

**IPM CRSP
BANGLADESH SITE**

**A REPORT ON
FARMER FIELD DAY 2003**



**Organized by
IPM CRSP and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)
at
Gaidghat village of Bandabila Union, Bagharpara Upazila, Jessore
on
January 28, 2003**

**FARMER FIELD DAY: JANUARY 28, 2003
ORGANIZED BY IPM CRSP AND BARI**

A farmer field day was observed on IPM CRSP technology trials and demonstrations on January 28, 2003 at Gaidghat village, about 21 kilometers away from Jessore town. Jessore is situated about 170 miles (270 kilometers) away from Dhaka city in the southwestern part of Bangladesh. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Mr. Matiur Rahman Nizami was the chief guest. Executives and high officials present on the occasion were Director General, Director (Training & Communication) and Director (Research) of BARI, Chief of CIMMYT-Bangladesh Dr. Craig Meisner, USAID representative Dr. Latifur Rahman, Additional Director, Deputy Director and District Training Officer of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Joint Directors of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), Regional Director of Seed Certification Agency, Additional District Commissioner of Jessore district, Chief Scientific Officer of BARI Regional Agricultural Station (Jessore), and Chief Scientific Officer of Vegetable Division of BARI Horticulture Research Center. A 5-member team of US scientists consisting of Dr. George Norton, Dr. Edwin Rajotte, Dr. Sally Miller, Dr. Greg Luther and Dr. Robert Gilbertson traveled to Jessore to attend the field day. Total attendance on the field day was well over 1500 which included about 1000 farmers and villagers including about 80 female farmers, about 100 members from 22 local agricultural clubs, 20 members of Jessore Agricultural Technical Committee, about 50 local and district level extension staff, about 200 high school students, about 100 officers and staff of local administration, about 50 local leaders, about 40 IPM CRSP and BARI scientists and 10 members from the local and national press media. The farmer field day was observed in three sessions: (a) the first session was held at the BARI Regional Agricultural Station at Jessore; (b) the second session was at Gaidghat village to visit the IPM CRSP research/demonstration fields; and (c) the third session was held at the premises of the Gaidghat High School for discussion and addresses.

**First Session at BARI Regional Station, Jessore
Briefing on IPM CRSP Programs**

The first session was started at 1215 PM at the BARI Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) in Jessore. The Site Coordinator opened the session by introducing the invitees to the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Mr. Matiur Rahman Nizami and briefed the audience on the overall IPM CRSP programs and the activities of the field day.



Hon'ble Minister at BARI RARS



Partial view of audience at RARS

The BARI Director General Dr. Shahidul Islam in his comments emphasized the importance of IPM practices keeping in view the indiscriminate use of pesticides on various vegetables and commended the IPM CRSP program for developing suitable IPM technologies. Thereafter, the IPM CRSP Technical Committee Chair Dr. George Norton made a slide presentation to about 100 participants of research, extension and administration on the overall programs of IPM CRSP, its objectives, and the progress and achievements in Bangladesh. He also talked about the benefits of the developed technologies to the producers and consumers at large, including the enhancement of farmers' knowledge about IPM approaches in vegetable cultivation and the development of scientists' capability in innovating and implementing IPM practices. Emphasizing the socioeconomic benefits of IPM CRSP programs, he urged upon the importance of favorable policy issues for expediting the IPM practices at the farm level. The first session ended with lunch and the participants headed for Gaidghat village at 1400 PM.



Introduction by Site Coordinator



Comments by BARI Director General



Brief by George Norton



Second Session at Gaidghat Village: Visit to IPM CRSP Trials

The second session of the field day was started at Gaidghat village at 1445 PM with visits to IPM CRSP field trials and demonstrations established in about 10-acre area through direct participation of about 30 farmers. The Site Coordinator, through a display board, first apprised the Hon'ble Minister and the participants the types of IPM trials and demonstrations conducted in the farmer fields and explained their objectives and importance.



