers more responsive to central authority decision-making.

Recent surveys suggest that SOs and SSOs spend 25% of their time with farmers, but this is not proven.

### **Examples of Class Room Interaction**

- It is true that researchers' interaction with farmers is limited. Although the on-farm researchers may spend up to 10% of their time with farmers, many researchers in the agricultural research system have not talked to a farmer, tree-grower or fisherman for a period of over an hour for at least six months.
- Laboratory and on station research scientists should develop an ethos, whereby it is the needs of the farmer which give them their *raison d'être* for their work with test-tubes indeed for all the work done in the agricultural research system.
- If the research system is responsive to farmer's needs, agricultural researchers will become national heroes in a democratic Bangladesh, because they will be delivering the new technologies which the farmer wants - they do not want relief patronage and they do not want bench-mark surveys.

## 9. GREATER USE OF STATISTICAL TESTS IS REQUIRED IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PLANNING

The present reporting on agricultural research shows a strong tendency to amass tables of percentages indicating the use of technologies by different types of farmers. These differences may not be representative of the whole population - especially when collected using rapid rural appraisal techniques e.g. - those key informants who are easily available.

### Sample Class Interactions

- Agricultural research scientists should talk to statisticians before beginning any research or fieldwork.
- Greater use of "panel data" in which the same farms are "paired" before and after the introduction of a new technology, avoids a major source of variance, hence reducing the need for large sample sizes and allowing the use of "paired" tests.
- Increased use of statistical tests should go hand in hand with more careful portrayal in scattergram form of the basic data collected to understand the "pattern of the data" before beginning the analysis.

## 10. SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Everyone in the class by definition has the potential to be one of the best researchers in identifying problems in the agricultural sectors in Bangladesh. Sustainability entails long term investments in people to search for the truth. Each one of you may seek to search for such excellence:

### Some Hints

- Come up with a research hypothesis by talking to farmers, tree-growers or fishermen.
- Have tea and chanachur with a statistician friend before beginning fieldwork.
- After the fieldwork and write-up, have some more chanachur and tea with a friend
- A friend is not someone who says "That's a good paper, put my name on it and we will publish it!"
- A friend is someone who says "The paper is no good because of X, Y, Z - rewrite it!"
- After five or six "rewrites" you may wish to have a group of friends over for an informal seminar - as a basis for further "rewrites".
- After getting hold of an editor ( a major gap in the NARS that could well be filled by VSOs or Peace Corps) submit the paper to an international refereed journal - take up the excellence challenge as a Bangladeshi in the international community of scholars!

**Note:** The Intermediate Technology Publication "Farmer First: Farmer Innovation and Agricultural Research" edited by Robert Chambers, Arnold Pacey, and Lori Ann Thrupp was also distributed to key Farming Systems Researchers in connection with this professional development.

## COLLABORATION WITH BARC & NARS (SEMINARS AND LECTURES)

Although the MoA memorandum No. KRISHI 3/GA-2/90/2 dated January 2, 1990 restrained the processing of seminars, the HRDP (Winrock International) program has successfully supported the following seminars and discussions:

- **INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION** - Dr. Robert E. Evenson (Yale University). This public lecture was advertised in the local papers and was held on March 22, 1990 at 4.30 pm in the BARC auditorium. Chaired by the EVC, BARC, it was attended by about 100 men and women from the agricultural research and the social science community at the BIDS and regional universities and representatives from the Planning Commission.
- **Workshop on FARMER CASE STUDIES** - held at BARI by the On-Farm Research Division. Both Professor Shapan Adnan, the Winrock Policy Fellow and the program leader, gave presentations at this seminar.
- **Seminar on the YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT, 1990**, at BARC. A brief following the seminar opened by the Minister of Environment was prepared by the HRDP (Winrock International) fellows and others.
- **REMOVING CONSTRAINTS ON SMALL FARMER DEVELOPMENT**. Dr. M. M. Dey (BARC), Dr. Q. Elahi (BAU), Mr. M.A. Hakim (RDA) and Mr. Fazlul Huq. The third presentation of this brief requested by the Planning Commission was made after discussions with BARC at the Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Minister of Planning.
- **PERFORMANCE DETERMINANTS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ORGANISATIONS OF BANGLADESH** - Md. Hassanullah, (HRDP) Winrock International Fellow. This in-house BARC seminar was chaired by Dr. M. S. U. Chowdhury, EVC, BARC and attended by various Member-Directors of BARC as well as other rural social scientists.
- **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND THEIR TRANSFER** - This seminar organised by the Bangladesh Society for Horticultural Science was held at BARI together with social scientists from the Rural Social Science Network.
- **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE** - Professor Stephen Marglin (Harvard University) gave an informal discussion session on "Sustainable Agriculture" in the President's room at BARC which was attended by BARC personnel, RSSN network members and NGO representatives.
- **WOMEN IN SHRIMP CULTIVATION** - This final seminar in the women's labour series by the Centre for Women in Development was held at the Planning Academy, Nilkhet.
- An informal group discussion on **ENCOURAGING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES** was held with the Acting Representative of UNDP, Mr. Terrence Jones, and attended by RSSN members.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN THE BARIND TRACT** - Dr. Bruce Currey. This seminar was presented at Rajshahi University at the request of Dr. K. M. Badruddoza, (former Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council) in an attempt to bring social scientists and plant scientists together on FSR work.
- **IS FAMINE A DISCRETE PHENOMENON?** - by Dr. Bruce Currey at the Centre for Social Studies, Dhaka University.
- Informal session on **"COMPARISON OF THE KEY FARMERS DATABASE IN INDONESIA AND POVERTY STUDIES IN BANGLADESH."** - Dr. G. Swenson (ISNAR), Dr. Robert Witzers (ISNAR), Dr. M. M. Dey (BARC), Dr. Elias (BARC), Dr. Zillur Rahman (BIDS), Haakon Lein (University Bergen) and Dr. Bruce Currey.
- Briefing session with the Japanese Team and Network Members on the MoA-BARC-JSARD project entitled, **"BANGLADESH-JAPAN JOINT STUDY ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH,"** held at BARC attended by the Coordinator of the National Farming Systems Network, Dr. Aurungzeb.
- **FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH** - Dr. Hendrik Knipscheer, Head of the Asia Division, Winrock International and chaired by Dr. Ekramul Ahsan held at BPATC, Savar.
- **BIRDS IN A CAGE: INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS AND CHANGES IN WOMEN'S POSITION IN BANGLADESH** presented at BARC by Dr. Shapan Adnan, Policy Fellow, (HRDP) Winrock International.
- **FSR DATA BASE MANAGEMENT**: Mrs. Zakia Rahman (Nipa) described the computerising of the household module of the FSR database which will later link macro-policy modelling and micro level FSR initiatives on the NARS-FSR sites, and potentially on NGO sites.
- **AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD DATABASE**: Dr. M. A. Hamid, Planning Commission, is at present compiling a computer diskette of time series data on foodgrain supply and demand disaggregated by district for Bangladesh. This diskette, along with a users' brief, will be available to researchers and policy makers.
- **THE EMERGING ROLES OF NATIONAL MACRO - POLICY IN SHAPING FORESTRY FOR SUTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**  
Dr. Jeff Ramm, Professor of Resource Policy, U.C. Berkeley

## Collaboration with BARC

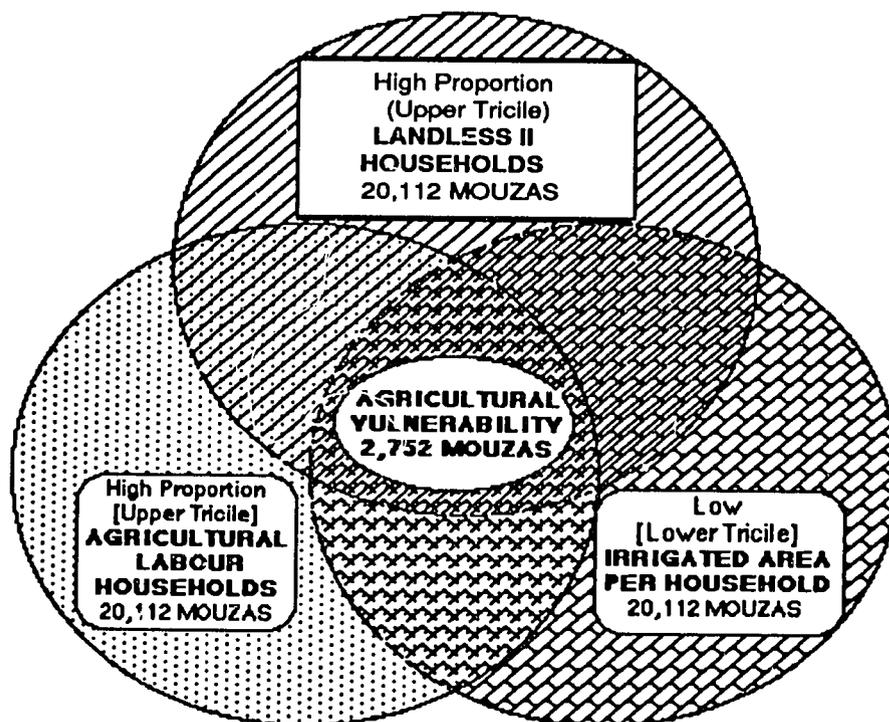
### Collaborative Research on Agriculturally Vulnerable Environments in Bangladesh

This collaborative research between The HRDP (Winrock International) and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council links an initiative by the former Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. A.M. Anisuzzaman, with a suggestion of Mr. Don Brown the Director, Office of Food and Agriculture, USAID to bring together work on labour in agriculture. The research, led by Dr. Bruce Currey, links the work of members of the rural social science network with the former (Dr. Ekramul Ahsan) and present (Dr. S.M. Elias) Member Directors of the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Division of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. Mr. Khalilur Rahman (AERS) was also invited to participate in the cartography. The collaborative research, mapping the agriculturally vulnerable environments, was carefully devised in collaboration with Dr. Z. Karim (Member-Director Soils and Irrigation) BARC as an overlay at the scale of 1:250,000 for the Agro-Ecological Zoning (AEZ) Project of BARC-FAO/UNDP.

The rural social science network, including representatives from the Poverty Monitoring Project at the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies led by Dr. Hussain Zillur Rahman, and academic staff from the Bangladesh Agricultural University, assisted with devising an operational definition of "agriculturally vulnerable Environments" in Bangladesh: (i.e. those mouzas (revenue villages) likely to suffer severe distress in the event of environmental or market perturbations).

The sample algorithm derived (see Figure A), given the paucity and fragility of mouza level data available from the BBS-FAO Agricultural Census 1983/84 was to determine those mouzas that not only had a high proportion of landless households, (i.e. a large labour pool) but also a heavy dependence on agricultural income for that labour pool, (i.e. little access to off-farm employment markets, etc.) and also a low irrigated acreage per household as the simplest proxy for a lack of labour absorption on the farm itself.

## MAPPING AGRICULTURALLY VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENTS MOUZAS OF BANGLADESH (68,000)<sup>1</sup>



### Data :

- Mouza level data were obtained courtesy of the Bangladesh Census of Agriculture and Livestock : 1983-84, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics/FAO.
- Mouza outlines were adjusted for best fit from the Small Scale Atlases of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics/UNFPA.
- Both the classifications (i.e. triciles) and the algorithm determining "Agricultural Vulnerability" were deliberately kept broad gauge and simple given the error potentials inherent in this first available socio-economic data -set disaggregated to the mouza-level in Bangladesh.
- The scale of 1: 250,000 is chosen to allow matching overlay with the Agro-Ecological Zoning maps of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and the Food and Agricultural Organisation.
- The location specificity of the data on the "Agricultural Vulnerability" map has a much higher resolution than is presently possible with the Agro-Ecological Zoning data-base.
- The data from the Bangladesh Census of Agriculture and Livestock:1983-84, although the most recently available and more recent than much of the data in the Agro-Ecological Database, is now dated, particularly given the dynamic nature of socio-economic changes in rural areas.

<sup>1</sup> The actual mouza (revenue village) data available from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics was 60,336 mouzas.

## MAPPING AGRICULTURALLY VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENTS (FOUR MAPS AT 1: 250,000)

A mouza (revenue village) is designated as possessing agricultural vulnerability (Those mouzas which are at risk of incurring human suffering if afflicted by environmental or market perturbations)

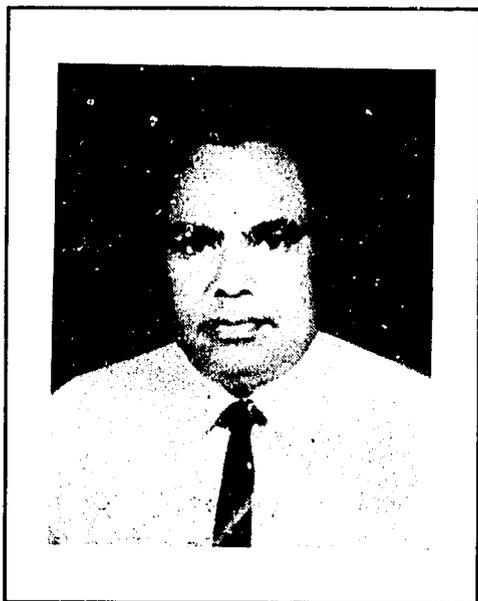
1. A high proportion (Upper Tricile of Mouzas) of landless households (in which there are many landless labourers)  
+
2. A high proportion (Upper Tricile of Mouzas) of agricultural labour households. (in which access to off-farm labour markets may be limited)  
+
3. A low (Lower Tricile of Mouzas) irrigated area per household (in which the absorption of on-farm labour is usually limited)



|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Principal Investigators</b>               | : | Bruce Currey/S.M. Elias/Ekramul Ahsan  |
| <b>Rural Social Science Network Advisors</b> | : | Dr. Shapan Adnan (WI/CU)<br>Dr. Zillur Rahman (BIDS)<br>Dr. Madan Dey (BARC)<br>Dr. Monowar Hossain (BARI)<br>Dr. M.A. Jabbar (ILCA/BAU)<br>Dr. Khandaker Qudrat - I- Elahi (BAU)                                      |
| <b>Computer Coordinator</b>                  | : | Ms. Zakia (Nipa) Rahman (WI)   |
| <b>AEZ Coordinators</b>                      | : | Dr. Z. Karim and Md. Ibrahim (BARC)  |
| <b>Computer Support</b>                      | : | Mr. Bazlur Rashid<br>Mr. Mahmud and Mr. Abed   |
| <b>Cartography</b>                           | : | Mr. Zainal Abedin, (MPO)<br>M.A. Matin (MPO)   |
| <b>Data Management</b>                       | : | Mr. Syed A. Motahar (CIDA)   |
| <b>Data Entry</b>                            | : | Mr. Nazrul Islam<br>Mr. Iqbal Khan<br>Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag<br>Mr. Kamal Hossain<br>Mr. Moshir Rahman<br>Mr. Abdur Rahman<br>Miss. Hena  |
| <b>Acknowledgements</b>                      | : | Mr. A.M. Anisuzzaman (MoP)<br>Mr. Samad (BBS)<br>Dr. M. Motubor Rahman (BARC)<br>Dr. M. S.U. Chowdhury (BARC)<br>Mr. Delwar Hossain (BBS)<br>Mr. Nazrul Islam (MPO)<br>Mr. M. A. Rahim (WI)<br>Ms. Kaberi Mustafa (WI) |

## COLLABORATION WITH AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

### BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SOCIETY (BAES)



This seminar series, run in collaboration with Mr. Shahidul Islam, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension is supported by Winrock International in collaboration with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council under the aegis of the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension - Society (BAES). The seminar series brings together participants from the Department of Agricultural Extension, with the NGO community, the University community, and the private sector. The President of the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Society, Dr. M. Hasannullah is a HRDP (Winrock International) Fellow who graduated from Dhaka University in 1990 with a Ph.D. thesis entitled "Performance Determinants of Agricultural Extension Organisations of Bangladesh." Professor A. Halim HRDP (Winrock International) fellow, Department of Agricultural Extension (BAU) has also helped to encourage the other HRDP (Winrock International) fellows to attend these meetings.

#### SEMINAR SERIES

##### "RESEARCH EXTENSION LINKAGES IN THE USA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE "LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM."

Professor Eddie A. Moore, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education  
Michigan State University, USA

**Summary :** "Problems of programming" were highlighted with particular emphasis on the political, economic, social and other developments affecting extension at the grass roots level. This participative seminar sought to bring together representatives of DAE, BAU, IPSA, NARS, and non-government organisations as "one force" for extension.

##### "MAXIMIZING THE PERFORMANCE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ORGANISATIONS IN BANGLADESH."

Dr. M. Hassanullah, Management Consultant  
Business Research Associates, Dhaka

**Summary :** The speaker studied the Agricultural and Sugarcane Extension Services and considered their different environments, approaches, strategies, management, staff and resource dimensions. A number of macro and micro models for maximizing the performance of the Agricultural Extension Services of Bangladesh were then posited using regression analysis.

**"REMOVING CONSTRAINTS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SYSTEM OF BANGLADESH; A POLICY BRIEF."**

Dr. M. Hassanullah  
Management Consultant  
Business Research Associates  
Dhaka

Summary: The constraints on effective extension work were identified and short and long term measures were recommended for improving the performance of the extension system.

**"EXTENSION RESEARCH: NEEDS, PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES."**

Dr. M. M. Rahman  
Executive Vice Chairman, BARC  
Dhaka

Summary : The speaker emphasized the need for research on extension for generating extension technologies suitable for local socio-economic conditions. The organisation of a viable research program requires :

- (i) creating an understanding about the need for extension research in the NARS.
- (ii) strengthening the extension research of the Bangladesh Agricultural University.
- (iii) developing CERDI as an autonomous fully fledged National Institute of Extension Research and Training.
- (iv) organising an extension policy research unit under the Department of Agricultural Extension.
- (v) strengthen an extension-research linkage to make both extension and the research programme appropriate to the farmers needs and aspirations.

**"IMPLICATION OF FOOD PRODUCTION STRATEGY FOR FFYP AND SUBSEQUENT PLANS UP TO 2000 A.D."**

Dr. S. M.H. Zaman  
Member (Agriculture) Planning Commission  
Dhaka

Summary : The speaker identified the challenges and policy issues relating to providing Bangladeshis with a nutritionally balanced and improved diet.

**"PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES OF EXTENSION WORK : AN IMPLEMENTATION PERSPECTIVE."**

Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam  
Director General  
Department of Agriculture Extension  
Dhaka

**Summary:** The speaker identified the problems of extension work and suggested how the deficiencies could be removed through :

- (a) the greater use of informal and formal groups for the identification and dissemination of extension messages.
- (b) the effective supervision of block supervisors by upazila and district level staff.
- (c) providing supervisory and management training.
- (d) strengthening the institutional framework for extension research and linkages between extension and research.

**"NGO : CONCEPTS AND STRATEGIES OF EXTENSION WORK."**

Khushi Kabir  
Coordinator  
Nijerakori  
Dhaka

**Summary:** Giving the background of NGO operations, the speaker highlighted the extension concepts and strategies followed by NGOs. NGO extension work is characterized by (a) target clients focused on the socially disadvantaged and poorer section of society, and (b) a participatory group approach for consciousness raising along with the transfer of technologies.

**"PRIVATE AND PUBLIC VENTURES FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN BANGLADESH."**

Dr. Raymond H. Morton  
USAID, Dhaka

**Summary:** The speaker explored the alternative systems of extension work and emphasized that there are opportunities for both private enterprise and public extension to work together in rural communities of Bangladesh. Emerging agri-business firms and entrepreneurs need information, training and supporting government policies and services to organize their extension services.

**" IMPACT OF TRAINING AND VISIT EXTENSION SYSTEM OVER RAJSHAHI DIVISION BETWEEN 1977-87."**

Dr. A. M. Anwarul Karim  
Fishery Extension Expert  
UNDP/FAO  
Dhaka

**Summary:** The speaker organized a survey of the Training and Visit (T & V) Extension System introduced in Rajshahi Division as a pilot project in 1977. He estimated the impact of the T&V system on increasing

**production, income and training as follows:**

- (i) Average yield per hectare of cereals (rice and wheat) increased from 0.94 to 1.51 tons.
- (ii) Horticultural crops (potato, tomato, cabbage, etc.) from 6.72 to 7.92 tons.
- (iii) The farm family's annual average income increased from Tk. 9,677 to Tk. 10,247.
- (iv) The extension staff (1,430) in the study received training or participated in seminars and internal research workshops to develop their professional efficiency.
- (v) A total number of 42,192 farmers (nearly 4% of the total farmers) annually participated in the farmer's training programme.
- (vi) About 361,819 (34% of the total farmers) were contacted directly or indirectly by extension workers.

The speaker observed that costs per extension worker are very low in Bangladesh, about six times less than such expenditures in developing countries. He emphasized the need to increase the budget in line with extension work in other countries.

Dr. Hassanullah and The Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Society are now coordinating a major initiative on **Government and NGO Linkages in Agricultural Extension** for 1991. This interactive meeting will include major papers from Mr. Shahidul Islam, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension. Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed - (Executive Director, BRAC), Mr. M. A. Satter (BRAC), Mr. Asger Ali Sarker (Proshika), Mr. Jahim (FIVDB), Mr. M. Hassanullah (AST), Mr. Peter Graham (MCC).

**COLLABORATION WITH BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

Bangladesh Unnayan Gobeshona Protishthan (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies) held a Seminar with HRDP (Winrock International) support on:

**Minor Irrigation and Agriculture**

**Speaker:**

Dr. David Gisselquist (FAO)

**Papers Presented:**

**IRRIGATION SUPPLY**

**Discussants:**

Dr. Madan Dey (BARC)  
Prof. M.R. Biswas (BAU)

**Speaker:**

Dr. Akhter Ahmed (IFPRI)

**IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY  
AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Discussants:**

Dr. K.A.S. Murshid (BIDS)  
Dr. S. Zohir (BIDS)

**Speaker:**

Dr. Zahir Sadeque  
(AST/CIDA)

**IRRIGATION IMPACTS AT  
THE LOCAL LEVEL**

**Discussants:**

Dr. Nurul Alam (JU)  
Dr. Alastiar Orr (BRRI/ODA)

**General Discussion**

Mr. Abu Abdullah (BIDS)  
Mr. Ershadul Huq (MoA)- [Unable to attend]

The Human Resources Development Program of Winrock International, in addition to supporting a number of fellows from BIDS, particularly women's fellowships, and a local research award on agricultural labour contracts has worked very closely with BIDS on its poverty monitoring programme led by RSSN Member Dr. Hussain Zillur Rahman. At the request of BARC, in line with the MoA Agricultural Sector Review, WI drew up a Memorandum of Understanding between BIDS and BARC.

## COLLABORATION WITH PLANNING COMMISSION

This brief on a private sector Small Farmer Development Bank was requested by the Dr. Sk. Maqsood Ali (Member General Economics) of the Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh and was approved by Mr. K. Fazlur Rahman, Member (Organisations) and Dr. S.M. Hassanuzzaman (Member Agriculture). The report prepared by a team Coordinated by Dr. Madan Mahan Dey (BARC - WI fellow) and led by Dr. Khandaker Qudrat - I Elahi (BAU) included two other Winrock Fellows. Mr. M. A. Hakim (RDA, Bogra) and Mr. Fazlul Huq (RDA, Bogra). The report was included in the Agricultural Task Force Report in the transition to democracy.

