



ANNUAL REPORT AND PLAN

Annual Report | Annual Plan
2020-2021 | 2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021 | ANNUAL PLAN 2021-2022



RDA, BOGURA



Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura
Rural Development and Co-operative Division
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives



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Annual Report | **Annual Plan**
2020-2021 | **2021-2022**

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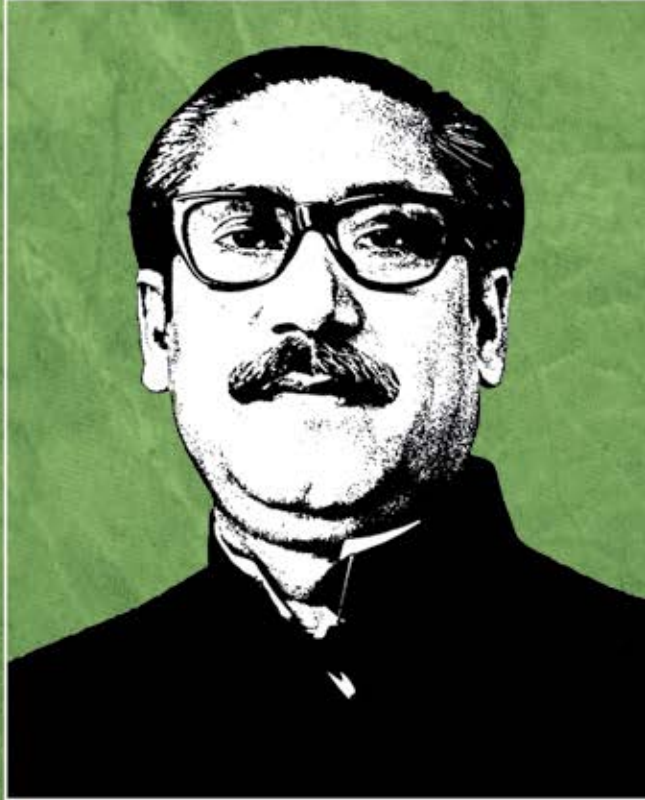
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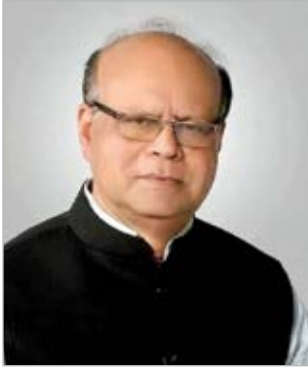
জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান
THE FATHER OF THE NATION BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN

THE FATHER OF THE NATION BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN FOUNDED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY (RDA), BOGURA ON 19 JUNE 1974, A RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUSED TRAINING AND RESEARCH HUB WITH A VISION TO REBUILD POSTINDEPENDENCE BANGLADESH AND TO BUILD A POVERTY AND HUNGER FREE NATION.

State Minister

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development
and Co-operatives
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message



The father of the nation, the undisputed leader of Bangali nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura in 1974. Since inception RDA has been contributing immensely in the rural development of Bangladesh. Annual Planning Conference (APC) allows RDA to formulate future planning for the Academy in a participatory manner and ensure better performance and continuous development through evaluation of last fiscal year activities. APC brings out annual plan and report annually that includes review of performance and incorporate new ideas for future activities of the Academy.

RDA has been contributing through training, research, and action research in the field of Agriculture, Biotechnology, poverty reduction, irrigation and water resources management, women empowerment and other socio-economic activities. These successes certainly reflect the sincerity, dedication and commitment of the Academy to work for the rural people.

