

Commercial prospect of saplings

SHYKH SERAJ

Once upon a time, seeds were the only source to grow the crop and farmers who had more seeds were the richest. When I started my journey of agricultural journalism in '80s, I witnessed agriculture was confined only in paddy and jute. Other vegetables were used to be cultivated on the home yards of the farmers while some on the fields in a brief manner. The purpose of cultivating these crops was to meet the needs of the family; there was no commercial purpose. Farmers used to store seeds of various crops, starting from paddy and jute, according to their needs. Due to over population, the demand to grow more crops increased. Scientists created more productive seed varieties. The problem rose even more with the demand of seeds for high yielding varieties. Traditionally, farmers used to store and save their own seeds for the season, but as the newer hybrid and super-hybrid varieties of seeds came into play, they could save no more. Seeds gradually went into the hands of multinational companies and farmers became entirely dependent on the seed market. There was another problem where farmers battled with

getting better sapling from the poor-quality seeds. Farmers complained against some seed companies and also Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) at an open dialogue session between farmers and policymakers in Krishi Budget Krishoker Budget (Farmers' Voices in Budget).

In 2019, winter came a bit late, but this year during the month of December, it's taking time for the winter to finally enter the city areas, especially Dhaka. However, it has become quite cold in the suburbs and remote villages of the country. I was filming in Jashore and while returning, I saw a big net shade, called Maxim Agro in Churamonkathi. I got out of the car and went inside the shade. What I found was a complete and organized agricultural shade. Talking to the staff working there, I came to know that they were producing saplings for different vegetable crops in the net house. Rabiul Islam, production manager of the company, gave me a brief on different works they're doing. They are producing and marketing saplings for broccoli, papaya, cabbage, cauliflower, etc. The process of sapling production is



Shykh Seraj talks with one of the staffs of Maxim Agro, a sapling net house, in Jashore's Churamonkathi.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is a BIDS, Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



basically soilless agriculture. The main medium is coco peat. Traditionally, a lot of vegetables are produced in Churamonkathi, Haybadpur and Barobazar in Jashore. There are many old vegetable markets in Barobazar. Farmers produce vegetable saplings in a traditional manner. As the main vegetable supply area of the country, there is a huge demand for vegetable saplings there. Healthy, good quality and high yielding vegetables are the main demand of the farmers to ensure

the yield of high value crops and fruits.

Considering the huge demand for vegetable saplings in Jashore, Shariful Amin, an agricultural entrepreneur, took the initiative to commercialize the most significant agricultural input. Amin got engaged with farming from the thought of producing safe food. Then he saw that getting quality saplings is a big crisis. He started the work of sapling production with an aim of overcoming the crisis. Amin is a businessman who understood exactly

how to do the commercialization of saplings, seeds and seedlings while ensuring a very good quality. Keeping the farmers' needs in mind, he started producing various vegetable saplings. Agro-entrepreneur Amin said farmers in Jashore region are more interested in buying ready-made saplings than making their own, because they want to save more time. Doing different vegetable saplings, Amin has tremendously become successful in the trade.

Sapling production and trade is an ancient agricultural enterprise. In different parts of the country, I am getting news of new initiatives to make soilless saplings in net house. Such initiatives give a hope of new employment opportunities. Also, such initiatives ensure good quality saplings for farmers. We need to focus on the wellbeing of farmers, so that the saplings can also help them to contribute to the sustainable economy of the country.

Seedless guava, a ray of hope for hill farmers

ANVIL CHAKMA, Rangamati

Seedless guava, a novel species in the country, will hit the market in the next few years alongside the prevalent species of guava, giving farmers a hope for bounty. It is much tastier than other traditional guavas in the country.

Agriculturists think that this seedless guava market will have more demand than other guavas.

According to the agriculturists, the guava variety was invented at Raikhal Hill Agricultural Research Institute in Kaptai upazila of Rangamati.

During a recent visit to the institute, it was seen that ripe and raw seedless guavas were hanging from the trees.

According to an official of the institute, this variety was registered by the National Seed Board in 2017. It is developed by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). The fruit is completely seedless.

He added that most fruits are harvested from September to December. The tree has shrubs and abundant green leaves.

The shape of the fruit is elongated, the shell is white and it is sweet to eat and crispy. It is high yielding and off-season guava variety. Flowers come in June. The size of the fruit is 7.14cm to 10.14cm. The average weight of the



The seedless guavas hang from the branches. The photo was taken from Raikhal Hill Agricultural Research Institute in Kaptai upazila of Rangamati recently.

