



SPOTLIGHT

For the love of AGRO FARMING

Picture this-- waking up to the sound of chickens and to miles and miles of golden rice fields glistening in the summer sun. Start the day with a traditional breakfast of fresh milk and ripe mango right from the tree and then pick your favourite Rui from the pond for lunch. Yes, this does sound like a dream. And it is this dream that leads people to the agro-lifestyle.



CHOOSING THIS ROAD

The inspiration to follow this path starts off really simple—empty unused pieces of land here and there, the craving for that fresh taste of food you had in your childhood or just to find an excuse to get closer to nature. Whether it is to let the work steam off or even earn a little bit of extra money, soon enough, agro-farming becomes more than just a pastime.

Enthusiasts often grow a variety of vegetables depending on the soil quality of the land. For example, while the soil in Uttara may be more suitable for pumpkins, spinach, bitter gourd and so on, the land in Gazipur may be more suited to the production of cabbages, eggplants and cauliflowers. However, almost all agro-enthusiasts have a soft corner for seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Agro-farming does not have to be limited to just Bangladeshi fruits and vegetables. Core hobbyists often bring seeds of a variety of foreign berries and flowers when they go abroad, specifically picking those that are sustainable in tropical countries. Alternatively, plenty of nurseries in Dhaka also sell foreign shrubs such as Dahlias and Petunias, and even vegetable plants like broccoli. So, do not be surprised if you find a mini greenhouse with strawberry sprouts and cherry trees, and various orchids and cactuses on the rooftop or balcony of an agro-farming enthusiast. Since these do take a lot more effort and often require additional minerals and vitamins, do research a bit on the breed before you start planting.

Agro-farming is hardly limited to just planting. Many hobbyists also rear animals such as cows, ducks or even own a small poultry. Farming fish such as rui, katla, mrigal and tilapia in a pond or a small lake is also quite popular, especially