My sincere thanks and gratitude goes to the Director General of RDA and other concerns for arranging such an effective conference. I strongly believe this annual report of 2020-2021 and annual plan for 2021-2022 would guide RDA in future endeavors for sustainable rural development.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

Swapan Bhattacharjee, MP

Secretary

Rural Development and Co-operative Division
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development
and Co-operatives
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message



Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura has been extensively & profoundly contributing as the home of excellence for fostering rural development in Bangladesh. As a believer in participatory planning, RDA arranges Annual Planning Conference (APC) each year from its inception as an integrated tradition. The arrangement of 31st APC was a bold initiative of RDA amid global Covid-19 pandemic crisis. APC helps to analyze work and performance of RDA in 2020-21 and to formulate plan for 2021-22 in purview of training, research, action research and advisory services.

Expert's opinions on contemporary issues of mandated activities would help RDA envision a pragmatic path towards rural development while annual report scrutinizes last year's efforts through the APC. Constructive analyses and critical remarks from APC will surely inspire RDA to move forward and continuously improve the rural development efforts by RDA.

I would like to thank all the persons involved in arranging the APC in general and to Director General (Additional Secretary) in particular for their coherence and solemn contribution to make the event accomplished, a success as well as publish the report.

Md. Mashiur Rahman ndc

Director General

Rural Development Academy (RDA)
Bogura, Bangladesh

Message



Annual Planning Conference (APC) is a yearly event organized by the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura to review the previous year's activities, assess performance, and plan for the coming year. Experts from various ministries, government and non-government organizations, autonomous institutes, universities, and research institutes participated in the 31st APC and contributed to a realistic and feasible plan, even in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The RDA's Annual Plan 2021-22 would serve as an action plan for the organization to move forward, stay on track, and take on new challenges in the field of rural development. Approval of new research ideas, such as a poverty-free model village, would undoubtedly open up new avenues for rural development. A comprehensive review of our work from the previous year would allow us to learn from our mistakes, open our minds, and focus our thinking as we move forward with RDA's targeted rural development activities in the future year.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Director (Research and Evaluation), Convener and Co-conveners Mr. Mohiuddin, Ms. Rebeka Sultana, Ms. Andalib Mahejabin, and Mr. Mohammed Abdul Kader *PhD*, Deputy Directors for their hard and tireless effort in compiling, editing, and publishing this report within a short time.

Khalil Ahmed

Convener

31st APC 2021

Rural Development Academy (RDA)
Bogura, Bangladesh

Message



RDA organizes APC each year to review training, research, and action research activities of the institute carried out in the previous year and to formulate an action plan for the next year. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the learned participants from GOs and NGOs to take the challenge of joining the 31st APC under the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Valued presence and sharing of expertise, innovative and professional ideas of the participants added new dimensions to the activities of RDA and helped to make an effective and pragmatic plan for the upcoming year

My sincere appreciation goes to Mr. Khalil Ahmed, Director General of RDA for his continuous guidance, supervision, and support during the APC and publication of this report. I extend my gratefulness to Mr. Md. Ferdous Hossain Khan, Director (Training) for his relentless support in completion of the event.

I convey my thanks to the Co-conveners of the APC Md. Mohiuddin, Deputy Director; Ms. Rebeka Sultana, Deputy Director; Ms. Andalib Mahejabin, Deputy Director and Mr. Mohammed Abdul Kader *PhD*, Deputy Director for their sincere efforts in organizing the conference successfully and help in the preparation of this document.


Md. Mizanur Rahman

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ACRONYMS

AARDO	Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization
ADP	Annual Development Programme
AERS	Agricultural Extension and Research System
AEZ	Agro-Ecological Zone
APC	Annual Planning Conference
BADC	Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BAU	Bangladesh Agricultural University
BCS	Bangladesh Civil Service
BMDA	Barind Multipurpose Development Authority
BPATC	Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board
BRDTI	Bangladesh Rural Development Training Institute
BRII	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BSMRAU	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University
CCD	Centre for Community Development
CDRC	Chars Development Research Centre
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
CIWM	Centre for Irrigation and Water Management
CRDC	Cattle Research and Development Centre
CLP	Chars Livelihoods Programme
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DFID	Department of International Development
DLS	Department of Livestock
DPD	Deputy Project Director
DPP	Development Project Proposal
DTW	Deep Tube Well

