

Synchronise cultivation brings new hope for paddy growers

QUAMMIRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

With an aim to encourage community cultivation, increase paddy production with low labour and expenditure, the agricultural department has started 'synchronise cultivation' for Boro farming using modern agricultural technology which brings new hope for paddy growers.

The cultivation activities are going on to bring 50 acres of land together in an upazila of 61 districts of the country under the pilot project titled 'Synchronise cultivation' (somoloye chashabad).

Following the project's guideline, 50 acres of land in a crop field are being brought in Boro cultivation during the ongoing cultivation season at Dighia village in Ranishankoil upazila of Thakurgaon with incentives of Tk 12.12 lakh, said Sanjoy Devnath, upazila agriculture officer of Ranishankoil.

The ministry of agriculture is providing incentives to encourage community cultivation so that farmers plant their crops in a synchronised manner and ensure simultaneous harvest which helps to inspire mechanising farming for increasing crop yields reducing production cost.

In the current season, the agriculture ministry is providing fertilizer, seed, irrigation and harvesting support to farmers who have joined the community cultivation, said the officer.

The government plans to provide incentives to encourage community cultivation so that farmers can plant their crops in a synchronised manner and ensure simultaneous harvests for

higher production with lower cost.

"This cultivation manner will improve crop productivity through mechanised tilling, transplantation and harvesting at the same time," said Dr Durrul Huda, chief scientific officer of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Gazipur.

This fragmented cultivation practice acts as a barrier to fully mechanising farming. For this, community cultivation is needed to increase crop yields and reduce the cost of production for farmers.

"If the farmers cultivate same variety of crop for the life-time in a

three-fourths of the tray should be filled with soil and then the seeds should be sprinkled on it. Then a light layer of soil should be given on the surface of the seed. If the weather gets cold and foggy, the seedbeds should be covered with polythene during night time.

A 100 gm to 110 gm hybrid seeds is needed for per tray. The seedlings would be ready for planting after 25 days.

Instead of iron trays the farmers can use polythene measuring the same size that is suitable for rice transplanter for planting seedlings.

Seed treatment

Before sowing the seeds in seedbeds, the seeds should be refined to resist attack of diseases. Mixing with 3 ML Amistertop or Seltima with one litre water the seeds should be kept under the mixture in a pot for twelve hours. Then taking from it the seeds is to be kept covering with sacks for 24 hours to 48 hours until germination.

After getting seedlings those will be transplanted through rice transplanter.

Sanjoy said in such process the expenses will be reduced drastically in comparison with traditional cultivation.

Replying to a query, he said only Tk 500 to Tk 600 is needed to plant seedlings on one bigha of land using rice-transplanter while Tk 1500 to Tk 2000 is needed for manual transplantation for the same land.

From seed transplantation to harvesting, Tk 4000 to Tk 5000 would be needed for community paddy cultivation while Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000 is required for cultivating Boro paddy in each bigha of land.

The ministry of agriculture is providing incentives to encourage community cultivation so that farmers plant their crops in a synchronised manner.

field together, modern agricultural tools can be used easily which helps to get higher production with lower expenses and labour" he added.

Seedbed preparation
Sanjoy Devnath said the seedbed can be prepared in two ways—dry and mud seedbed.

For dry seedbed, sandy-loamy soil enriched with organic substances is good for preparing the seedbed on tray. The tray size could be 23 inches x 11 inches x 1 inches or 23 inches x 9 inches x 1 inches.

After collecting soil from land, it is to crash well and if needed it is to be sieving.

After preparing the soil properly,



Under a project titled 'Synchronise cultivation', agricultural activity goes on in a farmland of Thakurgaon's Ranishankoil upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



Bangladesh Non-Government College Honours-Masters Teachers Federation, Tangail district unit, form a human chain in front of Tangail Press Club yesterday, demanding enlistment of nearly 5,500 teachers, appointed at different non-government colleges under National University, under the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) facilities.

PHOTO: STAR

COUNCILLOR MURDER Two more accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police on Wednesday night arrested two more accused, including the son of the prime accused, in connection with the case for killing elected councillor Tarikul Islam in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

The arrestees are Sabbir Hossain, 20, son of prime accused Shadat Hossain Buddin, and Mohammad Ratan, 22, son of Pannu Bapery, of Shahednagar village in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Police produced them before a court the same afternoon that sent them to jail.

