



99 th CRC Seminar

Agricultural Education for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh

Professor Dr. M. Afzal Hossain

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Bangladesh Agricultural University
Mymensingh, BANGLADESH

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Agriculture is the driving force for sustainable development in Bangladesh. Its contribution to GDP is 19.29%. Food security, livelihoods and employment opportunity largely depends on the development of agriculture. Agricultural education has a tremendous role on agricultural development of this country. Agricultural education is provided from schools (primary and secondary), training institutes (agriculture and livestock) and universities. Livestock education in this country began long time ago, crop science education was strengthened through green revolution in 1960s and eventually fisheries education came into focus. Fourteen Agricultural Training Institutes (Govt.) are offering diploma courses in agriculture. Agricultural graduates are being produced by four Agricultural Universities, two Science & Technology Universities, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Khulna University, and Rajshahi University. Unfortunately, present education system and course-curricula of agriculture are largely designed to fulfil the Govt. demand; it is not oriented to the changing needs of the private sectors while it is the main job market now. There are many new challenges in the agriculture sector which need to be addressed through education and research to achieve sustainable food production (crops, fisheries, livestock & poultry). Climate change, salinity intrusion, disaster management, environment (soil, water & air) degradation, biodiversity, indigenous germplasms conservation, food nutrition & safety, integrated system approach, waste management, disease management, organic agriculture, post-harvest technology and value chain are the key issues now. Modernization of course-curricula and introduction of internship to provide hands-on experience deserve attention. There should have an Accreditation Council nationally to evaluate the degrees offered by various universities.

(問い合わせ先：伊藤 菊一：kikuito@iwate-u.ac.jp)