ERD	External Relation Division
GO	Government Organisation
GSI	Good Seed Initiative
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGA	Income Gernerating Activities
IMED	Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division
IBS	Institute of Bangladesh Studies
IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company Limited
IT	Information Technology
IUB	Independence University of Bangladesh
JSC	Join-Sponsored Course
M4C	Making Markets Work for the Jamuna, Padma and Teesta Chars
MoPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVRD	Model Village in Rural Development
NAEM	National Academy for Educational Management
NATP	National Agricultural Technology Project
NCDP	Northwest Crop Diversification Programme
NGO	Non-government organization
NILG	National Institute of Local Government
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PD	Project Director
PPRC	Palli Patshala Research Centre
PSC	Project-Sponsored Course
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RERC	Renewable Energy Research Centre
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SB	Sonali Bank
SBC	Seed and Biotechnology Centre
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SHIP	Seed Health Improvement Project
SREDA	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority
SSC	Self-Sponsored Course
TOT	Training of Trainers
UP	Union Parishad
WASA	Water and Sewerage Authority

Introduction



Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura was established in 1974 as an outcome of visionary and ingenious thinking of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. After independence he envisioned development of Bangladesh through development of rural Bangladesh. Since inception RDA has been working sincerely in this sector and contributing in development of Bangladesh. RDA believes in participatory development strategies therefore each year arranges Annual Planning Conference (APC) with an objective of formulating plan for the next financial year in respect of its core activities along with critical review of last year's performance in the field of training, research and action research. It has become a glorious tradition of RDA and accordingly this year organized 31st APC. The conference held on 22-23 September 2021 to prepare a work plan for 2021-2022 and review last year's activities of RDA. A total of 85 participants from different national organizations were present in this conference. Academicians, researchers, trainers, teachers, development practitioners and policy makers representing various reputed national agencies and organizations participated this conference, analyzed activities, given new thoughts and directions to move forward and formulated effective planning of RDA under the global pandemic situation. As a result of effective discussions and review of the last year's activities of RDA, a pragmatic plan of action for the upcoming year of the Academy.



Two days long 31st annual planning conference (APC) of Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura was held on 22-23 September 2021 in auditorium of RDA campus. Mr. Swapan Bhattacharjee, MP; Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives was the chief guest in the opening ceremony. Mr. Md. Mashiur Rahman ndc, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operative Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives and Professor Dr. M. Kamruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur were present as the special guest in the opening ceremony. Mr. Khalil Ahmed, Director General (Additional Secretary), Rural Development Academy, Bogura was the chairperson of the opening session.

In the ceremony, 85 numbers of participants were participated. The opening ceremony began at 9.00 AM on 22 September by recitation from the holy Quran, holy Gita and holy Bible. The program started by the welcome speech from the convener of 31st APC Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Director (Research and Evaluation Division), RDA. He welcomed all the participants to join this programme and request to give their valuable opinions and insight to formulate realistic action oriented annual plan for RDA, Bogura. He gives a brief orientation about APC and said that this program is designed to analyze the activities of previous year and formulate plan for upcoming year.



Mr. Md. Ferdous Hossain Khan, Director (Training), RDA, Bogura told that the opinions regarding mandated functions of RDA will be collected from learned participants during APC. It helps to clarify the future action plan of RDA.