### SMALL FARMER DEVELOPMENT BANK

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Small farmers in Bangladesh form a keystone for development planning. They constitute about 50% of rural households. Small farmers' productivity must be increased to arrest the process of increasing landlessness, and to increase overall economic growth, on the basis of their large numbers and high productivity.

In this brief "small farmers" are defined in congruence with the definition of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, i.e., those rural people who own and/or operate land holdings between 0.05 and 2.49 acres and whose major occupation is farming.

At present small farmers are unable to contribute to economic growth in proportion to their potential, because of constraints such as limited access to land, credit, irrigation, other inputs, and employment; as well as problems of tenancy and high rates of illiteracy, etc.

Despite these constraints, small farmers, because of their better management and high labour inputs, are more productive, especially when they have access to improved inputs, e.g. modern varieties. Thus, those few small farmers who do have access to credit are better able to repay it than do larger farmers. This ability of small farmers to repay might be improved even further by following the supervisory model of the Grameen Bank.

Production credit plays a dominant role in small farmer development, because it augments the demand for the other inputs necessary for increased agricultural productivity. Existing rural credit institutions/programmes, e.g. BRDB, BKB, etc., do not have many of the features or characteristics which a small farmer credit programme should have, such as collateral-free loans, simple lending procedures, assistance with access to input and product markets, target-group approaches,

supervised credit, and most of all, the formation of groups which are strong enough to oppose the existing power structure. The failure of existing institutions, with the exception of the Grameen Bank, to break down the rural power structure is proven *de facto*, because 85% of small farmers still do not have access to the present institutional sources of credit.

This policy brief proposes a new key to unlock these constraints by building a development bank from highly organised groups of small farmers to expand their productive potential and to overcome the power structure. This will eventually be called the Small Farmers' Development Bank (SFDB).

It is not immediately possible to set up a nationwide SFDB in the Fourth Five Year Plan Period because of resource constraints, and the necessity to train a strong cadre of committed manpower to develop highly organised groups like the Grameen Bank groups.

Rather, a small farmer development bank project (SFDBP) will be started in the Fourth Five Year Plan period, and this will be known as the "JAGO" (Junior Administrator/Group Organiser) programme.

The components of the proposed programme are specifically modelled on the strengths of the Grameen Bank and the small farmer development programme of BARD, but unlike the Grameen bank, this programme will focus on the small farmer.

The programme will not include any small farmers who are already receiving credit from existing public or private sector production and social development programmes such as the Grameen Bank, BRDB, NGOs, etc.

The components of the proposed programme should include (i) the disbursement of Tk. 480 crores credit to small farmers, (ii) a focus on highly productive activities for that particular farmer group in that particular socio-economic and agro-ecological environment, (iii) assistance with extension and marketing, (iv) a major emphasis on organising and training small farmer groups and integrating them into the development process at the upazila level. Although funds will be provided by the government to the project as seed capital, this will be recouped in the initial five years.

The program will benefit 1.2 million small farmers in those twelve districts and 800 unions of Bangladesh (i) where the greatest concentration of poverty remains,\* and (ii) which are not already receiving credit from other small farmer development programmes.

The JAGO programme will be implemented through an autonomous project administration authority. The structure of the programme will include : i) a National Project Management Authority at the national level headed by the National Project Director; ii) a Local Project Management Authority at the Upazilla level; and (iii) JAGOs (Junior Administrator and Group Organisers) at the field level.

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\*See Agriculturally Vulnerable Environments Mapping Project

The JAGOs will be the key personnel in ensuring the long term success of the programme. They will first and foremost organise groups of small farmers and only then work with farmers in: determining the appropriate productive investment activities; linking farmers with improved extension and marketing channels; disbursing loans for increased production; realizing credit and mobilizing savings. It is the JAGOs and small farmer groups who together, like Professor Yunus, have to break the counter forces of the existing rural power structure.

It is the JAGOs who will help small farmers to prepare production plans for loans based upon the identification of the most profitable activities. These production plans will be approved by the Local Project Management Officer. Loans will be disbursed right down to the village level, and they will be recovered in regular installments to prevent the development of usury.

An insurance fund will be created to provide for defaults in the case of natural disasters by keeping aside 10% of the loan money. Savings mobilization will also be an integral part of the programme's group disciplinary procedures.

The JAGOs will be charged with integrating small farmers into the development process at the upazila level by ensuring their active participation in:

- (i) the local level planning process,
- (ii) the implementation of the land reform program, and
- (iii) the upazila production and employment programmes.

The JAGOs, in collaboration with upazila officials, will:

- (i) help small farmers to identify profitable productive enterprises,
- (ii) provide technical guidance as extension agents, and
- (iii) help in linking small farmers to marketing opportunities.

The JAGO programme has a long term perspective in that its component parts, operating together, will create a base for the full-fledged Small Farmer's Development Bank in subsequent plan periods.

The importance of small farmers in Bangladesh is so great that a special lobby should be created in the Planning Commission, so that small farmers are taken into account in all integrated development planning.

The proposal emanating from this policy brief, once agreed to by the Planning Commission, must be subjected to a rigorous economic appraisal and simulation of the potential impacts of such a credit program on the overall growth of the national economy under different policy regimes during this and future plan periods.

## COLLABORATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

### A NEW FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1990 was the "Year of the Environment" and the HRDP (Winrock Programme) worked with the Government of Bangladesh, the NGO sector, the private sector, and the Ford Foundation to host and produce an introductory meeting entitled "National Seminar on The Year of the Environment: 1990" (Proceedings published). HRDP (Winrock International) Fellow, Dr. Syed Zahir Sadeque then coordinated the ensuing brief prepared by Dr. Kazi Sadrul Haque (Ford Foundation Fellow), Ms. Ishrat Shamin (WI fellow) and Dr. A.H.M. Zehadul Karim (WI fellow) entitled "Environmental Issues and Natural Resource Management in Bangladesh" a brief in support of environmental policy - (see key implications and recommendations below).

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

#### Population and Poverty

- \* Reduce population growth by increasing literacy rates; increasing the participation of women in the labour force; reducing unemployment and by implementing an effective health and family planning programme by creating demand and improving the management of the service delivery system.
- \* Provide increased emphasis on poverty alleviation to increase both sustainable development and the creative management of natural resources.

#### Migration and Urbanization

- \* Strategically manage migration from rural areas to urban centres by establishing agro-based industries in rural growth centres.
- \* Upgrade urban slums by providing low-cost housing, water and sanitation facilities, and skills training.
- \* Increase sanitary provisions so that the present gap between the coverage in water supply (70 percent) and sanitation (only 4 percent) is reduced.
- \* Launch a massive environmental improvement drive focussing on pollution control and the improved combustion efficiency of motor vehicles, factories, industries, municipal wastes, and cooking stoves.

## **Land Use and Agriculture**

- \* Formulate a comprehensive national land use plan using a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach. Prepare a specific set of area development strategies for managing the use of environmentally sensitive areas like urban and peri-urban land and char lands.
- \* Encourage higher productivity from agricultural land through increased multiple cropping and improved crop rotation programmes.
- \* Study the comparative advantages of competing products and production technologies in concert with the assessment of their environmental and social impacts.
- \* Enhance soil fertility by encouraging the increased application of organic manure, compost and green manure. Encourage improved management and more effective use of chemical fertilizers and other agrochemicals.
- \* Encourage the strengthening of integrated pest management (IPM), thus lessening the dependence on toxic chemical pesticides and herbicides. Popularise appropriate biological control measures.

## **Forestry and Wildlife**

- \* Direct greater public attention towards the conservation of forest resources and link this to policy initiatives in other sectors such as improving the gas supplies to brickfields.
- \* Launch a massive afforestation and reforestation programme including a large coastal afforestation project.
- \* Ensure that afforestation and reforestation schemes are fully integrated with national efforts to protect wildlife, indigenous species and the need for bio-diversity.
- \* Expand agro-forestry, social and community forestry, as well as homestead forestry schemes.
- \* Encourage, with incentives (e.g. debt relief) private afforestation initiatives on government (Khas) lands, particularly on denuded hills.

## **Education and Mass Environmental Awareness**

- \* Provide environmental education to all sections of society. Strengthen environmental training programmes for researchers, academics, policy planners, government officials and media personnel.
- \* Mount a mass awareness campaign on environmental management in the deltaic environment and its hinterland through different media, e.g. posters, radio, television, short films and slides.
- \* Focus on women as educators, nurturers and producers at the household level thus improving household, community, and work environments, in both rural and urban areas.

## **Environmental Databases, Monitoring Systems and Impact Assessment**

- \* Develop environmental databases for land, water, and air resources to detect changes in environmental quality, drawing lessons from experience in other countries and regions.
- \* Mount case studies on specific environmental issues throughout the country in order to manage and utilize the country's natural resource base more efficiently.
- \* Develop early warning systems (EWS) on the imminent danger of floods, droughts, river erosion, cyclones, tidal surges and sea level rise, not only as a form of disaster monitoring and preparedness programmes, but also to develop environmental awareness.
- \* Ensure that environmental assessment procedures appropriate to Bangladesh are developed and then ensure that environmental impact assessments (EIA) involve the developers, the institutions legally responsible, the government, and the affected public. Such environmental assessments should be mandatory for all industrial plants (including chemical and pharmaceutical) for all flood control and drainage projects, for all transport linkages, as well as for other major planning changes.

## **Institutional Coordination and NGO Activities**

- \* Incorporate environmental considerations into all public and private sector development policies and programmes.
- \* Strengthen inter-departmental collaboration and coordination relating to the protection of the environment.
- \* Coordinate NGO activities and experiences on environmental improvement and protection with the relevant government departments.
- \* Co-ordinate with International Donor Agencies for financial support in respect of environmental programmes in Bangladesh.

## **Legislative Measures**

- \* First install recording systems and enforcement mechanisms and then update existing environmental legislation dealing with land use, air, water and noise pollution, toxic chemicals, industrial wastes, forest conservation, wildlife protection, health and sanitation.
- \* First seek greater understanding of environmental legislation, and only then promulgate appropriate enforceable laws in support of a comprehensive environmental law (including a revised family law of inheritance) and environmental policies.
- \* Develop new concepts of property rights, together with appropriate legal enforcement procedures, to rehabilitate ecologically displaced and socially disadvantaged people in Bangladesh.
- \* Design an appropriate and enforceable legal framework for the productive use of common property resources within the political milieu and management potentials of Bangladesh society.

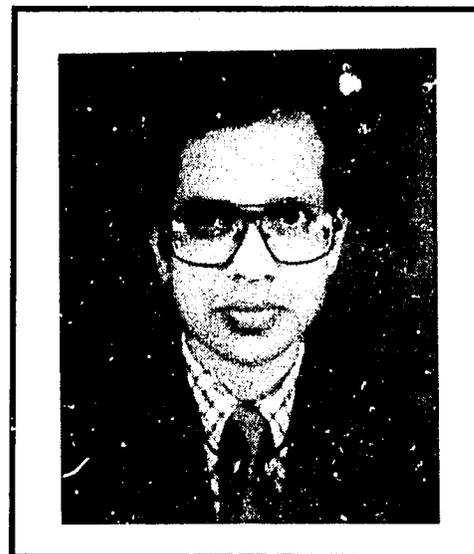
**COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATIVES - (RDA, BOGRA)**

With the support of the Additional Secretary in charge Rural Development and Cooperatives, Mr. Hasnat Abdul Hye (RSSN Member) the program has sought to assist both RDA, Bogra and BARD, Comilla.

Dr. W.M.H. Jaim (Ph.D. Wye College) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics [BAU] was selected with ODA as the Post Doctoral Fellow in Irrigation Management at the Bogra Academy.

Dr. Jaim has been able :

- \* To open up linkages with British Universities for long term training for RDA and link-institution staff.
- \* To establish a small technical committee from Bangladesh and abroad to guide irrigation management research at Bogra Academy.
- \* To augment the usual quota for British TCTP training awarded to RDA, Bogra.
- \* To establish good relations with both British and Japanese donors on behalf of the Director General and the staff of RDA, Bogra.
- \* To work with a small number of younger field researchers, mostly social scientists, gaining computer experience and getting them into the field in Bogra District to examine irrigation issues.
- \* To coordinate a workshop on "Irrigation Issues in Bangladesh" (see overleaf) thus making linkages for RDA with BAU, Rajshahi University, The Islamic University, Dhaka University, and BPATC. The seminar was also attended by government, non-government and private sector interests and included participants from USA, Japan, UK and West Germany.



**WINROCK INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Invitation for applications from both men and women for the following position:  
Post Doctoral Fellowship  
In  
Irrigation Management  
at the Rural Development Academy, Bogra, Bangladesh

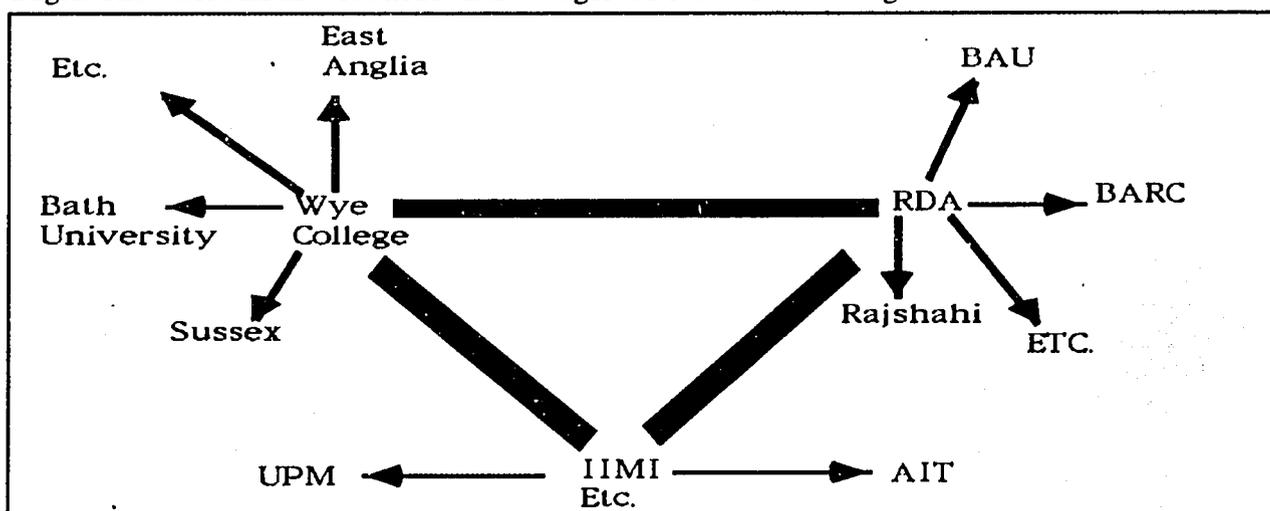
A two year fellowship funded by the UK Overseas Development Administration will be awarded to a rural social scientist with experience in irrigation management. The fellow will help strengthen social science capabilities at RDA Bogra and contribute to RDA's growing role in action-oriented social science research. The fellow will be expected to carry out research on irrigation management and to act as a tutor for RDA staff, providing guidance on research methodology including planning experiments, computerised data interpretation and report preparation. The fellow will also help to link RDA staff into Winrock International's Network of Bangladeshi Rural Social Scientists and regional networks on irrigation management. Experience in post graduate teaching of social statistics is preferred. Previous developing country experience is essential, preferably in South Asia. The position is scheduled to begin in April 1990.

Salary Scale : The fixed term appointment will be made on the UK lecturer Grade A scale (Pound Sterling 9,260 - 14,500 per annum) and accommodation will be provided in the VIP Hostel at the RDA, Bogra.

Applications (three copies) including a full curriculum vitae and a proposed research plan, should be sent along with three letters of reference to arrive not later than 16 February 1990 to the Programme Leader, Human Resources Development Programme, Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, PO Box 6083, Gulshan, Dhaka Bangladesh, Phone 316017, Telex 640940 ADAB BJ or Fax 880-2-41972 DHAKA, SHERATON Attn: Winrock.

**The WI Post-Doctoral Fellow  
and  
RDA's Technical Advisory Network for Irrigation Management.**

The potential multiplier effects of a research deputation scheme for academic post-doctoral fellows linked to a network (just like the WI Policy Fellow at BARC) are similarly illustrated by Dr. W.M.H. Jaim's work with irrigation management networks in collaboration with Mr. R.L. Sarker, the Director General, RDA, Bogra. The Potentials network nodes and linkages are outlined in the diagram below:



The reality is that Mr. R.L. Sarker has, with the collaboration of Dr. W.M.H. Jaim, already initiated a Technical Advisory Network for conducting research on irrigation management at RDA including the eleven leading irrigation issues in contemporary context, viz.:

1. Prof. M.A. Hamid, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University, Kushtia.
2. Prof. M.R. Biswas, Department of Irrigation and Water Management, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh.
3. Dr. Donald E. Parker, Resident Scientist, International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI), 56A, Road 16(New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka -1209
4. Dr. Bruce Currey, Program Leader (HRDP), Winrock International, BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka -1015.
5. Dr. M.A. Ghani, Agricultural Engineer, World Bank, Resident Mission in Dhaka, Dhaka -1000.
6. Dr. W.M.H. Jaim, Winrock International Post-Doctoral Fellow, RDA, Bogra.
7. Dr. Monirul Islam Khan, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Dhaka University, Dhaka-1000.
8. All Members of the Faculty of Irrigation Management, RDA, Bogra.

This research deputation, in which a fellow links RDA staff into broader networks allows irrigation management research at RDA to be strengthened through individuals at a variety of Bangladeshi institutions. It also allows a strong linkage with IIMI Resident Scientist, Dr. Donald E. Parker, and Mr. M.A. Hakim, HRDP (Winrock International) Ph.D. fellow, and IIMI Economist and the on-going work on irrigation management at the HRDP (Winrock International ) program, viz.

1. **Review of Studies on Shallow Tubewell Irrigation Management in Bangladesh.** Syed Z. Sadeque and M.A. Hakim
2. **Analysis of the Impact of Shallow Tubewell on Productivity and Income distribution in Dhaka District of Bangladesh.**  
M.S. Thesis by Ishrat Jahan
3. **Development and Evaluation of a Main System Delivery Model for Small scale Irrigation Systems .** Md. Nurul Alam Akhand
4. (a) **A Comparative Economic Study of the Different Systems of Tubewell Irrigation in Some Selected Areas of Mymensingh District .** M. S. Thesis W.M.H. Jaim  
  
(b) **Food Production and Food Entitlement in Rural Bangladesh. The Five year outlook for a small community in an Irrigated Area.**  
Ph.D. Thesis W.M.H. Jaim
5. **Effects of the Irrigation Management Programme on Boro Rice Productivity and Agrarian Income Inequality in North West Bangladesh.**  
Md. Taufiqul Arif.
6. **The Impact of Irrigation on Production and Development at Farm Level. A Study in Bogra District of Bangladesh .**  
Muhammed Abdul Hakim.
7. **The Leading Irrigation Issues in the contemporary context : A case study of privatisation in Bangladesh.**  
Dr. W.M.H. Jaim + R.L. Sarker
8. **Irrigation and Agrarian Structure with Special Reference to Labour in Village in a Bangladesh.**  
Md. Monirul Islam Khan.

**LEADING IRRIGATION ISSUES IN THE CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT:  
The case of privatisation in Bangladesh**

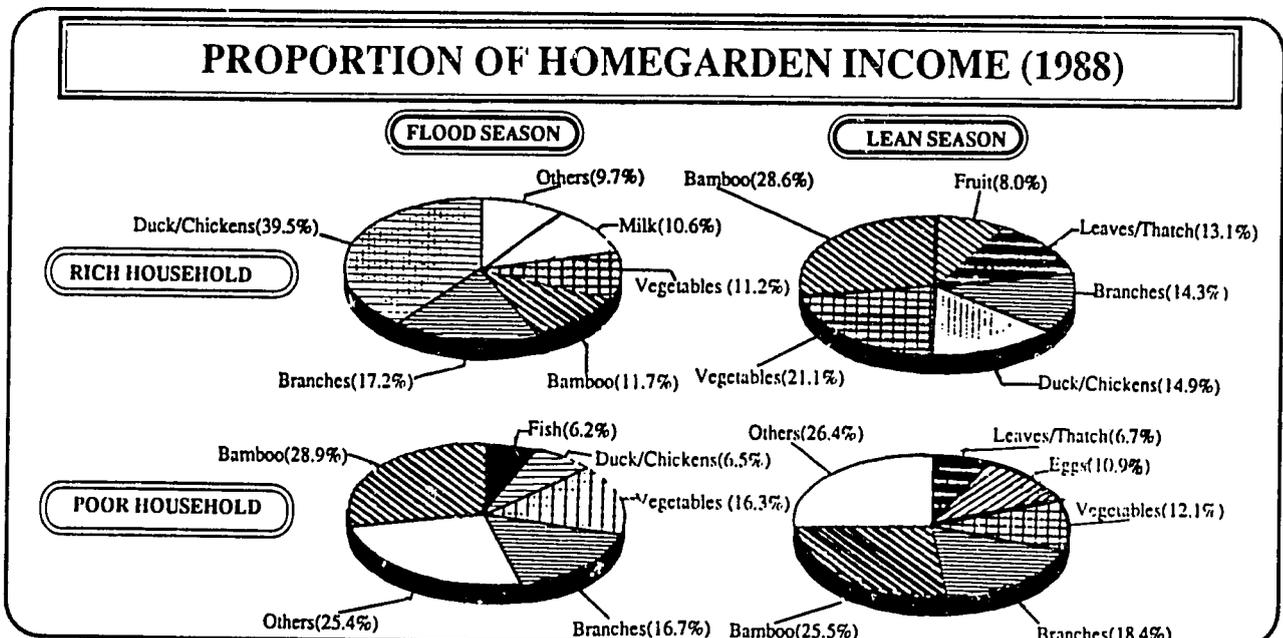
1. How can we promote privatisation of irrigation while accommodating the equity issue?
2. How can we control the use of ground water under privatisation?
3. How can we ensure the efficient use of irrigation by diversified cropping under privatisation?
4. How can we accommodate improved water distribution systems under privatisation?
5. How can fair output prices for farmers be ensured in order to encourage privatisation?
6. How can good leadership be built up under the privatisation programme?
7. What would be the institutional arrangements for providing credit under a privatisation policy?
8. Does the privatisation of irrigation ensure the efficient use of irrigation equipment when there is no need for irrigation water?
9. How does privatisation promote the extension services?
10. Does privatisation increase the output per unit of water?
11. How can privatisation promote local industries for the production of irrigation equipment, spare-parts, etc.?

## COLLABORATION WITH BARD, COMILLA

As the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council linkage with the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Comilla initiated proposal for a post-doctoral fellow to study gender issues, unfortunately did not materialize with BARD, the HRDP (Winrock International) programme maintained its linkages with BARD and the Director General, Mr. Margub Morshed (RSSN member), through the Ford Foundation-Funded Long Term Village Study Project. Professor Shapan Adnan (Winrock Policy Fellow), and the program leader, attended the second national workshop of the Long Term Village Studies Project. RSSN member, Dr. Zillur Rahman, BIDS was an advisor for the project and RSSN member, Dr. Nurul Alam (JU), was a member of the evaluation team for the project.

