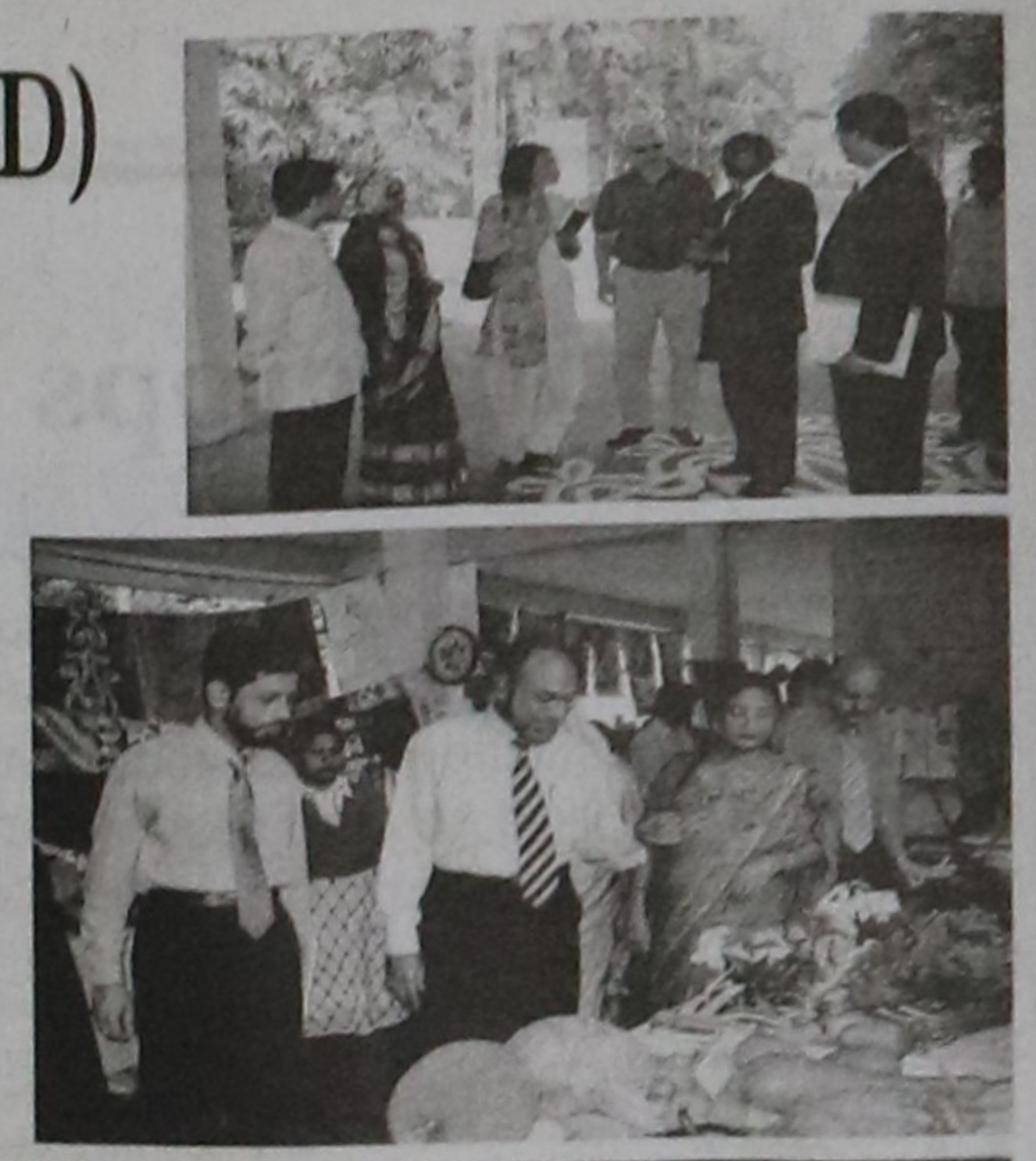
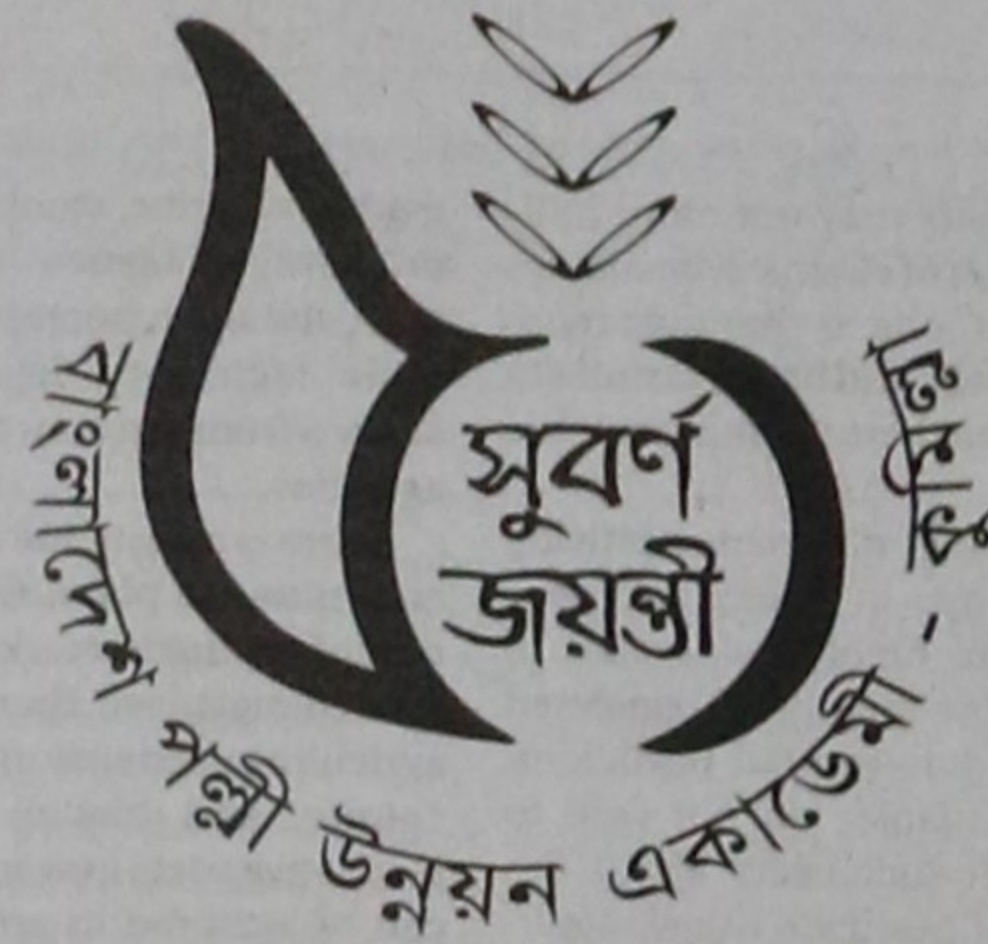




Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Golden Jubilee 2009



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Dhaka
13 Jaishtha 1416
27 May 2009

Message

I am delighted to know that the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla is going to observe its 50th anniversary on 27 May, 2009. On this happy occasion, I extend my sincere felicitations to all concerned of this organisation.

It gives me immense pleasure to know that BARD has been playing a significant role in its efforts towards promoting rural development in the country since its inception. 'Comilla Approach', an integrated development system of BARD, which initiated several programmes including Cooperative Movement, Development Research activities, Rural Works Programme, Upazila Training & Development Programme for achieving self-reliance is still relevant. I am confident that BARD would be able to contribute significantly towards attaining human resources development, poverty eradication, employment opportunities and self-sufficiency in rural lives. I urge upon all concerned to dedicate themselves in materialising the 'Charter for Change' declared by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for beaming at the common mass.

I wish the Golden Jubilee celebration of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Zillur Rahman
Md. Zillur Rahman

Fifty Years' Achievements of BARD in Rural Development

Today, the 27th of May is the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD). Fifty years ago, on this day in 1959, BARD started its journey. It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. BARD is located in a beautiful natural environment in the lap of Lalmai Hills at Kothari, 8 Km. west of Comilla town. Since inception, the Academy is persistently engaged in advancing the socio-economic uplift of rural people through conducting training, research and action research. Side by side with conducting training, BARD has evolved successful rural development models for which it is well-known at home and abroad.

