



Minutes of the Launching Programme and Annual General Meeting of the Society for Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN)

Date: 18 November 2017, Saturday, 10:00 am -4:00 pm

Venue: BARC auditorium, Dhaka 1215

Number of Participants: About 300

A day long activity with the Launching Programme and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society for Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) was held on 18 November 2017 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium. Launching Programme was held in the first session in the first half of the day and the AGM was held in the second half of the day. About 300 participants were attended in the event. At the beginning of the event, morning tea with snacks was provided to the participants. A folder with souvenir, writing pad, pen, cap and identity cards were supplied to the participants at the time of registration.



The name of the souvenir of the event was 'BAEN' which was printed in good quality paper in four colors with the financial help from OXFAM in Bangladesh. Messages from Chief and Special Guests, secretarial from BAEN Publication Secretary, speech from BAEN President, Activity report from BAEN Secretary General, financial report from BAEN Treasurer, and articles from different personnel of GOs, NGOs, Private organizations on the status of Agricultural Extension & Advisory Services in Bangladesh and SAARC countries were the main content of the souvenir.

Kbd. Md. Hamidur Rahman, President of BAEN presided over both the programme. He welcomed everybody for their kind presence.

First Session: Launching Programme

In the launching programme, Dr. Kazi M. Badruddoza, the National Emirates Scientist illuminated the whole programme as Chief Guest. Other distinguished Special Guests were Kbd. M. Enamul Haque, Adviser, APAA Advisory Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Former Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE); Prof. Dr. M. Abul Kashem, Vice Chancellor, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University (HSTU), Dinajpur and Dr. Vagya Rani Banik, Executive Chairman, BARC. The discussions and presentations were as follows:

Recitation from the Holly Books: In the beginning recitations were made from holly Quran and Gita.

Floral Reception of Guests: Chief Guest, Special Guests, BAEN President, Secretary General and Organizing Secretary were honoured with floral buckets by the young lady BAEN Members.

Welcome Speech: Kbd. Md. Afzal Hossain Bhuiyan, Organizing Secretary of BAEN gave his welcome speech. He thanked every participant for their response to BAEN's invitation. He extended his gratitude to the audience for their kind presence in the event and appreciated to the organizations and persons who have been supporting BAEN from its inception. He gave his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the volunteers and organizations who played very active role to form and run BAEN. He remembered Kbd. Md. Hamidur Rahman who initiated this organization with Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC) of DAE. Other organizations were DAE, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU), ACI Limited,



OXFAM in Bangladesh, Digital Green etc. He also mentioned that BAEN Secretary General Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor, SAU played a very active role for strengthening BAEN. He again mentioned about Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V. of AESA who created opportunity for global linkage. He also appreciated all members of BAEN for their dedicated support and efforts.

Condolence Proposal: Condolence proposal was made for two recent passed away BAEN Members, namely, Kbd. Md. Nazrul Islam Matubbar, Deputy Director, DAE, Patuakhali and Kbd. Md. Touhiduzzaman, Chief Instructor, Agricultural Training Institute, Faridpur and others. ‘One minute of silence’ was held in respect of their memories.



Documentary Video Presentation: A video documentary on “Special Practices of Guava Cultivation using Pruning Technique” was projected to the audience.



Launching of BAEN Website: Honourable Chief Guest, Kazi M. Badruddoza launched BAEN website (www.baenbd.net) with other Special Guests, BAEN President and Secretary General.

Speech from the Special Guest, Dr. Vagya Rani Banik: Executive Chairman of BARC, Dr. Vagya Rani Banik delivered her speech as the Special Guest earlier than her scheduled time due to her another busy task. She mentioned the great successes in agriculture sectors of Bangladesh in last decades including the role of new crop varieties to increase production. She said that we have to develop more climate smart crop varieties. We have many innovative approach and technologies. Now, it is needed to build strong linkage between technology and extension. Also we should strengthen linkage among crop, livestock and fisheries sectors. She gave importance in the development of extension-research-farmers linkage and informed current initiatives taken by BARC and other agricultural development agencies to fulfill the SGD’s goals.



Performance of BAEN Theme Song: Kbd. Quazi Afzal Hossain performed a theme song written by himself for BAEN in both Bengali and English Version.



