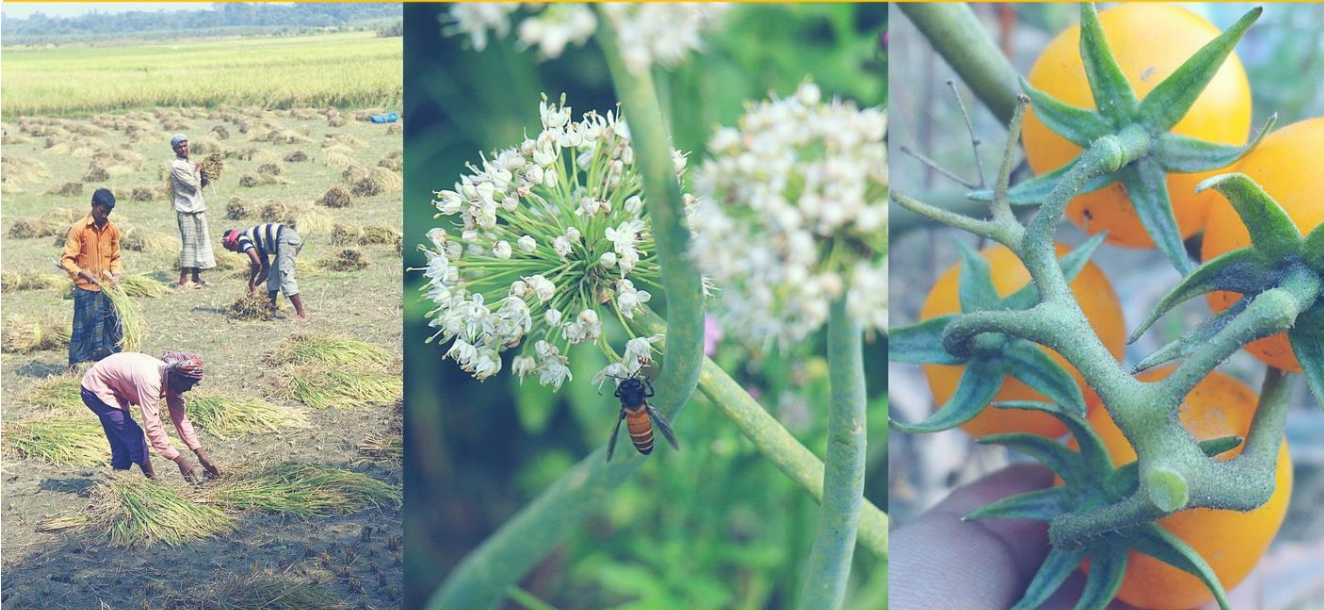


WORKSHOP REPORT

**YPARD-INGENAES
Workshop:
Setting Up an
Agriculture for
Nutrition (Ag4N)
Platform in
Bangladesh**

"EMPOWER THE YOUTH, BRING THE CHANGE DESIRED"



She-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU),
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207,
20th May 2017

WORKSHOP REPORT

YPARD-INGENAES Workshop: Setting Up an Agriculture for Nutrition (Ag4N) Platform in Bangladesh

Jointly Organised by



YPARD Bangladesh



**INGENAES: Integrating Gender and
Nutrition within Agricultural Extension
Services**



**Bangladesh Institute of ICT in
Development (BIID)**

Funded by



**United States Agency for International
Development**

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She-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, 20th
May 2017

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1. Background

Food and nutritional security present a global challenge. They are seen as major obstacles within the many initiatives and programs aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. With the world's eighth largest population, Bangladesh has also put priority action on food and nutritional security.

Under this circumstance, the Bangladesh chapter of Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD Bangladesh, www.ypard.net) strongly sees the necessity to work on nutrition-sensitive agriculture along with young professionals and youthful minds around the country.

YPARD Bangladesh with support from INGENAES, (Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services) which is a USAID funded project, will work together to address this issue. To this end, the urge of this initiative is for scientists, experts, researchers, students and young professionals who are working on nutrition-based agriculture in the country to establish a National Network on Agriculture for Nutrition (Ag4N). The respective experts feel that networking will create a platform to share information and knowledge that might be a great support for identifying the challenges of food and nutritional security in the country as well as develop sustainable solutions for it. Moreover, this networking community will cooperate in national development activities through participating in policy level while promoting and bringing opportunity for youth to with innovative ideas at the national level.