The Comilla Model which introduced some basic and long lasting changes in rural development in this country is the outcome of the creative and farsighted leadership of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, the founder Chief Executive of BARD, a great visionary of a new trend of rural development and a renowned social scientist. Today BARD remembers Dr. Khan with profound love and respect and wishes him eternal peace in Heaven.

During the sixties and the seventies, the BARD-experimented activities spread quickly throughout the country with the patronage of the government. In this way, a successful stride of rural uplift was made for the first time in this country. Through BARD's continued efforts during the last 50 years, new milestones have also been added to this successful journey. Three such additions are: Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP), Small Farmers Development Foundation (SFDF) and the very recent model of Eco-sanitation.

Research for Rural Development

The prime objective of BARD's research is to identify development needs of rural areas of Bangladesh in order to take practical measures to solve these needs. Another objective of research is to collect updated information on socio-economic changes in the lives of villagers and share those in training classes for making training more effective. According to Dr. Khan, applicability of research findings would be considered as an indicator of success rather than its methodology. Till now, BARD has maintained this prime focus. BARD also undertakes action research to evolve practical solutions to those problems that it identifies through its basic research. Research is a mandatory work for all Faculty Members of BARD. This work provides them opportunity to play effective role as trainers by disseminating up-to-date information along with the theoretical knowledge. BARD has multidisciplinary Faculty Members for conducting research. Based on this opportunity, BARD has been conducting research in diverse areas. Till now, BARD has conducted as many as 704 researches in the fields of agriculture, cooperative, poverty, micro credit, rural physical infrastructure, rural industries, development communication, good governance, gender and development, environmental development, local government, population control, quality improvement of education, health and nutrition, social changes etc. In this year, BARD has undertaken 25 new researches in line with 'Charter for Change' and 'Vision 2021' of the present government as well as Millennium Development Goals. The main issues of current studies are farm management and livelihood of rural household, impact of safety net programme on elderly people, good governance, revisiting Comilla Model, Post Training Utilization of BARD-conducted training, ICT in rural development, value chain analysis of agricultural commodities, impact studies on Comprehensive Village Development Programme, and so on.

Training for Human Resource Development

Although the training of BARD initially aimed at imparting training to the government officials involved in the implementation of Village Agriculture and Industrial Development (V-AID) programme, over the years, the nature of its clientele and contents of the training have changed in consonance with the national and global priorities. At present, the clientele of BARD is very wide and it ranges from the high level officials of national and international arenas to grassroots level beneficiaries. National level trainees include different cadre and non-cadre officials of the government of Bangladesh, non-government officials, leaders of local government institutions and local organizations, beneficiaries of the grassroots level and students of different universities and colleges. BARD conducts regularly Rural Development Attachment Programme for civil servants of all Cadres and Foundation Training Courses for BCS (Health Cadre) officials, LGED Engineers and Agricultural Scientists under National Agricultural Research System (NARS). In addition, village attachment is organized for the students of public and private universities. BARD also organises seminars, conferences, and workshops regularly to facilitate experience and idea sharing and to help government in policy planning by reflecting the voice of rural people. BARD is well equipped with its serene natural beauty, residential and other related facilities required for training. It has highly experienced faculty members in diversified fields. The trainees enjoy opportunity to observe practical situation in the village. For all these, BARD is recognised as a unique training institute. For its continued professional commitment, the training demand to the Academy is increasing day by day. Academy organises, on an average, 150-180 courses for around 6,000 participants in a year. Since its inception, it has trained/oriented around 2,20,000 participants on rural development.

The important international programmes of BARD organized in recent years are two workshops on a) "Emerging Threats and Opportunities of Globalization for Rural Development: Defining the D-8 Future Rural Development Agenda" and b) "Innovative Micro Credit Delivery System for Rural Poverty Alleviation" which were sponsored by the Government of Bangladesh and Afro Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) and three training courses on a) "Poverty Focused Rural Development" and b) "Good Governance in Rural Development" sponsored by Commonwealth Secretariat and c) "Role of Local Self-Government and Cooperatives in Poverty Reduction" sponsored by SAARC. Government and Non-government officials from D-8 member countries, Asian and African countries participated in those programmes.

