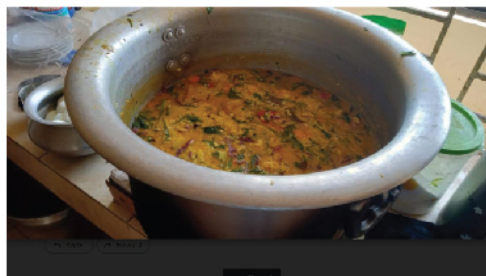


# BIRTAN

## NEWS LETTER

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**Md. Abdul Wadud**

Executive Director (Additional Secretary)  
Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training  
on Applied Nutrition

## Foreword

The last six month of BIRTAN was full of activities as it has started a new journey in its own 100 Acre campus at Araihaaz, Narayanganj. Although COVID-19 Pandemic looms in the shadow as its newer variants like Omicron are emerging, BIRTAN has been working relentlessly to achieve its mission and vision mandated by the government which is to raise the level of nutrition of the people of Bangladesh through applied nutritional research and training. To strengthen its research activities a 04-day long Research Review workshop was arranged. All the proposed research of the scientific officials were reviewed by the expert scientists and academics of the specific arena. Moreover, to enhance the capacity of the research officials of the BIRTAN, a 04-day In-House research methodology training was arranged.

In July-December, 2021 period, BIRTAN has provided food-based nutritional (Applied Nutrition) training to persons all across the country. This national drive is a continuous effort from BIRTAN to raise the awareness about balanced diet, basic food-based nutritional knowledge. 08 Radio Talks have been broadcasted through Bangladesh Betar encompassing food security, safety and nutritional issues.

After BIRTAN shifted to its own campus, Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture visited BIRTAN head office along with the Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and other higher officials of the ministry. Mr. Secretary engaged with the BIRTAN officials in a view exchange meeting where all the officials of the BIRTAN head office were physically present and the regional officials were connected via digital medium. BIRTAN officials presented their activities and pointed out the potentialities and constraints of their infrastructure and other issues. Mr. Secretary instructed the officials to work with a aim to make the BIRTAN as a Center of Excellence in Applied Nutritional Research and Training as government has given nutrition paramount importance in its short and long term strategies, targets and action plans.

This year, BIRTAN celebrated its first victory day in its own campus and how lucky are we! It is the Golden Jubilee (Suborno Joyonty) celebration of the victory against the Pakistani occupation forces in 16 December, 1971. The whole BIRTAN head office was decorated with the Green and Red light and various sporting event was arranged with much fanfare and ecstasy to celebrate the victory. A somber prayer and discussion session was arranged to remember the sacrifice of the 3 million martyrs and other victims of the Pakistani exploitation. With the closing of Mujib Centenary Year, the focus of the discussion was to realize his vision of Golden Bengal which are free from hunger and every kind of vices and exploitations. BIRTAN has to play a vital role to end all form of hunger of the people.



To enhance BIRTAN's research activities a 04 day long (28 September, 29 September, 30 September, 03 October) research review workshop was arranged at BIRTAN head office. The research workshops was presided by the Md. Abdul Wadud, Executive Director, Additional Director, BIRTAN which was arranged in BIRTAN training building. In the opening session, Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture were present as the chief Guest. He was connected from his ministry office through digital medium.

In 28 September the research workshops topic was Livestock and Fisheries research. There was 03 research proposal was presented in the session. The session was presided by the Executive Director, BIRTAN. External reviewer of the program were Dr. A.K. Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, Professor, Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics, Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Dr. Md. Rafikul Islam, Chief Scientific Officer (Livestock), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Dr. Md. Sajedul Karim, Principal Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute. The presented topic of this session were

1. Collection, Conservation and Development of Chicken Germplasm through Selection and Breeding to Meet up Safe Nutrition
2. Evaluation of chemical composition of Broiler meat, Indigenous chicken and sonali chicken meat special emphasis on lipid profile of chicken.
3. Assessment of Technology for Minimizing Antibiotics of Broiler Meat by Maintaining the Residual Period

