



# Five Years Of Progress In Science And Technology Sector

**T**HE Government of Bangladesh has given high priority to science and technology for overall national development planning and implementation. National Science and Technology Policy was declared in February, 1986 keeping this view in mind. The main features of the national policy are as follows:

- To attain scientific and technological competence and self-reliance, to help increase production and employment in various sectors and sub-sectors of the economy.
- To be in consonance with the socio-economic, cultural, educational, agricultural and industrial policies of the nation.
- To contribute to the world-wide pool of scientific and technological knowledge.
- To seek out and recognize high talents in various areas of science and technology.
- To strengthen cooperation in science and technology between developed and developing countries, and particularly among developing countries themselves.
- To provide guideline for institutional arrangements or rearrangements in the R&D structure (including education and training) for attainment of the above objectives.

Presently the erstwhile National Committee on Science and Technology has been upgraded as a Council. Honourable President himself is the Chairman of the Council. The responsibilities of the Council are as stated below:

- Recommend national policies on science and technology.
- Recommend priorities to specific research programmes, evaluate the quality and effectiveness of research programmes undertaken by various agencies and assess the extent to which results are put to actual use.
- Suggest measures for coordination of scientific research and development activities.

- Recommend approval to research plans and programmes.
- Such other matters as may be considered relevant by the Government.

The Science and Technology Division of the Ministry of Education provides secretarial services to NCST. This special arrangement enables S&T Division to coordinate and also monitor the overall R&D activities within the country. So far 9 meeting of the Executive Committee of the former National Committee were held. As per decisions of these meetings the following were implemented:

- new mechanised rickshaw (Mishuk) has been developed which is now being marketed.
- wind-propelled quality country boat has been developed in collaboration with NOAMI.
- mechanical production of paper-bags.
- fuel substitution for urban transportation. Conversion of motor vehicles from diesel/petrol fuel to liquified natural gas system.
- constituting a consultative committee on Technology Transfer for acquisition, adoption adaptation of technologies.

Within the period under reference most of 16 organizations previously under the S&T Division were transferred to other ministries. The following research results were obtained from some of these organizations while they were under this Division.

## 1. Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

- Improved stove and lamp.
- Solar cooker.
- Soyaprotein biscuits and breads.
- Diabetic sweet-meat.
- Soft drink name 'Tripti'.
- Canning of hilsa fish.
- Purification of honey.
- Iodized table-salt.
- Break oil.
- Liquid golden paint.

## 2. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission

- Efficient preservation of Potato, Onion, Pulses, and other edible items through irradiation.
- Use of modern technology in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease of the liver, brain, etc. including goitre.
- Production of electricity and operation of irrigation devices with the help of solar photovoltaics.
- Extraction of uranium and thorium.

## 3. Housing and Building Research Institute

- Production of low-cost building materials.
- Production of Biogas, hard boards and building materials from water hyacinth.

## 4. Bangladesh Standards Institution

- Introduction of Metric system throughout the country.
- Standardization of goods produced in the country as well as those obtained from foreign countries.

## 5. Environment Pollution Control Department

- Construction and distribution of Gobargas plant.
- Inspection of motor vehicles to check air pollution.

## 6. Jute Research Institute

- Development of high yield variety of jute seeds.
- Research on production of textiles including novotex and novocel with the use of jute fibre.

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## 7. Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO)

- Preparation of country map with data received through space satellite.
- Weather forecasting including tornado, cyclonic storm surges.
- Forecasting of water-logging and desertification process.
- Survey of agricultural resources.

## 8. National Science and Technology Museum

- To popularize science among the common mass through organizing National Science Week in every year and a decade of which was observed recently.
- Arrange a number of popular demonstration lectures on science subjects.
- Every year a good number of visitors regularly visit its exhibits placed in its gallery.
- Manifold expansion of the area of museum is in progress. Establishment of a planetarium in the newly constructed science museum premises at Sher-e-Banglanagar is in process.

## 9. Bangladesh National Scientific and Technological Documentation Centre (BANSDOC)

In 1986 this organization was released from the administrative control of the Ministry of Industry and was reorganized by merging it with the project named National Science Library. The unified organization was renamed as BANSDOC and was put under the administrative control of this Division.

Besides these a 'Solar fish drying' project at BCSIR and 'Management of Water-hyacinth' at HBRI have been successfully completed with funding from Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) London. As a result of the latter project hardboard, these building materials & biogas could be produced from water-hyacinth.