Professor Adnan's publication with BARD, Comilla entitled "Annotation of Village Studies in Bangladesh and West Bengal: A Review of Socio-Economic Trends over 1942-88" was distributed through the Rural Social Science Network and reviewed by RSSN members: Dr. Zahir Sadeque (RU/AST/CIDA), Dr. Wilhelm Van Schendel (Erasmus University) and Dr. Peter J. Bertocci, (Oakland University). The Annotation of Village Studies includes chapters on the salient features of village studies, and specific chapters on i) Village Formation and Settlement, ii) Demography iii) Land-Man Relationships iv) Agriculture v) Non-Agricultural Sectors vi) Rural Development, and vii) Social Structure. The final chapter on "Further Research" outlines a role for a well-organised programme of village studies in the forthcoming decade of the 1990s.

The program also participated in the CIRDAP sponsored workshop on "Kitchen Gardening and Homestead Productive Activities." RSSN members, Dr. Monwar Hossain, (Horticulture. BARI) and Dr. Bruce Currey, (WI-BARC) both presented papers at this workshop, and assisted in developing recommendations for the development of a regional network on research and development pertaining to various types of homestead production systems.



The BARD submitted to the HRDP (Winrock International) a proposal by Abdul Mannan Majumder, Bijoy Kumar Barua, and Masudul Hoq Chowdhury entitled "Socio-economic aspects of shrimp culture in coastal areas of Bangladesh." As this is an area of central concern for the RSSN coordination committee (see below), it is hoped that young researchers at BARD might later link up with RSSN in this area.

The Coordination Committee of the Rural Social Science Network has emphasised the socio-economic problems of shrimp cultivation in the polder areas of south east Bangladesh. They emphasise that without a sustainable production strategy in which areas are designated as shrimp areas to benefit the people of that area, the potential for conflicts through non-sustainable production strategies are considerable: viz.

**Case Study 1.**  
**Polder No. 20**

This is a showpiece development project for the development of shrimp growing sponsored by the World Bank, with funds channelled through some of the nationalized Banks mostly to rich families. An NGO, Caritas, is supposed to be helping the poor to learn about shrimp culture. Much of the land in Polder 20 is owned or leased by the large land-owning families of Khulna. In the first week of January, 1991, with support from the rich shrimp growers and the police, the men and women of a poor landless group were attacked. It proved impossible, in order to have policies improved, to get the national press to print this story, reportedly because both the World Bank and the NGO, Caritas, were involved.

**Case Study 2.**  
**Polder 21**

Despite government directives to the effect that Polder 21 was a non-shrimp growing area, it has now been almost entirely converted into a shrimp-growing area. There is at least one military officer among the major shrimp growers in the polder. It is becoming difficult to graze cattle in polder 21, and the farmers send their livestock to the neighbouring polder 22, which is one of the few polders which have remained largely free of the adverse effects of shrimp growing. It still has undisturbed tracts of grassland for cattle grazing, some of which are state-owned and, in that sense, constitute common property resources.

**Case Study 3.**  
**Polder 22**

This polder is part of the Dutch Development Programme which attempts to organise small farmers and landless for increased productivity. In August 1990, a powerful shrimp-growing interest attempted to capture a part of the polder by bringing in armed men. However, the local landless groups resisted. In the ensuing conflict, the attackers killed one woman, and abducted another, and wounded many people both men and women.

## Collaboration with NGO's

Although the program has traditionally supported the government sector, HRDP (Winrock International) has progressively attempted, within the existing institutional arrangements, to maintain open access for productive individuals within the NGO and private sector as well as the existing government sector. In order to keep abreast of developments in the NGO sector, both the Program Leader and the Policy Fellow have been Advisory Editors of **ADAB News**, produced by the Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh and this will soon become a Development Journal entitled "**Grassroots**".

The Ph. D. fellowship program traditionally has been for government officials including university personnel, but in 1998 a new **policy interneeship program** was devised in collaboration with MoA to allow non-government personnel to avail of the fellowship. The selection committees, composed of Mr. Akmal Hossain, Joint Secretary (PPC), Chairman (Chairman Committee I), Ms. Ishrat Jahan (MoA) (Committee - II) and Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Economist, Dhaka University (Committee- I) and Professor Shapan Adnan Economics - Chittagong University (Committee II) and the Program Leader selected three interneeships. Mr. Shamsur Rahman took a position with an NBR project during the absence on ill - health of the Joint Secretary (PPC). Mr. Abu Hena Reza Hasan was later rejected after selection as he wished to later transfer to the university and finally the Jt. Secretary (PPC) arranged to have the third candidate, Ms. Sharifa Khan, absorbed into the MoA staff.

The next Ph.D. fellowship training proposal developed by the program leader entitled "Environmental and Natural Resource Training in Deltaic Areas" in collaboration with network members, and with Dr. David Seckler, Director, Agricultural Policy and Resource Development, Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, has a built-in internship program for GO's, NGO's and the private sector. This would also mesh with the program's efforts to have the FSR monitoring form used by agricultural NGO's like MCC, FIVDB and RDRS..

The criteria for the research awards program chaired by the Additional Secretary (MoA) in lieu of the Secretary of Agriculture, is clearly advertised as allowing open access for all professional social scientists. The 34 international reviewers come from the public, private, university, and multi-national sectors.

Publication Awards to develop the rural social sciences have been given to private sector individuals and NGO's in collaboration with BARC. Through the leadership of HRDP (Winrock International) Ph.D. fellow, Dr. M. Hassanullah, the program has sought to increase open discussion in the Agricultural Research and Extension Community through NGO and private sector discussions.

In collaboration with the Ford Foundation the program has supported the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies in their work with a group of Bangladesh Social Foresters to write an international journal article on "The Social Forest of Bangladesh".

### POLICY INTERPRETATION INTERNEESHIPS

Recent M.S. level graduates in Economics, Agricultural Economics and other Social Science are encouraged to apply for one year interneeships on policy interpretation with the Policy and Planning Cell of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh. Each intern will receive Tks. 5,000.00 per month during the pre-degree training period. Interns will be eligible, upon successful completion of the interneeship, for applying for an HRDP Winrock Ph.D. fellowship in the 'Rural' Social Sciences. Interns will gain experience in the field of agricultural policy formulation through the interpretation of agricultural policy research papers and the drafting of briefs in support of improved agricultural policies. The Interns will also receive appropriate computer training and will interact with BARC's rural social science network.

Applications with full bio-data recent photos should reach the Joint Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka by 20th February 1990.

D-3593

BANGLADESH OBSERVER, DATED 4TH FEBRUARY 1990

BANGLADESH OBSERVER,  
DATED 4TH FEBRUARY 1990

## COLLABORATION WITH BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

### BANGLADESH ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION AND THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY

#### JOINT SEMINAR BANGLADESH AGRICULTURE: IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

This regional seminar was held on Thursday, June 14th. The chief guest, Professor M. Asadur Rahman, Vice Chancellor, (BAU) and the special guest, Professor Muzaffer Ahmed, (DU), offered the opening speeches. Following the inaugural session, papers were presented by :

| <u>Speaker</u>   | <u>Papers Presented</u>  |
|--|--|
| Dr. Abu Abdullah (BIDS)  | Recent Performance and Evolution of Policies in Agriculture.   |
| Dr. Madan M. Dey (BARC)  | Price Stabilization and Agricultural Production : The Case of Bangladesh.                                      |
| Dr. K. Q. Elahi<br>Prof. A.M. Muazzam Hossain,<br>Prof. M. Lutfor Rahman (BAU) | A New Methodology for Estimating Growth Rates of Major Cereal Crops in Bangladesh and its Policy Implications. |
| Dr. Shaheen Akter (BRRI)   | Buffer Stock Schemes to Support Producers' Incomes in Bangladesh"  |
| Dr. M.A.S. Mondal (BAU)  | Irrigation Management by the Landless.   |
| Dr. W.M.H. Jaim (BAU)  | Agricultural Credit Policy and the Farmers of Bangladesh. A Case of Deprivation.                               |
| Mr. M. Mahfuzur Rahman (BAU)   | Bangladesh Agriculture and Five Year Plans.  |
| Dr. Md. Hassanullah<br>(AST/CIDA/MOA)  | Removing Constraints from the Extension Systems of Bangladesh: A Policy Brief.                                 |

Most of the participants were key members of the Rural Social Science Network. The results were later published in the Journal of Political Economy Vol. 10, No. 3.

Computer support, computer repair, and computer training have also been supplied to the Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (BAU) through the Computer Network Coordinator, Ms. Nipa Rahman.

## Bringing Universities and Agricultural Research & Extension Together

### Complementing ISNAR in Bangladesh

#### Universities: an underexploited resource

When NARS in developing countries are being discussed, reference is generally made to publicly funded research only. Private-sector research is often neglected, although its role is growing in many countries.

In industrialized countries, private funding often matches or even surpasses public funding for agricultural research and technology development. Usually, it concentrates on cash crops and industrial inputs for crop and animal production protection, and processing. In many developing countries, though, conditions are not yet favorable enough to attract private research. It will therefore be of limited importance for some.

The potential role of universities in developing country agricultural research is not generally exploited or even recognized. Like the NARS, the universities are also funded from government budgets. They possess considerable resources in the form of qualified, experienced professors and inquisitive students, willing to assist or undertake research in accordance with national priorities. In many countries, however, these human resources are underemployed when it comes to problem-solving research. At the same time, it often happens that the physical resources controlled by the NARS are also underutilized. Couldn't these two types of resources be matched up? Perhaps university research could be made fully responsive to national priorities. Such an integration might also yield a very important by-product - more problem-oriented training programs for future national researchers.

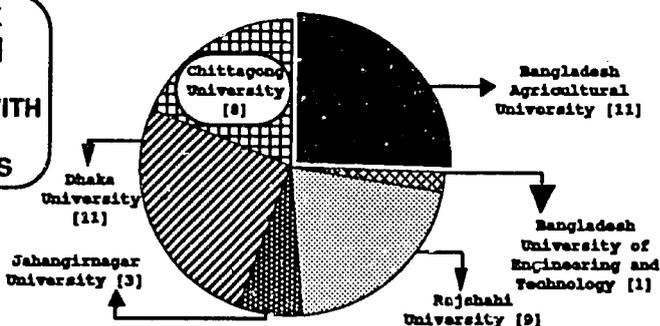
*Christine Bosh-Tiedman*

Christian Bosh-Tiedman  
ISNAR Director General



Dr. Shapan Adnan (right), Professor of Economics on Chittagong University, a returned Winrock Fellow, on deputation at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), presents an illustrated lecture on, "Institutional Factors and Changes in Women's Position in Bangladesh", in a discussion forum along with the Executive Vice Chairman, (BARC) (Dr. M. S. U. Chowdhury) (centre) and the Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University (Dr. Moniruzzaman Miah) (left).

#### HRDP [WINROCK INTERNATIONAL] FELLOWS IN COLLABORATION WITH BARC AT THE UNIVERSITIES



The HRDP (Winrock International) program complementing ISNAR in Bangladesh has managed to maintain the A/D/C programme's commitment to the universities, as well as the NARS, despite attempts to thwart this initiative during 1990. A recent ISNAR working paper\* stated:

"Despite the unlimited resources at its disposal, the World Bank does not have a cadre of core staff and consultants who have the time to study and reflect, and the freedom to design long-term projects that slowly and progressively strengthen the human capability of national agricultural research systems over a period of decades"

The HRDP (Winrock International) program has struggled to maintain that freedom for Bangladeshis working in both the Universities, the NARS and elsewhere for their country, as exemplified by:

- i) the Policy Fellow, Professor Shapan Adnan's participation with the two distinguished Agricultural Scientists, Dr. Kazi M. Baddrudouza and Dr. S.M. Hassanuzzaman on Professor Eusufzai's report entitled "Review of the ISNAR Review"
- ii) the program leader's recent initiative in collaboration with EVC, BARC, of June 9th for the program to assist the Honourable Minister of Agriculture's request for the development of a "A Sustainable Agricultural Policy for Bangladesh".

\* Sustainable Institutions for African Agricultural Development Carl R. Eicher (1989) Working Paper No. 19, ISNAR, P26, para.3.

## VIEWS ON THE COLLABORATIVE MODE OF OPERATION BY A POLICY FELLOW

Shapan Adnan

### **The Work**

The Human Resources Development Programme (HRDP) administered by Winrock International is an ambitious one. It is also perhaps the only one of its kind in the country, in the sense that the work is done in collaboration with BARC, which is the 'apex' research institution under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Bangladesh. This particular arrangement with the government makes it possible for the HRDP to be administered in a way which can directly reach and assist Bangladeshi professionals involved with agricultural development.

For me, work as a Policy Fellow began in September, 1989, when the University of Chittagong agreed to second my services to the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) on deputation. Apart from undertaking independent research, my brief included playing an advisory role to the HRDP, extending to the network of social science fellows and farming systems researchers. This network of fellow professionals has been assiduously built up over the years by the current Programme Leader, Dr. Bruce Currey, as well as his predecessors, including those operating here under the auspices of the erstwhile A/D/C. Almost by definition, the very nature of the work involved interactions with researchers, academics and practitioners of agricultural and rural development, cutting across multiple disciplines in the natural and social sciences. There was thus much for me to learn, even when perhaps I had been called in to 'give advice'.

In some ways, interacting with agricultural scientists operating in the field proved to be very revealing. There were interesting discussions with the research staff of institutions such as BARI, as well as with research staff operating in on-farm research sites located in different agro-ecological zones of the country. I will be coming back later to some of the things that I learnt about the current state of agricultural research in Bangladesh from these encounters, as well as what might be done by the HRDP to enhance such capabilities in the future.

Another aspect of my work has been to present papers and participate in seminars, conferences and workshops related to issues affecting agrarian development. One of these was organized jointly by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). My tasks here included commenting on the country study reports from Bangladesh and to chair the corresponding session on China, where papers on agricultural innovation and social-institutional changes in the agricultural production system were presented. In May 1990, I was asked to speak on the nature and extent of deforestation taking place in one of the agro-ecological belts in the south-eastern hills of Bangladesh. This paper was presented in an

international conference organized by ICIMOD of Nepal, and it was held in Quetta, Pakistan. Apart from my own presentation, I provided comments on the country studies from Nepal, Pakistan and China

At BARC itself, a discussion forum was organized in June, 1990, where I spoke on women's position and gender relationships in the broad context of the macro-level changes occurring in the agricultural and industrial sectors of Bangladesh, as well as the impact of agricultural innovations such as rice-mills and mechanized paddy-threshers on women's employment and social empowerment. This session was attended by Professor Maniruzzaman Miah, the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, as the Chief Guest, and chaired by the Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC, Dr. M. S. U. Chowdhury. An earlier version of this paper, which is entitled 'Birds in a Cage', had been presented at an international conference in Oslo.

In January 1991, at the biennial conference of the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA), also held at the BARC auditorium, I presented a paper on 'The Political Economy of Flood Protection Programmes in Bangladesh'. This paper was concerned to highlight the serious dangers to agriculture, fisheries, forests, and the general ecological and environmental conditions of the country, posed by ill-conceived flood control and drainage construction. Indeed, my paper drew its inspiration from the earlier BARC publication, 'Floodplain Agriculture', which had pointed out many of these potential hazards as early as November, 1989. This report was produced on the basis of the discussion at a workshop held at BARC, which had been jointly proposed by one of the Council's Member-Directors and myself. The meeting had been chaired by the then Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC, Dr. M. M. Rahman, and had been attended by a large number of agricultural and social scientists from BARC and other national research institutions, as well as several representatives of donor agencies.

Apart from the above, I have also been assigned to working groups concerned with national development problems by the Advisers to the President of the current Government of Bangladesh. Firstly, I have been working as a member of the Task Force on the 'Flood Action Plan', where I have drawn upon the BARC publication noted above and my own research. As part of this work, I have had discussions with the Presidential Adviser for Planning, Professor Rehman Sobhan, and the Presidential Adviser for Irrigation, Water Resources & Flood Control, as well as Forests and Environment, Mr. Kazi Fazlur Rahman. Secondly, the Ministry of Agriculture has recently appointed me as a member of the committee for reviewing the draft report on 'Agricultural Research in Bangladesh: Major Areas of Concern', produced by ISNAR (International Service for National Agricultural Research) on commission from the Ministry. As a result of being deputed to these assignments concerned with national-level policy-making, I have had the opportunity of learning a great deal from experienced practitioners of development about the scope and limits of their work, as well as the macro-level parameters within which such policy decisions have to be situated.

During this period, I have also continued the monitoring of changes in the production conditions

of the village Shangkhomala, situated in the 'Chittagong Flood Plain Agro-Ecological Zone'. As part of looking at agrarian structure and production relationships, data have been collected on tenurial relationships, interlocked market transactions, processes of deforestation, conflict and flux in the local-level power structure, etc. Given the base-line study of Shangkhomala in 1974, it is expected that the subsequent data collection up to 1991 will make it possible to provide a detailed micro-level documentation of resilience and change in "one stable site in one agro-ecosystem." Work has also proceeded on a revised and edited volume of the working papers of the Village Study Group of Dhaka University, which I directed in the mid-1970s. It is hoped to complete both these assignments by June, 1991.

I have done some independent research during this period in areas of academic and other interest to myself. These include election monitoring in certain constituencies during the latest Upazilla and Parliamentary polls, investigation of the socio-economic conditions of urban slums in Dhaka, the institutional aspects of flood protection schemes around Dhaka city and other parts of the country, etc.

#### Some Reflections

Certain issues have been brought up through the process of interacting with fellow professionals and dealing with administrators and policy-makers. These have a certain relevance for the objectives and productivity of the HRDP, run in collaboration by BARC and Winrock International. These are briefly outlined below.

Research institutions concerned with agricultural and rural development in Bangladesh appear to be suffering from an overdose of bureaucratic control. Working scientists have alleged that they are often not given due recognition for their research findings and inventions. Instead, such credit is often appropriated by their superiors in the hierarchy of research administration. Furthermore, there appear to be limitations on the expression and dissemination of scientific views which happen to be different from those espoused by those 'in power', whether in the government or in research organizations. In other words, the freedom to disagree and express dissenting views - a fundamental precondition for the growth and sustenance of a critical tradition of scientific enquiry - appears to be conspicuous by its absence.

Another unfortunate aspect of the matter is the lack of organic integration between research workers in the same or different disciplines, or between the research organizations which they work in. This is so, despite the frequent existence of formal linkages between such personnel and agencies. Absence of such processes of cross-fertilization between members of the scientific community concerned with the common goals of agricultural, rural and national development means that the indigenous research system is unlikely to be able to grow in a self-sustained manner. This, in turn, implies continued, if not increasing, dependence on imported science and technology - the most concrete indicator of the failure to develop the human resources potential of the country.

Experience over this period suggests that certain social sectors and groups need special attention, if not explicit measures of positive discrimination, in order to have the kind of agricultural and rural development which is balanced and in accord with the principles of equity and distributive justice. In sectoral terms, the prime example is provided by environmental degradation in particular agro-ecological zones and the deliberate destruction of common property resources for private gains of the few, which might well turn out to have historically irreversible consequences, eg, the consequences of unbridled shrimp-culture in the southern deltaic reaches of the country. In terms of social groups, the relatively weaker and deprived sections of the population need to be given special attention, eg, women, children, traditional fishermen and forest dwellers, as well as ethnic minorities. No successful and sensitive human resources development programme can afford to neglect these areas of essential social and human concern.

Pointers for the future direction of the programme follow from the observations provided above. In essence, the HRDP should be addressed as far as possible to releasing the latent potential of the prevalent agricultural research system from the kind of institutional constraints which impede the growth of a tradition of free and critical scientific enquiry. Genuine researchers should be allowed to work, unhindered by the tentacles of a hierarchic 'research administration' which gives little recognition to their findings and original contributions. Correspondingly, the research agenda requires to be redefined in a way such that it begins to address vital areas of concern which have been largely neglected to date.

In operational terms, the scope and activities of the HRDP should be expanded to take account of the issues cited above. This may well entail that it is linked to not just one, but all, of the Ministries of the Government which are concerned with this broader agenda. To that end, the institutional status of Winrock International in Bangladesh may have to be restructured, in order to give it the kind of leeway it would need in order to provide support to neglected social sectors and groups which might not have the kind of 'lobbying power' to obtain their due shares of human resources development inputs. Perhaps, a 'Foundation-like' entity, operating within the framework of an appropriate new agreement with the Government of Bangladesh, would provide the most useful base for operations in the future.

## FOCUSING CAPABILITIES

In searching to improve the intellectual quality and social utility of a human resource development program in the amphibious, deltaic environment of Bangladesh the foci of the program have to be carefully considered. The rural social sciences are inherently multi-disciplinary and necessitate inter-disciplinary discourse. The HRDP (Winrock International) program has continued and further strengthened the traditional focus on **agricultural economics** but it needs increasingly to bring in consideration of macro-policy issues especially in terms of comparative expenditures from gori-sen (or the public purse) ostensibly on behalf of the rural poor. The program has also developed a move towards **anthropology** - a change from seeing the people of the delta only as a unit of economic output to being producers, consumers, attitude holders, and now voters. From the strait jacketing of the social sciences in Bangladesh during the 1980s it is hoped that the transition to democracy will expand the domain of free choice thus encouraging men, women, and children to understand rational alternatives and hence participate. The focus of human resource development for the future of deltaic Bangladesh should turn more towards **water, ecology and people**, particularly women and children to nurture future generations.

## The Traditional Focus on Agricultural Economics

The Traditional A/D/C (Agricultural Development Council) focus has been maintained and even strengthened by the HRDP (Winrock International) program, both in the degree training as well as in pre and post-degree support. The program's efforts to increase productivity in agricultural economics are perhaps best illustrated by the fact that as this annual report goes to press the cover page of the latest edition of the **Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Economics** (Vol. XII, No. 2), shows that out of the eight main contributors, six were RSSN network members, viz:

1. **Buffer Stock Schemes to Support Producers' Income in Bangladesh:**  
Dr. Shaheen Akter (BRRI)
2. **An Assessment of the Quality of Livestock Statistics in Bangladesh:**  
Dr. M. A. Jabbar (BAU)
3. **Declining Returns from Groundwater Irrigation in Bangladesh:**  
Dr. M.A.S. Mandal (BAU)
4. **A Note on the Methodology for Calculating Per Cent Rates of Changes:**  
Dr. Khandakar Qudret-I- Elahi (BAU)

### Book Reviews

5. **Seasonal Variability of Third World Agriculture** by David E. Sahn  
Dr. Shaheen Akter (BRRI)
6. **Variability in Grain Yields: Implications for Agricultural Research and Policy in Developing Countries**  
Uttam Kumar Deb (BRRI)

One of the key ways of strengthening agricultural economics in the NARS is to bring the best economists and agricultural economists together from outside the NARS to link up with NARS scientists. In this spirit, Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Director General, BIDS, signed the Memorandum of Understanding between BIDS and BARC as has earlier been requested by BARC. Similarly, for the transition to democracy, the Bangladesh Agricultural Economist's Association, broke with tradition, [supported by the HRDP (Winrock International) programme] and invited leading academic and policy economists to participate in their annual meeting. The speeches of Professor Rehman Sobhan (Advisor Planning) and Mr. Kazi Fazlur Rahman (Advisor Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Forests) are both reproduced verbatim over-leaf.

# **PRIORITIZING AGRICULTURE IN BANGLADESH; THE IMPORTANCE OF MACRO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

**Professor Rehman Sobhan**  
**Charge of Planning Member of the President's Advisory Council**  
**Bangladesh Agricultural Economists Association.**

I feel greatly honoured to be invited to address this distinguished gathering of agricultural economists and specialists and to inaugurate their Ninth Biennial Conference, 1991. I have in the past attended such gatherings as part of the audience. I feel I am neither venerable enough nor distinguished enough in the area of agricultural economics to be so honoured by the Association. I still see myself as one of you and have more to learn from you than to offer words of wisdom to this august body.

