Corn oil an untapped potential

Say scientists at Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute

Our Correspondent, *Dinajpur*

Only five percent of maize or corn produced in the country are used for human consumption while the rest, a staggering 95 percent, is used as feed for poultry, fish and dairy farms.

But before corn is used as animal feed, a good amount of edible oil for human consumption can be extracted from the seed, said scientists at Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI) in Dinajpur.

Furthermore, the extraction of oil from the corn seeds would not have any negative impact on the animal feed industry as nutritional value or quantity of the seeds remain about the same in the form of slag, they also said.

The country has an annual demand for 17 lakh tonnes of edible oil and more than 1 lakh tonne of the demand could be met with corn oil from 47 lakh metric tonnes of corn produced in the country over the same period, according to BWMRI.

Out of the total corn production, 85 percent is used in poultry industry while 10 percent is used in fish industry.

Dr Israil Hossain, director general (DG) of BWMRI, said they have been encouraging oil machinery manufacturing companies from overseas to visit the country and examine the feasibility of setting up factories in the country to produce corn oil.

"If everything goes well, we expect that experts from the companies will visit Bangladesh [soon]."

About 5.05 lakh hectares of land is used to produce corn in the country and 18 lakh tonnes of it is imported to meet the annual demand of 65 lakh tonnes, the DG added.

While speaking with this paper at BWMRI rest house in Dinajpur, eminent agricultural scientist Dr Kazi M Badruddoza said production of corn oil has good potential in Bangladesh and the government should facilitate different sectors that can exploit the potential by setting up corn oil factories in the country.

Although corn has high nutritional value, it is still being used as animal and fish feed in the country. "The worrying thing is that only five percent of the total corn production is used in the country for human consumption," he said.

Corn oil contains healthy components such as vitamin E and it is produced in a number of countries including USA, Argentina, Turkey, Brazil, Japan, South Africa, China and India.

A worker removes corn husk in Kornali village of Dinajpur Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Kurigram catkin growers all smiles

Betel leaf growers across the country are its main buyers

Our Correspondent, *Lalmonirhat*

Bumper yield of catkin, locally called kashia, this season has brought smiles to many farmers in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila as they are earning a handsome profit by selling the produce at good prices due to its high demand.

During a visit to Jorgachh Haat in the upazila, this correspondent saw farmer Nafer Uddin, 58, of Brahmaputra river basin Char Astomi was selling catkin with a big smile on his face.

"Although all my three bighas of char land were blooming with catkin a couple of weeks ago, recently one bigha of out of the three bighas land went into the womb of Brahmaputra river," Nafer said.

Nafer said he got 7,000 bundles of catkin from the rest two bighas of land this season and got Tk 35,000 by selling each bundle of catkin at Tk 5.

They do not cultivate or invest any money for producing the item as it is grown on char lands naturally, he said, adding that he spent only Tk 10,000 as labourer cost for transporting the harvest to the mainland.

Farmer Delwar Hossain of Char Kodalkati village said, earlier, there was a high demand for catkin as most of the houses in the locality were made with straw.

Its demand has fallen a bit as now there is no straw-made house in the area, he added.

Delwar said this year he got 13,000 bundles of catkin from his four bighas of char land and sold the produce for Tk 68,000.

Julhas Mia, a catkin trader at Jorgachh Haat, said they purchase catkin from the farmers in Brahmaputra river basin area and sell those to betel leaf growers in Barishal, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Barguna, Jhalakathi and many other areas across the country.

They buy each bundle of catkin at Tk 5 to Tk 6 and sell it at Tk 10 to Tk 12 to the buyers, he said.

Chilmari Upazila Agriculture Officer Kumar Pranay Bisan Das said catkin is grown on sandy char lands in between June to October and harvested from the middle of January to end of February.

Farmer Nafer Uddin of Char Astomi village in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila brings catkin for sale at adjacent Jorgachh Haat. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighter Tepri Rani receives a flower bouquet from Thakurgaon-1 lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen, *right,* during a programme in Thakurgaon town yesterday. Thakurgaon district administration organised the programme on the occasion of the inauguration of 'Mujib Barsho Chatwar' in the town. To her right is Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner Dr KM Kamruzzman Selim. The 65-year-old, from Bolidwar village of Ranisankail upazila, was also handed over a crest and a grant of Tk 20,000. Tepri Rani was picked up by Pakistan occupation army in May of 1971, during the Liberation War, from her village home and was subjected to rape and physical torture for six months in confinement at an army camp. After the country won the war, her husband abandoned her out of shame. Ostracised by her husband and the community, Tepri gave birth to a son in March of 1972 and worked as a day labourer for the next ten years to support the child and herself. Tepri Rani was conferred the title 'Birangana' in 2017 and recognised as a freedom fighter in 2018. PHOTO: MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

'Son beat me, drove out of home'

Our Correspondent, *Lalmonirhat*

An elderly woman at a press conference in Lalmonirhat town on Monday alleged that her elder son drove her, her younger son and the latter's wife out of home after physically torturing them.