2. Objectives

The primary aim of this workshop was to establish a National Network on Agriculture for Nutrition (Ag4N) where scientists, experts, researchers, students and young professionals from respective areas will assist each other to generate mutual benefits. The workshop further aims at the following which would be manageable through this network:

- a) Promote and strengthen YPARD.
- b) Develop a valuable and concrete activity for YPARD.
- c) Make progress on developing Ag4N platform in Bangladesh.
- d) Learn a project/ activity / initiative planning tool = P2P + RACI
- e) Become a 'National Think Tank' in this area.
- f) Create linkage between people of the same interest in nutrition and agriculture.
- g) Share knowledge and exchange information between the members of this network.
- h) Develop and find the scope of capacity building in this area for the members.
- i) Find opportunity and participate in national policy issues as well as in global perspectives.

- j) Develop networking and communication system between the members to create a sustainable national movement.
- k) Initiate project, research, volunteer activities etc. in this area on mutual interest.

3. Expected result of the workshop

The expected result of the workshop programme was to enhance networking and practices among the professionals and practitioners in nutrition and agriculture to address food security and achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs). Thereby, assisting the sector will ultimately help to reduce the health burdens and ensure smooth development in nutrition-sensitive agriculture of the country.

Furthermore, the workshop was expected to result in the following:

- Increased awareness regarding the importance of communication and networking to address nutrition and food security.
- Building a constructive and active platform for professionals, students and practitioners to share knowledge on agriculture and nutrition base.
- Identifying the gaps and barriers in promoting the National Network on Agriculture for Nutrition (Ag4N).
- Encouraging the youthful minds to engage more on such initiatives for addressing nutrition and food security.
- Inspired the professionals for starting innovative projects, research's, volunteer activities in respective fields.

4. Workshop programme

Workshop Schedule	
Date: Saturday, 20th May, 2017	
Venue: Conference Room at VC's office, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
Time	Agendas
11:45	Registration of participants
12:00	An introductory speech by Mr. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID)
12:10	A presentation about YPARD by Dr. Susmita Das, Senior Documentation Officer, Bangladesh Agriculture Council (BARC)
12:30	Introductory session among the participants and the chief facilitator chief facilitator Andrea B. Bohn , member of the AgReach Team and Associated Director of INGENAES- University of

	Illinois, Urbana-Champaign program
12:45- 13:30	First session of the workshop focusing on PURPOSE of the P2P cycle
13:30- 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00- 16:00	Continued 2 nd session discussion with the other 4 steps of the cycle
16:00- 16:15	Tea Break
16:15	Continued the 3 rd session discussion
16:30-17:00	Wrapping up and agreeing on who does what as next steps!
17:00-17:15	Closing speech by the special guest Dr. Sekander Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor of SAU
17:15	End of the Program

5. List of participants

The workshop was very well attended. There were 23 participants at the workshop. The participants were invited from government and non-government organisations, research institutions, universities, etc. who are involved in the field of agriculture and nutrition. Several scientists, experts, researchers, students and young professionals who are working in the agriculture sector participated in the workshop.

The Lead facilitator for the workshop was **Andrea B. Bohn**, a member of the AgReach Team and Associated Director of INGENAES- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign program. The workshop was formally inaugurated by Mr. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID). F.M. Safiul Azam, Country Representative of YPARD, was in total coordination of organising this workshop.

The workshop was delighted by the pleasant presence of Pro-Vice Chancellor of SAU, Dr. Sekander Ali, Associate Professor Abu Noman Faruq Ahmmed from SAU, the BIID team member Ms. Sumaiya Nour, core-team members of YPARD, namely Dr. Susmita Das, Md. Arif Kahn, Mostak Ahmed and Md. Mahbubur Rahman.