BARD in 2008-09 also organised self-initiated training courses such as Development Management, Good Governance, Development Project Planning and Poverty Alleviation, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, Ethics in Development, Mainstreaming Gender in Development Planning, Training of Trainers, Developing Quality Education, Team Building, Leadership Development and Mindset Change, Disaster and Environment Management. Besides, BARD organized an International Training Course on Irrigation Engineering and Technology under the aegis of IRLADP, Malawi. For the last few years, BARD has also been conducting series of training courses for the leaders engaged in natural resources management. Recently BARD organized workshops on diverse and most current issues such as i) Peace Campaign for a Better Society, ii) E-Parishad for Strengthening Local Government, iii) Problems and Potentials of the Elderly People, iv) Ethics in Development, v) Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, vi) Gender Equality, vii) Eco-sanitation etc.

Action Research for Rural Development

The most distinctive feature of BARD is its action research. BARD's reputation in rural development is mostly because of its contributions through action research or pilot projects. The purpose of the pilot project is to study issues of rural development as a continuous process in order to evolve practical solutions to rural problems. BARD incorporated action research as one of its three basic functions immediately after its inception, and thus put into practice Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan's vision of making the Academy "a living centre of village development where knowledge is not only collected and disseminated, but some fresh and critical thinking is done, and ideas and schemes are analyzed and tested as in a laboratory". Government assigned Comilla Kotwali Thana (now Comilla Adarsha Sadar Upazila and Sadar South Upazila) as the social laboratory area to BARD. The widely known Comilla Model was evolved in this social laboratory. This model brought about unprecedented changes in the rural scenario. The changes happened through manifold increase in food production; agricultural modernization through adoption of HYV seeds, chemical fertilizer, insecticide and irrigation technologies; development of rural infrastructure including roads, culverts, canals and embankments; huge employment generation in rural areas; delivery of improved services and training to rural people by government officials; and active participation of local government. The four mutually supportive components of the Comilla Model worked as four wheels of this development engine. These are: 1) Rural Works Programme (RWP), 2) Thana Irrigation Programme (TIP), 3) Thana Training and Development Centre (TTDC) and 4) The Two-tier Cooperatives. All these components, in course of time turned into national programmes and were replicated all over the country.

BARD also became the forerunner of many other development interventions in this country. The pioneering innovations included (i) introduction of feeder (pre-primary) schools involving Imams to teach children in the morning and adults in the evening (Imams thus serving the dual purpose of religious education and modern education), (ii) family planning programme that successfully introduced for the first time distribution of contraceptives through commercial channels and also involved Dais (traditional birth attendants) after proper training as FP agents who noticeably helped to reduce child and maternal mortality (iii) Introducing recruitment of female teachers at primary schools for the first time in this country as a measure to increase girls enrolment, (iv) introducing women's programme for their socio-economic development; (v) introducing women extension workers for the first time in this country; (vi) rural electrification programme to ensure perennial supply of irrigation water vii) introduction of a successful rural micro credit system under the cooperative framework to help small farmers; viii) experimentation of youth clubs to involve them in gainful IGAs; and so on. These innovative works, subsequently led to the emergence of various national level programmes as well as organizations for rural uplift.

Recent Achievements from Action Research

Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP): BARD has evolved a new model of cooperatives. This is known as Comprehensive Village Development Programme. This model accepted by the Government, is being replicated under the first phase (2005-09) in 21 Upazilas of 04 greater Divisions. It is now under process to be implemented in the next phase (2009-14) in 3975 villages of 61 Upazilas under 59 Districts of 06 Divisions. The salient feature of the programme is the practice of "one village one cooperative institution" in order to avoid overlapping of services, and optimise the use of resources through a coordinated delivery of services under this umbrella institution. The cooperative society in the village known as Comprehensive Village Development Cooperative Society, offer both banking services and credit services and also fulfills the maximum of credit needs of the villagers from the capital generated through weekly savings of the members. CVDP also looks after all aspects of social and economic development and practices some innovative mechanisms of people's participation.

Small Farmers Development Foundation (SFDF): BARD experimented since 1976 a model of channeling collateral free micro-credit to small farmers and landless people through national commercial banks. Started as Small Farmers and Landless Labourers Development Project (SFDP), it organised male and female borrowers into small groups and provided micro credit support. On the basis of its successful experimentation, Government has established the Small Farmers Development Foundation (SFDF) to take special care of small farmers of the country through helping them with provision of micro-credit support on flexible terms and conditions.