Report from the Secretary General of BAEN: BAEN Secretary General Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali, Pro Vice Chancellor, SAU presented the Background and Annual Report of BAEN’s activities. He mentioned that BAEN has now 542 members and got government registration on 31 July 2017 under the Societies Registration Act 1860. He presented very sequentially about the background, formation, objectives, activities, global linkage, future plan etc. of BAEN. In his presentation he mentioned the future projections of BAEN activities as follows:



- Developing of Training Modules on five (5) thematic areas of BAEN activities after piloting and exchange visits
- Curriculum development of the agricultural disciplines of the universities to meet the need of demand-driven agriculture
- Organize policy dialogues as suggested by the thematic working groups
- Development of Knowledge Hub and Knowledge Management Strategy for BAEN

At the end, he gratefully acknowledged IFMC of DAE for helping to form such network; AESA, APIRAS and GFRAS for continuous inspiration and cooperation; IFAD and SEARCA for providing SAAS project in Bangladesh; DLEC, ACI Limited, OXFAM in Bangladesh and IFMC for sponsoring the launching and AGM of BAEN.

Open discussions: A large number of participants actively took part in the open discussion and appreciated BAEN activities as mentioned in the Secretary General's report. Some of their opinions and comments are mentioned below:

- Kbd. Md. Nazrul Islam, Ex-Director, AIS, suggested to develop on-farm and off-farm farmers database and emphasized the importance of developing localized agricultural information contents, one stop digital information service.



- Dr. F H Ansarey, ACI Agribusiness appreciated to form BAEN which is now the demand driven steps for extension services in Bangladesh. He highlighted the roles of private sectors in extension services and proposed to create strong linkage among public-private information network. He also pointed out to seek assistance and advice from the retired expatriates of this sector to enrich agri-extension services. He also declared to provide 'Awards' to best performers in the discipline of agri-extension including crop, livestock and fisheries sector through BAEN.



- Prof. Dr. Anisul Islam, Ex-VC, Pabna Science & Technology University highlighted the importance of soil fertility reform for sustainable production. He gave emphasis on exploration of innovations and fit those into extension services by BAEN. He also focused on development of market linkage activities to get fair price of agricultural produces of the farmers. To harvest the utmost output, he mentioned to bring agricultural education, research and extension in a common platform which can be possible by BAEN.



- Kbd. Sayeed Ali, Ex-DG, DAE appreciated the BAEN which is formed as a private organization. He opined that BAEN can play important role to strengthen extension services in Bangladesh.



- Kbd. Chaiytanya Kumar Das, Ex-Director (Field Service), DAE, emphasized to develop extension-market linkage for sustainable agriculture. He also focused that DAE has more than 14000 extension workers at field level who could be linked with this network. Some weaknesses and mistakes of extension services and messages should be identified. BAEN should plan how a big number of farmer organizations and groups could be linked with information services as well as for marketing of produces.



- Mr. Sajahan Ali Badsha (Popularly named as Papaya Badsha), a Model Farmer shared his farming experience and contribution of DAE's service to better production. He told that always farmers are chasing for selling their produces. It is the time to coop up agriculture as a business. We should move now from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture. Also, he asked for recognition of farmers' contribution to agricultural development of Bangladesh.



- Dr. Ziaul Hoque, BARI requested to BAEN to share with policy level partners to solve potato storage, marketing, export and consumption issues.



- Mr. Binoy, Project Director of the Department of Fisheries (DoF) opined that fish farming in Bangladesh has developed significantly. Many fish growers have sound knowledge and practical experiences. But still most of them practicing in very indisciplined way. It should be disciplined with some knowledge sharing packages.



- Dr. Taufiq Ul Alam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Policy Research gave focus on gendering.

- Dr. Wayes Kabir, Ex-EC, BARC highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing across different platforms of agricultural sectors. He mentioned the importance of development of horizontal agricultural than vertical agricultural. He emphasized on the integration of agricultural approaches to obtain best solutions. He opined that BAEN can play a vital role to negotiate, standardize and harmonize extension services among the different sectors under different ministries. He mentioned that we should find out the best extension practices from abroad and if any we should try to fit those into our system for betterment of the farmers.



Award giving and appreciation: ‘Award of Appreciations’ were given by BAEN to 18 selected organizations/projects for their outstanding performance in Agricultural Extension & Advisory Services in Bangladesh. The organizations/projects were selected based on observed presentation of the organizations/projects in the knowledge sharing workshops organized by BAEN and close field visit of the BAEN dedicated Team. The selected organizations/projects are: IFMC (DAE), SCDP (DAE), Katalyst, World Vision, iDE, BIID, Practical Action, BRAC, AIET, Kuchia and Mud Crab Culture Project, IAPP (DAE), USAID-AESA Project, CCDB, CDB, Green Bangla Foundation, Solidaridad, CREL Project, and IPM Project (DAE).



Awards were also given to ACI limited, Digital Green (with DLEC), OXFAM in Bangladesh and IFMC for their support for conducting BAEN Launching and AGM.