PHOTO: STAR

fruit is 264 grams. The invented variety has yellowish green skin that is very tasty to eat. The fruit can be stored at normal temperature for eight to ten days.

New varieties of seedless guava have been developed in the last seven years of research. This new

variety of guava has been named Bari Peyara-4.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute in Gazipur is conducting a massive campaign on the new variety of guava.

Md Altaf Hossain, chief scientific

officer of Raikhal Hill Agricultural Research Institute, said Bari Peyara-4 is completely seedless. It is large in size, disease and insect tolerant and a non-seasonal fruit. The fruit is available almost all year round. The high yielding fruit is very tasty. In September, when other fruits, including guava, are not available in the country, the harvesting of seedless guava begins.

The newly invented variety is suitable for cultivation all over the country, including hill areas, said Altaf.

Paban Kumar Chakma, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Rangamati, said the farmers would benefit a lot by producing seedless guavas.

Hemo Kumar Chakma, a farmer from Sapchhari area of Rangamati, said his garden has a variety of fruit trees. However, this seedless guava is not there yet. Fruit growers like him hope they will immensely be benefited if they can plant it.

Ananta Chakma, another gardener in Chowdhurychhara area of Naniyarchar upazila, said he has heard a lot about this seedless guava, but this sapling is not available in the market yet.

However, the agriculture officers have assured him that the saplings of this tree will be available from next year, he said.

Indigenous communities press for 10-point demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Leaders of indigenous communities, living in plain lands, urged to take steps to protect their overall human rights situation.

They made the demand at a dialog held at Thakurgaon Press Club on Wednesday.

The programme titled 'Plain land adivasi's overall human rights situation' was jointly organised by Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Adivasi Nari O Shishu Kalyan Sangstha, and Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network.

During the programme, the indigenous community leaders submitted their 10-point demand, including formation of separate land commission to protect their land, and formation of separate ministry for indigenous communities living in plain land for developing their living standard by allocating separate budget.

Tangail freed on this day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Today is Tangail free day, a memorable day in the history of Tangail.

After freeing Tangail from the occupational Pakistani forces, freedom fighters, the brave sons of the soil, hoisted the flag of independent Bangladesh on this day in 1971.

During the Liberation War, the brave freedom fighters of Tangail created history in various ways and stories of their braveness.

The heroism of the Kaderia Bahini, led by the then Chhatra League leader and brave freedom fighter Abdul Kader Siddique, will always be remembered in the history of our independence.

The 'Zila Swadhin Bangla Gono Mukti Parishad' was formed on the first of March in 1971. Local youths started organising while the training of the freedom fighters was continuing.

On April 3, the Pakistani army entered the Tangail town after breaking the resistance of the freedom fighters at Goran-Satiachara in Mirzapur and the freedom fighters went to safer places.

Within a few days, the Kaderia Bahini got united again and started fighting with the Pakistani army in different area of Tangail.

On the other hand, another group of the freedom fighters led by Khandakar Abdul Baten got organised and started defending the occupation forces.

However, the Kaderia Bahini



PHOTO: COLLECTED

On January 24 in 1972, Kaderia Bahini leader Abdul Kader Siddique surrenders arms of his fellow freedom fighters to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bindubasini Boys High School ground in Tangail.


played the main role in resisting the enemies and the Pakistani army were bewildered by their attacks from all sides.

On December 10, confidence of the Pakistani army broke down with the landing of around 2,000 paratroopers

of the 'Mitro Bahini' (Indian Troops) in Poullee near Tangail town and they started turning back to Dhaka.

On December 11 in 1971, the brave freedom fighters entered Tangail town while general people came down to the streets and started celebrations.