Anwara Bewa, 65, wife of late Tofayel Ahmed Sarker of Telipara village of Mahendranagar union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, made the allegation against her son Tahmidul Islam Bipob, a local leader of ruling Awami League (AL) and also a member of zila parishad.

"My elder son Bipob tortured me, my younger son Tazbirul Islam Sumon and Sumon's wife Khadizatul Kobra this [Monday] morning, forcing us to leave home," Anwara Bewa said at the press conference held at the office of local weekly Lalmonirhat Barta at Stadium Road in Lalmonirhat town.

"Now we have taken shelter at a relative's house. Biplob earlier cut down all the big trees in our homestead, when 18 to 20 party men were with him.

"As Biplob is president of Mahendranagar union AL and a member of Zila Parishad, relatives and locals dared not protest," Anwara told the journalists.

Her younger son Tazbirul Islam Sumon and his wife Khadizatul Kobra, who were present at the press conference, also described the atrocities on them.

"My elder brother Biplob has been abusing and torturing our widow mother, me and my wife in a bid to occupy all our ancestral property," said Sumon.

"We have submitted a complaint to the deputy commissioner and the police superintendent, seeking justice," he said adding that they are now scared due to the threat by Biplob.

Sumon's wife Khadizatul Kobra said, "When my brother-in-law Biplob was torturing my mother-in-law, I tried to save her. Then he started beating me in front of all."

Asked about the allegation, Tahmidul Islam Biplob said, "It is merely a family affair. There is no need to talk to journalists about it."

Contacted, Abida Sultana, superintendent of police in Lalmonirhat, said, "We have received the complaint and police will take legal step after investigation."

Woman killed by addict neighbour

Our Correspondent, *Brahmanbaria*

A housewife was stabbed to death by a drug addict youth at Nilokhi village in Nabinagar upazila of the district on Monday night allegedly for not responding to his illicit proposal.

The deceased, Aklima Begum, 22, was wife of Liton Mia, a fruit seller.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Officer in Charge of Nabinagar Police Station Ranjit Roy said there had been a family feud between Aklima and her husband Liton for long.

Taking advantage of the situation, one of her neighbours Monir Hossain, 24, often used to give her ill proposal.

As Aklima was not responding to his proposal, Monir all of a sudden entered Aklima's house and stabbed her indiscriminately with a knife while she was having her meal around 9:00pm on Monday night and fled the scene.

Victim's father Bachchu Mia, hailing from Bishnurampur village in Banchharampur upazila, said he purchased a land near Liton's house recently and had been residing there for the last one month.

Since then Akilma had been staying at his newly built house, he added.

Being informed, police went to the spot the same night, recovered the body and sent it to Brahmanbaria General Hospital for autopsy yesterday morning.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
Office of the Project Director
Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design of Proposed Bus Terminal and Depot
Nagar Bhaban (Level-12), Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.
www.dtca.gov.bd

Memo: 35.02.0000.002.37.018.19 -81 Date: 15/03/2020

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI)
For
Individual Technical Consultant

1. Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) is the Transport Planning and Coordination Authority of greater Dhaka. It has prepared the Transport Master Plan of Dhaka named as Strategic Transport Plan (STP) (revised and modified in 2015). DTCA like to hire a Technical Consultant whose Scope of Services and Qualification in brief are given below.

Post	Brief Scope of Tasks/Service	Qualification and Experience
Technical Consultant (12 Man-months)	• Assist Project officials in technical analysis of reports submitted by Consultancy Firm for Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design of Proposed Bus Terminal and Depot. • Assist DTCA for Revised STP implementation related works and prepare necessary documents.	• Have at least 2 years experience with bachelor degree in Engineering/Urban planning (with major in transport), Masters in Transportation Engineering with relevant experience will be preferred. • Have an understanding of principal urban transport issues, particularly public transport and road traffic management issues in Dhaka and be prepared to work independently.

2. Detail scope of services and qualification is provided in Request for Application (RFA) which may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during normal office hours or may be obtained through email (ade@dtca.gov.bd) on request.
3. Interested Applicants are required to submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the Application Forms provided in RFA.
4. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the Public Procurement Rules (PPR) 2008.
5. It is expected that the service will commence in April 2020 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
6. Expressions of Interest (EoI) for the above position must be delivered in sealed envelope to the address of the project on or before 02 April, 2020 up to 5:00 pm. The envelopes must be clearly marked "EoI for Individual Technical Consultant"
7. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EoIs.

15/03/2020
(A. S. M. Elias Shah)
Project Director
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GD-513