

Food Safety and Responsible Use of Pesticide

Recently Syngenta Bangladesh Ltd. and The Daily Star organised a roundtable on "Food Safety and Responsible Use of Pesticide". Here we publish a summary of the discussions.

Sazzadul Hassan, Managing Director, Syngenta Bangladesh Ltd.
If you look globally, you'll find that there are only 8 million farmers who have over 100 hectares of land. But a large chunk of farmers across the globe - 450 million - who have over 2 hectares or so. In Bangladesh, only 10 percent of our farmers fall under this category. If we really want to change the overall dynamics of global agriculture, we must focus on these small holder farmers.

If you see the trend of population growth and the demand for food, you'll notice that population growth is happening in emerging, developing countries and we need to focus on that. With the increase in population and the advent of climate change, there are bound to be impacts on agriculture. In 1950, for example, 1 hectare of land used to feed 2 people but by 2030, 1 hectare of land would need to feed 5 people. These are some of the challenges world agriculture is facing. From a farmer's point of view, crop prices are actually decreasing. With modern technology and agriculture practices, productivity, however, is on the rise. Farmers are actually suffering with their profitability. We need to make sure farmers make enough to sustain and prosper.

The farmers are at the centre of Syngenta's strategy as we offer tailored agronomics solutions to them. We have seed care products and crop production. Globally, we are working with 8 major crops in more than 90 countries. We primarily focus on R&D activities, as we spent 150 million dollars on this last year, roughly around 10 percent of our turnover.

Mahbub Rahman, Head of Research & Development, Syngenta Bangladesh Ltd.

Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in food grain production, due to the use of modern technologies, which include improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. But with the growing use of pesticides and fertilizers, there is also an increasing risk of health and environmental hazards regarding the overuse of these chemicals. In order to overcome challenges, we need to establish integrated pest management (IPM) as the driving principle of pest management. In Bangladesh, we have only a few residual analysis laboratories. We need to set up more such facilities.

David Penna, Asia-Pacific Region Stewardship and Regulatory Policy Manager, Syngenta

Stewardship means ethical and responsible management of a product - in our case, it extends from the discovery of a pesticide in laboratory to its use by farmers and beyond. It includes using pesticides safely, following the label and making right and responsible use of the chemicals. Besides, we are also working with governments, NGOs and industries to protect the environment by following safety guidelines. We also have medical teams to keep people safe from any accidental or deliberate poisoning. We also train farmers on understanding the label of products and their safe and right usage. Globally, we have trained 5.7 million farmers on these important agricultural features. In Bangladesh, we also give training to farmers, their families and professional spraymen. But we are finding it difficult to reach the huge number of farmers in Bangladesh with our limited field forces. We are trying to address this problem by training the lead farmers who will later disseminate the information to growers.

Dr. Sayed Nurul Alam, Chief Scientific Officer, Entomology Division, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Establish Integrated Pest Management System.
- Promote use of bio-pesticides.
- Develop pest resistant crop varieties.
- Awareness building through enforcement is important.
- Policymakers should think about ways to introduce food safety in the education curriculum.
- Private companies should contribute to different food safety programmes as a part of their corporate social responsibility activities.
- Integrated programmes are needed where every stakeholder - the government, private sector, business people, NGO, farmers and the media, among others - will work together.



We must have control over our pesticides but it should be done maintaining environmental and social safety. The government has already banned 195 extremely hazardous pesticides. From the end of 2013, it has also started registration of pesticides. Now we have more than 25 environment friendly bio-pesticides. And it is a great achievement that we have managed to reduce the use of pesticides drastically in the last few years. Yet, we cannot say that we are in a good situation in managing pesticides. Use of inappropriate, hazardous, non-registered pesticides is still common in high valued crops. Indiscriminate use of pesticides is leading to resistance, resurgence and residue effects that seriously affect crop production as well as environment. We need to promote the use of bio-pesticides that are effective and, at the same, environment friendly. In using chemical pesticides, we have to follow integrated pest management practices. We also need to invest more in developing pest resistant crop varieties and environment-friendly pest management packages.

Prof. Dr. Md. Sahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

Our farmers are still using banned pesticides in fields because these chemicals are cheap. To stop this, we need strong monitoring at the ground level and, at the same time, we have to develop low cost pesticides. We should give more attention to breeding pest resistant varieties.