29 September review topic was Nutrition Analysis and determining the Nutritional level. Reviewer of this session were Dr. A.K. Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, Professor, Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics, Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Dr. Md. Rafikul Islam, Chief Scientific Officer (Livestock), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Dr. Md. Sajedul Karim, Principal Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Dr. Md. Obaidullah Kaisar, Principal Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute. The topic presented in this session were:

1. Determination of Carbohydrate Profile of Common Fruits and Vegetables
2. Effect of two cooking methods on the content of vitamins and antioxidant properties of commonly consumed vegetables in Sylhet region
3. To analysis of organophosphorus pesticide residue in raw and cooked vegetable of selected areas
4. Nutrition Determination of Different Popular Mango Varieties in Northern West Bangladesh.
5. Evaluate Nutrient Composition of selected Banana cultivar at 6 different ripening level.
6. Improving Nutritional Status through Nutritional Food Consumption in the Chalanbil area
7. Dietary Diversification and Enhance Nutritional Status of Adolescent Girls' of Jhenaidah, Sadar upazila of Sirajganj in Bangladesh.
8. Assessment of Nutritional Value of Non-conventional Locally Available Vegetable in Sirajganj
9. Assessment of Nutritional value of Non-Conventional Locally Available Vegetables at Netrokona
10. Nutritional Analysis of Ethnic Fruits and Vegetables Locally Available in CHT and Noakhali.
11. "Nutritional Value of Non-conventional Leafy Vegetable Available in Rangpur (*Malva vericillata* var. *crispa* L.) for Better Public Health.
12. Assessment of Nutritional value of Moringa (leaf, Pod) and biochemical study on moringa seed oil.

30 September review topic was Agriculture. The external reviewer of this session were Dr. Md. Alamgir Hussain, Chief Scientific Officer, Regional Office Barishal, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute; Mirza Hasanuzzaman, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Sher-E-Bangla, Agricultural University; Dr. Md. Khairul Alam, Principal Scientific Officer (Soil), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Dr. Md. Khorshed Alam, Principal Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute.

1. Anthocyanin content of Some Black and Red rice cultivars
2. Pesticide Using in Agricultural Sector: Effect on Occupational Health.
3. Conservation of bio diversify medicinal plants through different area from Bangladesh
4. Collection and Conservation of Medicinal Plants
5. Assessment of Nutritive and Antinutritive Status of Tomato and Brinjal Under Different Fertilizer Management Practices
6. Development of Agri-Nutrition Garden Model for Diet Diversification, Food and Nutrition Security of Households ("Nutri Garden Model")
7. Nutrient Analysis of Common Capsicum cultivar in Bangladesh
8. Establish of Color Base Safe Nutrition Garden Model in the Context of Immunity system Improve
9. Assessment of Nutritive Value of Dragon Fruit (*Hylocereus polyrhizus*): The Next Generation Fruit
10. Study on Agronomy of Mara shak (wild relatives of *C. capsularis*)
11. Collection and Variety Development of Cherry Tomato
12. Genetic diversity analysis of some exotic Okra germplasm in Rangpur environment
13. Genetic Improvement for Improving Nutritional Quality in Sweet Potato *Ipomoea atatas* (L.)
14. Performance of Aloe vera as Influenced by Organic and Inorganic Sources of Fertilizer

The topic of review in October 03 was Post Harvest related research. Reviewer of the session were Dr. Abdullah Ikbal, Professor, Department of Food Technology and Rural Industry, Bangladesh Agricultural University; Dr. Md. Rafikul Islam, Chief Scientific Officer (Livestock), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Dr. Md. Hafizul Haque Khan, Chief Scientific Officer, Post-Harvest Technology Division, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute. The research topic proposed in this session were

1. Effect of Postharvest Refrigeration on Nutritional Quality and Shelf Life of Important Horticultural Crops
2. Screening of Nutritional Potential Aroids Cultivar and Ensure Postharvest Quality.
3. Evaluating Nutritional Quality and Shelf Life of Selected fruits by Using Bio Preservatives.
4. Effect of Different Drying Techniques on the Nutritional Value of Edible Varieties of Mushrooms Available in Bangladesh.
5. Nutritional Composition of Pumpkin Powder Produced by Different Drying methods.