A list of all the participants is given below:

Name of the participants	Designation and organizations/ institutions
1. Mohammad Khurshid Alam	Senior Scientific Officer, Tuber Crops Research Center, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
2. Anwarul Alam	Head of Agriculture, Private Sector Initiative for mAgri support WinMiaki
3. Bidyuth K. Mahalder	Chief of Party, USAID Agricultural Extension Support Activity (AESAs) Project, Dhaka

4. Mostak Ahmed Emon	Program Assistant, Euglena GENKI Program Euglena Co. Ltd.
5. Abu Noman Faruq Ahmmed	Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
6. Mohammad Abdul Momin	Senior Liaison Officer, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Gazipur, Bangladesh
7. Syed Nur-A-Alam Siddique	Project Manager, Max Foundation
8. Abdullah Al Mamun	Director (in charge), Agricultural Sciences Division, Rural Development Academy, Bogra
9. Md. Arif Hossain	Lead, Bangladesh Alliance for Science & Visiting Fellow at Cornell University, Communication Officer, Feed the Future South Asia Eggplant Improvement Partnership
10. Md. Mahbub Alam, PhD	AIRN Supply Chain Advisor, USAID-AIP, Dhaka, funded by USAID, implemented by CNFA
11. Mohammad Monirul Hasan	Junior Researcher, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany
12. Syed Raju Ali	GEB Lab, Dept. of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
13. Md. Maksudul Haque	Scientific Officer (Golden Rice) (Rice Breeder), Plant Breeding Division, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)
14. Muhammad Abdur Rahaman	Director, Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation Experiment & Training (CAMET) Park, Noakhali, Bangladesh
15. Durlave Roy	Manager R & D, Northern Agro Services Ltd, Dhaka, Bangladesh
16. Muhammad Ashraful Habib	IRRI Bangladesh Office.
17. Shamim Reja	International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)
18. Shanta Islam Pinkey	MS Student, Dept. of Agronomy, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh
19. Rafia Rahman	MS Student, Dept. of Agroforestry, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh
20. Md. Tajul Islam Chanchal	MS Student, Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka
21. Md. Salekin Hasan	MS Student, National University
22. Dr. Habibul Bari Shajib	BRRI
23. Suman Ahmed	AEO, DAE, MoA

6. List of distinguished guests present during the opening and closing session of the workshop

Guest Type	Name of the Guest
Special Guest	Mr. Shahid Uddin Akbar Executive Director, Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID)
Chief Guest	Dr. Sekander Ali Pro-Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka
Honorary Guest	Abu Noman Faruq Ahmmed Associate professor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka

7. List of Organizers and Supporters of the Programme

Name	Designation
F.M. Safiul Azam	Country Representative of YPARD Bangladesh
Dr. Susmita Das	Core Team Member, YPARD Bangladesh
Md. Arif Khan	Core Team Member, YPARD Bangladesh
Mustak Ahmed	Core Team Member, YPARD Bangladesh
Papia Jahan	Core Team Member, YPARD Bangladesh
Md. Mahbubur Rahman	Communication Intern, YPARD Bangladesh
Sumaiya Nour	Member, BIID

8. Facilitator

Name	Designation
Andrea B. Bohn	Associated Director of INGENAES- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign program.

9. Methodology

The workshop programme used the two-way communication approach where the facilitator and the participants are both actively involved in the workshop. This half-day workshop covered both theoretical and practical aspects of good service practices toward setting up an agriculture for nutrition (Ag4N) platform in Bangladesh. In that place were various practical

sessions held to receive hands-on demonstrations about communication and agriculture. Participants took a keen interest in practical work to acquire hands-on experience in networking on agriculture for nutrition (Ag4N) practices in Bangladesh. There were very interesting discussions during the workshop on how this knowledge based platform could be utilised for networking and sharing best practices for ensuring nutrition and food security to meet sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the country. However, the overall workshop mainly focused on PURPOSE of the P2P cycle.

