

Minutes of the National Agroforestry Working Group meeting, held on 30 August 2004 at 10:00 AM in the conference room of the BARC

A meeting of the National Agroforestry Working Group (NAWG) was held on 30 August 2004 in the conference room of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). The agenda of the meeting were:

1. Review the scope of NAWG
2. Organisation of NAWG
3. Members of NAWG
4. Stocktaking of agroforestry knowledge in Bangladesh
5. Annual programme
6. BARC-Intercooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
7. Miscellaneous

The meeting was chaired by Dr. M. Muslem Uddin Miah, Member-Director (Natural Resource Management), BARC and the convenor of NAWG. Eighteen participants from 11 organizations attended the meeting (list attached). The chairman welcomed the participants and requested the participants to introduce themselves.

Since Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, the then Member Director (Forestry) currently working in Intercooperation was the Member Secretary of the NAWG for more than a decade, Dr. Miah requested him to facilitate the meeting following the agenda.

AGENDA-I: Review the scope of NAWG

Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed gave a brief background of the NAWG. He said that NAWG was established as per recommendation of a national workshop on homestead agroforestry held at BARI in 1989 in order to develop a coordinated planning for research and development involving different stakeholders. It started with only eight member organizations such as BARC, BARI, BFRI, DAE, FD, BRAC, SDC and Ford Foundation. Later on, other stakeholders were included. The NAWG used to coordinate agroforestry research and development through periodic review meeting, developing perspective plan, organising exchange visit and capacity building. He then invited the participants to make comments on the scope.

After threadbare discussion the following decisions were taken:

NAWG shall be the platform of stakeholders of agroforestry. BARC being mandated for coordinating agricultural research including agroforestry, MD (NRM) shall convene the NAWG to coordinate agroforestry research and development. The scope of the NAWG shall be, but not limited to:

- Exchange of information and experiences amongst the stakeholders through periodic meeting, newsletter, website and annual review of programme of different organisations
- Develop coordinated plan of agroforestry (including ecosystem based planning) to avoid duplication and maximise utilisation of resources,
- Agroforestry knowledge management and dissemination of knowledge, technologies and information, workshop/seminar
- Policy support
- Capacity building and organise study visits (local and abroad)

During the discussion the chairman emphasized on review/evaluation of NAWG's activities during the last decade and to prepare an organization-wise write-up highlighting success and failure.

Decision:

The write-up should not be more than two pages per organization. The reporting should be made in the following format:

Sl #	Major Area	Significant activities/ achievements/failure	Remarks

A consultant may be hired to do the work in a professional manner.

The meeting recommended documenting the genesis of NAWG. As Mr. Ahmed was associated with NAWG directly for more than a decade, he was entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the document and shares it with the participants in next meeting.

AGENDA-II: Organisation of NAWG

The Chairman requested Mr. Farid to explain the present status of organizational structure of NAWG and future improvement. Accordingly, Mr. Farid made a brief presentation. During the discussion, Dr. Khabir Ahmed, CSO (Fisheries) emphasised the need for written constitution and registration of NAWG for relevant authorities to undertake the above mentioned activities. Mr. Osman Gani, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest questioned the sustainability of NAWG.

After discussions, it was concluded that NAWG is not an independent organisation; rather it is a platform of professionals from stakeholders' organisations. BARC, being mandated for coordinating agroforestry research and development use this platform to review the activities and develop effective plan to maximise utilisation of limited resources. NAWG also suggests BARC to undertake appropriate measures to develop capacities of professionals. It may be noted that this approach of using professional platform was perceived as most useful for a coordinating body like BARC where there are limited manpower but using the resources of different organisations, can make the coordination most effective.

Decision:

It was decided that the secretarial support of NAWG should be strengthened through allocating a secretarial staff and office space. The commitment of Intercooperation for financing one technical staff for NAWG along with communication support was highly appreciated by the participants.

AGENDA-III : Members of NAWG

Previously, there were about 69 members that included both organisations and individuals. The participants suggested that only the organisations should be the members of NAWG.

Decision:

Through discussions, the list was revised and the list of member organizations was finalized. Accordingly, the members of NAWG would be as follows:

Categories	Name of organisations
Research organisations	BARC (NR, Economics, TTMU and AIC), BARI (OFRD), BLRI, BSRI, BFRI, BRRI, BJRI (JFSD) and SRDI
Development organisations	FD, DAE, DLS, DOF, AIS
NGOs	IC, GTZ, CARE, BRAC, Proshika, Caritas, RDRS
Universities	BAU (Department of Agroforestry), IFESCU, KU, BSMRAU (Department of Agroforestry and Environment), Dept of Botany- DU, CU and JU

Though there are several projects directly or indirectly involved in agroforestry (eg Special Project on Food Security, SFADP), they will be invited to the NAWG meeting when required.

