

SEED WITHOUT BORDERS
Regional Cooperation In Seed Sector:
Present Status and Way Forward

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Few Facts

- Varietal performance depend on agro-ecological condition rather than geographical location
- A number of rice varieties from Bangladesh are widely grown in India
- Swarna (MTU 7029), although never released in Bangladesh, was most popular variety (21% area coverage) in *Aman* season in Bangladesh in 2013.
- Indian rice varieties, Swarna, Sarju 52, Samba Mahsuri and Ranjeet are popular in Nepal terai
- A number of Indian rice varieties are widely grown in Myanmar (e.g. Shwe Myanmar, Yemyokekhan 1, Yezin 2, Yezin 3, CSR 36 etc.)
- A number of Indian rice varieties are being cultivated in Africa

| Varieties may have wide adapted

- Rice variety Swarna-Sub1 is officially released from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia and Myanmar
- Potato variety UNICA is released in Peru, Georgia, China, Tajikistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India and is at advanced stage of release in Uzbekistan, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Seed Policies and Regional Cooperation

Varietal development : **6 to 8 years** / **8 to 10 years for potato**

Varietal evaluation and release : **4 to 5 years**/ **6 to 7 years for potato**

Seed multiplication: **2 to 3 years**/ **4 to 5 years for potato**

Why Cooperation?

- ◆ To speed up the process of varietal release, awareness creation, seed multiplication and varietal out scaling without sacrificing quality.
- ◆ More efficient use of resources.
- ◆ To encourage formal seed system.
- ◆ To promote SRR and varietal turn over.
- ◆ To encourage seed exchange/business.

Regional Workshop for Cooperation on Seed Issues

Dhaka Agreement
(16-17 February 2013)

| Dhaka Agreement (17.02.13)

- Joint varietal evaluation and release.
- Reciprocal recognition of evaluation data for varietal release.
- Reducing time for the evaluation of varieties released in neighbouring countries for similar agro-ecologies.
- Reducing time for evaluation for MAS generated varieties
- Pre-release seed multiplication & promotion.
- Encouraging private sector by providing level playing field.
- Harmonization of seed system.



Regional Workshop for Cooperation on Seed Issues

Kathmandu Agreement
(17-18 October 2014)

Kathmandu Agreement (18.10.2014)

- Three countries agreed to share the evaluation data and varieties released in their respective countries for release and commercialization in other two countries for similar agro ecologies.
- Agreement signed by Bangladesh, India and IRRI extended to Nepal.



L to R : Md. Nazmul Islam, Secretary Agriculture, Bangladesh; Robert S. Zeigler, DG, IRRI; Jaya M. Khanal, Secretary Agriculture, Nepal; Ashish Bahuguna, Secretary Agriculture, India.

Regional Workshop On Seed **Without Borders**

Siem Reap Agreement
(9-10 June 2017)

Siem Reap Agreement (10.06.2017)

- Signed by Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and IRRI in Siem Reap.
- Later on joined by Myanmar and Bhutan.
- Agreement extended beyond rice to include other cereals, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, sugarcane and fiber crops.
- Recognition of each other's seed certification system.



L to R : Additional Secretary Agriculture, Bangladesh; Secretary Agriculture, Cambodia; Secretary Agriculture, India; Director General, IRRI; Secretary Agriculture, Nepal and Secretary Agriculture, Sri Lanka.

Implementation of the agreements

- India notified 10 rice varieties from Bangladesh (Binadhan 11, Binadhan 12, Binadhan 8, Binadhan 10, BRRI dhan 69, Binadhan 17, BRRI dhan 75, BRRI dhan 84, BRRI dhan 99, and BRRI dhan 100) and two from Nepal (Sukha Dhan 5 & Sukha Dhan 6). Some of these (e.g. Binadhan 11, 12 & 17 and BRRI dhan 69) are big success.
- Nepal released three Indian rice varieties (DRR Dhan 44, Ciherang Sub1 & PR 126) . All are doing very well.
- India directly notified one potato variety (*Yusi Maap*) from Bhutan in 2019 saving 8 to 10 years of time. India also imported 10 q breeder seed from Bhutan.
- Several provisions of seed agreements are now part of Nepal & Cambodia seed policies

SWBVs in farmers' field



Courtesy Dr. Swati Nayak

SWBVs in field (*Yusi Maap*)



Courtesy Dr. Minhas, CIP

| Spillover Effect

- During Siem Reap workshop IRRI facilitated Secretary level discussion between Cambodia and India. They agreed to cooperate on various aspects in the field of agriculture including seed
- Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and IRRI jointly organized a training for 20 seed experts, both from public & private sectors, from Cambodia on 'Quality Seed Production, Certification and Quality monitoring' at National Seed Research & Training Centre, Varanasi, India.

Regional Workshop for Cooperation on Seed Issues

Thimphu Agreement
(22-23 November 2022)

Signing of Thimphu Agreement (22 November 2022)



Thimphu Agreement

- **Signatory Countries**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam & IRRI signed as facilitator
- **Observer Countries**: Indonesia, Lao PDR & 8 African countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda & Zambia)
- **Donors Participation**: ACIAR, ADB, ADBI, BMGF, IFAD, JICA, KOIKA, World Bank
- **Others**: BIMSTEC, Syngenta Foundation, MAHYCO (FSII)

Thimphu Agreement

- Establishment of Nodal cell by each country for the coordination of the agreement
- In addition to existing crops (i.e. rice and other cereals, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, sugarcane and fibre crops), inclusion of roots and tuber crops and fruit crops
- Inclusion of additional countries (Fiji, Philippines & Vietnam)
- Inclusion of varieties developed by private sector
- Agreed to work towards implementation of other provisions of the Dhaka agreement, particularly on the joint varietal evaluation and release
- Develop a database of varieties of different crops from signatory countries for sharing with the group

Thimphu Agreement

- Expansion of the scope of the seed agreement to strengthen the seed system, varietal improvement and capacity building to support the food and nutritional securities in member countries
- Mobilization of resources through proposals to secure funding from international donors to support the objectives of the agreement
- Formation of a joint committees consisting of experts from the signatory countries & IRRI to suggest methods and modalities for implementing the different agenda items. IRRI acting as facilitator.
- Organize follow-up meetings at regular intervals to review the progress and take action to resolve the problems, if any

Acknowledgement

- . **ACIAR**

- . **ADBI**

- . **BMGF**

- . **IFAD**

- . **USAID**

- . **CIP** (Helped in convincing Philippines & Vietnam)

- . **World Bank** (Pursuing with African Countries)

THANK YOU!