Mr. Khalil Ahmed, Director General (Additional Secretary), RDA and chairperson of the session presented the keynote paper and introduced RDA. First of all, he paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman, he remembered the martyrs of Bangla language Movement in 1952, the 1969 Mass Uprising, the liberation war 1971, the blood bath of 15 August, the four national leaders in jail killing day. In his presentation, he highlighted various activities of RDA, Bogura and ask for cooperation and constructive criticism from the delegates to formulate an action plan for RDA in the light of vision 2021, SDGs 2030, Vision 2041, 7th five year plan and delta plan to fulfil the dream of Father of the Nation " Hunger and poverty-free a happy and prosperous Sonar Bangla". He gives sincere gratitude to Honorable Prime minister due to Her guidelines for establishment work of Rangpur and Jamalpur RDA. Besides that Shekh Jahurul Islam Rural Development Academy will be established in Jashore soon. He shared the stories of successful entrepreneurs from RDA training. He also presented the ongoing poverty free model village research activities. Three villages namely Char Polisha, Jamalpur; Rotia, Rangpur and Kalshimati, Bogura were selected for poverty free model village. Chairperson expected



that, in future RDA will target for more villages to make poverty free and it will be replicated to all over the country.

As special guest, Professor Dr. M. Kamruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur mentioned in his speech that concept on rural development model to eradicate poverty was first instructed by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman. To build up poverty free nation was the mission and vision of 1st fifth year plan. He said that RDA, Bogura working in connection to fulfill the dreams of Honorable Prime Minister. He also brief about the importance of cooperatives.

Mr. Md. Mashiur Rahman ndc, Secretary, Rural Development and Co-operative Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives as an special guest of the program paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman. He said that Bangladesh Government works in line with election manifesto 2009 and targeted to build middle income country within 2021 and developed country within 2041. He appreciated works of RDA, Bogura and said that RDA is developing and disseminating different rural development models in align with vision and mission of the organization. To engage rural peoples in income generating activities this models are very useful. He highlighted the importance of working in agricultural sector and opined to works also in other sectors besides that. He told to produce skilled labour, agricultural mechanization and modernization to contribute in national food security. He hope that RDA will works according to mandated functions for highest achievement.

Mr. Swapan Bhattacharjee, *MP*, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives in his speech as a chief guest firstly paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman, he also remembered the martyrs of Bangla language Movement in 1952, the 1969 Mass Uprising, the liberation war 1971, the blood bath of 15 August 1975. He mentioned the development activities from RDA, Bogura specially in agricultural sectors. He said that Father of the Nation wanted the economic freedom of the peoples. Bangabandhu called revolution to develop economic status of the country and said that the assets owners are the peoples. He mentioned that the opposite party of freedom fighters killed Father of the Nation. For better development of country Honorable Prime Minister working day and nights to fulfill the dream of her father. The chief guest highly appreciated the present activities of RDA and hope that RDA will capable to eradicate all kinds of poverty from Bangladesh through training, research and action research. He requested the participants to formulate demand based rural development and poverty reduction related research, training and action research. The chief guest wishes all the success and active participation of the participants to formulate an effective annual plan for RDA 2021-2022 fiscal year. After that he inaugurated the two days long conference.



Director General

Khalil Ahmed

(Additional Secretary)

Rural Development Academy (RDA)
Bogura, Bangladesh

Policy Guideline



Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Honourable Chief Guest,

Mr. Swapan Bhattacharjee, MP, Honourable State Minister of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Honourable Special Guest,

Mr. Md. Mashiur Rahman ndc, Secretary to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Rural Government and Co-operative Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives.

Distinguished delegates from different government and non-government organisations, universities, research and training institutes, civil societies, RDA faculty members, representatives from print and electronic media, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamu-alaikum and very good morning to you all.

In the beginning of my speech, I would like to pay homage to the **Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** who sacrificed his whole life for the nation and the betterment of the poor. I would also like to remember the martyrs of the Bangla Language Movement in 1952, the 1969 Mass Uprising, the Liberation War in 1971, the Bloodbath on 15 August 1975, the Four National Leaders on Jail Killing Day and the 1990 Mass Uprising. Here I would like to remind you that the **Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** built this Academy in 1974 for minimizing regional disparity through uplifting the socioeconomic condition of the rural people, particularly

in northwestern Bangladesh. RDA is now working for achieving his dream **Sonar Bangla**. Thus, I want to show my heartfelt gratitude to all who worked hard for reaching RDA at its present position, including the former Directors General, former RDA faculty members and staff not only who are here but also who are not able to come here and join with us, particularly who left us forever. I pray for their souls to rest in peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We all are fully aware of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation. The whole world is going through multidimensional economic and social crises. People's lives and livelihoods have been hampered. During lockdown situation, RDA conducted its regular activities maintaining health and safety measures.

