

# Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra

## To pay homage and respect to Father of The Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

To pay homage and respect to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the Mural Complex of Father of the Nation was established in RDA Premises. Internationally renowned Sculpture Artist Mr. Mrinal Haque is the designer of the Mural. H.E Khandker Mosharraf Hossain MP, Hon'ble Minister for Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives inaugurated the Mural Complex on 11 February 2017. After the liberation war, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra allocating Tk. 2.6 crore in the 1st five year plan of the newly independent Bangladesh. Therefore, RDA is considered as one of the prime development land mark made by the Father of the Nation.

## INTRODUCTION

Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra was established on 19 June 1974 as a specialized national institution engaged in rural development related training, research and action research. It also provides advisory services and offers post graduate diploma. Since last four decades RDA has gained a strong reputation in rural development field and has provided an active link between its academic ventures and the application of research findings at a practical field. This has been viewed by the concerned experts and policy makers and reflected by achieving several national and international recognitions.

## POLICY PROFILE

The Board of Governors (BoG) is the apex policy body of RDA represented from the policy makers, high-level administrators, academicians and development professionals of the country. The BoG determines policies, approves annual overall activities and endorses functional agenda of RDA.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### Chairperson

Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP  
Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives

### Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Md. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MP  
Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives

### Government Nominated Members

Mr. Md. Habibar Rahman, MP  
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bogra-5

Mr. Md. Abdur Rahim  
Secretary (Rtd.)

### Members

Sr. Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration  
Sr. Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance  
Sr. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture  
Secretary, RDCD, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives  
Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives  
Vice-Chancellor, BAU, Mymensingh  
Member, Planning Commission  
Rector, BPATC, Savar Dhaka  
Director General, BRDB  
Director General, BARD, Comilla  
Commissioner, Rajshahi Division  
Director General and Registrar, Department of Cooperatives  
Director, IBS, Rajshahi University  
Director General, NILG

### Member Secretary

Director General, RDA, Bogra

## MINISTRY

Rural Development & Cooperative Division  
Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives

## VISION

RDA has an established track record as a leading institute for training, research, action research, and field implementation. In course of its past operations, RDA has attained more technical and social skills and expertise in rural development experiments. In this context, RDA wants to pursue the process of further operations to become a Centre of Excellence for Rural Development.

## MISSION

RDA is engaged to deliver sustainable rural development through innovation and practices. The academy contributes to:

- develop and disseminate models, technologies and approaches to address the rural development challenges;
- enhance capacity of rural development experts, practitioners, and change agents;
- promote climate change resilient development;
- reduce poverty; and
- promote gender parity and women's empowerment.

## VALUES

Since 1974 RDA has grown in terms of both volume of operations and quality of overall performance backed by certain values upheld by its faculty and staff. These values are:

**Accountability:** Accountability to stakeholders is currently exercised mostly through the Board of Governors, Annual Planning Conference and regular faculty council meetings.

**Innovativeness:** RDA has a track record for innovation in the field of rural development.

**Team spirit:** Team spirit of RDA is evident through its team work and participation on technology development, informal sharing and support on and off the job.

## RDA CENTRES

RDA has established seven research centres having approval of the Board of Governors of RDA. The main purpose of these Centres are to sustain the previous development initiatives and create opportunities for wider dissemination of green technologies/models developed by RDA.

1. Centre for Irrigation and Water Management (CIWM)
2. Chars Development Research Centre (CDRC)
3. Seed and Biotechnology Centre (SBC)
4. Cattle Research and Development Centre (CRDC)
5. Renewable Energy Research Centre (RERC)
6. Community Development Centre (CDC)
7. Palli Pathshala Research Centre (PPRC)

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Despite its reputation for green innovations and project implementation, many RDA developed models and innovations have already been extended in wider community. To achieve its vision RDA has six strategic goals.

### Goal-1

Sustainable Rural Development

Emphasis is given such aspects as: community participation for innovation and sustainable development; public-private partnership approach; eco-friendliness and importance of ICT for rural development.

### **Goal-2**

#### **Leadership and Change Agents**

Address the need for new leadership and change agents catering to contemporary and projected needs in rural development programme.

### **Goal-3**

#### **Climate Resilience**

RDA conducts research on, among other issues, how climate change influences various rural development initiatives and suggests ways to adapt the climate change challenges.

### **Goal-4**

#### **Alleviation of Rural Poverty**

RDA already achieved noticeable success through development of innovative ideas. These development models disseminated by government and non-governmental organizations. In these line different Centres has been established to enhance these activities despite the core programme of RDA.

### **Goal-5**

#### **Women's Empowerment**

RDA takes measures, within its mandated activities for enhancing participation of women in the areas of training, research and action research towards mainstreaming gender in all areas of development.