All the proposed research topic was extensively reviewed by the external reviewers. Their remarks were duly noted and the fund were allocated to the research official on the basis of their remarks.

## Research Methodology Training Held at BIRTAN HQ



The purpose of research is to inform action. Research must always be of high quality in order to produce knowledge that is applicable outside of the research setting. Furthermore, the results of BIRTAN's research may have implications for formulating government policy and future project implementation. So to ensure high quality research, BIRTAN arranged a 04 day long research methodology training (24-27 October, 2021) for its research related officials. Distinguished researcher Dr. Moin Us Salam was the sole resource person for this program.

The program was inaugurated by Md. Abdul Wadud, Executive Director (Additional Secretary), BIRTAN. He expressed his view on importance of why a researcher must be trained on research methodology. He Said, 'The purpose of research is to add value in the existing knowledge arena. To achieve this goal, a researcher must have orientation with proper research methodology. I hope this training will help our officials to strengthen their capacity of research.

In the first day of the program, Dr. Moin us Salam instructed trainees about the Fundamentals of agriculture research methodology and Research problem identification and direction demarcation. Day 02 was focused on Research topics identification, and development of hypothesis, research question(s) and objective(s) and Implementation of research. The day 03 was on Statistical measurements to interpret data and Statistical measurements to interpret data. The day 04 was dedicated for research communication.

The sessions of the trainings were very interactive and the trainees thanked the resource person for his invaluable input to strengthen their research capacity. During the training, a cultural night was arranged where the BIRTAN officials actively participated. A short drama on applied nutrition issue were also staged.

## Secretary Visited BIRTAN



BIRTAN has shifted to its campus in the beginning of the financial year 2021-22. Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture wanted to visit BIRTAN just after it had shifted its office from its rented facility in Dhaka to Araihaazar. But for the raging pandemic it could not be arranged. In the 14 August, the wait was over. Mr. secretary graced BIRTAN with his official visit.

Dr. Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar, Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Md. Asadullah, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension and other higher officials of the ministry accompanied him. Mr. Secretary engaged with the BIRTAN officials in a view exchange meeting where all the officials of the BIRTAN head office were physically present and the regional officials were connected via digital medium. Md. Abdul Wadud, Executive Director (Additional Secretary), presented BIRTAN's activities and pointed out the potentialities and constraints of the infrastructure and other issues. Regional office also presented their demands before Mr. Secretary. Md. Mesbahul Islam instructed the officials to work with an aim to make the BIRTAN a Center of Excellence in Applied Nutritional Research and Training as government has given nutrition paramount importance in its short- and long-term strategies, targets and action plans. He gave assurance to the officials that the long-awaited demand of inclusion of BIRTAN in National Agricultural Research System is on the priority list of ministries agenda. He said, Chairman of BARC will expedite the process.

Mr. Secretary then visited newly built infrastructure and lab of BIRTAN. He also planted a tree in the BIRTAN campus.

## BIRTAN participated in Workshop organized by FAO-FPMU



The Government of Bangladesh approved the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP, 2020) in September 2020 under the Leadership of HE the Prime Minister. This was followed by the development of the NFNSP Plan of Action (PoA, 2021-2030) by the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) in the Ministry of Food, and other food and nutrition security (FNS) relevant ministries with technical support of the Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge Project (MUCH), funded by the EU and USAID and implemented by FAO.

FAO MUCH will support the government in kickstarting the implementation and monitoring of the PoA, and the related investments under the Bangladesh Third Country Investment Plan – Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems (CIP3 2021-2025) that is being developed. To this end, technical support has been requested by FPMU to provide support in the implementation and monitoring of the PoA through sectoral and cross-sectoral entry points and arrangements, notably the Ministries of Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Women and Children's Affairs, and Health and Family Welfare.

The process will ensure synergy in the implementation of the NFNSP PoA and monitoring of both the PoA and the CIP3, in consonance with the NPAN2 and other cross-sectoral action plans. To this end, the collaboration with BNNC and FNS relevant partner ministries will be further reinforced to enable harmonization of policy implementation at sub-national levels using existing government institutional structures within the umbrella purview of food and nutrition security.