Learned participants

I would also like to convey my warm gratitude to the Honourable **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** for giving special attention to our works. After judging our activities and dedication to the poor of the country, she asked us to build two more RDA like Academies at Rangpur and Jamalpur to ensure available government services and supports to the extreme poor of those backward regions. Establishing another Academy in Jashore is under approval process. I do hope after completion of those Academies, the process of implementing the government vision to alleviate poverty and hunger will be accelerated.

Respected Guests

We have some successes in this tenure and have received national and international recognitions for our outstanding performances. We have already crossed four and half decades. Towards the endless journey of rural development, we like to be enlightened from you with valuable guidance and scholastic suggestions. Apart from the overcoming the losses due to COVID-19 pandemic, we will keep on our commitments, dedication and sincere efforts in the days to come for fruitful achievement of the Election Manifesto of the present government, 8th Five-Year Plan, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Vision 2041 and Delta Plan 2100. We all know about the main commitment of the manifesto – **'Amar Gram Amar Shohor'** (My Village My Town). The dream of our beloved Honourable **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** is to provide all sorts of urban amenities at rural level. My energetic RDA colleagues conducted a holistic research work on this issue and the research report has been published.

I am pleased to inform you, particularly those who are here in the conference for the first time that, RDA is an autonomous institution attached with Rural Development and Co-operative Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives governed by a Board of Governors (BoG). The Honourable State Minister to Local Government and Co-operatives chairs the Board and the Director General of RDA works as the Member Secretary. The mandated functions of RDA are to: (i) provide training to the government and non-government officials, public representatives, farmers, rural women and youths, social leaders, students and other practitioners, who are devoted in rural development activities; (ii) carry out research on rural development issues; (iii) conduct action research to evolve models for sustainable rural development; (iv) provide advisory and consultancy services for identifying problems and appropriate solutions; and (v) offer Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development (PGDRD). This assembly is arranged to review the activities of the preceding fiscal year and chalk out a pragmatic action plan for the financial year of 2021-22.

Respected Participants

In keeping with our vision to become a **Centre of Excellence** in the field of rural development, we continue to enhance our capacities, improve facilities and disseminate technologies. At present, we have eight Divisions with the strength of 304 personnel including 61 faculty members. Out of eight, four are service divisions such as Administrative Division, Training Division, Research and Evaluation Division, and Project Planning and Monitoring Division. Rest of them are academic divisions, namely Social Sciences Division, Agricultural Sciences Division, Rural Governance and Gender Division, and Farm Technology, Irrigation, Water Resource Management Division.

Equipped with all the modern amenities of urban life including Wi-Fi coverage, the Academy has a green campus of 120 acres of land offering facilities to cater national and international training, research and action research activities. Since inception till 30 June 2021, RDA have **trained 628123 persons of which around 28% are women**, published **512 research reports and journal articles** and successfully completed **44 action research projects**. We have developed a package of green innovations for addressing problems and sustainable solutions on rural development issues. Some of them are:

- Low-cost DTW (Borehole) and its multipurpose use for livelihood improvement and sustainable rural development;
- Water saving technologies such as SRI, AWD and raised bed for effective and efficient use of water resources in agricultural sector in Bangladesh;
- Community based multi-storied rural housing for restoration of agricultural land (Palli Janapad);
- Asset transfer for poverty reduction through livelihood improvement model
- Community bio-gas plant for production of renewable energy and organic fertilizer in Bangladesh;
- Multi-storied agriculture with solar powered irrigation system;
- Women in seed entrepreneurship (WISE) and rural plant clinic; and
- Rural entrepreneurship development through Trichoderma enhanced composting technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Apart from your recommendations in last year APC, RDA, Bogura was committed to achieve Annual Performance Agreement (APA) 2020-21. In 2020-21, RDA organized 257 training courses attended by 15,204 participants. Under income generating skilled development training, RDA trained 5,992 participants including 1,882 female participants. In addition, 8,718 persons attended several awareness building trainings. Furthermore, 27 seminars and conferences were conducted at RDA during the reporting period.

