

Agricultural education

While preparing a report on agricultural education system, I had also consulted the Bangladesh Educational Statistics 1994" year-book published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS). On page no. 100 of this book, when I came across the Table No. 12, Public Current Expenditure on Agricultural Education (1993-94 to 1995-96), I was rather confused. Because in this table, under the column "Name of Institute", names of certain agricultural research institutes have been shown in the following serial:

1. Bangladesh Agricultural

Research Institute (BARI) 2. Nuclear Agriculture Institute; Myhensingh (the correct name of this is, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) 3. Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) 4. Agriculture College, Patuakhali 5. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) 6. Soil Resources Development Institute 7. Agriculture Education.

It is true that the government allocations for the three government agriculture colleges, viz. 1. Bangladesh Agricultural Institute (BAI); Dhaka 2. Patuakhali Agriculture College (PKC) and 3. Hajee Mohammad Danesh Agricultural College (HMDAC), Dinajpur are being disbursed by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). Because agri-colleges

functioning under administrative control of the Agriculture Wing, Ministry of Agriculture, there is some logic of enlisting BARI's name as agricultural education institute. But what about the other research institutes?

There is no mention about the only postgraduate agricultural institution of the country, i.e. Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA), situated at Salna, Gazipur which is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and its

expenditure is borne by the government.

The Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh being a govt. university receives govt. grants through the University Grants Commission.

There is one private Agricultural College at Rajshahi which had also received some grants from the government.

All the above mentioned agricultural education institutions are offering undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses.

The 11 Agricultural Training Institutes (ATI) situated in different districts are offering Diploma in Agriculture course under the administrative control of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and academic supervision of the Bangladesh Technical Education Board.

I feel the Government should launch a program for conducting a fresh educational survey throughout the country.

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for producing a reliable Handbook of Bangladesh Educational Statistics. Such statistical book should contain not only just certain figures but also the graduate placement situation of different institutions plus projections on manpower requirements on various disciplines.

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