### **Goal-6**

#### **Transformation**

To transform to vibrant and more dynamic autonomous institution RDA will continue its efforts.

## **MANDATED FUNCTIONS**

### **Training**

RDA facilitates, organizes and provides training for rural development. RDA provides training in the field of rural development from farmer's level to high officials.

#### **Training Category:**

- Skill development training
- Management training
- Foundation training
- Internship
- RDA technology extension
- International training
- Seminar/ Workshop

### **Research**

Research is one of the major mandated functions of RDA. It conducts research focused on rural problems and find out solutions for wellbeing of rural people. The findings of these researches are extensively used mainly as training materials and formulation of action research projects. The specific purpose of research undertaken by the Academy has strategic implication in policy formulation of the government for agriculture rural development.

### **Action Research**

Action research is one of the major mandated functions of RDA. The academy conducts action research to evolve replicable rural development models since its inception, the academy has conducted a good number of action research covering a wide range of areas related to agriculture and rural development.

### **Advisory Services**

RDA Provides advisory services in formulation, implementation and evaluation of rural development policies and programmes. RDA also provides technical assistance in project implementation.

## **PGDRD**

Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development (PGDRD) is a one year diploma programme jointly organized with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Gazipur. PGDRD curriculum covers a wide range of topic under the following heads:

- Soft skill
- Managerial skill
- Technical skill and
- Internship

## **Green RDA Clean RDA**

RDA is located 16 km away from the vibrant heart of Bogra city the Sathmatha and 200 km from Dhaka on the Bogra-Dhaka highway. The campus is surrounded by nursery, herbal garden, playground, RDA laboratory school & college and hostels. Rich biodiversity, picturesque surroundings with lakes, over hanging trees alive with chirping of birds and lush green rice fields, splendor of the panoramic beauty of RDA. All these make the campus-ever endearing to the youth.

The green and serene environment of the campus offers a very congenial academic atmosphere. The campus is equipped with high speed Wi-Fi internet facility and connected with national web portal.

## **CAMPUS FACILITIES**

As a national academy for rural development, RDA offers an excellent academic environment with all modern facilities spread all over the campus aimed at creating a Centre of Excellence in the rural development arena.

## **TRAINING FACILITIES**

For organizing training, workshop, seminar and conference, there are five session rooms and five air conditioned conference rooms having 50-100 seating capacity each. Besides, a well-equipped air-conditioned auditorium with 1000+ capacities and IT centre auditorium with 150 capacities provides added advantage for organizing larger and medium sized events. A well-equipped audio-visual unit provides audio-visual support particularly for training related activities. RDA is equipped with two heavy duty generators for ensuring 24-hour uninterrupted electricity supply to the campus.

## **Self-Service Cafeteria**

There are four large cafeteria halls at RDA that supply regular meal to the trainees and visitors. About 700+ persons can be served with meal at a time in these cafeterias. Arrangement for banquet is also available on prior reservation. Safe drinking water is ensured in cafeteria water supply outlets.

## **Accommodation Facilities**

RDA provides boarding facilities to the participants of different residential training courses. RDA also maintains a modern guest house and an international guest house within the campus.

RDA Provides four types of accommodation facilities;

- **Dormitories (Non A/C):** There are five dormitories including a ladies dorm having total 450 seat capacities.
- **Guest house (A/C):** The guest house provides 60 accommodation facilities for guests coming to the academy.
- **International guest house (A/C):** Having 131 seat capacity.
- **Self-help Den (Non A/C):** To implement the self-help training programme a specialized self-help building provides accommodation for self-help groups.
- **Health and Nutrition Centre:** To ensure primary medical support to the trainees and employees, RDA runs a health and nutrition centre consisting of a three-bed hospital and almost all common diagnostic facilities under the supervision of a qualified doctor.

## **Mosque**

In the heart of the campus, there is a mosque built in an architectural design of Islamic heritage offers prayer facilities.

### **ICT Lab. & Video Conferencing Facilities**

The Academy has an ICT lab. equipped with all state of the art appliances. The lab. also offers internet facilities. The lab. also provides video conferencing facility for distance learning and to arrange large conference over internet. RDA is equipped with high speed internet connection with Wi-Fi facilities.

### **Sports Complex**

Within its lush-green environment RDA offers a good deal of sports facilities to the trainees, residents and visitors which include indoor games facilities, football ground, volleyball, basketball, badminton and tennis court, children's park and swimming pool.

### **Post Office and Bank**

There is a post office, two banks and three ATM booths within RDA campus.

### **Day Care Centre**

RDA operates a Day Care Centre for children of female participants and staff of the academy.