In 2020-21, RDA faculty members conducted 17 research works. Besides, 22 research reports including journal articles were published. However, 30 research works are carried over. In the same period, RDA implemented 17 action research projects. Out of them, eight action research were RDA self-financed focused on the activities of demonstration farm. Other seven were GoB funded projects and five of them are ongoing. The five ongoing projects include establishing RDA at Rangpur and Jamalpur, Palli Janapad, two-storied farming through solar power generated irrigation system and poverty reduction project in Kurigram and Jamalpur districts. Livelihood improvement for the Char-dwellers in Bogura district and water saving projects were the two completed last fiscal year. The RDA is also an implementing partner of a ministry managed project, namely

Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP). Furthermore, RDA has conducted SAARC Development Fund (SDF) financed project that is “Livelihood Enhancement of the small farmer in SAARC region through small scale agro-business focusing on value chain development”.

I would like to inform you that RDA achieved its APA target in terms of conducting training and research activities. Although my colleagues worked hard, we could not able achieve 100% of project activities due to COVID-19 pandemic situation, furthermore, RDA took some initiatives to celebrate Mujib Borsho. Last fiscal year, we distributed 100,000 fish fries (young fish) and 60,000 saplings. Meanwhile, we set up Bangabandhu Corner at our campus.

Learned audience,

Now I would like to inform you what we are planning for the following year. According to our APA 2021-22 targets, this year we have to train 5,700 persons including 1,600 female trainees under income generating skill development training programmes. In addition, it is expected that RDA will train at least 5,700 persons under different awareness building programmes. Besides, RDA has been asked to conduct 23 seminars and conferences focusing on emerging issues. The Faculty members of RDA have proposed 13 self-sponsored training courses in 25 batches wherein 670 participants will receive trainings. However, I certainly ensure you that RDA will achieve its APA targets because most training courses usually taken under different projects implemented by the Academy and joint-sponsored category.

According to APA target, this year RDA has to complete at least 17 research works and publish 20 research reports. Till today, the faculty members of the Academy have already completed seven research works and published 11 research reports including four journal articles. This APC, RDA faculty members have proposed 14 new research proposals. According to APA target, RDA will implement 17 projects. As I mentioned six ADP funded action research projects including CVDP are ongoing so that RDA is implementing the activities of those projects this year. Besides, Making Markets for the Chars (M4C) – 2nd phase, a jointly funded project by GoB and SDC has been started since June, 2021. Nonetheless, this year RDA has planned to distribute 50,000 fish fries and another 50,000 saplings amongst the rural poor.

Distinguished Participants

RDA is dedicated to discovery and innovation to new ideas and new ways to work. This commitment yields long lasting solutions solving the problems that have shaped RDA's reputations as rural development leader and created opportunities to attain national and international recognitions. RDA has received many awards and recognitions. Some of the foremost awards are:

National Rural Development Award 2012

AARDO Award 2012

(for outstanding contribution in the field of rural development)

Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1417 (2011) Medal

(for creating awareness in rural communities)

Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1415 (2010) Gold Medal

(for developing environment friendly technology in agriculture)

Independence Award 2004

(for Irrigation command areas development, innovation of multipurpose use of Deep Tube-Well, arsenic free safe water supply and technical protocol for hybrid maize seed development)

International Communication Award 2004 from IVCA, London

(for developing effective women to women extension model)

Respected dignitaries

Now I would like to pay your attention to the future plan of RDA. Considering a changing world in the contexts of climate change, sustainable development and recent COVID-19 pandemic, RDA plans and executes its activities in an innovative way.