## **The importance of agricultural economics**

Bangladesh has a long and hallowed tradition of expertise in agricultural studies and within this in agricultural economics. Some of our best economists have made their reputation as agricultural economists and much valuable research continues to be done in this area. The value and importance attached to agricultural economics is hardly unexpected in a predominantly rural society such as ours where agriculture still constitutes the principal economic activity.

Yet one gets the impression that agricultural economists feel somewhat outside the mainstream of economics and tend to see themselves as a branch line of the subject. This is regrettable given the criticality of agriculture to the fortunes of Bangladesh. It may have led to a segmented perspective on national policymaking towards agriculture where the problems of the sector are viewed in isolation to the rest of the economy.

## **The need for macro-economic analysis**

This segmented approach to the framing of agricultural policy owes in part to the inadequacy of macro-economic analysis of the rural economy. Most research by agricultural economists has been directed to micro-economic issues pertaining to specific crops, areas, projects or policies. Rarely have we been able to situate these micro-problems within the context of the national economy.

This serious lacunae in our analytical perspective towards the rural economy has meant that the progressive reduction in the share of agriculture in Bangladesh's public allocative strategies has been possible without anyone being able to expose the macro-economic consequences of this neglect of the agricultural sector. An essentially micro-approach to agriculture has meant that such critical issues as withdrawal of subsidies to agricultural inputs have been viewed as a problem in its own right rather than within a wider macro-economic analytical framework which relates subsidies to other areas of public expenditure.

## **The macro-economics of agricultural subsidies**

As a consequence of this segmented approach to an issue such as subsidy policy, the farmers of Bangladesh have been exposed to a steady rise in their costs of production. Whilst, such an increase

in costs may have been absorbed by farm households with a net marketable surplus who could avail of higher market or procurement prices for foodgrains, for the small subsistence farmers the rise in input prices of fertiliser or irrigation is tantamount to a net tax on them. This means that apart from everything else, withdrawal of subsidies is a regressive tax which penalizes the poor farmer. Furthermore higher foodgrain prices again more adversely impacts on the poor who are net buyers of foodgrain. To the extent that higher input prices as established in studies carried out by BIDS mean that less inputs are used than might have otherwise been used the consequences of cutting input subsidies means that the country obtains a lower volume of agricultural output than might have been possible under more favourable price-cost ratios for small farmers. This in turn will impact on agricultural incomes, and inter-industry demand for non-agricultural goods and services, all of which cumulatively impact on both national economic growth as well as income distribution.

Given the possibility that cuts in subsidies could impact on both agricultural national economic growth and distribution it would have been appropriate to analyze the need for cutting agricultural subsidies as part of an analysis of national public expenditures. Agricultural subsidies would thus have to be examined in relation to its opportunity cost compared to all other forms of public expenditure. Thus everything from expenditure on non-development areas, or wasteful components of development projects and even offers of credit and condoning of defaults to the DFIs through rephasing or writing off loans would have to be compared as to their macro-economic efficiency to input subsidies. My hunch would be that there are probably 200 items of public expenditure on the revenue and development account which deserve to be cut before we touch agricultural subsidies. Such subsidy expenditures at least yield some direct output and import substitution for the economy as compared to the negligible or even negative impact of most other forms of public expenditure.

This tendency to target subsidies to farmers irrespective of the growth and distributive consequences of the policy is a direct result of the inadequacies of macro-economic analytical research by agricultural economists. Regrettably our principal donors who constantly preach the need for macro-economic analysis tend to overlook the rules of this discipline when pushing through their own policy conditionalities for such issues as withdrawal of subsidies. Here we are asked to view the problem in terms of micro-economic efficiency where the negative budgetary consequences of a subsidy become the exclusive preoccupation of the policy package.

### **Prioritizing agriculture**

Given the mounting inefficiency with which resources particularly from aided programmes are used and the rising share of non-development to development expenditure in the budget it is essential that we focus on getting our allocative priorities right. If we are to recognize the importance of the rural economy and prioritize agriculture in the economy we will have to recapture the discipline of macro-economic analysis of agricultural policies. This will enable us to put in proper perspective the importance of expenditures in the agricultural sector, and the market impact of accelerated agricultural growth on the rest of the economy. It will also enable us to assess the distributional justice implicit in taxing the most numerous, poorest and most hardworking segments of society whilst public resources are unproductively squandered on an affluent, but unproductive class which prospers at public expense.

It is thus hoped that the agricultural economists will recognize and be recognised for the importance of their calling and will play an increasingly important role through their research in highlighting the importance of agriculture in the Bangladesh economy. I hope your deliberations in the next two days will be fruitful and serviceable to the nation, to the policymakers and to the profession of agricultural economics.

**Mr. Kazi Fazlur Rahman**  
**Charge of Environment, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries Member of the**  
**President's Advisory Council**  
**Bangladesh Agricultural Economists Association**

Mr. Chairman, My Fellow Advisers, The Honourable Office-bearers and Members of the Agricultural Economists Association. Assalamu Alaikum.

It gives me great pleasure to attend this seminar, organised by the Bangladesh Agricultural Economists Association, and I am grateful to them for their invitation. This seminar on the Fourth Five Year Plan is most opportune. Our country is to have a representative government soon, and our people will have very high expectations of it. The new government will have the responsibility of finalisation, evaluation and implementation of the plan document. I believe that the discussion at this seminar and its recommendations will be helpful to the new government in executing this great national responsibility.

My fellow advisers and other learned speakers have spoken extensively on agriculture in general, and in particular on crop production. I'll restrict my speech to three subsectors of agriculture. They are: Forestry, Fisheries and Livestock.

In recent years, a lot of research work and investment have been directed to crop production. The crop sector has advanced remarkably as a result. But the same cannot be said of Forestry, Fisheries and Livestock. These subsectors have, in fact, deteriorated over the years, and the trend is still continuing.

Our forests are very limited. The pressures of the ever increasing population make it difficult to maintain even the insufficient forests. On top of this, the remaining forests are being eroded in terms of quality. The age old tradition of homestead forestry is also gradually fading. This is affecting not only the supply of wood for various uses, but it is also having adverse effects on the ecological balance.

There have been an impressive number of studies on the extent of malnutrition in our country. A great proportion of the country's population, the children and their mothers are the victims of malnutrition. Of the components of overall malnutrition, scarcity of animal protein is the most pervasive, but fish production is falling continuously. The inland water resources of the country are contracting and are being used for irrigation and other associated functions. Marine fisheries exploitation is also very low.

The livestock subsector has more or less the same features. The benefits of livestock, whether the bullocks for draught power, or the milk for children, are increasingly difficult to obtain.

We have to admit that we cannot expand cultivable land any more. A redistributive land reform will not be able to reduce landlessness. We have to work within our limitations, to raise both quantitative and the qualitative aspects of production in these subsectors.

We will have to concentrate on forestry, fisheries and livestock at the household level. Scientific research, and an ensured supply of required implements will be keys to the successes of such plans. The success of poverty alleviation and employment expansion schemes depend crucially on increasing forests, fisheries, and livestock. Initiative and investments will have to follow from the public as well as the private sector.

Finally, I would state the unfortunate, but observed fact that the limited investments made in the three subsectors have been used inefficiently. We do not have the necessary skills. In many cases, foreign aid has not been used judiciously. The adaptation of imported technology from abroad to suit our needs has not been a success.

I hope that you will therefore come out with realistic advice.

## FOCUS ON ANTHROPOLOGY

Although unfortunately the year, 1990, saw a change in rubric for the BARC Division of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences to become the Division of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, there is nevertheless a rapidly growing need for anthropology both in the National Agricultural Research System to better understand the decision - making and thought processes of women, men and children. Anthropological studies are required in the rural social science community as well as generally in Bangladesh to articulate both the dominant culture and the many minority cultures of the deltaic environment.

Many of the leaders of anthropological studies are network members e.g. Professor Anwarullah Chowdhury, Dean of Social Science, Dhaka University, and Professor B.K. Jahangir, Director of the Centre for Social Studies and Dr. H. K. Arefeen, Dhaka University. RSSN has supported both the Chairman, Dr. Nurul Alam, former Winrock International Fellow and Ms. Rahnuma Ahmed the Associate Professor (present Winrock International Fellow) of the new and only Department of Anthropology in Bangladesh at the Jahangirnagar University in Savar.

In order to strengthen the new discipline of Anthropology in Bangladesh, both for NARS scientists and for academic departments, the program is supporting the Bangla translation of a historical series of village studies, viz.

### Bangla Translation

#### Historical Field Studies Series

Through the National Institute of Local Government (formerly through Dr. Kamal Siddiqui, Dr. Fazle Hasan Yusuf and now through Dr. Khonada Mohan Das)

1. **Economic Life of a Bengal District - J.C. Jack**
2. **Six Villages of Bengal - Ramkrishna Mukerjee**
3. **Village Daneshwar - S.A. Qadir**
4. **The Elusive Village - P. J. Bertocci**

Through the Centre for Social Studies, Dhaka University through Dr. B.K. Jahangir.

5. **Differentiation, Polarisation and Confrontation in Rural Bangladesh - B.K. Jahangir**
6. **Changing Agrarian Structure in Bangladesh - H.K. Arefeen**
7. **Competition for Scarce Resources - Eirik G. Jansen.**

The program has also supported the thesis work of a number of scholars working on minority tribal issues e.g. Dr. Ahsan Ali (DU) - **The Barind Santals**, Dr. Selina Begum (BARC) - **The Chittagong Marma and Kibriaul Khaleque - The Madhupur Garos**. It is hoped to hold a discussion session on tribal agriculture at BARC in 1991.

## A FOCUS ON GENDER ISSUES

Rather than imposing quotas for women, the program has purposively sought to support catalytic leadership in raising sensitivity to gender issues in Bangladesh. The prime focus has therefore been on selecting leaders in women's issues.

The Ph.D. fellowship programme has included :

**Ms. Rahnuma Ahmed**, Associate Professor (Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University), an outspoken critic against the repression of women's rights, who had previously worked on dowry issues, and is now completing a study of Gender Ideology at Sussex University which empirically examines, amongst other issues, the rural-urban linkages between middle-class women in the metropolis and incomes from their agricultural land.

**Ms. Trina Huq**, Research Associate (BIDS) after completing a study on Poverty Trends in Bangladesh with Dr. Atiqur Rahman, is now a student at Cambridge University on a Ph.D. fellowship for studying International Trade and Agriculture in line with Rounaq Jahan's (1989) report to the Ford Foundation, Dhaka entitled "Women and Development in Bangladesh : Challenges and Opportunities" 1989 which the program has strongly endorsed.

**Ms. Rita Afsar**, Research Fellow (BIDS), who had previously worked on Credit for Women in Bangladesh was selected for Ph.D. studies to work with Professor Andre Beteille in Delhi on rural -urban social networks, but is now hoping to study at Sussex University in the UK.

**Ms. Anwara Begum**, Research Associate (BIDS) was selected for Ph.D. studies in Economic Geography and Geographic Information Systems. She participated in pre-degree training with HRDP Winrock International and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and then unfortunately had to drop out for personal reasons.

**Ms. Fahmida Akter**, Research Associate (BIDS) was selected for a Ph.D. study on Labour Economics. She initially wished to study at the Australian National University, but now wishes to study at UP (Diliman).

**Ms. Ishrat Jahan**, MoA, was selected through the regional Winrock International Office for a Ph.D. fellowship at the University of the Philippines, Los Banos. She was requested to return to Bangladesh temporarily by the former Secretary of Agriculture. During this interim period Ms. Jahan has been given responsibility for a number of task forces on women's issues within the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and on behalf of the MoA in the Planning Commission and the WI program has supported her in these endeavours.

**Ms. Shamim Hamid**, Research Fellow (BIDS). The program has sought (from WID donors) and secured support (from NORAD) for this leader of analytical gender issues in Bangladesh. Ms. Hamid is working on "The Hidden Contribution of Women to the Gross Domestic Product of Bangladesh". Ms. Hamid has also contributed to the gender issues section of the Winrock International - BARC -FSR monitoring system. She was the Bangladesh team member on the UNDP report which introduced Gender Issues to the Fourth Five Year Plan.

## FOCUS ON GENDER ISSUES

### WOMEN IN FARMING SYSTEMS

Ms. Shamim Hamid (BIDS), adapted the FSR - Monitoring Form to include information for analysing Gender Issues and intra-household issues generally.

The Electronic Bibliographic Database on "Women in Agricultural Development with Special References to the Third World" was procured for distribution to the RSSN in Bangladesh.

The initiation of a proposal by Ms. Daulotunessa Chowdhury (BARI) on, "Evaluating the Impact of Barley Breeding on Women & Children in the Farming System" was supported by the HRDP (Winrock International) Office.

Dr. Shaheen Akter's (BRRRI) work on Women in Rice Farming Systems has been given computer support by the computer committee.

### PUBLICATIONS ON GENDER ISSUES

Pay or Purdah, (Bangla Version), Najmir Noor Begum(DU)

Rural Household Labour, Saleh Sabbah (MoA)

Property Rights and the Status of Rural Women in Bangladesh: An Investigation in two Villages of Chittagong District, Golam Sarwar Khan (CU).

Directory of Women's Organisations, Ms. Farida Akhter, (UBINIG-Policy Research for Development Alternatives).

Women's Contribution to Livestock Production (Bangla Version) Farida Akter (UBINIG).

Birds in a Cage: Institutional Factors and Changes in Women's Position in Bangladesh, Shapan Adnan (CU/WI-BARC) (see over)

### WOMENS LABOUR ISSUES

The last of the series of public lectures on women in the labour force was distributed by the Center for Women and Development (CWD), viz.:

**Women in the Labour Force in Bangladesh: A Few Reflections on Census Data.**

- Salma Khan
- Barkat-e-Khuda

**Women and Politics in Bangladesh**

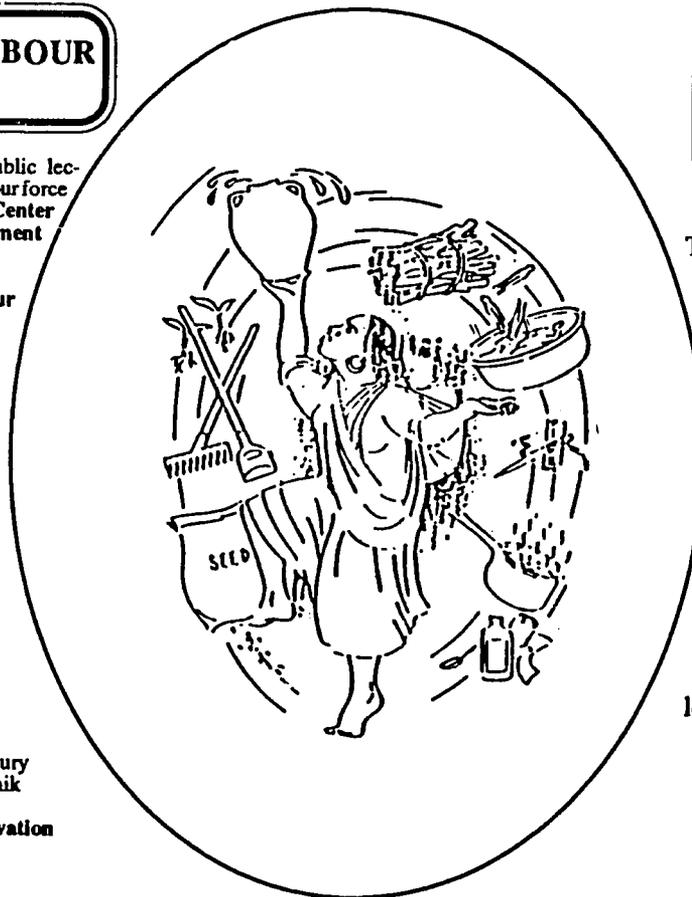
- Najma Chowdhury
- Rajia Faiz
- Maleka Begum
- Bilquis Ara Rahman
- Enayetullah Khan

**Women Tea Workers of Bangladesh.**

- Fr. R.W. Timm
- Dr. Anwarullah Chowdhury
- Dr. Nihar Ranjan Bhoumik

**Women in Shrimp Cultivation of Bangladesh**

- Farida Akhter
- Najmir Noor Begum



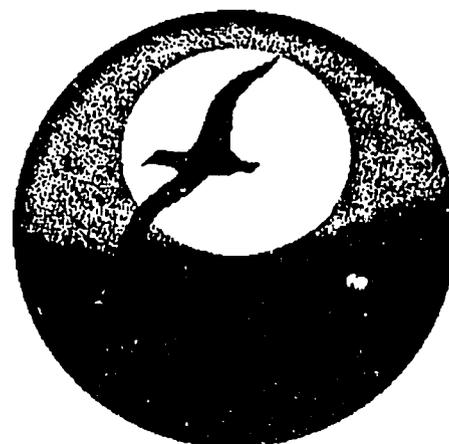
### SUPPORT FOR BARC COORDINATING CELL ON GENDER RESEARCH & TRAINING

The TAPP entitled "Support for BARC Coordinating Cell on Gender Research and Training" was prepared by HRDP (Winrock International) for BARC and MoA.

This was later discussed with the MoA (AST/CIDA) Policy on Women in Agriculture led by Winrock International Fellow, Ms. Ishrat Jahan (MoA).

# **'Birds in a Cage': Institutional Factors and Changes in Women's Position in Bangladesh (Abstract)**

**Shapan Adnan**



The paper takes as its starting point the well-documented system of patriarchy in Bangladesh, embodying the traditional subordination of women by men. It is argued that this generally accepted picture, while still largely true, has begun to change in a critical manner. Even though women's position might still be figuratively compared to those of "birds in a cage", that cage itself is beginning to show potentially irreversible signs of breaking up. The essential strands of the argument, leading towards this conclusion, are summarized as follows.

In Bangladesh, women have been dominated by men in familial, social, political and economic arenas for generations, as symbolized in the institution of *parda* or seclusion. Apart from the various social-biological roles allocated to them in the sexual division of labour, women have also had to perform in passive roles of symbolic significance to men and their social contentions. Such roles have ranged from being 'objects of honour' and 'protection', to being 'objects of pleasure'. Furthermore, this state of affairs continues to hold true for the majority of women even today, particularly in the rural interior.

However, over recent decades, symptomatic changes have been taking place in women's position within the family and the kin-group, as well as in relation to social and political institutions in the broader arena. The major 'supply-side' impetus for such change has come from economic-demographic shifts generated by the differentiation of the peasantry. The resultant pressures of survival, impinging upon the majority of households amongst the landless and asset-less classes, have left them with little option other than to permit their women to take part in market-based income-earning activities. The avenues of work initially taken up by women have been those which were more attuned to *parda* considerations. However, with increasing competition for scarce work, women have perforce begun to break out of *parda* restrictions altogether, and take part in 'outdoor' activities in public. Indeed, the overwhelming majority of such income-earning women have entered the labour market as wage earners.

On the 'demand-side', apart from household-based wage employment in domestic services, most of the income-earning options for women have been generated by the circulation of small-scale industrial and mercantile capital in the informal sector, operating through the labour and product markets. In other cases, such as the new but rapidly growing 'garments' industry, the volume of women's employment has fluctuated with the vagaries of the world market, controlled more by international than national capital. The profit-oriented pursuit of capitalist production has also resulted in the systematic unemployment of women through mechanization of certain activities such as household-based post-harvest processing of paddy.

Overall, this process of uneven capitalist development has served to decompose traditional labour processes located in the 'interior' of households, and reintegrate the 'elements' of such production, including women's labour power, into production processes under the direct supervision of capital. A growing proportion of available female labour has thus been subsumed under capital, i.e., restructured

to meet the job conditions of capitalist production, in avenues dictated by its relative profitability. Confronted with the exigency of survival, apparently robust institutions and enduring practices such as parda and patriarchy have begun to give way, adapting themselves to the changing imperatives of capital, as manifested through the interplay of market forces.

In fact, the real limit to greater economic participation by women in the labour and product markets is no longer a supply constraint arising from social-institutional restrictions on their mobility and participation in 'outdoor' work. Rather, the essential constraint is now tending to be that of insufficient effective demand for women's labour, and the kind of products and services which they are conventionally involved in producing. This consideration applies more generally to the underemployment of both male and female labour force members, and arises from the existence of structural limits to the development of the Bangladesh economy as a whole.

Nonetheless, improvements in women's income-earning capabilities, to the extent that these have taken place, have led to a certain 're-valuation' of their roles and positions by the respective families and kin-groups. Greater investments in female education, rising ages at marriage, as well as declining fertility rates, as observed during the last decade, appear to be consistent with the hypothesis of changing social perceptions regarding the 'increasing value of women'. However, the other side of the coin is the greater merchandizing of women's roles as 'objects of pleasure', as well as the concomitant disenchantment of traditional notions of women's izzat or honour.

While an income-earning capability has made it possible for many women to enhance their status and independence at the level of the family and the kin-group, it has not necessarily enabled them to gain 'automatic' entry into leadership positions in social and political institutions. This consideration applies particularly to the shamaj and the shalish, as well as the institutions of local self-government, i.e. the Union and Upazilla Councils. These entities are still largely monopolized by men, particularly from the dominant classes. In the few instances where women have made inroads into the activities of these institutions in the broader social and political arena, such achievements have mostly resulted from the organized activism of women's groups. The women involved have come usually from the poorest classes, and have acted with (or even without) support from 'external' institutions such as NGOs and governmental agencies.

In terms of probable future trends, continuing differentiation of the peasantry during the coming decades can be expected to lead to further intensification of economic pressure on poorer households for meeting subsistence needs. This is likely to result in even greater numbers of women being compelled to break out of the bonds of parda and patriarchy, and to possibly undertake organized activism, to improve their lot. It is possible that these emergent trends will be associated with greater 'unionization', if not politicization, of women, under newer forms of leadership which are more capable of representing the common interests of both men and women from the poorest classes.

On the other hand, whether the growing numbers of women who will be thrown into the labour market during the coming years will all be able to find viable avenues of survival, remains a matter for conjecture. Much will depend on the extent to which the prevalent demand constraints on women's employment are removed, together with the prospects of the activation of more dynamic trends of growth. This will require not only that the present structural constraints to further growth of the economy be eased, but also that the remaining institutional barriers to women's entry in to the mainstream sectors of the labour market be removed. While the figurative cage circumscribing women's existence has indeed begun to show signs of breaking up, it is yet to be prised wide open.

## A FOCUS ON WATER, ECOLOGY AND PEOPLE

The year 1990 was initiated by distributing the BARC report on 'Floodplain Agriculture' by Dr. M.M. Rahman around the network of rural social scientists sensitising members to this major environmental and water resource issue at a time when major environmental NGO's were reporting to donors that the **Flood Action Plan** was "too hot to handle" and (MoA) Memo No. KRISHI/3/GA-2/90/2 dated January 2, 1990 was in force. This report by scientists and scholars in support of BARC's mandate "to identify problems in the agricultural sectors" was reviewed thus by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, Rome.

A very interesting concept is presented in the BARC publication, addressing the development potential of the flood plain agriculture where different economic and social activities require an integrated approach for agriculture, fisheries, irrigation, flood control and transport. We share BARC's concern about a too exclusive engineering approach on flood control measures. If well appraised, understood, monitored and managed the flood would provide benefits to Bangladeshi flood plain farmers, especially the majority of the poor landless farmers.

The document rightly highlights the necessity of a balanced, integrated, inundation resource oriented approach to sustainable agricultural development in the Bangladesh flood plains for the benefit of Bangladeshi farmers.