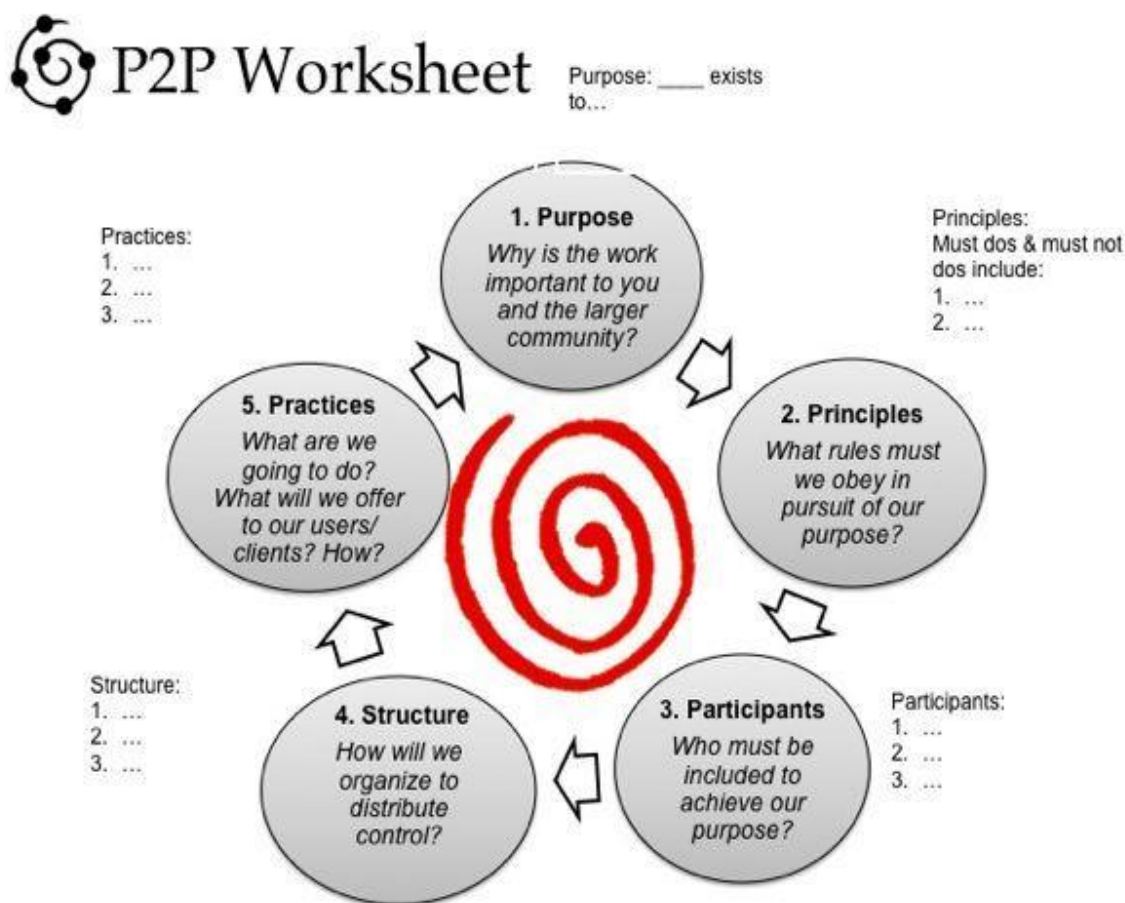


Figure 1: P2P Cycle

10. Description of the workshop sessions

Saturday, on 20th May 2017, at She-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) in Dhaka, participants of the YPARD-INGENAES Workshop aimed at marking up an agriculture for nutrition (Ag4N) platform in Bangladesh had presented their thoughts and ideas. In the

workshop, Mr. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) delivered an introductory lecture and was accompanied by a presentation about the background, mission and vision of YPARD by Dr. Susmita Das, Senior Documentation Officer, Bangladesh Agriculture Council (BARC). During the presentation, Dr. Susmita while saying that she as a YPARD member is looking forward to doing more work that could helpful for addressing SDGs urged all the participants to register themselves as YPARD members and invited them to actively participate and involve in national and global activities. The chief facilitator Andrea B. Bohn, member of the AgReach Team and Associated Director of INGENAES-University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign program conducted the main session of the workshop focusing on PURPOSE of the P2P cycle (Purpose, principles, participants, structure and practices) to generate ideas and goals for future perspectives and finding ways to reach the vision of this network to work as a Think Tank.