Since 2019, we introduced trade focused skilled development trainings through **'Self-Help Group' approach** in our training courses. Here I would like to inform the learned audience that most of the participants of these trades are either self-employed or skilled manpower in job market. This year will continue this training approach. Thus, RDA now wants to focus on create new rural entrepreneurs utilizing local opportunities.

I would like to inform you that RDA offers Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development (PGDRD) course – till now it is the sole institution to do so. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Gazipur is the awarding authority. In 5th Batch, 21 students including seven female ones completed their degree. The academic activities of 6th Batch with 25 students have been started. Now we planning to offer Masters programme and supervise MPhil and PhD fellows.

Regarding research works, I have already mentioned about the research on 'Amar Gram Amar Shohor'. Besides, we are conducting two more research works on boundary (Aile) free integrated farming system and farm modernization. We are implementing our green technologies in Chak Pathalia – a nearer village of RDA campus, as our research laboratory.

However, considering the dream of the Father of the Nation and the Honourable Prime Minister as well as global commitments, particularly to achieve SDG Goals 1 and 2 building a poverty and hunger free country, my RDA team is working for. We are trying a model namely "Poverty Free Model Village". We have completed baseline survey of three selected villages – Char Polisha (Jamalpur district), Rotiya (Rangpur district) and Kalshimati (Bogura district). My research team members are applying multidimensional poverty index (MPI) and proxy mean test (PMT) measurements. The model aims to utilise people's skills, experiences and potentialities. So, external supports will selective and individual focussed. This the current commitment of RDA to celebrate Mujib Borsho to alleviate poverty and hunger from those three villages and develop a model for the rest of the country.

As you know that RDA campus consists a demonstration farm with an area of 80 acres. We are planning to develop our campus to promote agricultural tourism. We have already two ponds namely 'Karumriga' and 'Komola Koi'. Besides, different varieties of fruit and wood trees are being planted so that tourists can pick fruits and go fishing.

Learned Audience,

We are planning to be accredited RDA training programmes from foreign organisations so that we can contribute to enhance the skills of youths who wants to go abroad. Further, RDA is now

focusing on conducting more solution oriented research projects. We look forward to renowned and eminent academics and institutions. RDA will set up new techno-friendly research labs and do memorandum of understanding (MoU) with renowned universities and research institutions.

From my words and your own observation, you can think a gigantic but diversified task doing my colleagues. I have to do all these activities with a group of around 40 active officers. RDA faculty members play their roles as trainers/teachers, researchers, and project managers and administrators as well. Thus, to achieve our target, RDA needs more efficient faculty members and we are planning to expand our organogram through our line ministry.

Another point here I would like to mention that the designations of RDA faculty members more likely to administrators rather academicians. Thus, I feel the designation of RDA faculty members as like what are in universities from lecturer to professor. The faculty members of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad as well as other Indian research institutions are designed as like university faculty members. So, my humble request to you all to give your best opinions regarding the points I raised later part of my speech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Surely, we are not able to provide all the services but you deserve. However, I can assure you that there is no dearth of sincerity and cordiality from our part. I would like to urge upon you all to take this Academy as your own institution and forgive us for our limitations with your generosity.

Again I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you once again to attend this conference. I also express our deep thanks to our Chief Guest, Special Guests and all my fellow colleagues who have worked hard for making this APC a success one.

I would like to say that the world is changing rapidly and we should consider what we are facing for last few months. RDA wants to properly keep up with all these changes and prepare itself to serve the best for the poor people and thereby the nation. RDA cannot work alone. We should work together as a team. Your meticulous guidance and cooperation would go a long way to make that happen. Finally, let me wish your stay with us at RDA be pleasant, precious, and mutually beneficial for all of us.

Thank you very much for your patience hearing.

Bangladesh Chirojibi Hok.