(FAO-AGLW PR12/2 BGD)

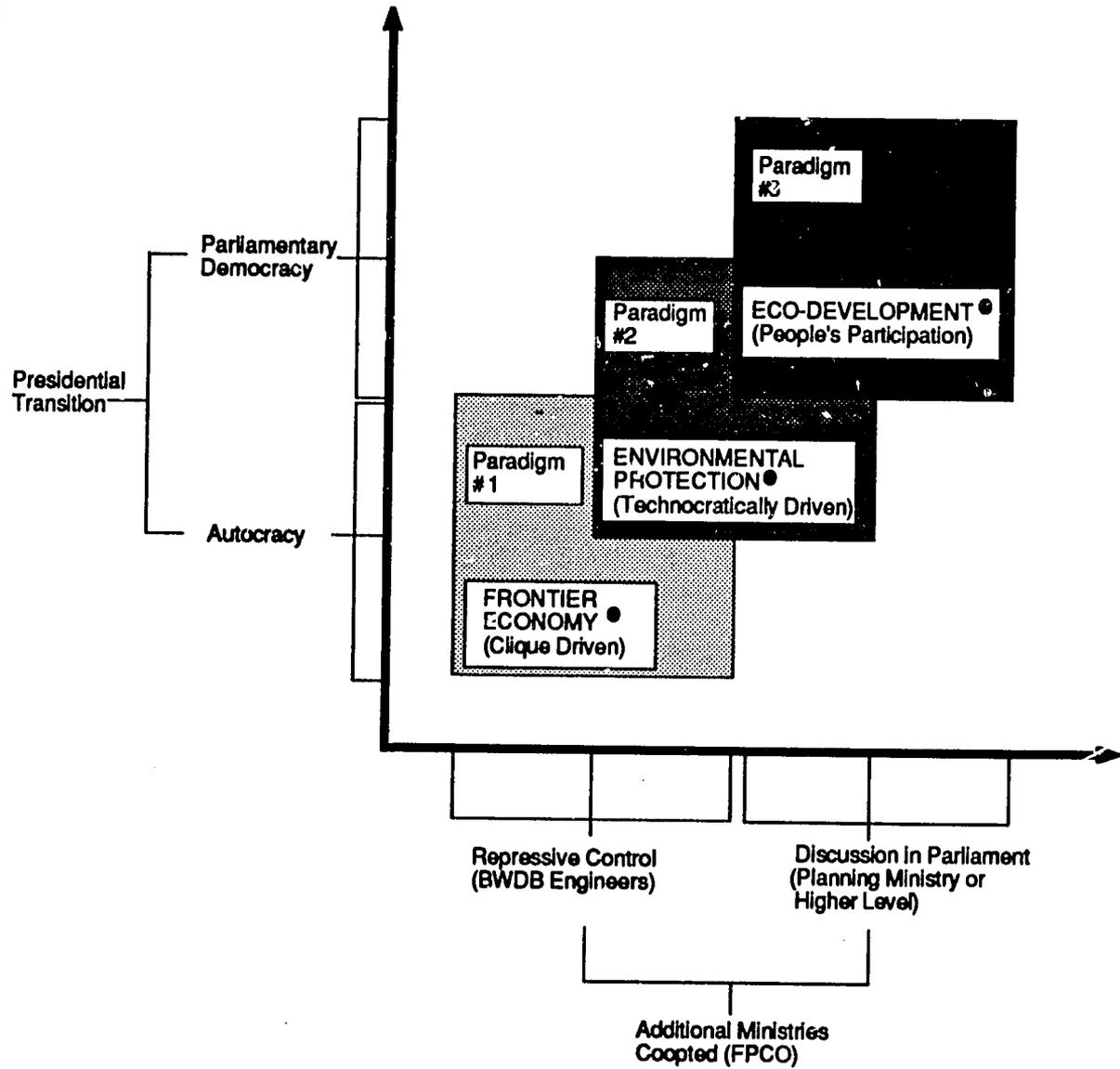
The programme was also honoured to be invited to participate in the Flood Study Forum's seminar on "**Floods in Bangladesh: Bangladeshi Views**" at the Institute of Engineers Auditorium. In support of the transition to democracy, the program sought greater people's participation -[see Figure overleaf] in what potentially forms one of the largest eco-development projects of the 20th Century.

Professor Shapan Adnan (WI) continued independently with his work entitled **Floods, People and the Environment: Institutional Aspects of the Flood Protection Program in Bangladesh**. Professor S.M. Nurul Alam (J.U.) published his report on "**Perceptions of Flood among Bangladeshi Villagers**" and Dr. M. A. Jabbar (BAU) now at the International Livestock Centre in Africa (IITA Ibadan Campus) published his paper on "**Floods and Livestock in Bangladesh**," both were published in international refereed journals. M.I. Khan's (DU-GTZ) paper on, "**The Location of Flood Shelters**" was also accepted for international publication. Dr. Quazi Shahabuddin's (MPO) book entitled "**Peasant Behaviour Under Uncertainty: Decision - Making Among Low-Income Farmers In Bangladesh**" was supported for further distribution.

Papers were also supported for presentation at meetings in Bangladesh and abroad. Dr. Zahir Sadeque RU/AST/MoA prepared a paper entitled, "**Capture Fisheries and Other Common Property Resources in the Flood Plains of Bangladesh**," for presentation at the European

# THE BANGLADESH FLOOD ACTION PLAN PARADIGM SHIFTS

Bruce Currey , 1991



©The three terms "Frontier Economy," "Environmental Protection" and "Eco-Development" are from Michael E. Colby. Environmental Management in Development. The Evolution of Paradigms. World Bank. Discussion Paper No. 80. 1990.

Bangladesh Studies Network meeting at Bath University. The program leader prepared a paper on **"Environmental Perception and Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: The Example of the Bangladesh Flood Plan"** for the Bangladesh Sociological Association. Professor S.M. Nurul Alam (JU) prepared a paper entitled **"Conquering Nature : Myth and the Reality of Flood Control in Bangladesh"** for presentation at the University of California, Los Angeles, International Conference on the Impact of Natural Disasters. Professor Shapan Adnan prepared a paper on **"The Political Economy of Flood Protection Programmes in Bangladesh"** for the Bangladesh Economic Association's Ninth Biennial Conference.

Although they were unable to visit Bangladesh during the autocratic regime, links were maintained with the two Winrock International water resource advisors, Dr. David Seckler (Director, Agricultural Policy and Resource Development, WI) and Professor Peter Rogers (Harvard University and Senior Winrock Associate).

The Policy Fellow, Professor Shapan Adnan, attended the two day workshop on Women in Water Development Projects under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Dhaka:

### **WOMEN AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Two papers were presented *viz.* **"Involvement of Women in the Delta Development Project: Policy Level"** by Ms. Eva Jordans based on her doctoral thesis fieldwork from Wageningen University. **"The nature of women's involvement in the Delta Development project,"** by Khaleda Khatun showed the kind of gender biases and resistance which women have had to face, as well as a fine-grained account of the social dynamics intervening between the paper blueprints of such projects and what actually happens on the ground.

A panel discussion was also devoted to exchanging experience on women's involvement in different infrastructural projects. The panelists consisted of representatives of the BWDB, NGOs, as well as Dutch and Bangladeshi universities, and included Mr. Ghulam Rabbani, Dr. Mahmuda Islam, Ms. Denise Conway, Ms. Khushi Kabir, Ms. Barbara van Koppen, Mr. Shahabuddin and Dr. Subinay Nandi with the discussions chaired by M.H. Siddiqui (BWDB).

The most novel and educative session of the workshop was the one in which three village women, representing groups of female wage labourers in 'Polder 22' of the project, spoke to the audience of 'national and expatriate experts' in Dhaka. Ms. Nilufar Matin chaired this session, and along with Ms. Khaleda Khatun, helped to convey the real-life experience of these women workers to those present.

## Networks for Democratic Pluralism

“Networking” has been defined as the association of independent individuals or institutions with a shared purpose or goal, whose members contribute resources and participate in two way - exchanges or communication. Unlike bureaucracies, networks usually do not have a well defined hierarchy of authority, although they do have levels. An important feature of a network is its decentralised nature.\*

However “networking” in the rural social sciences with **computer support** represents much more. It represents a key mechanism in the search for greater democratic pluralism. Imagine a rural social scientist in a network critically searching after the truth in line with the prime mandate of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. “**To identify problems in various sectors of agriculture**” Autocracy’s hammer might seek to smash the flickering flame of an individual in one institution, but network members, not only in alternative local institutions, but also across the continents throughout the world of scholarship, can nurture that flame of truth and scientific research which was kindled by the first network member.

Networking can also play a key role in **quality control**. In Japan the “Ningen Kankei,” or social relations networks assist the private sector in selecting not only those who shine on one occasion, but rather those who consistently exhibit excellence and commitment over their lifetime as perceived by a network of non-partisan colleagues. So in strengthening the capacity of rural social scientists, networking has tremendous potential for the non-partisan evaluation of quality products.

The **NETLINE - A Newsletter for the Rural Social Science Network** represents a key communication medium for linking rural social scientists. During 1990, five issues of the NETLINE were each mailed to over 1000 people in the rural social science network which links Bangladeshi rural social scientists into the world community. Samples from the hundreds of responses received are illustrated in shortened form overleaf.

**\*Networking in International Agricultural Research**” by Donald L. Plucknett, Nigel J.H. Smith and Selcuk Ozgediz. Cornell University Press, 1990. Available from the HRDP (Winrock International) computerised library in collaboration with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

## NETLINE FOR INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

### "The People Bank"

These comments, from a **People Bank** of individuals in institutions throughout Bangladesh and from around the globe, provide built-in evaluation for the Rural Social Science Network. They provide evidence not only that it is operating, but that it could operate even more effectively. The comments also suggest key individuals who have been omitted from the network. For those whose names and addresses have been omitted, corrigenda to the computerised "people bank" should be sent to the Network office in collaboration with BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka, at GPO Box No. 6083, Gulshan, Bangladesh or by Fax 880-2-832915.

### "The Ideas Bank"

The comments also for an Ideas Bank for the rural social science network illustrating the demand for research, training and communication. They point to potential new research emphases, e.g., privatisation, exchange rate policy and agriculture, budgetary allocations and agriculture, natural resource management, water development and water management, rural organisations, progress on the Flood Action Plan, sustainable agriculture, development data bases, curriculum development, environmental dynamics of homesteads, marketing of agro-forestry, migration, tribal culture, homestead based poultry and horticulture, the informal sector, women's technology, the economic impact of artificial insemination, seed supplies, BAU's innovations, etc.. Perhaps the greatest challenge 'requiring most reflection' is that made by Dr. M.G. Quibria of the Asian Development Bank - improved quality control on social science research in Bangladesh.

#### Include in future Netline:

Details of the computerised data-base being developed by Ms. Nipa Rahman.

Dr. J.R. Chowdhury  
Professor  
Dept. of Civil Engineering  
BUET, Dhaka -1000

#### Include : Marketing of product produced by Rural women

Rural women's labour problems.

Saleh Sabbah  
Research Officer  
Planning and Evaluation Wing  
Department of Agriculture Extension  
Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka

#### The profile of fellows is interesting.

Ron Dalglish,  
Director AST/CIDA  
House # 6/9, Block F,  
Satmasjid Road,  
Lalmatia, Dhaka.

#### Include in future editions of Netline: Participation methodologies e.g. self evaluation.

Elfi B. Nuun, M & E. Adviser  
C/O. Danida, P.O. Box 29,  
Majid Court  
Noakhali

#### Ongoing research : Irrigation, agrarian structure and rural labour in a Bangladesh village.

Monirul I. Khan,  
Department of Sociology,  
Dhaka University.

#### Include in future editions of Netline:

1. Rural Industries/Non-farm Activities
2. Energy Technologies in Rural Areas
3. Peasant Behaviour

Dr. Salchuddin Ahmed, CIRDP  
Chameli House, 17, Topkhana Road  
GPO Box No. 2883, Dhaka

"Would very much like to have a copy of the articles on Sustainable Agriculture as listed in Netline No. V July, 1990."

Professor Dr. Mohd. Ariff Hussein,  
Dean, Faculty of Economics  
and Management,  
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia

Undertaking research on "The Process of Land Transfer in Rural Bangladesh."

Mr. Abdul Quadir Bhuiyan, Ph.D.,  
Professor, Department of Sociology,  
Rajshahi University

Working on Forest Economics in Andaman and Nicobar. To analyse forestry's role on the economic development of Islands, requested to send him Netline regularly.

L. Rathakrishnan SRF,  
Department of Economics  
Pondicherry University

A pleasant way to learn who's who and what they are doing.

Clive Lightfoot,  
Farming Systems, International,  
Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLAKM),  
Makati, Metro Manila 1299,  
Philippines.

Request for some publications which appeared in the Netline on Livestock.

Mr. Dulal Chandra Paul,  
Scientific Officer,  
On Farm Research Division,  
Bangladesh Agricultural  
Research Institute,  
Joydebpur, Gazipur

Netline should incorporate more information on fisheries, livestock, and agro-forestry.

Dr. Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan,  
Sectoral Planning Expert  
FAO/UNDP  
Dhaka

Ongoing research on Annotated Bibliography on Social Science Literature on Natural Disasters. Thinks Netline is excellent.

S.M. Nurul Alam  
Professor and Chairperson  
Department of Anthropology  
Jahangirnagar University

Ongoing research on role of land relations in Thai social, political and economic organizations, past, present and future. It would help if you continue sending a copy of the Newsletter to the Social Scientist on the F/FRED team.

Dr. Charles Mehl,  
Social Research Institute,  
Chulalongkorn University  
Bangkok, Thailand

The publications from reviewed journals are appreciated.

Mr. Kalidas Sarkar,  
Livestock Officer, Animal Nutrition  
Development,  
Alamdanga, Chuadanga

Send a set of Sustainable Agriculture papers as published in the Netline.

Mr. Md. Murshidul Hoque  
Scientific Officer  
BARI

Ongoing Social Science Research on Aquaculture/Limnology. Research Interest : Carp culture, Pond Dynamics.

Dr. M.A. Wahab  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Fisheries  
Bangladesh Agricultural University

Suggested for future editions of Netline :

1. Women in the informal and formal sectors in rural areas.
2. Rural Women's Leadership.
3. Successful women's programmes in rural areas.

Women for Women  
A Research and Study Group  
Dhaka

Send the netline to Dr. Abdul Majeed, National Coordinator FSR NARC, Park Road, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Dr. Murray Dawson  
Management of Agricultural  
Research and  
Technology Project  
Islamabad

Future editors of Netline :

1. Impact of development projects on rural women.
2. What is the role of women in agriculture?
3. Farming Systems Research.

Appreciated NETline as a thread linking together the rural social scientists focussing on agricultural development and natural resource management in Bangladesh and throughout the world. Farming Systems Research in Pakistan will certainly like to share and get the benefit of the "People Bank" of NETline.

Dr. Bill C. Wright  
Chief of Party  
MART Project  
Islamabad

Future editions of Netline :

Location of relevant publications within Bangladesh - a survey of local information and what they have to offer the rural social scientist.

Mark Fryars  
British Council  
Ramna  
Dhaka

Incorporate in future Netlines :

Women in saving seed for planting farmers practices in saving seed and attitudes toward seed supplies and economics of seed production and supply in Bangladesh.

Johnson E. Douglas  
R.R.1, Box 711  
Rockville, In 47872

In future Netlines :

More on the PRIVATE SECTOR

Malcolm Purvis  
Deputy Mission Director, USAID  
Dhaka.

Incorporate in the future Netline:

Policy Reforms, Irrigation and Post Harvest Technology.

Mr. Swapan  
TADP-BRDB  
Tangail

Study on research and extension conducted by GO's and NGO's in Bangladesh.

Lorita Payne  
Agricultural Economist  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Dhaka

Ongoing Research: To evaluate agricultural policy reforms in the late '70s, especially privatization and subsidy withdrawal in regard to agricultural inputs.

Koichi Fujita  
National Research Institute of  
Agricultural Economics  
2-2-1, Nishigahara, Kita-ku,  
Tokyo, Japan

Ongoing Research: ILO on Rural technologies and employment: with special reference to women.

I find the Netline very useful.

Ms. Salma C. Zohir  
Research Associate  
BIDS

Suggested to incorporate in future netlines more on the: Flood Control Debate.

Dr. David Lewis  
49, Josephine Avenue  
London SW2 2JZ  
UK

Your staff deserve an award for squeezing the most possible words and information into 2 pages!

Theodore Hutchcroft  
Winrock International  
USA

Suggested for incorporating in future netlines :

- (1) Farmers' Innovations in Bangladesh
- (2) BAU Innovations in Agriculture.

Dr. Abdul Halim, Professor  
Dept. of Agril Extension, BAU,  
Mymensingh

Thank you for sending NETLine, this informative publication on development issues in Bangladesh.

Paul Hindmarsh  
Natural Resources Institute  
Kent ME4 4TB  
United Kingdom

With appreciation - please, keep the good work going!

Dr. Henk Knipscheer  
Winrock International

Incorporate in future Netline :

Complementary enterprises, like poultry and corn, fishes and duck etc. both in the private and public sectors.

S.C. Barman  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Agril. Economics Division  
Agril. Research Station, Hathazari,  
Chittagong.

It should be more than two pages.

Nurul Alam Talukder  
Senior Faculty Member  
Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Central  
Training Institute, Motijheel,  
Dhaka.

Send Netline regularly.

Mr. Hasnat Abdul Hye  
Managing Director  
Bangladesh Krishi Bank Head Office  
84, Motijheel C.A. Dhaka

Incorporate : Technologies with special reference to rural women in Bangladesh together with Off-farm employment for rural women.

Director,  
International Labour Office,  
Dhaka

An excellent example of networking. Keep up the commitment:

Suggested for inclusion in future netline: a list of upcoming lectures by professionals in development research topics.

Mark Ulkes

Ongoing Research : Socio-Economic Impact of artificial Insemination programme in Bangladesh.

Mr. Md. Akteruzzaman  
Scientific Officer (Economics)  
Bangladesh Livestock Research  
Institute, Dhaka

Please report (if possible) on future seminars and/or presentations.

Peter De Waard  
Project Advisory Team Danida/  
NRD-II Project  
P.O. Box 29, Majdee Court,  
Noakhali

Send future Netline.

Professor Peter Rogers  
Division of Applied Sciences  
Harvard University, Cambridge,  
Mass 02138  
USA

Send future Netline.

Ongoing research : To establish a strategy to control rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (RF/RHD).

Dr. K. Yoshitake  
Team Leader of Japanese  
Experts  
Dhaka

Incorporate in future editions : Rural sociology, food production policy studies, environment management, rural social research.

Robert Oudemans  
AARP II, Indonesia  
P.O. Box 62, Bogor,  
Indonesia

**Include in future Netline:**

**Abstract of policy oriented studies on agricultural and rural development.**

Director (Research)  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural  
Development (BARD)  
Kotbari, Comilla, Bangladesh.

**Wishes to receive future  
Netline editions.**

Willem Van Schendel  
Dept. of History  
Erasmus University  
P.O. Box 1738  
3000 DR. Rotterdam,  
The Netherlands

**Ongoing Research : To see the effect  
on agriculture of exchange rate policy.**

Nitai C. Nag  
Department of Economics,  
Chittagong University.

The Netline is brief but informative. Would arouse more interest if development issues are also focused. However, your endeavour and effort for bringing it out are really appreciable. (i) Monitoring the impact of withdrawal of subsidies from inputs like fertilizer, irrigation equipment on recent agricultural production, (ii) Recent government budgetary allocations to agricultural sector, vis-a-vis other sectors, (iii) Important research findings on the trends of agricultural productivity/growth.

Shamsul Alam  
Dept. of Agric. Econ,  
& Food Marketing  
The University Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE1 7RU, U.K.

**Thanks for sending your  
newsletter.**

Leude Chist  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada

**Ongoing research : The policies  
of British Aid Policy Formation  
The case of Bangladesh 1972-86.**

Centre for Social Studies,  
Room 1107, Arts Building,  
Dhaka University,  
Dhaka -1000

**Ongoing Research : Political Cul-  
ture, Local Administration and  
Development.**

Iben Nathan  
c/o. Centre for Development  
Research  
1472, Copenhagen K  
Denmark

**Suggestions to include in future  
Netline: Natural Resource Manage-  
ment, Agroforestry, Environmental  
Programs and Strategies.**

Charles R. Hatch  
58, Khayaban-e-Iqbal  
F-7/2, Margalla Road  
Islamabad, Pakistan

**Requested to publish the paper  
sent entitled " Fisheries Research  
Institute Goes for Farming Sys-  
tem Research (FSR) with its  
Available Production Technolo-  
gies" in Netline.**

Minhaj Uddin Ahmed  
Sr. Librarian, FRILDOC  
Fisheries Research Institute  
Mymensingh  
Bangladesh

**Include in future netlines:**

**Findings/abstract of articles which  
can be used for farmers income  
generation and for policy makers.**

Dr. Wajed Ali Shah  
On Farm Research Division  
Regional Agril. Research Station  
BARI, Ishurdi -6620

**Wished to receive future Net-  
line editions and wishes im-  
proved quality control on social  
science research in Bangladesh.**

Dr. M. G. Quibria  
Asian Development Bank  
2300 Roxas Boulevard,  
P.C. Box 789, Manila, Philippines

**Suggested incorporating in future  
Netline editions : Water Develop-  
ment and water Management.**

**Ongoing research : Know about  
chronological changes in irrigation  
status in Comilla Sadar Upazilla.**

Miss Noriko Nakatani  
Faculty of Tropical Agriculture,  
Kyoto University  
Oiwake Kitashirakawa Sakyo-ku  
Kyoto, Japan

Ongoing research : To find measures for promoting marketing facilities for agro-forestry commodities.

Afzalur Rahman, Senior Research Officer, Forest Economics Division, P.O. Box 273, Chittagong

Incorporate in future netline : gist of recent books and articles especially on women and rural development.

Sayed Rowshan Qadir  
Director (Research), National Institute of Local Government, Agargaon, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka.

Suggested in future editions of Netline : 1. Migration, 2, Social Integration between Muslim and Hindu, 3. Tribal Culture and Its Change among Muslim Majority Society.

Takada Mineo  
708-115, Tsuboi, Funabashi, Chiba, Japan -274

Wishes to receive future Netline editions. Advised to send copies of the Netline to :

Library  
O: RD, BARI  
Joydebpur, Gazipur  
Bangladesh.

Dr. Md. Zainul Abedin,  
Head, On-Farm Research Division,  
Bangladesh Agricultural  
Research Institute

Wished to receive future Netline editions.

Dr. A. Farouk  
Treasurer,  
Dhaka University  
Dhaka -1000

Wish to receive future Netline editions. Ongoing research : Monitoring of population trends/ programmes in Bangladesh.

Dr. Armino Miranda  
Chr. Michelsen Institute -DERAP  
N-5036 Fantoft Norway

Ongoing research : populistic elements in rural Bangladesh.

B.K. Jahangir  
Centre for Social Studies  
Arts Building, Dhaka University,  
Dhaka -1000.

Future editions of Netline : A short editorial style (2 paragraph) thought piece on current events in Bangladesh/Asia of relevance for the Network project.

Enrique Ospina  
Winrock International  
Route-3, Morrilton AR 72110, USA

Suggested to include in future editions of Netline : Homestead based (i) Poultry farming (ii) Horticulture.

M. Syeduzzaman  
405E, Road 16,  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Include in future Netline :

Winrock Fellows Publications  
Winrock Fellows Meetings  
Winrock Fellows write-ups at their university stage, etc.