Mr. F.M. Safiul Azam, Country Representative of YPARD in Bangladesh had coordinated the workshop and had taken up the challenge to increase YPARD membership from Bangladesh to 2017 by the end of this year 2017.

The workshop was delighted by the pleasant presence of Pro-Vice Chancellor of SAU, Dr. Sekander Ali, Associate professor Abu Noman Faruq Ahmmed. The BIID team member Ms. Sumaiya Nour, and the YPARD core-team members Md. Arif Khan, Mustak Ahmed, Papia Jahan and YPARD intern Md. Mahbubur Rahman worked for the successful organisation of the workshop in which Young professionals from National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and Bangladesh Agricultural University, She-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Department of Agricultural Extension and from other institutes/universities had participated.



11. Key outcomes of discussions of different sessions

A. Purpose of the Ag4N Platform at YPARD

- Encourage youth involvement in nutrition based agriculture practice.
- Creating awareness about food security and nutrition to the community.
- Sharing knowledge and resources to take initiative for future nutrition management in Bangladesh.
- Build awareness among stakeholders.
- Networking, knowledge and technology dissemination.
- To disseminate what we have for Ag4N platform.
- To encourage young people to engage more in such platform.
- To promote nutrition sensitive knowledge to mass people.
- To incorporate civil society and policy makers to the platform.
- To promote WASH-nutrition services to mass people.
- To get small research funding from YPARD or associated institutions.
- To share knowledge and exchange idea among the wider audience to achieve development goals through sustainable agriculture intensification.
- To build a network with the involvement of relevant stakeholder to ensure nutritional security.
- Engagement with GOs and NGOs, private sectors and professionals for launching agriculture based nutrition movement in the country for making this knowledge sharing platform successful.

B. Principles of the Ag4N Platform at YPARD

- The interested members should be agreed with the vision of the YPARD Bangladesh.
- Promoting YPARD to international forum and raise the voice to make the change for future agricultural world.
- YPARD will be acknowledged and named as youth group, but it should be open to all aged people for ensuring the engagement of varied people for exchange ideas across the border.
- Activities should not only be limited within the forum.
- Once becoming a YPARD member, one should have access to all the resources.
- Senior members can be act as mentor to junior members.
- The validation scheme should be subjected to best/popular agricultural or nutritional activities.
- All resources should be made openly accessible, but it will be available only when one sign up for the membership.
- Social media can be used to for connecting community people.
- Election among members can be considered to select the steering committee.
- There should have equal access of resources to all members.
- Women participation must be ensured.
- Community involvement should be encouraged.
- It should be a collaborative approach.
- Inspirational stories and examples should be highlighted and promoted.
- Ownership and active participation should be considered.
- This platform should promote creativity and innovation.
- Young professionals should be engaged and will get preference to engage in this platform.
- It will be a platform to share, access and disseminate among all stakeholders.

C. Participants of the Ag4N Platform at YPARD

Participants can be categorized into following types:

- I. **Core group:** Youth from diversified background, professionals and institutions such as schools, colleges, universities.
- II. **Advisory group:** Think tanks from nationally and internationally recognized people in agriculture and nutrition field such as scientists, researchers, teachers, professionals etc.
- III. **Mentor group:** Socially reputed and knowledgeable persons in agriculture and nutrition sector such as academicians, scientists, researchers etc.
- IV. **Young ambassador:** The young celebrities will be under the platform to advocate.
- V. **Beneficiary group:** participants to be chosen from agricultural producers, traders, and consumers vulnerable to nutrition and food security.
- VI. **Campus Ambassadors and campus groups:** Ambassadors should be recruited from different universities who will be responsible for campus based representative groups and activities.
- VII. **Professional groups:** Professionals such as economists, agriculturists, sociologists etc.
- VIII. **Community groups:** Community based organizations, societies, committees and groups such as farmer groups, religious groups etc.
- IX. **Practitioner groups:** Representatives from GOs, NGOs, private sectors etc.
- X. **Policy makers:** Government, policy makers, donor or sponsors agencies etc.
- XI. **Research groups:** Researchers, research institutions and extension workers.

