

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

STRENGTHENING HYBRID RICE SEED PRODUCTION ACTIVITY IN BANGLADESH BY UTILIZING LOCAL RICE MATERIALS

A round table discussion was held in Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Teachers' Conference Room under the co-sponsorship of Seed Trade Owners Association and Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Research System (SAURES), Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU). Dr. Abid Chowdhury, Senior Chief Scientist, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia highlighted the technical know how of hybrid seed production and the potentiality of utilizing our own rice materials to create male sterility (MS) system and their maintainer (B line) for the maintenance of A line. He presented an informal paper regarding the possibility of utilizing the scientific knowledge and technology he has for creating male sterility and their maintainer in rice easily. He categorized our available rice germplasms into six groups showing the potentiality of utilizing heterosis by selecting parental materials from different categories to carryout crossing programme. He put forward an idea that a unit would be opened by the financial help of the private sector Seed Companies and GOB (if possible), where scientists would produce necessary parental materials for use by the concerned breeders of each seed company to produce hybrid rice seed in Bangladesh. The participants exchanged views and ideas in this regard stressing the importance of utilizing our own materials in hybrid seed production programme. To initiate the programme a lumpsum initial budget of TK. 300 crore was estimated that would be provided by Private Seed Companies and by the Government of Bangladesh. Finally, it was decided that further discussion would be made among the interested parties to enhance the hybrid rice seed production programme of the country.