Musfiqur Rahman, Chairman, Bangladesh Crop Protection Association

Bangladesh banned organochlorinated pesticides in 1995. But most of these banned chemicals are coming from our neighbouring countries, which are yet to ban these types of pesticides. We should strictly control trafficking of these banned pesticides.

M Zainul Abedin, President, B-Safe Foundation and ex-IRRI representative in Bangladesh

Stewardship should also cover the number of applications, overdose and consumption of pesticides. That's why we need to educate people. Pesticide companies should mention about the harmful effects of overusing those chemicals in their advertisements. We need to transfer to the bio-pesticide mode as soon as possible.

Dr Nur Ahmed, Head, Entomology Department, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute

Sometimes we see that some pesticides, banned for particular crops, continue to be used for other crops. We should stop this practice. We should look for alternative pest management systems. Eco-engineering can be a good solution in this regard.

Dr. Md Robed Amin, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Dhaka Medical College & Hospital

Bangladesh has one of the highest numbers of law regarding food safety, but the implementation status of these laws is very poor. So we need to focus on the implementation of food safety laws. As a physician, I have to deal with patients suffering from exposure to pesticides. And, among the top ten diseases, poisoning is number four. 15 percent cases of admitting in hospital are due to poisoning. So this is a serious threat for our health. We need to make our people aware about these health hazards.

Reaz Ahmad, Journalist, The Daily Star

As a reporter, I believe that this is more of a governance problem than anything else. When you have a list of banned items in the category of pesticides, we need to make sure that they are not in the market anymore. We, the consumers, should have the right to ask the government on how they are ensuring that these banned items are not applied in the field. Chemical fertilizer companies with fake names are everywhere, without any registration or assurance of quality control. Government mechanisms need to be stronger in this regard.

Simon Brown, Country Director, VSO

Today's meeting would have been more fruitful if the farmers were here. I have been with Syngenta and have worked with farmers closely. Through my discussions with them, I found that many of them were quite frustrated around the efficacy and authenticity of pesticides. They are being sold fake counterfeit products. Farmers need to be made aware about these counterfeits. And more importantly, it needs to be ensured that they practice what they learn on the field. We need to figure out whether there are regulatory frameworks that can help farmers get access to the right product at the right time.

Dr Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Centre (BARC)

Our association is working on identifying companies that work unethically and sell substandard pesticide. Earlier, according to the law, those who sold banned pesticides would be fined, however, at present, perpetrators of this crime are sentenced to 2 to 5 years of imprisonment. But the problem is the lack of implementation of the law. We are planning to organize a surveillance team, consisting of people from our association, the DAE as well as local law enforcers, which will monitor the bordering areas and companies. We also have plans to visit some of these unethical companies unannounced, and take back samples with us for testing. If the samples turn out to be of low quality, their registration will be cancelled.

Md Khairul Bashar, Country Manager, HarvestPlus

I have a small project which deals with food security as well as nutritional security. We have introduced four zinc rice varieties for countrywide dissemination, and plan this year to reach 600,000 people with our varieties of rice. I believe that coordinated efforts are required within the industry to ensure food safety.

Ashequn Nabi Chowdhury, Chief of Business Section, National News Agency Bangladesh

Farmers are mostly ignorant of the bad impact of pesticide, which needs to be addressed. I believe we need more sensitisation and advocacy, rather than training to raise awareness. We need to figure out what are the major causes behind their ignorance. It's imperative to change the mindsets of farmers who are producing or selling these unsafe food. We also need to think of the young, aspiring farmers, who are students at present. We need to have a specific chapter in textbooks to educate students on food safety. The monitoring programme also needs to be strong. All the stakeholders need to work together to create an effective market chain.

Anwar Faruque, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

We have had a lot of discussion regarding the use of carbide and different preservatives like formalin in the mango growing regions. We tried to educate farmers about the harms of using formalin, and could see a change last year, when the use of this dangerous chemical reduced.