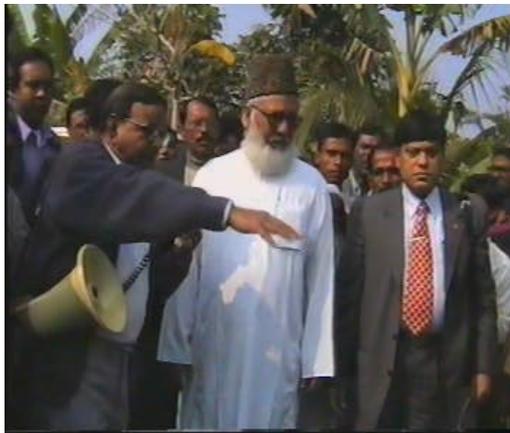
Farmers receiving the Hon'ble Minister



Heading field visit



IPM Cabbage



Bait trap for fruit fly control

The Minister along with the participants then visited the following fields: (a) Soil amendment practice with poultry refuse and mustard oil-cake in eggplant and cabbage for disease control; (b) IPM practice in cabbage for controlling leaf-eating insects; (c) Fruit and shoot borer control in eggplant by using pest-resistant varieties; (d) Eggplant grafting for bacterial wilt disease control; (e) Fruit fly control in sweet gourd by bait trapping; (f) IPM package for fruit and shoot borer control in eggplant; and (g) Tomato production by using improved tomato varieties. The scientists and the participator farmers explained the trials and demonstrations and clarified the questions asked by the Hon'ble Minister or/and the participants. The Minister and the participants were highly impressed with the field experiments and demonstrations, and the enthusiasm shown by the farmers.



Third Session: Discussion and addresses

The third session began at about 1600 PM after field visit. All the participants assembled at the premises of Gaidghat High School. At the start of the session, the farmers received the Hon'ble Minister and the guests with flower bouquets. Thereafter, the farmer organizer of the area Mr. Ayub Hossain presented to the Hon'ble Minister a basketful of pesticide-free vegetables (eggplant, cabbage and tomato) grown by the IPM CRSP participator farmers of Gaidghat village.



After recitation from the Holy Qur'aan, the farmer representative Mr. Nazrul Isalm Khan and the farmer organizer Mr. Ayub Hossain spoke to the audience and emphatically explained the benefits that the farmers obtained by adopting the IPM technologies in their vegetable fields. They noted that their participation in IPM CRSP programs played a key role to enhance their knowledge and perception about IPM approach and they were now convinced that higher and quality production of vegetables could be done with minimal or no use of pesticides. They urged that IPM CRSP be continued to help the farmers with more IPM technologies.



Prior to the Minister's address, the IPM CRSP Technical Committee Chair Dr. George Norton, USAID-Mission representative Dr. Latifur Rahman, and BARI Director General Dr. Shahidul Islam delivered speeches highlighting the excellent field results and the enthusiasm of the farmers they observed all around the place in accepting and practicing the IPM technologies developed by the scientists. They emphasized that, IPM being most critical due to pesticide residue issues, scaling up of IPM technology transfer in intensive vegetable growing areas of Bangladesh should be expedited.



The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Mr. Matiur Rahman Nizami then addressed the audience for about 20 minutes and commended highly the activities of IPM CRSP and the associated scientists for developing IPM technologies that are practical and inexpensive for the farmers to adopt in vegetable cultivation. He hoped that the IPM technologies would quickly spread to other areas of the country as long as they continue to create impacts on the farmers through bringing economic benefits to them. Terming the IPM technologies and other improved practices as the prime need for increased production he called upon the research and extension organizations to strengthen their activities and make the agricultural sector more viable in economic development.



The field day ended at 1445 PM with vote of thanks from the Site Coordinator to the chief guest and all the participants. The proceedings of the field day were recorded on videotape. Portions of the occasion was televised nationally and reported in some newspapers.



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