Navin K. Rai  
Winrock International, P.O. Box 1312  
Kathmandu

Include in future Netline : Poverty alleviation, Integration of women in development, migration of women for employment abroad, human resources development.

Syed Jamaluddin  
Joint Chief,  
External Resources Division  
Ministry of Finance  
Dhaka

Suggested to include in future editions of Netline : urban poor

Ongoing Research: Urban labour market and the Informal sector in Bangladesh.

Alia Ahmad  
Department of Economics,  
University of Lund  
Box 7082 220 07 Lund,  
Sweden

**Wish to receive future Netlines.**

Kurt Morck Jensen  
DANIDA, Min. of Foreign Affairs  
Asiatisk Plads 2  
1448, Copenhagen K  
Denmark

**In future editions of Netline:**

**Rural/Farmer Organizations.**

Thomas O Kajer  
Training Specialist  
Winrock International  
6 Bhikaji CAMA Place  
New Delhi 110066  
India

**Receiving Netline - Thankyou**

Mizanur Rahman  
Chief, Monitoring and  
Evaluation Division  
Krishi Bhaban,  
49-51, Dilkusha C.A.  
Dhaka -1000

**Suggested to include in future editions of Netline :**

**Rural Cooperatives**

A. K. Kaul  
Winrock International  
Route -3, Morrilton (AR)  
USA

**Suggested to include in future editions of Netline : Progress on Flood Action Plan particularly socio-economic components, inter-relationships of farm and non-farm and non-farm sectors in rural areas, Reform of institutional credit.**

Linda Brown  
First Secretary (Renewable Natural resources), British High Commission  
Abu Baker House, Plot 9, Road 84,  
Gulshan

**Suggested to include in future editions of the Netline : 1. Development data bases, 2. Sustainable agriculture networks, 3. NGO networks in Bangladesh ( e.g. Land Reform, Environment, WID)**

PACT Bangladesh/PRIP  
78, Saunajjid Road  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka -1209

**Wished to receive future Netline editions.**

Abdul Ghafur  
Associate Statistician, SRTI  
Pabna

**Send netline to :**

Kazi T. Hossain, Dept. of Sociology  
Rajshahi University, Rajshahi.

Prof. B.M. Chowdhury, Registrar  
Sylhet University Sylhet.

**Include in future editions of Netline:**

Natural Resources Management Curriculum  
development.

Syed Zahir Sadeque  
USAID, Dhaka

**Comments: Wished to receive future Netline editions.**

Dr. Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury  
Shahjalal University of  
Science & Technology,  
Sylhet -3100

**Ongoing research : Rangpur Region R.D. Programme (RD8+RD9)**

EEC Delegation  
House No. 19, Road No. 128  
Gulshan  
Dhaka

**Local Resources mobilization, environmental dynamics of homesteads, fish marketing research.**

FAO representative Bangladesh  
House 37, Road No. 8  
Dhanmondi R.A. Dhaka

**Wished to receive future Netline editions.**

Kazi Fazlur Rahman  
House # 26, Road # 4,  
Dhanmondi R.A.  
Dhaka -1205

## Directory of Rural Social Scientists

- (a) Resource Policy Community in Bangladesh.
- (b) Winrock International and A/D/C Rural Social Science Fellows.
- (c) Winrock International Research Awardees and Associates.
- (d) Social Scientists in the National Agricultural Research System.
- (e) Scholars concerned with Bangladesh Rural Social Sciences:
  - i) Asia - Pacific RSSN Members
  - ii) European RSSN Members
  - iii) Japanese RSSN Members
  - iv) North American RSSN Members
- (f) Donors and Community Interested in Support of the Rural Social Sciences.

These network lists of rural social scientists and others concerned with rural social science in Bangladesh are provided by the Human Resources Development Program (Winrock International) in collaboration with BARC for the convenience of enquirers. Neither Winrock International nor the Government of Bangladesh take any responsibility for the competence or probity of any network member for their actions or advice on behalf of rural social science. Persons wishing to contact members listed in the Directory of Rural Social Scientists should do so via the appropriate institution of the member.

**(a) RESOURCE POLICY COMMUNITY IN BANGLADESH**

Dr. Munsif Siddique Ahmed,  
Scientist Emeritus,  
269/Kha, Madhya Peererbug,  
Mirpur, Dhaka -1216

Mr. Syed Ahmed,  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Planning,  
Government of Bangladesh,  
Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka.

Mr. Qazi Faruque Ahmed,  
Executive Director,  
Proshika-Muk,  
5/2, Iqbal Road,  
Mohammedpur  
Dhaka -1207

Dr. Ekramul Ahsan,  
Rector, PATC, Savar.

Dr. Akhter Ahmed.  
International Food Policy Research Institute  
House No. 48  
Road No. 16(New)  
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka -1207

Mr. Mahbub Ahmed,  
Director  
Comptuer Centre,  
BARC, Dhaka

Professor Q.K. Ahmed  
Dhaka Unnayan Parishad,  
Ghazipur House,  
Road No. 3(Old) Dhanmondi R.A.,  
Dhaka

Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed,  
Executive Director,  
BRAC,  
66, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka

Mr. A. M. Anisuzzaman,  
Ex Secretary of Agriculture,  
Dhanmondi R.A., Dhaka  
Professor Muzaffer Ahmed  
Institute of Business Administration,  
Dhaka University. Dhaka.

Mr. Nurul Abedin,  
Director-General,  
Bangladesh Rural Development Board,  
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

Mr. Abu Abdullah  
BIDS, E17, Agargaon,  
Dhaka

Dr. Sk. Maqsood Ali,  
Member, General Economics  
Planning Commission,  
Dhaka.

Dr. A. M. Shawkat Ali,  
Additional Secretary, ERD,  
Ministry of Finance  
Room 29/30, Block 16  
Planning Commission  
Sher-e-Banglanagar  
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## NETWORKS FOR QUALITY CONTROL

### LIST OF LOCAL RESEARCH AWARD REVIEWERS

For the first time in 1990, these confidential reviewers, from nine countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Canada, United Kingdom, United States, and Australia) from the public, private, university, international and multi-national sectors, gave their time freely to review proposals and to improve quality control on behalf of the Rural Social Science Network. Proposals were submitted according to the BARC approved criteria as advertised in the Bangladesh Observer in 1989. Their written comments were collected and compiled, and prepared so as to ensure the confidentiality of reviewers for the MoA Committee on Local Research Awards. The four categories viz. A= Immediately fundable ( 5 ), B= Immediately fundable with changes ( 23 ), C= Requiring resubmission (19) and D= For Rejection (7):

|     |                                |   |                            |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1.  | Dr. Sajjad Zohir               | - | BIDS                       |
| 2.  | Mr. A.H.M. Mustafizur Rahman   | - | RU                         |
| 3.  | Dr. M. A. Kasem                | - | BAU                        |
| 4.  | Dr. A. K. M. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed | - | ICLARM                     |
| 5.  | Dr. Z. Karim                   | - | BARC                       |
| 6.  | Mr. Chun K. Lai                | - | WI                         |
| 7.  | Dr. Don Parker                 | - | IIMI                       |
| 8.  | Dr. S. R. Bhuiyan              | - | FAO                        |
| 9.  | Dr. M. A. S. Mandal            | - | BAU                        |
| 10. | Dr. S. H. Rahman               | - | BIDS                       |
| 11. | Dr. Atiur Rahman               | - | BIDS                       |
| 12. | Dr. Nurul Alam                 | - | JU                         |
| 13. | Mr. A. Byes                    | - | JU                         |
| 14. | Mr. Ferdous Alam               | - | BAU/UPM                    |
| 15. | Dr. Hassanullah                | - | AST/CIDA                   |
| 16. | Mr. Belayet Hossain            | - | CU/NCSU                    |
| 17. | Dr. Ahmed Kamal                | - | DU                         |
| 18. | Dr. S. Z. Sadeque              | - | AST-CIDA/RU                |
| 19. | Dr. Marion Glasser             | - | UK                         |
| 20. | Ms. Rushidan I. Rahman         | - | BIDS/ANU                   |
| 21. | Ms. Najmir Nur Begum           | - | DU                         |
| 22. | Dr. Mahabub Hossain            | - | BIDS                       |
| 23. | Mr. M. A. Hakim                | - | RDA/IIMI                   |
| 24. | Dr. M. M. Dey                  | - | BARC                       |
| 25. | Dr. Shapan Adnan               | - | CU/WI                      |
| 26. | Dr. G. J. Gill                 | - | WI/Nepal                   |
| 27. | Dr. E.W. Goddard               | - | Guelph University/Canada   |
| 28. | Dr. Muzaffer Ahmed             | - | IBA/DU                     |
| 29. | Professor Nurul Islam          | - | IFPRI                      |
| 30. | Dr. Edward Clay                | - | RDI-ODI                    |
| 31. | Dr. A. Halim                   | - | BAU                        |
| 32. | Dr. Ann Larson                 | - | University of Michigan/USA |
| 33. | Dr. Mehtabunisa Ali            | - | MDU-UNFPA                  |
| 34. | Dr. M.G. Quibria               | - | ADB                        |

After full review by the HRDP (Winrock International) the proposals were then sent to the MoA Committee, chaired in lieu of the Secretary Agriculture by the Additional Secretary, Mr. Ershadul Huq, with Dr. M.S.U. Chowdhury, EVC, BARC, Professor Rangalal Sen, DU and Dr. Bruce Currey, WI. After two meetings the chairman requested that new criteria should be revised and submitted through BARC. BARC's representative wanted only age and seniority criteria.

**LIST OF THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED AND INDEPENDENTLY REVIEWED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE RURAL SOCIAL SCIENCE NETWORK FOR  
LOCAL RESEARCH AWARDS 1990**

| Proposer                          | Topic  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Nazma Begum (DU)               | Model of Inflation in Bangladesh   |
| 2. Howlader, Sushil R. (DU)       | Agricultural Involution, Rural Differentiation<br>Economic Impasse   |
| 3. Ali, K. and Kader M.A. (BSFIC) | Response of Sugarcane Growers Towards Adoption of Spaced Transplanting (STP) Intensive High Yielding Sugarcane Production Technology |
| 4. Dey, Madan Mohan, (BARC)       | The Effect of Trade and Exchange Rate Policies on Agriculture in Bangladesh  |
| 5. Arefeen, M.K.S, et. al. (DU)   | Social Science Data Bank   |
| 6. Chowdhury, Osman H. (BIDS)     | Economic Linkage Effects and Agricultural Protection in Bangladesh : An Applied General Equilibrium Analysis                         |
| 7. Karim, Iqbal (MoP)             | Decentralization and Development in Bangladesh   |
| 8. Ms. Salma Khan (MoP)           | Discrimination Against the Female Labour Force in Bangladesh   |
| 9. Rab, M.A., (IU)                | Estimation of Private Agricultural Investment Aid and Its Determinants in Bangladesh.  |
| 10. Syeda Zakia Hossain (DU-QU)   | Socio-Economic Correlates of Fertility Differentials in Bangladesh   |
| 11. S.M. Hossain (DU-CU)          | Selected Aspects of Foreign Trade, Taxes and Public Sector (Energy and Food) Pricing Reform in Devel-                                |

| Proposer  | Topic  |
|---|--|
|   | oping Countries : With Special Reference to Bangladesh.  |
| 12. Karim, Z. (RU)                                    | Use of Modern Technology and Its Responsive Role in the Changing Crop Pattern of Bangladesh Agriculture. |
| 13. Chakraborty, R.L. (DU)                            | A Study on the Surveys of Bangladesh 1840-1940   |
| 14. Emran, M.S. (BIDS)                                | The Impact of Trade Policies on Agricultural Incentives in Bangladesh.                                   |
| 15. Rahman, R. I. ( BIDS/ANU)                         | An Analysis of Employment and Earnings of Poor Rural Women in Bangladesh.                                |
| 16. Sattar, M.A. (BAU)                                | Dynamics of Agricultural Mechanization - A Computer Model for Rural Bangladesh.                          |
| 17. Byes, A. (JU)                                     | Foodgrain Self-Sufficiency and Food Balance : The Impact of Irrigation-led Modern Technology             |
| 18. Jahan, I. (MoA)                                   | Impact of Family Labour on Crop Production   |
| 19. Md. N. Islam<br>(Patuakhali Agricultural College) | Effect of Land Tenure System on the Development Agriculture in Patuakhali & Borguna District.            |
| 20. Asaduzzaman, M. (DU)                              | Decentralization and Agricultural Development Administration at the Upazila level.                       |
| 21. Ali, A.M.M.S. (BADC)                              | Assessment of Private Sector's Capability in Marketing/ Distribution of Minor Irrigation Equipment.      |
| 22. Khan, J.A. (MIDAS)                                | Viability and Promotion Strategy of Integrated Farming Systems among Farmers in Bangladesh               |
| 23. Khan, M. I. (DU)                                  | Irrigation, Agrarian Structure Market Network: A Study of Relations in Two Villages of Bangladesh.       |

| Proposer                                | Topic  |
|---|--|
| 24. Shilpi, F.J. (BIDS)                 | Supply Response under Uncertainty : The Case of Bangladesh Agriculture.  |
| 25. Akhter, F. (BIDS)                   | Role of Women in Small Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh.  |
| 26. Islam, M.N. (IDA-M.M.Mac)           | Risk Taking and Resource Allocation Behaviour of Farms in Bangladesh.  |
| 27. Elahi, Q.K. (BAU)                   | Impact of Institutional Credit on Foodgrain Production in Bangladesh.  |
| 28. Islam, S.M.F. (BARI)                | On-Farm Deep Tubewells Irrigation Water Management in Dry Lands of Barind Tract and Its Effect on the Existing Farming System. |
| 29. Hashem & Fatmi (BADC/DU)            | Utilization Pattern of Irrigation Facilities : A Study of BADC supplied power pumps and tubewells in some selected Upazilas.   |
| 30. Islam, S. (BAU)                     | Access to Public Property - A Study on the Tenancy System of the Public Inland Open Water Fishery Resources in Bangladesh.     |
| 31. Ali, A.F.I. (CU)                    | Occupational Mobility in Rural Bangladesh : A Comparative Study of Two Selected Villages.                                      |
| 32. Solaiman, M. (BARD)                 | A Comparative Study of Co-operative and Private Management of Deep Tube-well Irrigation in Comilla.                            |
| 33. Hamid, M.A. & M.M. Dey, (FPMU/BARC) | Interregional Movement and Storage of Foodgrain in Bangladesh : An Econometric Modelling Approach.                             |
| 34. Iftekhhar Sayeed (IBA)              | The family, village and the state of third world countries.  |
| 35. Rahman, M.M. (BARI)                 | Factors Associated with the Effectiveness of KSS-Deep Tubewells in Some Selected Areas of Bangladesh.                          |

| Proposer                                     | Topic  |
|--|--|
| 36. Akhter, Farida (UBINIG)                  | Explorative Survey of Suicide Cases in Rural Bangladesh.   |
| 37. Alam, M. Badiul (CU)                     | Recent Dynamics and States of Bangladesh Politics.   |
| 38. Kabir, M. (DRA)                          | The Influence of Gender Roles on Reproductive Behaviour in Rural Bangladesh.   |
| 39. Chowdhury, A.M. (CU)                     | Socio-Economic Analysis of Gravity-Fed Irrigation in Bangladesh: A Case Study.                                       |
| 40. Shah, W.A. (BARI)                        | Labour Market Behaviour in Improved Farming Systems of North-West Bangladesh.  |
| 41. Alam, M.K. (ALAP)                        | Socio-Economic Study on Multiple Ownership of Ponds with Special Reference to Rural Pond Culture in Bangladesh.      |
| 42. Atahar, S.A. (ALAP)                      | Undertaking a Market Study of Fish in Dhaka City.  |
| 43. Quasim, M.A. (ALAP)                      | Doing a Study on the Socio-Economic Impacts of Hatchery Technology on Rural Fish Farmers.                            |
| 44. Kashem, M.A. (BAU)                       | Women's Roles, Status, and Rights in Decision-making Regarding the Use of Farm and Homestead Innovations.            |
| 45. Anwar, ABMN. (BAU)                       | Involvement of Rural Youth in Extension Activities (A Research Proposal for Ph.D. Thesis in Agricultural Extension). |
| 46. Rahman, M. & Mathbor G.M. (DU & Tolaram) | Dynamics and Prospects on Non-crop Employment in the Coastal Regions of Bangladesh.                                  |
| 47. Nag, N. (C U)                            | Exchange Rate Policy and Agricultural Growth : A Case Study of Post Liberation of Bangladesh                         |

| Proposer | Topic |
|----------|-------|
|----------|-------|

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 48. Haque, M.S. (DU)                                      | A Discounted Cash Flow Analysis of Agricultural Research in Bangladesh.  |
| 49. Anwar, M.M.<br>(Territorial Planning Associates)      | Cost Effectiveness of Land Use Pattern in Hill Areas of Bangladesh.  |
| 50. Karim, A.M. & Dey, Sk. Naser<br>(Research Colleagues) | A Study on the Benefit Derived by Small and Large Farmers under the present Deep Tubewell Irrigation System.   |
| 51. Ahmed, K.M. (BTM)                                     | A Study of the Impact of the Bangladesh Tea Rehabilitation Project on the Lives and Well-Being of the Tea Garden Labourers as Well as Utilization of Potential Resources of the Tea Gardens of Bangladesh. |
| 52. Chowdhury, TK (C.U.)                                  | Peasant Differentiation and the Identification of Hard-Core Poverty Groups with Special Reference to Anti-Poverty Targets and Policies in Bangladesh.  |
| 53. Banik, A. (Sonali Bank)                               | HYV Technology and Relative Productivity of Small Farms: A Case Study of Bangladesh.   |
| 54. Islam, K.M.M. (BJR)                                   | Intercropping of Jute and Sugarcane for Seed, Fibre and Sugar.   |



**The Computer Network  
Human Resources Development Program  
(Winrock International)**

The Winrock HRDP, Computer Network, commenced its operations from 1st December, 1989, with the hiring of the computer network co-ordinator, Ms. Nipa Rahman, in collaboration with BARC according to the automation plan.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of this computer network are :

1. To provide computer hardware and software support to social science research in order to raise the analytical and technical rigour of social science and agricultural research in Bangladesh.
2. To provide appropriate and periodic computer training to members of the social science network according to their specific requirements. This will strengthen analytical skills and hence the capacity needed for the formulation of research in support of policy decisions.
3. To develop computer software for an exhaustive monitoring system on farming systems research, in order to integrate micro-level findings with macro-level policy analysis.
4. To conduct meetings, seminars, workshops etc. to present and discuss problems of the network pertaining to software design, input management and analysis, and output formatting.

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK**

Since the inception of the Computer Network, the following tasks have been accomplished by the Computer Committee viz. (Ms. Nipa Rahman, Chairperson), Professor Shapan Adnan, Ms. Kaberi Mustafa and Dr. Bruce Currey :-

#### **(A) PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND ACCESSORIES**

The following computer hardware and accessories were procured in 2 phases :

##### **Phase I**

Seven units of IBM PS/2 Model 30 F21 micro-computer systems, with wide carriage dot matrix

printers, accessories and peripherals were procured. In addition one APPLE II CX micro-computer system, with an Image Writer, Apple Laser Printer IINTX, accessories and peripherals were also procured. The committee were involved in intensive market research prior to the purchase of the APPLE computers.

### **Allocation of Phase I Computers.**

Four units of IBM PS/2 Model 30 F21 have been allocated to the WI/HRDP headquarters at the BARC complex. Of these, one unit is used for administrative work and paper presentation for the network, one for accounting, one for in-house training and research purposes and the fourth one is being used for the development of the on-farm monitoring system for the Rural Social Science Network.

The 3 other IBM units have been leased out (free of charge) to the following persons/institutions :

1. Rural Development Academy, Bogra.
2. Dr. Shaheen Akhter, BRRI, Economic Division. Dr. Akhter is the first woman Ph.D. social scientist at an agricultural research institute.
3. Dr. M. A. Hamid, Deputy Chief, Planning Commission.

The APPLE IICX, Image Writer and Laser Printer IINTx are at present housed in the HRDP Winrock office for in-house desk-top publishing purposes.

### **Phase -II**

Seven units of IBM PS/2 Model 30 F31 Micro Computer units, (with carriage dot matrix printers, accessories and peripherals were procured in phase II. The procurement of one APPLE IIFX, Laser Printer IINTX, accessories and peripherals completed the computer hardware procurement plans of the WI/HRDP Computer Network.

### **Allocation of Phase II Computers:**

One unit each of IBM PS/2 Model 30 F31 have been leased out to :

1. Dr. M. A. Malek, Chief Scientific Officer and Officer in Charge; (RARS, Ishurdi).
2. Ministry of Agriculture, Secretariat, Dhaka. Here, the Computer Network has set up a proper computer environment in a room allocated by the Ministry of Agriculture. This room houses the micro-computer system leased out to the Ministry for the Winrock Policy Internees and the HRDP - Winrock International Fellow, Ms. Ishrat Jahan.

3. **Mr. Hasnat Abdul Hye, Additional Secretary in Charge on Economic, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives, Secretariat, Dhaka.**
4. **Bureau of Socio-Economic Research and Training, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. In addition, old and partially operating machines were repaired, to enhance the training and research capability in the social sciences at BAU.**

The remaining three units of the IBM micro-computer systems will be similarly leased out.

One unit of APPLE IIfx, Laser Printer IINTx, accessories and peripherals has been leased out to Dr. Shapan Adnan, WI/HRDP Policy Fellow for rural social science research.

### **(B) COMPUTER ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING**

Computer assistance and training is a critical objective of the Winrock/HRDP Computer Network. Since its inception such assistance and training to researchers/institutions have been imparted from time to time according to the requirements of the Winrock fellows and institutions within the NARS. Some examples of such assistance rendered are :

1. **The WI/HRDP office personnel was given computer courses in DOS, Wordstar and Lotus to assist with office automation, as well as to enhance research and RSSN network publications.**
2. **Computer training and data analytical assistance given to Ms. Naushaba Hyder, Winrock Research Associate for her research on Bangladesh Food Grain Trade before her leaving for the USA and marriage.**
3. **A computer programming course was conducted at BRRI, Gazipur. The course consisted of programming in D'Base III Plus and SPSS/PC+ to assist researchers working on Farming Systems. Such assistance was provided to upgrade the data analytical capabilities of researchers involved in the IRRI-BRRI impact study and farming systems research. It is envisaged that such collaboration should assist in integrating the BRRI impact monitoring studies with the NARS FSR Monitoring system for improved policy analysis.**
4. **Computer training was given to Mr. Shahidul Islam, Assistant Professor of BAU. Mr. Shahidul Islam is now also pursuing his PhD studies in Oregon State University, USA. He will use some of the data generated by the FSR monitoring system for his PhD thesis.**
5. **Mr. Fakhru Islam (BARI) has had all of his computer training from the WI/HRDP computer network. So far, he has acquired training in Lotus 123, Wordstar and SPSS/PC+ . He is now effectively using his computer skills for research purposes and is in the Philippines pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics.**

6. Mr. Md. Mahmud Hossain Khan, Assistant Director, RDA, Bogra, was given an intensive computer training in Lotus 123 and D'Base III Plus. Mr. Khan is training to take over charge of the computer center at RDA, Bogra, which is equipped with a computer leased out by the WI/HRDP.
7. Mr. Khurshid Alam of Bangladesh Krishi Bank was given assistance with his research using SPSS/PC+ . He is due to come back for further computer training with the WI/HRDP.
8. WI/HRDP office personnel are currently undergoing training in APPLE Micro Computer systems. So far training in MS-WORD has begun. Training in the integrated package EXCEL is also underway.
9. An intensive computer training course on DOS 4.01, Lotus 123, plus interaction with Harvard Graphics and D'Base III plus was arranged in Dhaka from 15th March 1991 to 26th March 1991. Nine participants attended from :
  1. Rural Development Academy, Bogra
  2. Regional Agricultural Research Station, BARI, Ishurdi
  3. Department of Agricultural Statistics, BAU, Mymensingh and
  4. Bureau of Socio-Economic Research and Training, BAU, Mymensingh.

