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## IPSA and BAC

It is understood that the Institute of Post-graduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) Salna, Joydehpur, under the academic and administrative control of BAU & BARI respectively like that of the Bangladesh Agricultural College (BAC), has made certain progress in their approach for autonomy with the government. It is learnt that the IPSA is under proposal of conversion into a mono-faculty agricultural university under the pattern of India's Deemed University concept.

I fully appreciate the move but since we are also an education division of BARI I will better suggest the government to merge the BAC with IPSA to form a mono-faculty agric. university.

In the context of Bangladesh an agro-based country, formation of a second agricultural university is nothing illogical or unrealistic. One may raise a question regarding the location of the new university. I think the capital of an agricultural country should have at least one such university within its territory. So far the equal sharing of national benefits is concerned it is known to all that admission to any

## READERS' LETTERS

such educational institution is done strictly by maintaining the district quotas. To get education in agriculture, students irrespective of distance and districts have to reside in the residential university for the sake of proper learning. Further I have reason to believe that if the govt. decides to convert BAC & IPSA jointly into a mono-faculty agric. university, various international aid-giving agencies will definitely come forward to assist the new university. Establishment of such a new university will also enhance the standard of agric. education in the country through competition with BAU.

In this connection, I wish to mention certain facts about BAC & IPSA. As a matter of fact, the BAC is neither treated as educational institution or a research division of BARI. For instance, the teaching posts of BAC have been shown analogous to the research posts of BARI, e.g. Lecturer is equivalent to Scientific Officer but in case of BAC's Associate and full Professors, the BARI administra-

tion is reluctant to recognise those as equivalent to their PSO, & CSO respectively.

As far as I know about the creation of IPSA, it was supposed to be the new campus of BAC. A few years ago when I was a student of BAC, I used to hear that the Japan Government had given a grant to construct a new campus of BAC at Salna. But later on, the campus was changed to a new 'College of Agricultural Science' whose name was again amended to IPSA. The most painful event was that

the IPSA came into being as a post-graduate agric. educational institution by degrading BAC to an undergraduate college from its post-graduate status.

These were all accepted by the teaching members and students of BAC since the government had done so for the greater interest of the nation (as may be defined by BARI). But now, if the IPSA can achieve the status of a mono-faculty agric. university then why the same status should not be given to BAC which had been a post-graduate college

since its inception during the British period?

So, my only proposal to the government is to consider the issue of conversion of BAC into a mono-faculty with Agril. University with IPSA for the greater welfare of the nation.

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