### **Library and Documentation Wing**

RDA has a resourceful air-conditioned library having more than 30,000 titles of accessions containing books, magazines, journals and other national and international publications. These provide to the learning need of trainees as well as trainers and researchers. A part of the library is used as documentation wing for preservation, distribution and marketing of RDA research publications.

### **Residential Facilities**

Adequate residential quarters have been built-up in RDA campus for the faculty members and staff including Director General's bungalow.

### **RDA Demonstration Farm**

RDA Demonstration Farm occupies about 29.5 hectares of land mainly for experimenting and demonstrating new technologies. The farm runs under eight specialized production units- Crop unit, Horticulture nursery unit, Poultry unit, Dairy unit, Fisheries unit, Bio-technology unit, Farm power machinery unit & Agro-products processing and marketing unit. Besides, all the units are used as training ground for academy run skill development training and agricultural research. In addition, there are soil, plant and water testing lab. glass house, germ plasm repository and a huge collection of herbal plants.

### **RDA Laboratory School and College**

RDA Laboratory School and College is a unique concept of rural development where most of the students come from marginalized rural families. Apart from its four storied existing building, a ten storied building and a girls' dormitory are now under construction.

## **GREEN INNOVATIONS**

RDA develops replicable rural development models through conducting action research. Most of these green innovations/models are addressed to climate resilience, environment friendly gender sensitive, livelihoods, community engagement and SDG.

**For more detail please visit:** <http://www.rda.gov.bd>

## **NATIONAL AWARDS**

### **Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1415 (G)**

Citation: The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh confirmed the highest national award in agricultural sector- Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1415 (Gold Medal) to Mr. M.A. Matin a dedicated Agriculture Engineer of RDA for developing and disseminating several environment friendly agricultural technologies.

### **Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1417 (B)**

Citation: The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh confirmed the highest national award in agricultural sector- Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1417 to Dr. AKM Zakaria an innovative

Agricultural Scientist of RDA for creating long lasting awareness among the rural women and farmers through ICT based agriculture and rural development initiatives.

#### **Independence Award, 2004**

Citation: The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh confirmed Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, the highest national award- Independence Award, 2004 for extra-ordinary contribution in the field of rural development, more specifically in irrigation command area extension up to four fold through buried pipe, innovation of multipurpose use of low cost DTW, development of arsenic-free safe water supply plant and development of technical protocol for commercial hybrid maize seed production in Bangladesh.

#### **HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Award- 2011**

Citation: Honkong-Shanghai Bank and the Daily Star confirmed Climate Award, 2011 to Dr. AKM Zakaria of RDA for enabling rural women to fight poverty through eco-friendly, efficient and commercially viable seed production, preservation and marketing skills.

#### **ITEB Leadership Award 2011**

Citation: Institute of trade engineers Bangladesh confirmed Dr. AKM Zakaria the food and agriculture award, 2011 for his outstanding contribution and leadership in rural development.

#### **Food & Agriculture Award, Oxfam-GB, 2011**

Citation: Oxfam-Great Britain and Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) confirmed Food & Agriculture Award-2011 to Dr. AKM Zakaria of RDA for pioneering use of ICT in agricultural development of Bangladesh.

### **INTERNATIONAL AWARDS**

#### **International Communication Award**

IVCA, London 2004

Citation-1: International Visual Communication Association (IVCA), London confirmed International Communication Award- 2004 to Dr. AKM Zakaria from RDA for developing women to women extension model through digital video ICT approach.

#### **African-Asian Rural Development Award**

AARDO, Delhi 2012

Citation-2: The African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Delhi confirmed African-Asian Rural Development Award-2012 to Rural Development Academy, Bogra for its extra ordinary contribution in rural development. Mr. M. A. Matin of RDA received the Award in presence of Indian Prime minister in a ceremony held in Delhi.

#### **Flame Award Asia**

RMAI, Delhi 2016

Citation: The Rural Marketing Association of India (RMAI) confirmed Dr. AKM Zakaria from RDA for mainstreaming rural women in commercial seed sector in Bangladesh.

#### **Technology Patent**

Citation: The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is pleased to order by these presents that Mr. Md. M. A. Matin of Rural Development Academy, Bogra shall, subject to the provisions of the Patents and Designs Act, 1911, as patentee have the exclusive privilege of making, selling and using the invention Patent-1 Low-cost Deep Tube Well (DTW) Technology for Multipurpose Use and Patent-2 Improvement in relation to safe drinking water throughout Bangladesh and authorizing others so to do for the term of sixteen years from the 30th day of September, 2007, 30th day of September, 2009, respectively subject to the conditions that the validity of this patent is not guaranteed by the Government and also provided that the fees prescribed for the continuation of this patent are duly paid.