D. Structure of the Ag4N Platform at YPARD

A formal structure for the platform based on different committees following a descending order can be considered where members of the higher committee will automatically be the member of the subsequent committees. The structure is given below:

- I. A National committee
- II. A Divisional committee
- III. A District committee
- IV. A Sub-district committee and
- V. A Union committee

Each committee should be consisting of following committees or units as follows

a) Advisory board committee: It should be a good governance body consisting of internationally and locally recognised persons in following heads:

- Advisors
- Critics
- Mentors
- Funders

b) Executive board committee: It should be consisting of followings:

- Team manager/ leader: He will be responsible for coordination and monitoring of all the committees.
- Knowledge manager: He will be responsible for educational and contents related to the forum.
- Fund raising manager: He will be responsible for fund raising committee and fund-raising activities and budgeting.
- Media manager: He will be responsible for media and communication related activities such as reporting on various events, writing press releases, maintaining social media (Facebook, twitter, LinkedIn etc.)
- Creative designer and Digital content manager: He will be responsible for managing digital contents such as website, newsletter, user forum, blog, group mailing, webinar, ensuring digital security (prevent hacking and backup system), virtual group etc.
- Outreach manager: He will be responsible for new member recruitment, volunteer hiring, and organizing seminars, workshops, symposiums, Olympiads, campaigns, and maintaining university hubs
- Publication manager: He will be responsible for publication related activities.

E. Practices of the Ag4N Platform at YPARD

The following practices can be considered:

- I. **Knowledge creation:** Collection of information (traditional/ scientific) individually or collectively from different sources.
- II. **Knowledge internalization:** Share the collected knowledge within the group and other relevant stakeholders to make it concise.
- III. **Knowledge updating:** Establish intra and inter working group for producing a quality and competent knowledge product.
- IV. **Knowledge sharing:** Sharing of produced knowledge materials through different agents, means and tools.
- V. **Knowledge conservation:** Conserve the gathered knowledge and information hub which is accessible to others.
- VI. **Use of individual channels:** Increase participation by individual channels.
- VII. **University hubs:** Establish university hubs and linkages. Target at least four university per year.
- VIII. **Research opportunities:** Creating cross cutting research opportunities.
- IX. **Relevant institutes/ universities:** Establish relevant institutes/ universities.
- X. **Member recruitment:** Raising members of YPARD.
- XI. **Publications:** Make Publications in the form of newsletter, bulletin, report etc.
- XII. **Organize events:** Organize events such as workshops, conferences, trainings etc.
- XIII. **Recognition:** Recognize best activists within the forum.
- XIV. **National competition:** Organize inter-university national idea competition on nutrition and agriculture. (\$ 500+300+100 find sponsor)
- XV. **Youth leadership programme:** Launch youth oriented eldership programs.
- XVI. **Organizational hub:** A network of small YPARD groups can be created within different organizations.
- XVII. **Access of contents:** Contents should be made easily accessible to users.
- XVIII. **Publication opportunities:** Users should provide publication opportunities.
- XIX. **Discussion forum:** a discussion forum with young students/professionals can be introduced.
- XX. **Promotional activities:** The platform should be promoted through social media and other communications.
- XXI. **Quality check:** Regular quality check of publications should be considered.

12. Feedback and evaluation by participants

Dr. Susmita Das, Senior Documentation Officer of Bangladesh Agriculture Council (BARC) in his speech addressing the YPARD and its Bangladesh chapter said,

“YPARD is a movement by youth, for youth and for agricultural development. YPARD emerged as a supporting platform for the youth working in agriculture sector as they need to participate and commit, access professional opportunities, they need to be given voice to share their thoughts, they may be interested in agricultural education which will help them to initiate sustainable agriculture practice in the future. Hence, YPARD and YPARD Bangladesh are there to help all the youthful minds to make their dreams come true.”

Mr. Muhammad Abdur Rahaman who is the Director, Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation Experiment & Training (CAMET) Park said that,

“Ag4N network may play a vital role in climate change resilient agricultural development with the active participation of youth. Promoting youth initiative like research, publication, capacity building, dissemination on climate resilient agriculture will help climate resilient agricultural development on one side and youth engagement in climate change intervention through recognising their effort and innovation on another hand. As a knowledge generation platform, youth will be benefitted from Ag4N though receive recognition of their innovations in where the network will act as change advocate.”