It was also decided that the convenor of NAWG will write to the heads of the organisations to designate a focal point for NAWG so that consistently the same members attend the meeting and provide feedback to his/her parent organisation.

AGENDA-IV : Stocktaking of Agroforestry knowledge in Bangladesh

Regarding stocktaking of Agroforestry knowledge in Bangladesh the NAWG made a modest attempt to collect information on agroforestry research and development being carried out by the member organisations through organising a brief presentation in the last NAWG meeting (June 19, 2004). It was found that the information were inadequate. It is necessary to have stocktaking of agroforestry research activities so that the existing knowledge can be consolidated and communicated effectively to the stakeholders.

The participants proposed that for stocktaking from different organisations, consultant may be engaged who would be supported by the focal points of the respective organisations. IC may provide finance the study. The findings may be presented in the upcoming NAWG meetings.

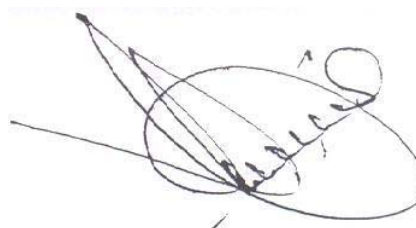
AGENDA V : Annual Programme

The house proposed that NAWG should have its own annual plan, which should include activities such as regular coordination events, publishing newsletter, study visit planning and special events like workshop and seminar. The house also felt that NAWG should also launch a website. Dr. Hussain, Mr. Ahmed and Dr. Miah shall sit together to develop a tentative plan for NAWG for 2004-2005.

AGENDA VI : Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

IC has agreed to collaborate with BARC in the field of Agroforestry. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been drafted and placed to BARC for review. Through this MoU, IC would be financing one technical staff, communication equipment, research fund, scholarship, study visit and limited operational fund (eg. Newsletter, website) for NAWG.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the chair.



(Dr. M. Muslem Uddin Miah)
Member- Director (NRM), BARC
& Convener of NAWG

Date: 11 October 2004

List of Participants in NAWG Meeting held on 30 August, 2004

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Organization address	E-mail and Telephone
1.	Dr. M. M. U. Miah	Member-Director (NRM),	BARC	911-1432
2.	Fariduddin Ahmed	Director	Intercooperation Dhaka	882-7633/114
3.	Dr. M. Abdul Quddus	Programme Officer	Intercooperation Dhaka	icquddus@citech-bd.com
4.	Dr. M. Lutfi Alam	Divisional Officer	BFRI, Sholoshar, Chittagong	lutfi@abnet-bd.com
5.	Mohammad Osman Goni	Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest	Forest Department Dhaka	bforest@citechco.net 9884963
6.	Md. Zahangir Alam	Information Officer (Ag.)	Agriculture Information Service	dirais@dhaka.net 02-8130436
7.	Dr. Khabir Ahmed	CSO (Fisheries)	BARC, Farmgate	kahmed@barcbgdoorg 8110618
8.	Enauetur Rahman Choudhury	SSO	BJRI, Dhaka – 1207	8120742
9.	Mohammed Hussain	CSO, Jute Farming System Division, BJRI	BJRI, Dhaka-1207	8120742
10.	Muhammod Taher	PSO Fisheries Research Institute	Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh	091-54221
11.	Dr. Md. Giashuddin Miah	Professor	Dept. of Agroforestry and Environment BSMRA, Gazipur	giashbd@hotmail.com 9252850-2 Ext. 2104 8954529 (Res.)
12.	Dr. Md. Safiul Alam Bhuiyan	Director	BARI	9252529
13.	A.H.M. Kamrul Habib Khan	Principal Scientific Officer	SRDI	9110590
14.	S. M. Khalilur Rahman	Director (Manpower Training)	BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka	khalil@barcbgd.org
15.	Dr. Mohammed Zashim Uddin	Lecturer	Dept. of Botany University of Dhaka	zashimuddin09@yagir.com 7162374 (Res.) 0172770004
16.	Dr. M. Lutfi Alam	Divisional Officer	BFRI, Sholoshar, Chittagong	lutfi@abnet-bd.com
17.	Dr. Amin Uddin Mridha	Professor	Dept. of Botany Chittagong University	mridha@abnetbd.com 031-653532/0172208666
18.	Sk. Ghulam Hussain	CSO (Forest) Addl. Charge	BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka	sghussain@barcbgd.org 913-2414/913-2420