Farmers often go for cheap pesticides to increase their income. We have to strengthen our IPM system and educate farmers, alongside thinking up other alternatives. Here the role of the media is very important. Finally, pesticide manufacturing companies need to develop their quality and introduce newer products every two to five years. If we have only one product in the market, the pest gets resistant and farmers use double or triple doses of the pesticide. Therefore, having newer products is very important.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Special Security Force
Prime Minister's Office
Tejgaon, Dhaka

Invitation for Open Tender

| | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|----------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Ministry/Division | Prime Minister's Office. | | | | |
| 2. Agency | Special Security Force. | | | | |
| 3. Procurement entity name | Deputy Director (P&P), SSF. | | | | |
| 4. Source of funds | Revenue of GOB of financial year 2015-16. | | | | |
| 5. Tender package No. | 862/1/P&P-1191, Dated: 20 December 2015. | | | | |
| 6. Tender name | Procurement of Thunder Arrester and Pager System up-gradation. | | | | |
| 7. Brief description of works | | | | | |
| Ser | Description of the items | Lot | Quantity | Price of tender document | Earnest money |
| a. | Procurement of Thunder Arrester with all necessary accessories (Details in schedule) | 01 | 01 Pc | 1,000.00 | Tk 19,000.00 |
| b. | Pager System up-gradation (Details in schedule) | 02 | - | 1,000.00 | Tk 14,500.00 |
| 8. Time of work | June 2016. | | | | |
| 9. Eligibility of tenderers | Must be principal dealer/supplier having min 05 years of experience of these kinds of supply/maintenance. | | | | |
| 10. Amount of tender security | Earnest money (refundable) in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft or Irrecoverable Bank Guarantee in the name of DG SSF. | | | | |
| 11. Name and address of the office(s) selling tenders document | Deputy Director (P&P), Room No. 146, ICC Block, Special Security Force, Prime Minister's Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. Phone: 88-02-9112082, Fax: 88-02-9143406. | | | | |
| 12. Name and address of the office(s) receiving tenders | Gate No 4, Prime Minister's Office, Nakhapara (Near Old MP Hostel), Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. | | | | |
| 13. Name and address of the office(s) opening tenders | Deputy Director (P&P), Room No 146, ICC Block, Special Security Force, Prime Minister's Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. | | | | |
| 14. Last date and time for selling tender document | 12 January 2016, up to 1200 noon. | | | | |
| 15. Last date and time for submission of tender | 13 January 2016, 1100 hours local time. Tenderers and authorized representatives are allowed to attend. Tender will be opened at 1115 hours on the same date. | | | | |
| 16. Special instruction | a. All other instructions are described in the tender documents. b. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject whole or part of any tender/offer. | | | | |

Tanbir Ahmed
Deputy Director (P&P)
For Director General

GD-4002

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project (CHTRDP-II)
Project Management Office (PMO), Rangamati

Notice for Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI)

Memo No. One-22/CHTRDP-II/2012/1086 Date: 20 December 2015

The Government of Bangladesh has received a loan (Loan No. 2768-BAN) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project (CHTRDP-II) under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan for payments under the contract to be signed with individual consultant/firm for the post of Project Administration and Finance Officer/National Consultant for which this EOI is issued.

- The project aims to increase rural household incomes in subproject areas in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Key outputs would include: (i) institutional development and capacity building; (ii) rural roads and markets; (iii) community infrastructure; (iv) micro agribusiness development; and (v) project management. Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) is the executing agency. The project is expected to be completed by 30 June 2018.
- Details, including consultants' terms of reference can be found at ADB's Consulting Services Recruitment Notices (<http://csrn.adb.org/csrn/home.htm?page=mainPage>).
- EOI must be submitted in standard format that may be downloaded from ADB website or obtained on request from the office of the undersigned. EOI must be submitted through CSRN.
- The consultant will be selected using the Consultant Qualification Selection (CQS) sub method in accordance with the ADB guidelines for use of Consultant Longlist shall be prepared on the basis of eligibility requirement such as legal entity, eligibility declaration in ADB's standard formats Membership eligibility, ADB's sanction.
- In addition to eligibility requirements, the short listing shall be carried by the following criteria:
 - Work experience (specific experience relevant to assignments, no of assignments in similar geographical area, no of assignments in project country, no of assignments as senior advisory or managerial level);
 - Academic and professional qualifications (basic degree, master degree, other qualification at the national level); and
 - Geographical/regional experience.
- Additional information/documents submitted, other than the standard EOI template will not be evaluated.
- Deadline for submission of EOI will be at 2.00pm (local time) on 10 January 2016.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof. No liability will be accepted for loss or late submission.