The Eco-toilet Model: This is a joint innovation of BARD and Japan Association of Drainage and Environment (JADE) to promote rural environment. The environment friendly toilets, called eco-toilets convert human wastes (excreta and urine) into organic manure through an in-built mechanism in the toilets. The organic manure is applied in the fields as substitute of chemical fertilizer. Government has started establishing one eco-toilet in each Union of the country as the first step to expand the technology in rural areas. By this time, construction of eco-toilets has been completed in about 35% Unions.

Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS): BARD in collaboration with IDRC-Canada and CBMS, Philippines has experimented this project with a view to developing a poverty monitoring system at the local level by involving local government and other stakeholders. Poverty monitoring has been highly emphasised in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of the country. Experience shows that lack of reliable information at the grassroots level makes it difficult to take need-based programmes. This experiment evolves a mechanism of participatory data generation at the local level. The computer based database developed under this project has got high recognition from different quarters. Following the data base of LLPMS, four data bases have been prepared for assessing poverty of four *monga* (near famine) prone districts, in collaboration with Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Dhaka.

Looking Ahead

For remarkable contributions to rural development of this country, BARD received Independence Day Award in 1986. The Academy is aware of its responsibilities as a national institute. With the passage of time, the socio-economic scenario of rural life also changes. BARD is confident that its future activities also will reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. BARD tries to keep abreast of rapid changes in the national and global development scenario. It is also aware of the symbiotic relationship between rural and urban areas and relationship between agricultural and other activities. BARD believes that in this rapidly changing world, achieving sustainable development is a formidable challenge. BARD also believes that it has enormous potentials to grapple with this challenge. It is this belief that keeps it dynamic and optimistic. BARD is well poised to contribute positively to the rural development of the country with active support of its partners and well-wishers. While celebrating the glorious occasion of its Golden Jubilee, BARD looks ahead to better serve the nation by successfully addressing the emerging challenges of rural development and poverty alleviation.

M. Khairul Kabir
Director General,
BARD



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
13 Jaishtha 1416
27 May 2009

Message

It is my great pleasure to convey my heartfelt greetings to all officers and employees of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee on 27 May 2009.

BARD has been engaged in rural development for half a century. As the pioneer of the two-tier cooperatives, massive agricultural and infrastructural development in rural areas, and introduction of an improved system of development administration at the Upazila level, BARD offered many successful models to the nation. I hope, BARD would continue this dynamic role in future as well.

Poverty remains the biggest challenge of Bangladesh. I believe, BARD would play a strong role in materialising the objectives of the present government to eliminate poverty. I look forward to BARD's distinctive role in the implementation of 'One House, One Farm' which is a priority programme of the present government to achieve self-reliant villages. Also I hope, BARD would create new success stories in the application of ICT in rural development to help realize the Vision 2021.

On this auspicious occasion, I remember with great respect the contributions of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, the founding Director of BARD and the architect of the Comilla Model.

I wish continued success and progress of BARD.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Sheikh Hasina
Sheikh Hasina



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
Minister
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
13 Jaishtha 1416
27 May 2009

Message

On the occasion of the 50th founding anniversary of BARD, I take great pleasure in extending my warmest greetings and best wishes to all officers and staff of this organization. May the glorious occasion of celebrating the Golden Jubilee be an event for fresh inspiration to bring positive changes in the lives of the rural people of Bangladesh. I hope the poor people of this country would be more benefited in the coming days through the training, research and action research activities of BARD.

BARD became popular nationally and internationally as a model rural development institution under the most dynamic leadership of its founding Director Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan who is reputed worldwide as a leading social scientist and the architect of the successful Comilla Model.

BARD since it started its journey in 1959, has persistently remained engaged in identifying rural problems and innovating solutions and also contributing through training to human resource development in the rural development sector of the country. The combination of training, research and action research has strengthened BARD to make pragmatic contributions to poverty alleviation efforts of the government.

I believe, BARD as it had done in the past, would also play a tangible role in materialising the Vision 2021 of the present government and specially contributing to achieving food self-sufficiency by 2013, reducing poverty, building a Digital Bangladesh by 2021 and developing most disadvantaged areas of the country.