FAO MUCH will facilitate the development of FNS training material to be used by the Government of Bangladesh training institutions for the training of government officials to enhance their capacities to deliver the FNS services. Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN) is an institute, under the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), with the mandate to improve the nutritional status of people through capacity building and applied nutrition-sensitive training programs.

MUCH along with BIRTAN, FPMU, and Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC), provided technical support to conduct a series of half-day orientation workshops and 2-days in-service trainings in nutrition, targeting government officials of the DNCC and UNCC respectively, during the period August to October 2020. The trainings were virtual, given the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The MUCH nutrition technical team, BIRTAN nutrition officers, FPMU and BNNC teams served as resource persons. The DNCC and UNCC included district and upazila level officials from the departments of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries (DAE, DLS and DoF) from MoA and MoFL and other government officials from ministries of health and family welfare, food, women and children affairs, education, disaster management and relief (MoHFW, MoFood, MoWCA, MoE and MoDMR). These represent the core ministries who implement the FNS policies and facilitate delivery of FNS services at the field level.

The workshops and trainings served to enhance participants' knowledge on nutrition, food safety, related-national policies such as CIP2, NFNSP and NPAN2 and the linkages to the MMNP. In addition, the trainings focused on understanding COVID-19 impacts on nutrition and food security. For the training, FAO MUCH in partnership with BIRTAN developed a field training manual that covered key topics associated with national FNS-related policies, dietary guidelines, dietary diversity, nutrient-dense recipes, food safety and hygiene and COVID-19 related safety issues as well as diet during COVID-19. Previous manuals, materials, guidelines, and tools prepared by MUCH and other FAO projects on food-based nutrition, complementary feeding, food safety, hygiene and household food processing were also used as reference materials.

## Snippets of July-December 2021

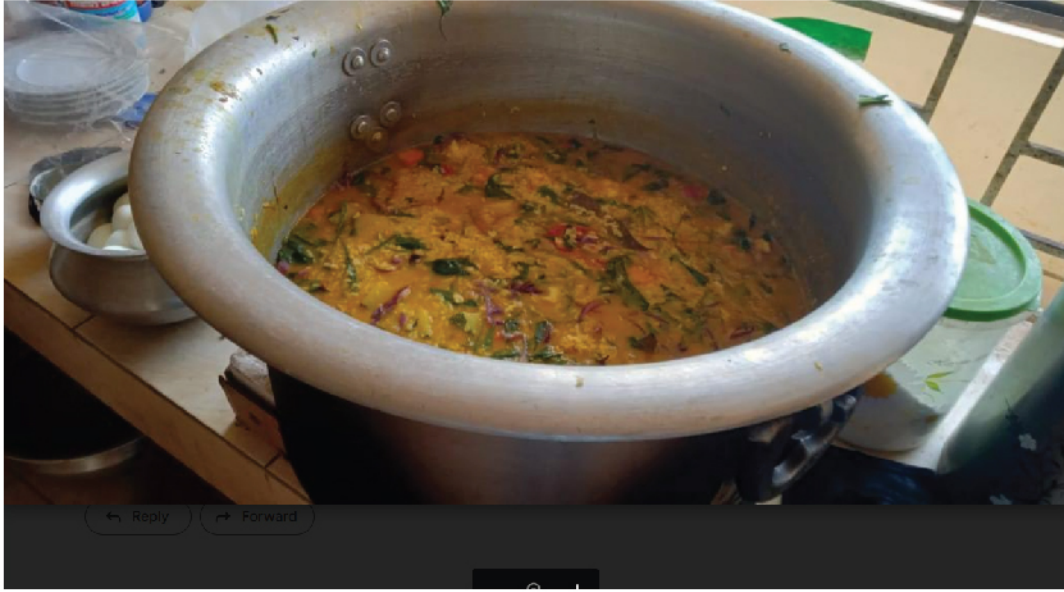


Celebration of Golden Jubilee of Victory Day

Sheikh Russel Day 2021  
observed at head office



Training Demonstration at Noakhali Regional Office



Nutritious and Healthy Khichuri preparation demonstration at BIRTAN Head Office



National Mourning Day 2021

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