Sukrity Ranjann Chakma, ndc
Project Director

GD-4006

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর
কাজী আলাউদ্দিন রোড, ঢাকা।

স্মারক নং/এফএসসিডি/মপদ/সিএস/২০১৫-২০১৬/(ইউনিফর্ম)এম-০৩/১৫৪ তারিখঃ ২৪/০১/১৪২২ বাংলা ২৮/১২/২০১৫খ্রিঃ

উন্মুক্ত পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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|----|---|---|---|
| ০১ | মন্ত্রণালয়ের নাম | ঃ | শ্রম মন্ত্রণালয় |
| ০২ | এজেন্সী | ঃ | ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর |
| ০৩ | ক্রয়কারী সত্তা | ঃ | মহাপরিচালক |
| ০৪ | ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া | ঃ | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র |
| ০৫ | তহবিলের উৎস | ঃ | রাজস্ব বাজেট |
| ০৬ | টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নং | ঃ | ০৫(পিচ) লট |
| ০৭ | টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের নাম | ঃ | টিসি কমবোট কাপড়ের ইউনিফর্ম সেলাই, অপারেশনাল কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের পোষাকাদি মালামাল ও ৪র্থ শ্রেণী কর্মচারীদের পোষাকাদি। |
| ০৮ | টেন্ডার সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ | ঃ | ০৩/০১/২০১৬ হতে ১২/০১/২০১৬ খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন। |
| ০৯ | টেন্ডার দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময় | ঃ | ১৩/০১/২০১৫ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ টা |
| ১০ | টেন্ডার বাজর বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময় | ঃ | ১৩/০১/২০১৫ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ টা |
| ১১ | টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময় | ঃ | ১৩/০১/২০১৬ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.১৫ মিঃ |
| ১২ | টেন্ডার সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান | ঃ | কেন্দ্রীয় স্টোর ক্রম শাখা |
| ১৩ | দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান | ঃ | পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্স। |
| ১৪ | দরপত্র খোলার স্থান | ঃ | ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তরের সম্মেলন কক্ষ। |
| ১৫ | টেন্ডার আবহাবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের ঠিকানা ও টেলিফোন নং | ঃ | পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা। ফোন -৯৫৫৭৭৩৩ ফ্যাক্স -৯৫৬৫৬৫৭ |

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|----|---|--------------------------------|-------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ১৬ | টেন্ডার বিবরণী | দ্রব্যের বর্ণনা | লট নং | পরিমাণ | টেন্ডার মূল্য (অ-ফেরৎযোগ্য) | টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি (ফেরৎযোগ্য) |
| | টেন্ডার নং/এফএসসিডি/সিএস/২০১৫-১৬/০৭৬তারিখ- ২৯/১২/১৫ | টিসি কমবোট কাপড়ের পোষাক সেলাই | লট-B | ৭৪৫৫ সেট | ৭৫০/- | ১,০০,০০০/- |
| | টেন্ডার নং/এফএসসিডি/সিএস/২০১৫-১৬/০৭ তারিখ- ২৯/১২/১৫ | ডিএমএস বুট ইত্যাদি | লট-F | ১০টি আইটেম | ৭৫০/- | ১,০০,০০০/- |
| | | রেনিনকোট ইত্যাদি | লট-G | ১০টি আইটেম | ৭৫০/- | ১,০০,০০০/- |
| | | পিটিসি ইত্যাদি | লট-H | ১০টি আইটেম | ৭৫০/- | ১,০০,০০০/- |
| | | জোটকোট ইত্যাদি | লট-I | ০৪টি আইটেম | ৭৫০/- | ১,০০,০০০/- |

- টেন্ডার দাখিল ও খোলার দিন যদি সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটি ঘোষণা করা হয়, সে ক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে টেন্ডার দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসেবে গণ্য হবে। টেন্ডার খোলার সময় টেন্ডারদাতা/ প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক কার্যাদেশের জন্য নির্বাচিত টেন্ডার দাতাকে কার্যাদেশের মোট মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ টাকা) জামানত হিসেবে (ফেরৎযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি, মহাপরিচালক, ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর এর বরাবরে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একটি চুক্তিপত্র সম্পাদন করতে হবে।
- মালামালের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। টেন্ডারে উদ্ধৃত দরপত্রের বর্তমান আর্থিক সাল (২০১৫-১৬) পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকবে।
- সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত শর্তাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন করতে হবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/ বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

শেখ কপিল মোহাম্মদ মোশারফ হুসেন, পিএসসি
পরিচালক (প্রশিক্ষণ, উন্নয়ন ও পরিকল্পনা)
ও
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) অঃ দঃ
ফায়ার সার্ভিস ও সিভিল ডিফেন্স অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।

GD-4012