A preliminary assessment was made of the computer training needs of the above institutions. Topics for the course were chosen on the basis of this assessment.

The course gave overviews of 4 four important software systems relevant to social science research. These courses are a prelude to more specialized computer training courses to be arranged by the HRDP (Winrock International) Computer Network. Such specialized courses will be tailored to meet the specific requirements of agricultural and social science research institutes and will focus on research carried on by those institutes.

This is part of a complete, robust training strategy for upgrading the level of social science research by increasing the computer skills of the social scientists within the NARS.

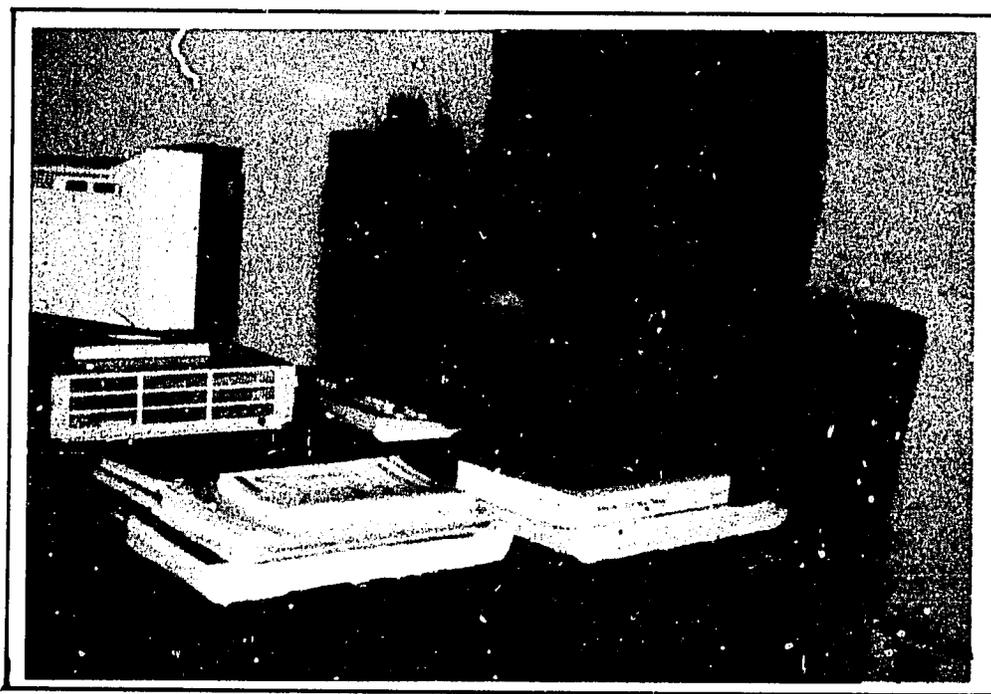
At the end of the course, participants was requested to give a written assessment of the course and to provide suggestions for improvements of such courses in the future. Certificates were distributed among the participants upon completion of the course.

### **(C) DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE:**

1. Software for the algorithm to derive those mouzas (revenue villages) constituting the most agriculturally vulnerable environment of Bangladesh has been completed. The mouza clas-

sification was based on the % of non-farm holdings, the % of irrigated area per household and the % of agricultural labour households (see page 26).

2. Computerization of the Household Module based on the earlier RSSN workshop on the Farm Household, Homestead and Family in Bangladesh of the new large and comprehensive Whole Farm Monitoring System developed by Bruce Currey and Rezaul Karim for policy analysis has been completed. Trial data has been inputted for software validation and changes have been made accordingly. This computerization will generate a comprehensive, standardized, open-access Farming Systems Household database. Such data freely accessible to all can be used meaningfully for various levels of socio-economic modelling on the basis of continuous monitoring of the household at the micro-level. Different categories of data generated by the household module are :



*Ms. Nipa Rahman, Computer Network Coordinator, HRDP (Winrock International), supports the Rural Social Science Network with technical skills.*

## **COMPONENTS OF COMPUTERISED HOUSEHOLD MODEL**

| <b><u>DATA CATEGORIES</u></b>   | <b><u>SECTION (IN PROGRAM)</u></b> |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Household Labour Use<br>Employment & Income                             | [Section A ]                       |
| Household Production  | [Section B ]                       |
| Accounting<br>Loans Incurred  | [Section C]                        |
| Loans Repaid  | [Section D]                        |
| Loans Provided to Others  | [Section E]                        |
| Loans Recovered   | [Section F]                        |
| Food Consumption Expenditure  | [Section G]                        |
| Energy Consumption Expenditure  | [Section H]                        |
| Other Expenditure   | [Section I]                        |
| Items Lost, Spoiled, Stolen, etc.                                       | [Section J]                        |
| Expenditure on Clothes  | [Section K]                        |
| Expenditure on Machinery and Other<br>Items for Agricultural Production | [Section L]                        |
| Household Members' Meals Taken  | [Section M]                        |
| Use of Livestock and Machinery<br>and Corresponding Income Generated.   | [Section N]                        |
| Sale, Purchase, Lease, etc. of<br>Assets.                               | [Section O]                        |
| Help/Gifts/Bribes taken<br>and given                                    | [Section P&Q]                      |
| Expenditure on Agriculture  | [Section R]                        |
| Meals Provided to Non-Household<br>Members                              | [Section S]                        |
| Access to Extension Services  | [Section T]                        |
| Education   | [Section U]                        |
| Health  | [Section V]                        |
| Expenditure on Livestock  | [Section W]                        |

This computerized system will soon be implemented on FSR sites.

Ms. Zakia Rahman, the WI/HRDP Computer Network Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the computerized household module. Her presentation focussed on the following :

1. Background of the FSR Monitoring System Developed by Rezaul Karim and Bruce Currey.
2. Objectives of the system.
3. Data characteristics and categories.
4. Computerization : Problem definition, functional requirements, binding constraints etc.
5. Potential areas of research using the FSR database along with tentative examples of its potential uses as presented by Winrock fellows.
6. Future direction of development of this model.

#### POTENTIAL USES OF FARM HOUSEHOLD MONITORING :

The following are a few examples of present and potential studies where the data generated from the monitoring system may be used :

1. Gender Differentiated Time Budgeting (M. M. Khan, Stanford University).
2. Production Activities by Farm Household Type (Mahabubullah, JNU-CU).
3. Homegarden/Homestead Activities by Season (Bruce Currey, WI-BARC)
4. Agro-Ecosystems Analysis -(Shahidul Islam, BAU/OSU).
5. Integrated Farming Systems, (Wazed Ali Shah, Ishurdi - Kalikapur BARI).
6. Annual Flood Impacts on the Rural Poor (Bruce Currey, WI-BARC).
7. Macro-Policy Impacts (Madan Dey, BARC).
8. Risk and Agriculture (Belayet Hossain, NCS-CU)
9. Analysis of Gender Issues (Shamim Hamid, BIDS)
10. Studies on Rural Energy Management (Zakia Rahman, WI-BARC).

#### DEMANDS FOR THE FSR DATABASE:

Social Science researchers at home and abroad are already requesting WI/HRDP for various sections of the FSR database. An example is documented below :

##### Gender Issue Analysis - Ms. Shamim Hamid, (BIDS)

Data generated by the FSR monitoring system (Household module) can be effectively utilized for analysis of gender issues.

The "household income and manpower utilization" component will be generating information on the time use and production of each family member, both in the formal and in the informal or subsistence sector. This will be of immense use in attempting to estimate the notoriously elusive subsistence sector which in Bangladesh provides the base for the formal sector of the economy. Since women are known to contribute substantially to the subsistence sector, the availability of such microlevel data will enable the analysis of women's contribution to the national economy, which at present is totally ignored in the GDP estimates of all countries in the world.

If the data collection is carried out over an extensive period (about 5-10 years) then a time series analysis can be made of the dynamics of female labour utilization, particularly in the informal sector, which is impossible to do at present because of lack of data.

This would also hold true for the social indicators because it will enable the evaluation of the effectiveness of the present Women in Development policies of the Government of Bangladesh throughout the implementation of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

# Publications

In the wake of Krishi Memo No. KRISHI 3/GA-2/90/2 dated January 2, 1990, there has been considerable conflict with the publication of objective knowledge. The program has sought to ensure freedom to disseminate the results of direct observation and the objective recording or reality. After discussions with BARC and RSSN fellows on the publication of findings by RSSN members, a standardised dual strategy was proposed to the EVC, BARC in June 1990. In essence Research Reports published under BARC insignia with the usual disclaimers would be reviewed by a BARC committee. The second strategy proposed continued freedom to publish for RSSN members under a Winrock International Working Paper format with the usual disclaimers after a review by any two RSSN members.

An institutional arrangement was made in 1990 with the University Press Ltd for the publication of theses along with briefs of the theses. The RSSN can therefore make research and discussion findings available in a number of areas and could, with new institutional arrangements, have a high quality publication series without the bureaucratic restrictions which have sought to control the diffusion of knowledge. In the meantime, networking has allowed the xeroxing of copies of theses and the articles on demand and aiming to disseminate knowledge to people with the Netline: The Newsletter of the Rural Social Sciences.

In addition to the publications listed in other sections viz. Environment (Page 30) Agricultural Economics (Page 46) Anthropology (Page 50) Gender Issues (Page 51) and Water, Ecology and People (Page 55) the following publications are available, or forthcoming publications, assisted by HRDP (Winrock International) program.

- **Sociology and Development: Bangladesh Perspectives - Bangladesh Sociological Association**
- **Netline - Newsletter for the Rural Social Science Network - Numbers 1-5 - RSSN**
- **Technologies and Transactions : A Study of the Interaction between New Technology and Agrarian Structure in Bangladesh (Reviewed) - David J. Lewis**
- **Time Allocation Pattern in Rural Bangladesh A Theoretical & Empirical Analysis (Brief Prepared) - M.M. Khan**
- **Proceedings of The International Conference on Mathematical Economics and Its Relevance for Development. - Jamal N. Islam**
- **Peasant Behaviour Under University : Decision Making Among Low Income Farmers in Bangladesh. - Quazi Shahabuddin**
- **Bangladesh Journal of Political Economy 10(3) & 11(1) - Muzaffer Ahmed.**
- **Agriculture in Bangladesh : Performance, Problems and Prospects - Mosharaff Hossain**
- **Changes in Land Ownership and Use in Rural Bangladesh - A.M. Chowdhury, M.A. Hakim, S.A. Rashed**
- **Agricultural Credit in Bangladesh.- A.M.M. Shawkat Ali**
- **Forestry Sector Planning & Development in Bangladesh - Monoj Kanti Roy**
- **The Social Forests of Bangladesh.  
Jeff Romm, Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, Abdul Bayes, S.M. Monowar Hossain, Moyeen Khan, Iqbal Ali, Farida E. Arif, Kibraul Khaleque, and Amin Sarker.**
- **Status, Potentials and Constraints to Pond Aquaculture.  
Analysis of Field Level Data - MSR Bhuiyan**
- **Management of Open Water Inland Fisheries of Bangladesh- A.K.M. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed**
- **Population Mobility in Rural Bangladesh - The Circulation of Working People.- A.Q.M. Mahub**

## LIST OF AVAILABLE THESES

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Nitai C. Nag          | Macroeconomic Effects of Currency Devaluation A Case Study of Bangladesh  |
| Kamal Ahmed Chowdhury | Migrants' Remittance and Its Impact on Social Structure: A Case Study of Londonigaon.   |
| Shamsul Alam          | Farm Resource Productivity under Alternative Management Practices   |
| Roushan Akhter        | Causes and Consequences of Migration to City : A Case of Slum Dwellers in Dhaka, Bangladesh.                                      |
| Meherun Nisa          | The Role of the Family in Migration Decision-Making in Bangladesh   |
| Md. Taufiqul Arif     | Effects of the Irrigation Management Programme on Boro Rice Productivity and Agrarian Income Inequality in North-West Bangladesh. |
| Nazma Begum           | Inflation in Bangladesh.  |
| Md. Mozibur Rahman    | Comparative Analysis of Price Support Versus Fertilizer Subsidy for Achieving Rice Self-Sufficiency in Bangladesh.                |
| Md. Makbul Hossain    | Demand for Energy at Household Level: The Case of Fuelwood in Bangladesh.   |
| Nazma Begum           | Labour Force Participation of Women in Bangladesh : With Special Reference to Agriculture.  |
| Akhtari Khanam        | Socio-Economic Aspects of Women Employed in Industry : A Case Study of Rajshahi Silk Factory.                                     |
| Mohammad Abdul Momen  | Economics of Cropping Systems in Manaoag, Pangasinan, Philippines   |
| Kazi Bazlul Karim     | Value Orientation and Attitude of the Farmer-Members Toward the Farmer-Irrigators Group in Calamba, Laguna, Philippines.          |
| Mohammed Abdul Hakim  | The Impact of Irrigation on Production and Employment at Farm Level, A Study in Bogra District of Bangladesh.                     |

## LIST OF AVAILABLE THESES

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Abu Helal Md. Abdul Baqee   | Hats in Dacca District : A Geographical Analysis.   |
| Farida Akhter               | Women's Development : Issues of Employment and Income Generation for Rural Women in Bangladesh.   |
| M.A. Mannan                 | Rural Poverty in Bangladesh and Its Alleviation: An Assessment of Selected Programmes.  |
| Md. Ahsan Ali               | Social Change Among the Santals of Bangladesh : A Study of Cultural Isolation.  |
| Md. Rafiqun Nabi            | Studies on the Fry of Carp Fishes of Rajshahi Division [Collection, Identification, Transportation, Marketing System and Socio-Economic Condition of Carp Seed Traders] |
| A.F.M. Ashraf Ali           | Management of Agricultural Credit : A Study of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank in Rajshahi District.   |
| Mohammad Abdul Hamid        | Rice Yield Forecasting in Two Districts of Bangladesh: An Early Warning.  |
| Md. Saleh Uddin             | The Impact of Rural Electrification on Agriculture and Income Distribution in Bangladesh : Case Study of Some Villages.   |
| Md. Mozaharul Islam Khan    | Power and Location : The Examples of Flood Shelters in Chilmari.  |
| Osman H. Chowdhury          | Tax Policy Analysis in Bangladesh: A Computable General Equilibrium Approach.   |
| Md. Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan | Impact of Farm Size and Tenorial Status of Land on Resource Productivity in Mymensingh District of Bangladesh.  |
| A.H.M. Zehadul Karim        | The Pattern of Rural Leadership in an Agrarian Society : A Case Study of the Changing Power Structure in Bangladesh.  |
| Nazma Begum                 | Inflation in Bangladesh   |
| Akhter U. Ahmed             | Food Policy in Bangladesh : An Analysis of Economic Efficiency and Distributive Justice.  |
| Abul Hasnat Golam Quddus    | The Adjustment of Workers and Their Wives to Separation : The Case of Bangladesh.   |

## LIST OF AVAILABLE THESES

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Md. Wajed Ali Shah</b>          | <b>Women's Participation in Rice Farming Systems of Guimba, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.</b>  |
| <b>Mohammad Hassanullah</b>        | <b>Performance Determinants of Agricultural Extension Organizations of Bangladesh.</b>   |
| <b>Khandakar Quadrat-I Elahi</b>   | <b>An Analysis of the Impact of Changes in the External Value of the Canadian Dollar on the Canadian Wheat Economy.</b>  |
| <b>Madan Mohan Dey</b>             | <b>Modern Rice Technology and Rice Policy in Bangladesh.</b>   |
| <b>Md. Sabjal Uddin</b>            | <b>Adoption and Productivity of the Technology Generated by the Cropping System Program in Two Districts of Bangladesh.</b>  |
| <b>Ahmed Fazle Hasan Chowdhury</b> | <b>Culture Change, Stress and Epidemiological Transition in Bangladesh : An Anthropological Study of Chronic Degenerative Disorders (Diabetes and Hypertension) Among Rural and Urban Populations.</b> |
| <b>Farhath Karim</b>               | <b>An Evaluation of Human Resources Development (HRD) Programmes in Relation to Organizational Effectiveness : A Case Study of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank.</b>   |
| <b>Salauddin Md. Nurul Alam</b>    | <b>Marginalization, Pauperization and Agrarian Change in Two Villages of Bangladesh.</b>   |
| <b>A.M. Anwarul Karim</b>          | <b>Profile and Loan Repayment Behavior of Small Rice Farmer-Members of Samahang Nayon in Laguna Province, Republic of the Philippines.</b>   |
| <b>Md. Sabjal Uddin</b>            | <b>Adoption and Productivity of the Technology Generated by the Cropping System Program in Two Districts of Bangladesh.</b>  |
| <b>A.H. Ahmed Kamal</b>            | <b>The Decline of the Muslim League and the Ascendancy of the Bureaucracy in East Pakistan 1947-54.</b>  |

## Assisting the Transition to Democracy

The following members of the Rural Social Science Network (including Winrock International A/D/C fellows, Winrock Research awardees, and Network Colleagues or advisors) participated gratis in the national interest - supporting the Planning Commission's - Task Force Reports on Agriculture, Land, Environment, Macro Economic, Political Issues, and the Flood Action Plan for the Interim Government in the Transition to Democracy.

Professor Shapan Adnan <sup>1</sup>  
Winrock International Ph.D. Fellow

Dr. Madan Mohan Dey, <sup>1</sup>  
Winrock International Ph.D. Fellow

Dr. M. Hassanullah <sup>1</sup>  
Winrock International Ph.D. Fellow

Dr. H. Zillur Rahman <sup>1</sup>  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. Ahmed Kamal  
RSSN Network Member

Mr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. A.M.M. Shawkat Ali  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. Mahbubullah  
Winrock International Ph.D. Fellow

Professor Muzaffer Ahmed  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. Fasiuddin Mahtab  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. Kamal Siddiqui  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. M.A.S. Mandal <sup>1</sup>  
RSSN Network Member

Professor Moazzem Hossain  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. Binayek Sen  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. O.H. Chowdhury  
Winrock International Ph.D.  
Fellow

Dr. Mahabub Hossain  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. M.K. Mujeri  
RSSN Network Member

Ms. Shamim Hamid  
RSSN Network Member

Mr. Abu Abdullah  
RSSN Network Member

Dr. Zohir Hossain  
RSSN Network Member

<sup>1</sup> RSSN Coordination Committee Member

## THE COMPARATIVE COST - EFFECTIVENESS OF LONG TERM HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

John Stuart Blackton recently emphasised USAID's priority "concern for the individual and the development of their social and economic well being". He also specified "long term training" as a basic component of economic growth and democratic development\*. Similarly, the late Professor Tadahiko Hara, from the Institute for the Study of Languages and Culture of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, shortly before his untimely death in 1990, briefed the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Bangladesh's special need for "Leadership Training."\*\* There are some, however, who still question the effectiveness of long term training and particularly the cost-effectiveness of long term foreign Ph.D. training at \$100,000 for each individual compared with eight short term training courses at \$12,000.

As a basis for considering the cost effectiveness of long term training, it may be useful to first reflect upon Thomas S. Kuhn's quotation "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions" viz.:

"Any new interpretation of nature whether a discovery or a theory emerges first in the mind of one or a few individuals. It is they who first learn to see science and the world differently.

And their ability to make the transition is facilitated by two circumstances that are not common to most other members of their profession. Invariably their attention has been intensely concentrated upon the crisis - provoking problems. Usually in addition they are men so young or so new to the crisis ridden field, that practice has committed them less deeply than most of their contemporaries to the world view and rules determined by the old paradigm".

Consideration of the costs and benefits of long term Ph.D. training for Bangladesh's future leaders, "men so young or so new to the crisis ridden field" who in Kuhn's terms may be able to "Learn to see science and the world differently" may be evaluated for the year 1990 by examining three young Bangladeshis selected in 1988 for Winrock International Ph.D. fellowships in collaboration with BARC. The nation had therefore decided to invest \$100,000 in each award in the fields of social science and natural resource management before the 1988 Bangladesh flood crisis. In turn the traditional interpretation of flood crisis, in line with the existing paradigm, stimulated imagined investments to the order of \$10 billion without consideration of the rest of the world's paradigm shift towards environmental management in 1989.

For assessing now in 1990 the comparative cost effectiveness of this investment in individuals through long term training - it may be useful to compare the opportunity costs for Bangladesh's national development of the \$160 million investment in research in the Flood Action Plan (which deliberately excluded investments in long term human resource development) with the long term achievements of these three Bangladeshi Ph.D. students (see next page). It is only through a process of sustained basic training of the kind given in some Ph.D. programs that an intellectual tradition is created that may lead to the breaching of the mudwalls of the mind and even potential paradigm shifts in the long run.

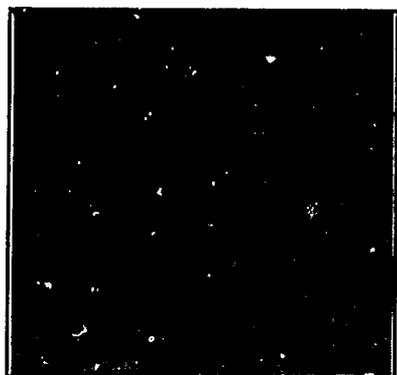
\* Remarks by John Stuart Blackton, Executive Assistant to the Administrator, and Deputy Assistant Administrator (Policy) to the APRE Mission, Directors Team Meeting "Aid in the 1990's" Annapolis, Maryland April 4th, 1991.

\*\* "Leadership in Agricultural Research and Extension" Bruce Currey - Draft submitted to Executive Vice Chairman, BARC, 1991.

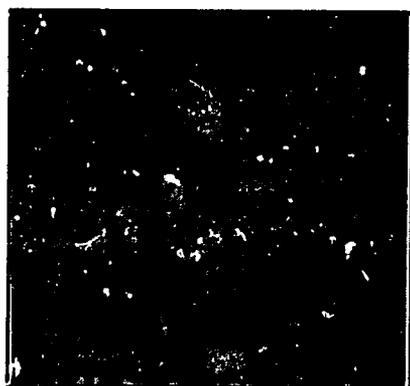
## THE PH.D. FELLOWSHIP WORK OF THREE WINROCK FELLOWS IN 1990



1. **Nazrul Islam:** Assistant Professor of Economics, Dhaka University, who had previously worked with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council on an irrigation management project, is now studying resource economics at Harvard University. His extra curricula paper entitled "Let the Delta be a Delta. An Essay in Dissent on the Flood problem of Bangladesh," which had pre-dated the international flood control initiatives was published in the Journal of Social Studies. No. 48. pp 19-44. for circulation in Bangladesh and abroad. Nazrul Islam was linked with Professor Peter Rogers (Senior Associate, Winrock International at Harvard University) and with other SAARC scholars working on water issues in South Asia.