I strongly believe, the activities of BARD would accelerate comprehensive development of the villages and to achieve this, the employees of BARD would be pledge-bound on this rare occasion of the Golden Jubilee of BARD.

I wish continued success and prosperity of BARD.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
Long Live Bangladesh

Syed Ashraful Islam
Syed Ashraful Islam



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
Secretary
Rural Development and Cooperative Division
13 Jaishtha 1416
27 May 2009

Message

It is my great pleasure to convey my best wishes and greetings to all officers, employees and well-wishers of BARD on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee.

BARD started its journey fifty years ago on this glorious day under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan who is well known at home and abroad as a pioneer of rural development in Bangladesh. The Academy has completed 50 years as a leading institution in the field of rural development and earned reputation as a pioneering rural development institution. From the very beginning, it has followed a unified approach of training, research and action research with the objective of enhanced impact on the rural uplift of Bangladesh.

The Comilla Approach evolved during the sixties by BARD resulted in massive changes in the socio-economic development of rural areas. BARD's contributions through agricultural modernization, micro-credit innovations, bolstering cooperative movement through the two-tier cooperatives, introduction of modern irrigation, promotion of local government, rural infrastructure development etc. left far-reaching impact on poverty alleviation. BARD has also made substantial contribution to developing skilled and motivated rural development functionaries through training.

BARD continues to offer innovative solutions to rural problems. The Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP), the Small Farmers Development Foundation (SFDF), the Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS) and the Eco-Sanitation through the introduction of eco-toilets are some very recent models of BARD that have been widely appreciated.

I believe, BARD has great potentials to address the emerging challenges as well. Honble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has offered the nation the "Charter for Change" which clearly reflects the vision of development to be achieved by 2021. The implementation of the vision involves such achievements as poverty elimination, materialization of the dream of Digital Bangladesh, agricultural development to the extent of achieving food self-sufficiency by 2013, promotion of bio-technology in agriculture, environment development etc. I have full faith that BARD would play a strong role in achieving these objectives.

On this glorious day of celebration of BARD's Golden Jubilee, I wish continued progress and prosperity of BARD.

Dr. Md. Golam Mostafa Talukdar
Dr. Md. Golam Mostafa Talukdar



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
State Minister
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
13 Jaishtha 1416
27 May 2009

Message

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) is celebrating its Golden Jubilee today. On this rare occasion, I am delighted to remember the glorious contributions of BARD to rural development for five decades of its proud existence. BARD as a living institution in the field of rural development continues its innovative efforts. I hope, the training, research and action research efforts of BARD would also successfully address the present and future challenges of poverty alleviation and rural development of the country.

The present government is pledge-bound to build a poverty and hunger-free Digital Bangladesh by 2021 under the Leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. I strongly believe, BARD as a national institute would play a befitting role in realising this noble dream.

The most recent successful experimentation of BARD known as the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) has emerged as a national programme. It has given new momentum to the cooperative movement in this country. The mass participation of rural people from all sections and professions, the practice of local level planning and management for rural development and the effective utilisation of the village level cooperative platform by nation building departments have enhanced the acceptance of this model and it is under way for further expansion in the country.

I hope, the innovative zeal of BARD would continue to offer new models to address the emerging challenges in the poverty alleviation sector.

I wish a bright and glorious future of BARD.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
Long Live Bangladesh

Jahangir Kabir Nanak M.P.
Jahangir Kabir Nanak M.P.



Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan (1914-1999): Internationally reputed social scientist, main architect of the Comilla Model of rural development and founder Director of BARD.

Some Quotations from Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan

1. Unity, capital accumulation and improved technology-if we stick to these three principles, we at Comilla will be able to achieve as much development as in Japan, Germany and Denmark within next 30 years.
2. A country cannot prosper by relief and aid from the government. When the people of that country help themselves, development follows.
3. People, not money, are the real asset of the country. It is the hands of man, that make money. Therefore, the government need capable people for building the country.
4. The central cooperative is like the cow that gives you milk. If you want milk from it, you have to feed it, take care of it. But if you slaughter it, you can eat its meat once only, but lose for ever the chance of getting its milk.