Police said with the recent arrest a total of 10 people have been detained in connection with the murder so far.

Officer in Charge (OC Investigation) of Sadar Police Station Golam Mostafa said, acting on a tip-off, a police team raided Fakirtala Bridge area in the district town on Wednesday night and arrested the two.

They also seized a foreign made pistol and a magazine from Sabbir's possession, added the OC.

Tarikul, 45, was killed allegedly by his rivals while he was celebrating his victory on January 16 night.

According to unofficial results, he was elected a councillor of Ward No 6 of Sirajganj municipality.

Tarikul, who was stabbed by the attackers, was rushed to a private hospital in the town, where he succumbed to his injuries. Slain Tarikul's son Ekramul Hossain filed a case with Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, accusing 80 people including 32 named, police said.

Broom grass: Nature's bounty on the hills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Broom grass, which grows naturally on the hills, are increasingly becoming a source of extra income for several thousand people in Rangamati.

Around 10 to 12 flowered stems of the grass are tied together in a bundle to make a soft broom, locally known as 'surondora' and 'phool jharu' in Bangla, which is generally used for sweeping floors of homes.

The grass grows in abundance on the hill slopes after harvesting of Jhum -- a method to cultivating an assortment of crops and produce -- is complete.

People of all ages including children from the lower-income bracket stay busy mowing the flowered broom grass for two to three months, usually from January to March. The collectors sell those to broom makers or traders and after a day's work, an adult usually takes home about Tk 400 to 500.

The broom makers or traders then sun-dry the grass in the area. After drying, the stems with flowers are sized up to 4 to 5-foot-long pieces for making the final product.

Wholesalers collect the brooms from local wholesale markets for Tk 15 to 20 a piece and ship those out to different parts of the country. They export some of the

brooms too.

During a visit to Tinkoniya village in Rangamati's Bilaichari upazila, many were seen mowing broom grass from the hills while bundles of the grass flower were seen being dried nearby in the sun.

Grass collector Biswa Moni Tanchangy, a local, said, "We don't have to spend any money on this. It has been quite a good season for us."

Trader Mohon Lal Chakma, from Naniarchar upazila, said after the mowing and drying of the grass flowers is complete, they tie those up in bundles and transport those to markets on boats.

The brooms are sent out to different traders in Chattogram and Dhaka cities by truck, each containing Tk 15 to 20 thousand worth of goods, said Farid Alam, another grass broom trader.

Contacted, Muhammad Rafiquzzaman Shah, divisional forest officer in Rangamati South division, said broom grass grows naturally in three hill districts during the dry season.

In fiscal year 2019-20, the Rangamati forest department collected over Tk 8.63 lakh in fees from permits it issued for the extraction of broom grass from the hills.

Last year's collection of fees almost doubled from that in the year before, he also said.



Broom grass flowers, stacked in bundles, being dried in the sun at Tinkoniya village in Bilaichari upazila of Rangamati.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

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পুনঃনিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের ২০১৯ সনের ০৫ নং আইন দ্বারা প্রতিষ্ঠিত বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

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GD-294

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Department of Agricultural Extension
www.dae.gov.bd

Memo No. DAE/CPH/WD2021/589 Date: 11/02/2021

e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Reference No.	Name of goods/package description	Tender publication date and time	Last selling date and time	Security submission date and time	Closing & opening date and time
1	545474, DAE/CPH/2020-21/555	Installation of deep tube-well & fire protection and detection system at Shampur in Kadamtoli of Dhaka.	11-Feb-2021 17:00	28-Feb-2021 17:00	01-Mar-2021 12:00	01-Mar-2021 13:00
2	544677, DAE/CPH/2020-21/556	Dismantling and re-built of acquired portion of central pack house at Shampur in Kadamtoli of Dhaka	11-Feb-2021 16:00	28-Feb-2021 17:00	01-Mar-2021 11:00	01-Mar-2021 12:00
3	544019, DAE/CPH/2020-21/557	Construction of 2-storied fumigation heat treatment & betel leaf cleaning building including boundary wall CPH Shampur Dhaka	11-Feb-2021 16:00	28-Feb-2021 17:00	01-Mar-2021 11:00	01-Mar-2021 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and on offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Kazi Abdul Mannan
 Director
 Phone: 0255028407
 Email: dafw@dae.gov.bd

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