The chief facilitator **Andrea B. Bohn** said,

“I am happy to see young people from Bangladesh roaming here to contribute in developing the agriculture sector of the country as well as showing their commitment for establishing agriculture for nutrition (Ag4N) platform in Bangladesh. I hope YPARD Bangladesh will continue to encourage these youthful minds to fasten their proactive activities to ensure nutrition and food security of the country to meet the sustainable development goals (SDGs). If there is any need for any support from my side I am ready to contribute. I will also be happy to sponsor a prize for any competition organized by YPARD.”

Shanta Islam Pinkey a MS Student of the Department of Agronomy of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh attended the workshop. She has shared his experience with other participants. She quoted that,

“I'm really glad to participate this workshop. It was a great opportunity to learn and practice new ideas, sharing etc. It was really an innovative workshop. It would be better if YPARD keeps arranging this type of workshop and apply the findings (Ideas, planning, objective) of the workshop in the

agriculture sector. And if YPARD provides this opportunity for youth then it will be helpful for improvement of Agriculture sector in our country.”

Another student named **Rafia Rahman** from the Bangladesh Agricultural University also shared her feelings. She has said that,

“It was nice to join the workshop. However, I was not much familiar with YPARD before going to that workshop and its activities as well as how youth people can be involved with YPARD. It was really an amazing workshop. And, I also want to mention that the YPARD is a great platform for networking among the youth leaders who are now involved in many organizations to ensure a nutrition-sensitive agriculture as well as food security for the people around the world. I am very happy to be a member of YPARD and involved with its activities.”

One of the participants, **Mr. Md. Maksudul Haque**, Scientific Officer of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) said,

“I am lucky to have the chance to attend this knowledge sharing workshop and join the YPARD platform. There is need for more platforms like this in Bangladesh. I will encourage my colleagues from my office to join this platform.”

The Pro-vice Chancellor of She-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU), **Dr. Sekander Ali** said,

“I am happy to host and attend such a wonderful and fruitful workshop in our university premises. There is more need of such programmes which can involve more youths and help them to improve their professional skills. I hope that YPARD Bangladesh will organize such events more and more in future and we will welcome them to our campus to arrange this kind of programs in our university.”

13. Few limitations of the programme

Some limitations of the programme were noticeable, which needs to be addressed in the upcoming events. Few of them are mentioned below:

- The workshop started few minutes late as all the participants were not present in due time. Next time attendance of the participants few minutes before the event should be made mandatory.
- The discussion on introductory presentation delivered by Dr. Susmita Das was quite lengthy which was also noticed by the chief facilitator. It should be concise thinking about the time given for that specific presentation.

- Young participants demanded certificates for participation. Certification of participants should be considered to encourage young minds.

14. Workshop recommendations

The suggestions from the workshop are as follows:

- Knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination, knowledge updating, and knowledge conservation.
- Recognition of best activists and best activities.
- Introduce inter-university competition to showcase ideas and accomplishments.
- Promotion of the platform through social media and other communications tools.
- Increase participation by individual channels.
- Establish university based hubs and make linkages.
- A network of YPARD units can be created within different organizations/institutions.
- Provide publication opportunities.
- Organize workshops, conferences, trainings etc.
- Creating cross-cutting research opportunities.
- Provide access to contents to users and publication opportunities.
- Initiate Youth leadership development programs.
- Starting discussion forums with young students and professionals.
- Regular quality check of all the existing activities.

15. Follow-up action plan

This workshop programme was a part of the initiative for Introducing an agriculture for nutrition (Ag4N) platform in Bangladesh. It is expected that this practice will be starting soon in the country and the results of the workshop will be evaluated. A coordination committee is required for monitoring and successful implementation of all the relevant activities. The coordination committee will ensure that the objectives of the workshop programme are met and will produce a follow-up report after finalisation of the workshop programme.

16. Few snaps of the day!





