

Title: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Author Name

Designation

Department

Organization

ABSTRACT

The field survey was conducted among the farmers, researchers, extensions and agribusiness personnel to assess their knowledge about National Agricultural Research System (NARS) recommended technologies on pre- and post-harvest management and their economic impact in Bangladesh. The survey was conducted in 16 Upazilas of purposively selected eight (8) districts based on agricultural project activities on potential of major crop groups and system through a standard pre-tested questionnaire. From the field survey, it revealed that only a few number of technologies were available at field level regarding pre and post-harvest management out of more than 300 NARS recommended technologies. There was also found a big knowledge gap among farmers; researchers and other respondents. Considering all technological categories, perceptions of researchers on NARS recommended technological knowledge were found much higher than farmers, extensions and agribusiness personnel. There was also a big Knowledge gap between project intervention districts than less or zero project intervention Districts. It was also observed that most of the respondents were very much aware about the rice based technologies rather than other crops; especially most of the small scale poor farmers were interested to use cheap, easy handling and locally available technology for their crop regarding pre and post management at field level.

Keywords: *Pre- and Post-harvest, Agricultural Pest, Economic Impact, Bangladesh*

**INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture is the oldest profession of human being. Agricultural production is the basic and primary production sector where the world life system became established. The community life of human initiated with the exchange of agro-commodities within families/groups which was marked as the milestone of the event BUSINESS. Agricultural products are the mother commodity of business. In the concept, as agricultural products are still occupying the major portion of the business being the first throughout the world, all the business originated its importance from the agriculture base. Any synthetic commodity may be produced anywhere in the world, but agro-commodities must be produced from raw materials which are ecology based. Thus the agribusiness which means production, transformation and sale of agro-commodities interlinked the whole world for its business giving it very high significance internally for the survival of the human being even for the time to come.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDIES**

The main goal of the research is to reduce the poverty in Bangladesh enhancing agribusiness growth, generating employment and income in the rural areas.

The major objectives as may be straight way mentioned are:

1. To identify the main problems of Agribusiness in Bangladesh.
2. To know the Post harvest parameters to be prioritized in Agribusiness
3. To identify the business to be prioritized in Agribusiness

**METHODOLOGY**

The methods and materials used here to conduct the study are broadly discussed in this chapter formulated as per objectives such as to: Identify the main problems of Agribusiness in Bangladesh, know the Post harvest parameters to be prioritized in agribusiness, and identify the business to be prioritized in agribusiness.

**Approach Methodology**

The whole study will be accomplished under 3 components, such as: 1. Identifying agribusiness constraints, ii. Identifying agribusiness potentials, and iii. Recommending solution. In general, the research plan will be administered in a comprehensive way as each component and sub-component of activity involves multiple factors. The general approach and methodology to achieve the specific project outputs performing the packages and component-based research activities are briefly furnished below sequentially.

The detailed methodology to be adopted to provide assistance and support for realizing the goals and objectives of the study will include thorough analysis of the works to be done. The methods and materials of the study will be meticulously considered in relation to the practical situation and the needs and modes of interventions. The design of the research essentially demands a rigorous field activity and technically oriented procedure entailing focus on agribusiness growth that generates income and employment in rural areas.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

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he results obtained from the studies are presented and discussed in this chapter.

The results are presented here in the forms of tables and graphs. The results are interpreted here under the headings of:

1. Problems of Agribusiness in Bangladesh

2. Techno-economic parameters of Post harvest studies

3. Crop or its step of business

**Problems of Agribusiness in Bangladesh**

The first and the most important objective of the study was to identify the major constraints the removal of which will ease the establishment and development of agribusiness in Bangladesh the studies were planned to be worked with two separate but interrelated groups associated with agribusiness such as are farmer and agribusiness man. The results obtained from the study as regards identification of problems of Agribusiness in Bangladesh are given below in tabular and graphical forms.

**Table 2: Number of respondents stating problems of Agribusiness**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. No market Streaming | b. No Processing Center | c. No Costing pricing | d. Exim-porter unknown | e. Price  Un-controlled |
| 36 | 36 | 12 | 16 | 26 |

The results show that no market streaming and lack of agro-processing centers scored highest by the respondents, the costing pricing was found to be least responded as they do not know the point as there is no national provision or program for the purpose.