Crest Giving Ceremony: Crests were given to BAEN dedicated Team Members who observed the presentations of the Appreciation Awardee organizations/projects in the knowledge sharing workshop and closely visited their field in all over Bangladesh. There were 11 Members in this BAEN dedicated Team. Crests were also given to the Chief Guest and Special guests. After giving the Awards and Crests, a photo session was made.

Speeches from the Special guests

- Prof. Dr. M. Abul Kashem, VC, HSTU, mentioned the roles of universities in technology generation and dissemination, highlighted the importance of developing need-based curriculum to produce quality graduates who will be ready to meet up the need of demand-driven agriculture. He also mentioned to build up good networking with the students as they can get useful information for both academic and job purposes. BAEN can assist to develop such some useful portals.



- Kbd. M. Enamul Haque, Member, APA Advisory Committee, MoA and Ex-DG, DAE emphasized to devote more efforts to produce value-added products and find out the way how the farmers can get fair prices for their produces.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Dr. Kazi M. Badruddoza, National Emeritus Scientist acknowledged farmers' contribution to agricultural development of Bangladesh and addressed for giving proper recognition to farmers for their efforts and service in agriculture.



Speech by the President

BAEN President Kbd. Hamidur Rahman gave his concluding speech with heartiest thanks to the Chief Guest, Special Guests, BAEN Members and audience and closed the first session.



Second Session: AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of BAEN was held in the second session chaired by Kbd. Md. Hamidur Rahman, President, BAEN. He announced the agenda of AGM as follows:

1. Approval of BAEN Annual Report (2016-17)
2. Approval of BAEN Financial Report (2016-17)
3. Formation of Election Commission for electing BAEN Executive Committee (2018-19)

Agenda 1: Approval of BAEN Annual Report (2016-17)

Annual report (2016-17) of BAEN was presented by Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali, Secretary General, BAEN. The report was approved by all the attended Members of BAEN.

Agenda 2: Approval of BAEN Financial Report (2016-17)

Dr. Md. Mostofa Kamal, Treasurer, BAEN presented the financial report of BAEN (2016-17). As on 12 November 2017, total income of BAEN was BDT.6,08,700.00 and expenditure by only Bank charge was BDT. 3,256.50 and the balance was BDT. 6,05,443.50. He mentioned that all the events conducted by BAEN were sponsored by IFMC, AESA and SAAS projects. All the fees collected from

the members were deposited to the bank. The financial report was approved by all the attended Members of BAEN.

Agenda 3: Formation of Election Commission for electing BAEN Executive Committee (2018-19)

- An Election Commission was formed for electing BAEN Executive Committee (2018-19) by in the AGM as follows:

Chief Election Commissioner: Prof. Dr. Md. Anwarul Haque Beg, Treasurer, SAU, Dhaka

Members: Dr. Md. Goljar Hossain, DoF

Kbd. Md. Fazlul Haque, PD, SCDP, DAE

Kbd. Khondoker Atiqul Islam, Chief Farm Super, SAU, Dhaka

Member Secretary: Mr. Md. Saeed Siddik, University of Dhaka

- Several important decisions were made with the kind consent and suggestion of the attended Members in the AGM of BAEN as follows:
 - Draft voter list for electing BAEN Executive Committee (2018-19) is already published in BAEN website
 - Both life members and active members will be eligible for election as voters.
 - Claims against voter list will be accepted and new Members will be included in the voter list upto 30 November 2017.
 - Final list of voters will be published in BAEN website by 1st week of December, 2017 by BAEN President and Secretary General. Hard copy of final voter list (signed by BAEN President and Secretary General) will be given to Election Commission by 1st week of December, 2017.
 - After getting the final voter list, Election Commission will declare the election schedule in BAEN website by 1st week of December, 2017.
 - Election will be held by 3rd week of December, 2017.
 - Result of the election will be published by three days of the election held.
 - The fee for each nomination paper will be BDT. 200.00.
 - The fee for submitting President and Secretary General Candidature will be BDT. 1000.00 and the fee for candidature for each of other posts will be BDT. 500.00.
 - All notice regarding BAEN Executive Committee (2018-19) election will be published in BAEN website.

As of there was no more agenda, the President of BAEN closed the AGM of BAEN with thanks.

The minutes was prepared by: Kbd. Mrityunjoy Roy, PD, IFMC, DAE

Dr. Md. Mahbulul Alam, Associate Professor, SAU, Dhaka

Edited By: Prof. Dr. Md. Sekender Ali, Secretary General, BAEN & Pro-VC, SAU

Signed by:

Kbd. Md. Hamidur Rahman)

President, BAEN