

# Bangladesh adopts GM cotton

Second such crop after Bt brinjal

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh yesterday released two varieties of a genetically modified (GM) cotton for domestic cultivation, aiming to increase yields and reduce import dependence.

The GM cotton has genetic traits taken from a soil-dwelling bacterium - *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) - that effectively fights bollworm, a caterpillar responsible for damaging cotton yields.

This is the second GM plant to be introduced in the country. Bangladesh joined the GM-crop cultivating nations in

2014 introducing Bt brinjal, the first GM food crop in South Asia.

At least 20 percent of the country's demand for cotton, or around 15 lakh bales, can be met by locally cultivating the Bt and hybrid varieties of cotton, said Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque.

Addressing a seminar on the introduction at Cotton Development Board in Dhaka, he said there was a demand for 16 lakh bales of cotton for domestic consumption.

Another 85 lakh bales of cotton are currently required by the country's

spinning and weaving industries for the production of yarn and fabrics for export-oriented garment factories.

However, local growers can only supply two lakh bales of cotton.

Almost all of the required cotton is imported from different countries like India, Pakistan, Brazil, Australia, Argentina and from South African and central Asian countries at a cost of around Tk 33,000 crore a year.

Many countries that used to import cotton eventually turned into cotton exporting nations cultivating Bt cotton, said Md Fakhre Alam Ibne Tabib,

executive director of the CDB, in a keynote paper.

Bt cotton was cultivated for the first time in 1996 and neighbouring India took it up in 2002, he said.

The average yield of Bt cotton is 4,500 kilograms (kg) per hectare of land, which is 15 percent to 20 percent higher than the local variety, while the production cost is 12 percent to 15 percent lower, he said.

Production of a kg of cotton locally can save three US dollars and production of a tonne of cotton seed can create employment for five persons, he said.



PHOTO: NATIONAL HOUSING FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS

**Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of the National Housing Finance and Investments, cuts a cake at the non-bank financial institution's corporate head office in Gulshan-2, Dhaka celebrating its 25 years of operation in the housing finance sector of the country. Syed M Altaf Hossain, vice-chairman of the institution, and Mohammad Shamsul Islam, managing director, along with directors and employees of the company were present.**

## Buy Tickets celebrates 5th anniversary

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Buy Tickets, an online travel agency of the country, celebrated its 5th founding anniversary at its corporate office in Dhanmondi, Dhaka yesterday.

Zunaid Hossain, chief executive officer of the online travel agency, cut a cake with the members of the organisation marking the occasion, said a press release.

"We are thrilled to mark this incredible milestone and extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our valued clients, who have been supportive to us all these years," said Hossain.

"We are constantly working on bringing in more amazing travel solutions for our loyal customers in the days ahead," he added.

Buy Tickets, an undertaking of Airspan Ltd, which is an IATA-approved travel agency, started its journey as one of the pioneering online travel agencies in the country, using local technology solutions, and offering full content travel related services. It serves both B2C and B2B client base and by now its client base has exceeded 25,000 customers.

## Onion prices go up as India slaps fresh duty

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"I ordered 500 tonnes of onion at Tk 45 per kg last Friday but got only 100 kg on Sunday," said Arif Hossain, a trader from Hathazari upazila in Chattogram.

Abdul Haque, a wholesaler at Khatunganj, said the supply of onion has been low for the last week.

Minto Hossain, an onion importer from Chattogram city, said India imposed the duty on exports of the bulb in a bid to keep its domestic market stable in face of lower production this year.

"This has impacted imports. So, onion has not been available as per demand for the past two weeks," he added while claiming that unreasonable delays in the exemption of goods from India is also to blame.

Responding to a query, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday told reporters at an event in Dhaka that 13 lakh tonnes of onion have been cleared for import considering the supply crunch.

However, only three lakh tonnes have entered the country so far.

Razzaque also said it was found that many farmers still have a relatively large stock of onion. "So, the export tariff imposed by India should have little impact on onion prices in Bangladesh," he added.

Obaidul Haque, an importer from Chattogram city, said in order to overcome this crisis, many traders have opened letters of credit for importing onions from Myanmar and China.

"This means the prices could become stable when new

consignments enter the market about two weeks from now," he added.

Mizanur Rahman, former president of the Jessore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said shipments of onion that were ordered before India imposed the new duty are now being imported.

"But no onion has been ordered from India ever since the duty was imposed," he added.

Abdul Jalil, director for traffic of Benapole port, said 26 tonnes of onion were imported from India through the land customs station yesterday.

"Field level officials have been instructed to clear onion consignments quickly," he added.

(Our Benapole correspondent contributed to this report)

## Russia remains China's top crude supplier

REUTERS, Beijing

Russia remained China's largest crude supplier in July, Chinese government data showed on Sunday, even as Russian shipments fall from all-time highs on narrower discounts and rising domestic demand crimps Russian exports.

Arrivals from Russia were up 13 percent from the same month last year to 8.06 million metric tons in July, or 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd), according to data from the General Administration of Customs.

For the first seven months of the year, Russian arrivals were up 25

percent from a year earlier to 60.66 million tons. Shipments from Saudi Arabia, at 5.65 million tons, were down 14 percent from a year earlier and 31 percent from June.