**Figure 2: Problem Factors Prioritized by the Respondents Relating to Agribusiness**

The no market streaming and lack of agro-processing centers scored 28% each the least being 10 % for no costing pricing. The problems prioritized by the respondents show that the absence of central streaming market channel and lack of processing centers scored equally 36. The lowest scored was no costing and pricing commission. The respondent reported that they were not aware of such authorities and also they do not know the importers or exporter and the functions and responsibilities of such organizations were not clear as regards their business interest.

**FINDINGS**

The points highlighted by the most respondents are highlighted here. This has been found to be closely linked to the observations made by sectoral resource persons of the Agri-Invest 2003 by BARC-SEDF proceeding, GED and Planning Commission may briefly be mentioned. The agribusiness development potential should give more emphasis on improving price and regulatory environments, creating a contact point for agribusiness administration within MOA including the modality of establishing Agro-export processing zones, organizing agribusiness groups and association, foundation and federation activities, enhancing ICT and ATT research, development of agro-technologies and participation of rural peoples ensuring income generation. Considering all the findings obtained from the appraisal and survey, studies, FGD, PRA, RRA. RPRA etc. from different groups, sectors, levels and professionals, the following points were found to be most important potentials for agribusiness development in Bangladesh.

1. Bangladesh continues to show improved economic growth, GDP increasing by 5.7% in 2005-06 and expected to increase in subsequent years.
2. With the GDP at current prices exceeding Tk. 3,500 billion, the agriculture sector continues to account for 23% of GDP.
3. It is positive as promotion of crop-based agribusiness is likely to benefit the poorer farmers as the suppliers of raw materials.
4. Production of maize and potatoes has increased significantly and these two crops may be reaching a take-off point where commercial production is a possibility.
5. The production of pulses, sugarcane, jute and tobacco may be increased developing sustainable agribusiness in the country.
6. Policies that have specific and positive immediate impacts to agribusiness development for example include the Price policy, Agro-technology transfer and ICT policies, NAP, the fish/livestock Policies as set out in the respective Action Plans and the Strategies, the Industry Policy, the Eximport Policies, the Land Policy, taxation policy and many other related policies.

**SUMMARY**

The summary of the studies done and the suggestive recommendation on the finding s and situation basis (FSB) are briefly mentioned here sequentially. As per objective of research, the summary and recommendations are mentioned i. identification of constraints, ii. Identification of potentials and the final iii. Recommendations given for agribusiness development in Bangladesh. The major constraints and potentials highlighted by the respondent are:

There are numerous constraints to the development and growth of agribusiness enterprises in Bangladesh, as noted above. There are also, however, the constraints and the promising opportunities for the sector are discussed here highlighting most important issues.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Considering all the agribusiness constraints and potentials analyzed, explained and summarized above, the following points mention may be as prime suggestions which will lead to formulate practical recommendations for the development of agribusiness in Bangladesh:

1. Bangladesh continues to show improved economic growth, GDP increasing by 5.7% in 2005-06 and expected to increase in subsequent years. With the GDP at current prices exceeding Tk 3,500 billion, the agriculture sector continues to account for 23% of GDP. Sustainability of product price can ensure this development through a most capable multidisciplinary Agro-tech commission working in the concept of domestic Agro-commodity is the base of all other activities.
2. Production of maize and potatoes has increased significantly and these two crops may be reaching a take-off point where commercial production is a possibility but it is only possible through price stability, increased productivity transferring improved technologies and agro-technical compliance of agriculture ICT.
3. The production of pulses, sugarcane, jute, tea and tobacco need closer attention in respect of Eximport policies and prices, research back up education and training.
4. While Bangladesh has a wide range of but a specific agribusiness policy for government departments is a must for looking after AGRIBUSINESS for the, by the AGRICULTURIST’S.
5. Policies that have specific relevance to agribusiness development include the NAP, land and soil policies, input-output policies, and eximport policies.

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