2. **Belayet Hossain:** Assistant Professor of Economics, Chittagong University which is located adjacent to the Farming Systems site at Hathazari. Mr. Hossain had earlier developed a bibliography on Risk in Bangladesh Agriculture for the Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Hossain developed his studies building upon the earlier work by Dr. Quazi Shahabuddin (M.P.O.) on "Peasant Behaviour Under Uncertainty: Decision - Making Among Low-Income Farmers In Bangladesh" which is being reprinted for network distribution by Winrock International in collaboration with BARC. In 1990, Belayet was working on different types of farmers' Risk Management in Agriculture - the theme of a future BARC seminar and a component which was initially missing from the Flood Action Plan, but one which was developed in the BARC publication on "Flood Plain Agriculture".



3. **I.M. Faisal:** Lecturer in Water Resources Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. Mr. Faisal, after pre-degree training, changed disciplines from Engineering to Economics to study Water Resource Planning at Colorado State University (CSU). He topped the Economics classes at CSU and studied the economic modelling of flooding in Bangladesh. He is now working on the likely flood water and water resource effects of the Tista Barrage. Mr. Faisal is being linked with Professor David Seckler, formerly of Colorado State University and now with Winrock International as Director of Agricultural Policy and Resource Development.

## SUSTAINABILITY: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Now that Bangladesh has a democratically elected nationalist government, it may be time to remember the phrase of the late John. F. Kennedy. viz.

**“Ask not what your country can do for you,  
ask what you can do for your country”<sup>1</sup>**

As pointed out this annual report, the transition to democracy in Bangladesh saw twenty members of the Rural Social Science Network serving on task forces for the Presidential Advisor for Planning in the national interest.

To ensure the sustainability of this spirit and commitment from the 1990-91 transition to democracy, a Coordination Committee has been formed composed of former Winrock International fellows and other concerned professionals. The coordination committee, optimally composed of fifteen people, represents:

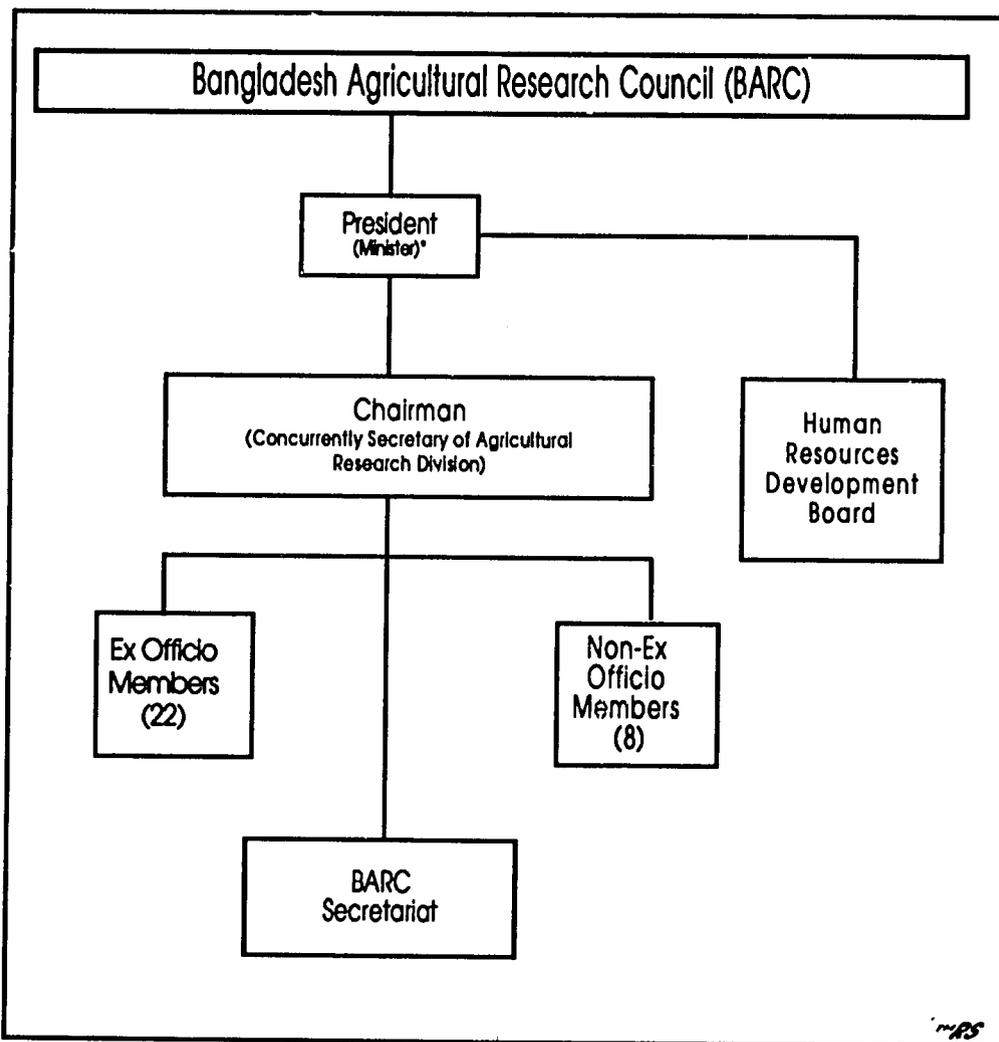
**“a group of creative and imaginative people  
willing to stick their necks out and say things boldly  
in the national interest and for increasing productivity”**

The Coordination Committee has now met, in collaboration with BARC, for four sets of deliberations on resource management issues. The minutes of the meetings are available in the RSSN network office. The Committee itself, and its work, provides the foundations for three main opportunities with existing donors, as well as other donors who have already expressed interest in the rural social science network as an autonomous Bangladeshi foundation.

1. Executing a human resources development programme (see Figure-1 Review of the ISNAR Review) from an autonomous position with the assistance of a well managed secretariat and an initial strong focus on environment and natural resource management training.
2. Providing a high quality ‘think-tank cum lobby’ group to assist the government, NGO, private sectors and donors, in setting environmental and social quality control criteria, and to support the national interest in:
  - (i) broad resource management issues relating to national development at the level of the Planning Commission or Prime Minister’s Secretariat
  - (ii) sustainable agricultural development policy at the level of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, Irrigation and Flood Control, or (and)
  - (iii) agricultural research policy at the level of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.
3. Setting a National Research Agenda for Resource Management in Bangladesh and ensuring autonomy for researchers to complete their own research. Such research would be reviewed and monitored by the coordination committee of the foundation and financially managed by the secretariat of the foundation.

<sup>1</sup> Referred by Professor Kazi M. Badruddoza, Scientist Emeritus, BARC - from “Problems faced by Scientists in Research and Development”

**FIGURE 1: PROPOSED ORGANOGRAM OF REORGANIZED BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (BARC)**



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Ex Officio Members</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>2. Secretary, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries</li> <li>3. Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Forests</li> <li>4. Secretary, Ministry of Education</li> <li>5. Vice-Chancellor, BAU</li> <li>6. Head of IPSA</li> <li>7. Vice-Chancellor of one of the other universities by rotation</li> <li>8. Director-General, BIDS</li> <li>9. Director-General, BCSIR</li> <li>10. Director-General, BADC</li> <li>11. Director-General, DAB</li> <li>12. Director-General, BARI</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Director-General, BRRI</li> <li>14. Director-General, BJRI</li> <li>15. Director, BINA</li> <li>16. Director, SRTI</li> <li>17. Director, BLRI</li> <li>18. Director, BFRI (Forestry)</li> <li>19. Director, BFRI (Fisheries)</li> <li>20. Director, SRDI</li> <li>21. Director, BTRI</li> <li>22. Member-Director, BARC, on rotation, as Member-Secretary</li> </ol> <p><b>Non-Ex Officio Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 6 Reputed National Scientists</li> <li>◆ 2 Members of Parliament</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Note: The Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries would hold the position of the President of the Council by rotation.

## RSSN Coordination Committee

Dr. Nurul Alam  
Professor of Anthropology,  
(Jahangirnagar University)

Dr. Shapan Adnan  
Professor of Economics,  
(Chittagong University)

Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed  
Fisheries Economics - FSR  
(BARC-ICLARM)

Ms. Dauletunessa Chowdhury,  
Botany Plant Breeding (BARI).

Ms. Jahanara Begum  
Literature (Proshika, NGO - Women's  
Programme)

Dr. Bruce Currey,  
Economic Geography, BARC-HRDP (Win-  
rock International)

Dr. Madan Dey  
Agricultural Economics,  
(BARC)

Dr. Nazma Begum,  
Economics  
(Dhaka University)

Dr. Md. Hassanullah,  
Agricultural Extension  
(MOA/CIDA/AST)

Dr. Monowar Hossain,  
Horticulture  
(BARI)

Dr. M. A. S. Mandal,  
Irrigation Economics  
(BAU)

Dr. M.A. Jabbar,  
Livestock Economics,  
BAU/ILCA

Dr. K. Shamsul Huda,  
Social Demography, NGO/Coordination  
(ADAB)

Dr. Zillur Rahman,  
Sociology/Economics  
(BIDS)

Dr. Zahir Sadeque,  
Sociology (USAID)

Ms. Ishrat Jahan,  
Agricultural Economics  
(MOA)

## THE SECRETARIAT



**Ms. Kaberi Mustafa**, an Economics Graduate of Dhaka University was selected by a five member selection committee - Dr. A.K.M. Moniruzzaman, Director Support Services, (BARC), Dr. Bruce Currey, Program Leader (Winrock International), Dr. Shapan Adnan, Policy Fellow, (Winrock International), Ms. Zakia Rahman, Computer Co-ordinator, (Winrock International), and Ms. Peony Chaudhury, USAID (former Assistant Program Manager). Ms. Mustafa is an auto-didactic in office computer systems. She looks after the financial management and computerised filing systems for the program. Ms. Mustafa has been liaising with the British Council and attending English Language courses as part of her human resource development.

**Mr. M.A. Rahim** was selected as the Computer Systems Typist. Mr. M.A. Rahim previously worked with Ms. Nipa Rahman at the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies where he worked with their two publications, "Environmental Aspects of Surface Water Systems" and "Environmental Aspects of Agricultural Development" in Bangladesh. Mr. Rahim has supported many individual RSSN members and the Task Forces on the Transition to Democracy with his extensive Desk Top Publishing (DTP) skills. This annual report prepared on an Apple IICX is testimony to his skill levels and his human resource development with the HRDP (Winrock International) office.



## A NEW INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

In the national interest to support these future directions, a new institutional mechanism is required. The institution, in the form of a private foundation registered under the Companies Act 1913, would require the support and advice from the highest authorities of the democratically elected government of Bangladesh. It would, however, be an independent entity. The Foundation would thus have the freedom to support all sectors of resource management - government, NGO and the private sector in research-led resource development for Bangladesh.

The private Bangladeshi foundation would have an independent advisory council. It would be directed by the Coordination Committee and the Secretariat could be managed by Winrock International or others as deemed appropriate by the Coordination Committee. The secretariat, on behalf of the coordination committee, would manage grants from the existing donors and from other donors who have already indicated interest, e.g. SIDA, EEC and Danida.

# Setting a National Research Agenda

as per

GoB - MoA - USAID - Ford Foundation

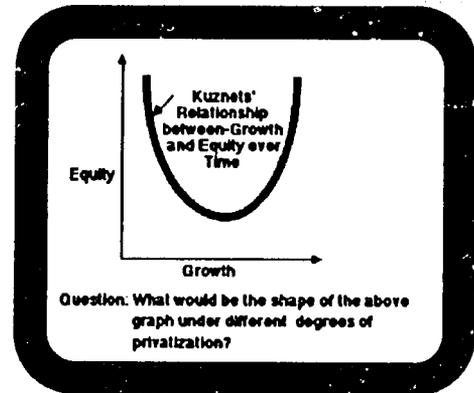
Review Recommendations

1987

## 1. PRIVATE VERSUS PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENTS FOR GROWTH AND EQUITY.

### Examples:

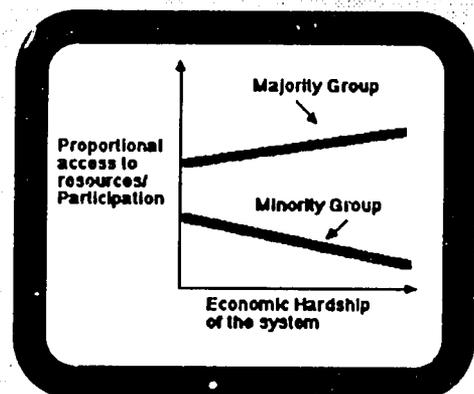
- Privatization of agricultural research and extension and returns to society
- Privatization of agricultural research and extension to the neglect of theory and basic research which have no immediate returns
- Private versus public input delivery systems and their social welfare function
- Reasons for the non-availability of extension workers.
- Effective extension system design to maximise effectiveness through leadership, penalties and rewards
- Role of management, culture, ethics and value systems in effective service delivery.



## 2. CHANGING THE PARTICIPATION OF MINORITY GROUPS IN THE DOMINANT CULTURE AND ECONOMY.

### Examples :

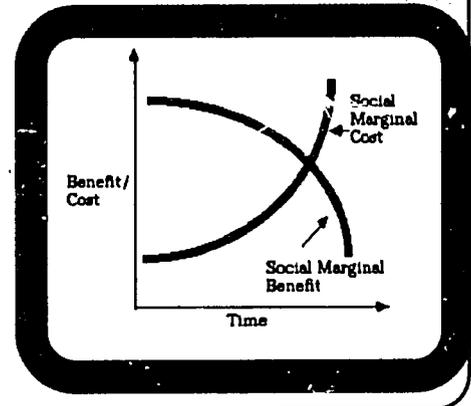
- Changing livelihoods of tribal groups
- Changing livelihoods of different occupational groups (aquaculturalists, bede, kumar, and kamar, etc.)
- Changing access of minority groups to new technologies
- Changing access of minority groups to common property resources



### 3. IMMEDIATE PROFIT AS OPPOSED TO IRREVERSIBLE CHANGE

#### Examples

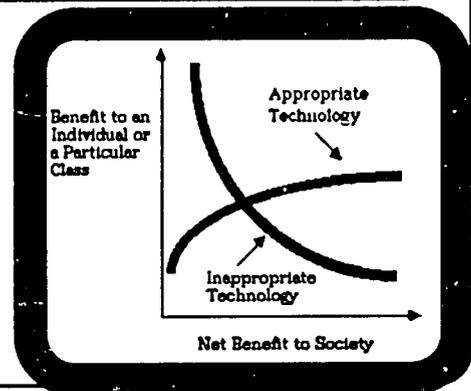
- Salinisation of Coastal Polders for Shrimp
- Chemical Pest Management versus Collective Integrated Pest Management



### 4. INDIVIDUAL GAINS AT THE EXPENSE OF SOCIETY

#### Examples

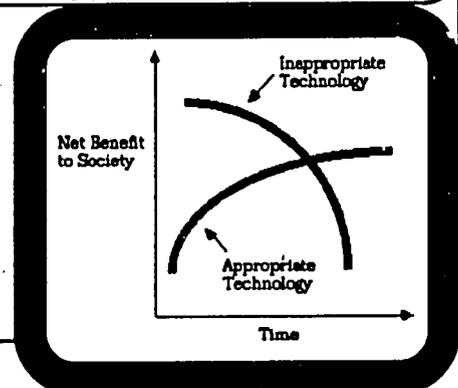
- Plantation Forestry versus Participatory Approaches
- Individual versus Collective Action in Water Resource Management



### 5. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES VERSUS INAPPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES IN RELATION TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS.

#### Examples

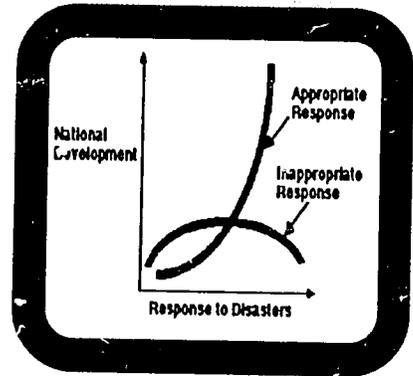
- Barind Development Program versus Water Harvesting
- Stress Resistance in Imported Technologies



## 6. DISASTERS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Examples :

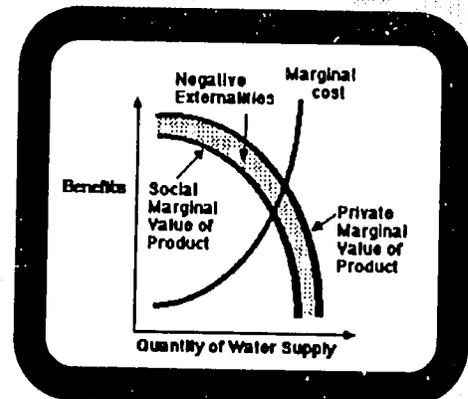
- Institutional mechanisms for combatting natural disasters
- Identify disaster impacts in terms of processes of change rather than static impact studies of change
- Indigenous survival strategies



## 7. CONJUNCTIVE USES OF WATER RESOURCES AND THEIR NEGATIVE EXTERNALITIES.

### Examples :

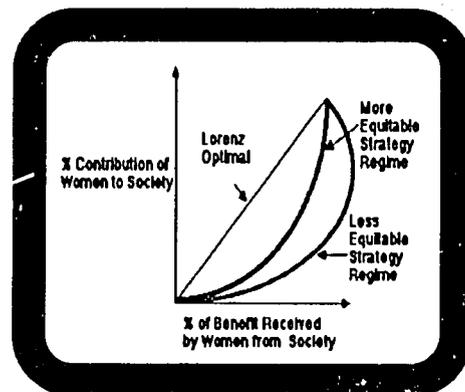
- Identifying areas of socio-economic stress resulting from improper management of surface and ground water
- Urban waste water and water quality



## 8. THE EMANCIPATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE OF WOMEN.

### Examples:

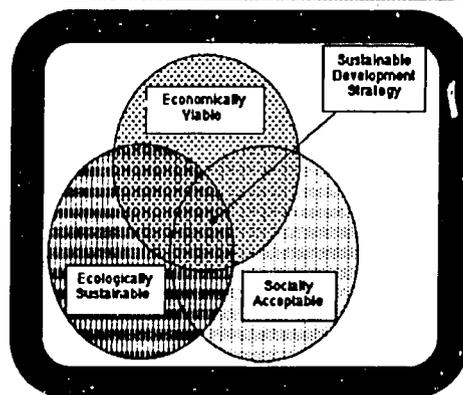
- Equal valuation for women in terms of employment, wages, tasks, timing, and expenditure choices - in all aspects of socio-political, economic and cultural life
- The choice and allocation of new technologies and information for women
- The design of women's programmes in the agriculture, agro-processing, garments and construction-labour areas
- Female headed households and their contribution to the survival of society
- The deprivation of the female child
- The value of the potentialities of women as pacifists.
- Women's contribution to and benefits from foreign exchange earning and export processing
- Changing cultures and traditions affecting women's status and situation in patriarchal society.
- Women's "Health"



## 9. INTEGRATED INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

### Examples:

- Appropriate methodologies for combining disciplinary paradigms for the benefit of rural society
- A true Bangladeshi farming systems research and development methodology
- Perceptions of environment and development
- Scanning global environmental and socio-economic changes relating to economic-ecological futures in Bangladesh
- Tenurial relationships for the sustainable management of natural resources
- Common Property Resources, Biomass, Agro-forestry and Rural Energy



**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT  
EXPENSES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1990**

|  | USAID      | FORD       | CDA       | Total        |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. ACADEMIC SERVICES                               | 227,145.92 | 0          | 0         | 227,145.92   |
| 2. DEGREE TRAINING<br>(PRE/POST)                   | 276,169.94 | 107,381.41 | 85.72     | 383,637.07   |
| 3. IN-COUNTRY PROFESSIONAL<br>DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING | 31,594.56  | 142,126.9  | 17,082.15 | 190,803.61   |
| 4. NETWORK SUPPORT                                 | 165,681.29 | 0          | 4,591.72  | 170,273.01   |
| 5. EQUIPMENT                                       | 0.77       | 0          | 0         | 0.77         |
| 6. OTHERS (ADMINISTRATIVE<br>SUPPORT)              | 14,480.41  | 54,096.57  | 0         | 68,576.98    |
| 7. EVALUATION                                      | 0          | 17,341.15  | 0         | 17,341.15    |
| 8. INDIRECT COSTS                                  | 137,971.87 | 0          | 0         | 137,971.87   |
| 9. CONTINGENCIES                                   | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0            |
|  | 853,044.76 | 320,946.03 | 21,759.59 | 1,195,750.38 |

All aggregated accounting both in-country and abroad for this programme is maintained by Winrock International Headquarters : Route 3, Morrilton, Arkansas 72110, USA, Fax- 501-

**FUTURE GRANTS STATUS  
PROPOSALS  
INITIATED BY  
THE PROGRAM LEADER  
DR. BRUCE CURREY  
1990**

In addition to the US\$ 3,345,202.82 secured since 1984 by the program leader for the human resource development program on behalf of Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development the following proposals have been initiated by the program leader during 1990.

**1. Strengthening National Farming Systems Research  
with a Monitoring System for Policy Analysis**

- Dr. Aurungzeb et. al. (BARC) - Zakia Rahman et al. (Winrock International)
- Potential Donors : World Bank - Contract Research
- Discussions - Christopher Willoughby, Frank Thornley, Ross Wallace, Hikmat Nasr, Wahida Huq
- Amount under discussion = US\$ 141,371

**2. Environmental and Natural Resource Training in Deltaic Areas**

- Rural Social Science Network
- Continuation of Bangladesh Program
- Potential Donors :           USAID -           Olivier Cardunier  
                                  EEC           -           Sean Doyle  
                                  DANIDA       -           Don Frederiksen  
                                  JAPAN -           Professor Teruo Higashi/  
  Professor Kaeda
- Amount under discussion US\$ 5,000,000.

**3. Bangladesh Vietnam - Comparative Deltaic Agriculture  
Technology Transfer in Flood Prone Environments**

- Professor Shapan Adnan (CU, Dr. Kazi Badrudoza (BARC), Dr. Madan Dey (BARC), Dr. Monowar Hossain (BARI), Dr. Bruce Currey (WI)
- Potential Donors :           SIDA           -           Mats Swenson  
  Per Bertilson
- Amount under consideration US\$ 2,500,000

# RSSN

## Epilogue

# 1990

### SUSTAINING SYNERGISM

The work of the RSSN has been more than the sum of its individual components. This synergism has been captured around the oval coffee table in the RSSN network office presently at BARC. The oval table is similar to the symbol on the front cover of this annual report, showing the seven natural philosophers in critical discussion. The coffee table operates as an analogue to the village tea stall which accelerates extension activities in South Asia. Eight to ten network members per day meet around the table from different disciplines and institutions throughout Bangladesh. They informally exchange information, encouraging the free flow of ideas with each other, with visitors from abroad, with the policy fellow and the program leader. Each RSSN member has usually one or more requests for the xerox reproduction of new technical material in the rural social sciences. While it might be easy to privatise this service, it may be difficult to privatise the synergy of the "critical" discussion.

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### **Corrigendum.**

The essay “A Bridge to Sustainable Agriculture” on page 5 of this report should be completed as follows :

Increased agriculture production will have a positive impact on the alleviation of poverty, and increasing food entitlement, throughout the country, will require trade and transport services in which the poor will participate. Large farmers will have greater shares in any gains from agricultural growth, but the small and landless households would not be excluded. An increase in the income of the poor has a substantial impact on the poverty situation throughout the country. The opening of the Jamuna Bridge will promote sustainable agriculture by inducing the necessary transformation of traditional agriculture and by reducing poverty.