Saudi exports to Asian refiners had been expected to fall in July, as Riyadh raised the July official selling price of its flagship Arab Light crude to Asian buyers to a six-month high.

Saudi Arabia also announced plans for an extra output reduction in July, cutting output to 9 million bpd from 9.96 million bpd in June.

Despite continuing Western sanctions and a price cap on Russian shipments, Russian ESPO grade

crude has increasingly traded closer to benchmark grades, as strong demand from Indian and Chinese buyers erodes the sanctions discount.

July-delivery ESPO shipments were priced at a \$5 \$6 per barrel discount to the ICE Brent benchmark, versus \$8.50 against ICE Brent for shipments delivered in March, according to trading sources.

Stronger domestic demand in Russia was also expected to lead to an overall decline in Russian exports. Shipments from western Russian ports in July were estimated to fall 18 percent month-on-month, reflecting resurgent domestic refining demand.

Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Changes

Bangladesh Forests Department

Social Forest Division Rajshahi.

Environment Protection Through Social Forestry in the Rajshahi Barind Tract Region Project

Memo No. 22.01.0000.245.29.011.23.551

Date: 20/08/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of goods as stated below:

SL No	Tender ID, Package No & Name of Packages	Publishing date and time	Last Selling date and time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	Tender ID: 862538 WD-01-SFD-RAJ 2023-24 Construction of Security wall on both sides of the main gate of the Altadighi National Park (2.25 m height with RCC pillars & beams).	Date: 20-Aug-2023 Time: 14:00	Date: 10-Sep-2023 Time: 16:00	Date: 11-Sep-2023 Time: 12:00
2	Tender ID: 862646 WD-02-SFD-RAJ 2023-24 Construction of Toilet, Restroom, Main gate with seating room (50.00 Sq mtrs) , Ticket counter (Ticket room) with wall Mural.	Date: 20-Aug-2023 Time: 14:00	Date: 10-Sep-2023 Time: 16:00	Date: 11-Sep-2023 Time: 12:00
3	Tender ID: 862703 WD-03-SFD-RAJ 2023-24 Construction of RCC toilets with water supply system (male 02 units + female 2 units + special requirement 02 units).	Date: 20-Aug-2023 Time: 14:00	Date: 10-Sep-2023 Time: 16:00	Date: 11-Sep-2023 Time: 12:00
4	Tender ID: 862808 GD-07-SFD-RAJ 2023-24 Supply of soil, cow dung, chemical fertilizers and other equipment for planting 84227 nos. of palm seedlings in 32 upazilas of Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon & Chapainawabjang district, raising seedlings , plantations and maintenances of plantations under Social Forest Division, Rajshahi.	Date: 20-Aug-2023 Time: 14:00	Date: 10-Sep-2023 Time: 16:00	Date: 11-Sep-2023 Time: 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

20-08-2023

Md.Rafiquzzaman Shah  
Project Director  
Environment Protection Through Social Forestry in the  
Rajshahi Barind Tract Region Project  
and  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Social Forest Division Rajshahi.

GD-1264

**BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSION**  
Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase)  
Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8)  
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

**Invitation for Tenders (Re tender)**

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1	Ministry/Division	Bangladesh Election Commission		
2	Agency	Election Commission Secretariat		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Election Commission represented by Project Director, Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase)		
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Services through outsourcing (125 manpower)		
6	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	17.14.0000.240.07.126.2023-2552      Dated: 20 August, 2023		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB (Development Budget)		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
9	Project / Program Code (if applicable)	224331200		
10	Project Name (if applicable)	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase)		
11	Tender Package No.	NCS-1		
12	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Services through outsourcing (125 manpower)		
		<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	
13	Tender Publication Date	21 August, 2023		
14	Tender Last Selling Date	03 September, 2023	4:00 P.M.	
		<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	04 September, 2023	11:00 A.M.	
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	04 September, 2023	11:30 A.M.	
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	<b>Address</b>		
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Assistant Director (Finance), Room No. 818, Floor-8, Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
<b>NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS</b>				
	- Receiving Tender Document	Conference Room No. 721, IDEA Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-7), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
	- Opening Tender Document	Conference Room No. 721, IDEA Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-7), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
18	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	
		28 August, 2023	11:00 A.M.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
19	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. Tender shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the applicable law. 2. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. 3. Tenderers shall have to fulfill its obligation/obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. 4. Detail information has been provided in the tender document.		
20	Brief Description of Services	Procurement of Services through outsourcing (125 manpower)		
21	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	BDT 3,000.00 (three thousand only) Non-refundable.		
22	Package No.	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
	NCS-1	Procurement of Services through outsourcing (125 manpower)	Dhaka	40,00,000.00 (Forty Lac only)
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
23	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Brigadier General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Sayem		
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director		
25	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
26	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 00-88-02-55007594; e-mail address: <a href="mailto:pd.idea2.bd@gmail.com">pd.idea2.bd@gmail.com</a>		
27	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.			

Abul Hasnat Mohammad Sayem  
Brigadier General  
Project Director

GD-1266