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| <div><div>Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd. Bangladesh Navy Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj Phone: 880-02-7661480, Fax: 02-7661027 E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd, www.dewbn.gov.bd Ref: 06.02.6758.165.07.193.20.877 Date: 09 December 2020</div></div> | |
| Invitation for International Tender | |
| 01 02 | Procuring entity name Invitation for Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd., BN, Narayanganj. 1. Marine main Engine & accessories- 60 Set. 2. Gear Box & accessories- 60 Set. 3. Propeller & accessories- 60 Set. 4. Propeller shaft & accessories- 60 Set. 5. Stern Tube & accessories- 60 Set. 6. Buses/ others & accessories- 60 Set. |
| 03 04 05 06 07 | Procuring method Budget & source of funds Last date of selling tender Tender closing date and time Tender opening date and time Open tender. Own finance. 23 December 2020. 24 December 2020 Time: 12:15pm. 24 December 2020 Time: 12:30pm. |
| 08 | Name & address of the office: a. Selling of tender document b. Receiving tender document c. Opening tender document Cash Section, Account Department, Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Tenderers and their authorized representative are allowed to attend. |
| 09 10 | Price of tender document Contact details Tk 3000.00 (Taka three thousand only) (non-refundable). Mobile: 01769719888, 01306912171 Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd |
| 11 | Eligibility 1. Tenderer must be OEM/ authorised distributor / authorised local agent. 2. Experience letter of previously supplied Marine Engine, Gear box, Propeller & associated accessories. 3. Document required: a. Trade licence. b. TIN certificate. c. VAT registration/ BIN certificate. d. Bank statement. |
| 12 | Special instructions The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any part of the tender prior to acceptance without showing any reason. |
| GD-1973 For Managing Director | |

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| <div><div>বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় প্রধান কার্যালয় মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৭৫/২০২০ তারিখঃ ২৪ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪২৭ ০৯ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০</div></div> | |
| উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান | |
| ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভুক্ত ৯টি ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে 'অফিসার (জেনারেল)' এর ২০৪৬টি শূন্য পদে সমন্বিতভাবে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রার্থীদের MCQ Test ও লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচনের ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি | |
| ক্রমিক | শিরোনাম |
| ১ | বিবরণ ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভুক্ত ৯টি ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে 'অফিসার (জেনারেল)' এর ২০৪৬টি (সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড - ৩১৫টি, জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড - ৩৬৯টি, রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড - ৪৭০টি, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড - ১৪টি, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক - ৫৩০টি, রাজশাহী কৃষি উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক - ২৮৯টি, বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন - ৪৭টি, ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ - ০৫টি ও কর্মসংস্থান ব্যাংক - ০৭টি) শূন্য পদে সমন্বিতভাবে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকারী ১,৩৭,৪৭৬ জন প্রার্থীর একই দিনে ১ (এক) সেশনে অভিন্ন প্রশ্ন সমন্বিত একাধিক সেটে ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনরয়ের মধ্যে অবস্থিত পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে ০১ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী ১০০ নম্বরের MCQ Test এবং কম/বেশী ২০,০০০ জন প্রার্থীর অভিন্ন প্রশ্নপত্রে ভিন্ন একটি তারিখে ০২ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী ২০০ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের মোহাক্রম ও রোল নম্বর অনুযায়ী ফলাফল তালিকা (হার্ড কপি ও সফট কপি) প্রণয়ন ও প্রদান। ২. সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত উচ্চ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট/কনসাল্টিং ফার্ম যাদের বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের মধ্যে (টেন্ডার দাখিলের তারিখ হতে) এক বা একাধিক কার্যদেয়/চুক্তির আওতায় একক আয়োজনে সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থা/ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষে ৫০,০০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) জন প্রার্থীর নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ ও ফলাফল তৈরীর অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে এরূপ প্রতিষ্ঠান। ৩. বিস্তারিত নির্দেশনা ও শর্তাবলী সমন্বিত দরপত্র সিডিউল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট www.bb.org.bd এর e-Tender অপশনে পাওয়া যাবে। ৪. উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ই-টেন্ডারিং এ অংশগ্রহণে অগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bb.org.bd) রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্নকরতঃ প-স্ব আইডি ও পাসওয়ার্ড ব্যবহার করে আর্থিক প্রস্তাবের নির্ধারিত ফরম পূরণপূর্বক যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত কপি আপলোড করতে হবে। দরপত্র সংশ্লিষ্ট যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রাদি ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় এর মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে। ৫. দাখিলের শেষ সময় ২২/১২/২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত। ৬. খোলার সময় ২২/১২/২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০.১৫টায় দরদাতাগণ অথবা তাদের প্রতিনিধিগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় এর মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে অনলাইনে খোলা হবে। ৭. অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দরদাতার দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নয় এবং কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকৈ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। |
| <div><div>ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে কোন করুন।</div><div>ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২০-৩৭৩৭ তারিখঃ ১০/১২/২০২০ জিডি-১৯৭৫</div><div>আরিফ হোসেন খান মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ও সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি</div></div> | |