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Introduction

Since we have left our hunter-gatherer ways and began planting seeds in the ground and raising animals for food, we've been looking for ways to better manage the land, water, and environmental resources. In the 1930s, to minimize soil erosion and lessen the frequency of the dust storms, farmers moved from planting crops in straight rows to contour farming. Our modern farmers continue to adapt and improve their management techniques, applying the technology to care for the land and animals. With the use of various pieces of green innovation and technology, farmers are able to reduce the use of inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, and fuel, which reduces the environmental footprint of our food and can reduce the cost for farmers. Green innovation also helps meet the increasing consumer demand for sustainable food.

The creation or implementation of new, or significantly improved, products (goods and services), processes, marketing methods, organizational structures and institutional arrangements which— with or without intent – lead to environmental improvements compared to relevant alternatives' (OECD, 2009)

A new concept of great importance to business and policy makers. It is about innovations with lower environmental impact than relevant alternatives. The innovations may be technological or non-technological (organizational, institutional or marketing-based). Eco-innovations can be motivated by economic or environmental considerations. The former includes objectives to reduce resource, pollution control, or waste management costs, or to sell into the market as eco-products' (Arundel and Kemp, 2009)

Objective of the Training Course

The broad objective of the training programme is to enhance the knowledge of the participants on the concepts and practices of green innovation and sustainable agricultural and rural development through presentation, discussion and exposure visits.

This programme would provide an opportunity for policy makers, planners and implementers to deliberate and formulate an action plan for sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Learning Outcomes of the Training

At the end of the training

- a. Participants will be able to discuss relationship between green innovation and sustainable development.
- b. Participants will be able to describe importance of green innovation in agriculture and rural development.
- c. Participants will be able to analyze significant environmental benefits of green innovation in agriculture and rural development and
- d. Participants will be able to design programmes focusing green innovation in agriculture and rural development.

Training Method

The method of the training is highly participatory and interactive and would ensure maximum involvement of the participants. All sessions under different modules would be presented through lecture cum group discussions, case presentation, brain-storming and site observations.

- a. **Lecture and Discussion Method:** Each session will be conducted through lecture cum group discussion method, which will be supplemented by reading materials.
- b. **Presentation of Country Paper and Discussion:** For better internalization of the green innovation, presentation of country cases will be followed. Each of the country will get 15 minutes time for presentation of country paper followed by dissection and Q/A for 10 minutes.
- c. **Field Visit:** Field visits to some successful examples of “green innovation in agriculture and rural development” in Bangladesh as well as historical places, will be arranged for the participants.

Medium of Instruction

The medium of instruction is English. Participants are expected to have a good working knowledge of English.

Faculty/ Resource Persons

Experts and professionals from national and international agencies/institutions, working in the relevant thematic areas, will be invited as guest speakers. Faculty members of RDA having professional skills and experiences in the relevant fields, will also act as resource persons.

About RDA



Campus of Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra

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.

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 centers having approval of the Board of Governors of RDA. The main purpose of these Centre is 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 innovation and project implementation, many RDA developed models and innovation 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 suggest 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

1. 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

2. 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 have strategic implication in policy formulation of the government for agriculture rural development.

3. 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.

From its inception RDA has developed some models for rural development. These models drawn attention to the experts, researchers and policy planners for Socio-economic Development of Rural Bangladesh. The models are:



Buried Pipe Irrigation Model: It was introduced in 1982. The system has increased the command area of a DTW from 16 ha to 67 ha for the same crop in the same season, which is the highest ever achievement in Bangladesh. The system increases the water convenience efficiency (>95%), acre of coverage increases four times of conventional DTWs and reducing load on electricity.



Low-Cost DTW and its Multipurpose Use Model: Academy has developed low-cost DTW technology and has been able to install the same DTW at a cost of only Tk. 0.325 million using locally available materials and manually drilling technology. Multipurpose use of low-cost DTW model is a model for ensuring productive use of water for different agro-based activities like irrigation, livestock and poultry rearing, fish culture, food processing etc. In addition, it also serves as a simultaneous source of domestic water supply.



Arsenic-free Safe Water Supply Model: Presence of arsenic in drinking water has emerged as a national health hazard in Bangladesh. To effectively address the issue CIWM has developed arsenic removal system based on oxidation and filtration technique.



Community based Biogas Plant Model: RDA-introduced Community based biogas model ($\geq 120m^3$) for better solid waste management and an alternate source of energy for cooking, generation of power as well as producing of best quality organic fertilizer. Cattle rearing, waste management and organic fertilizer production and marketing ensured employment generation, additional income for the rural people of Bangladesh.



Cooperative Based Multistoried Green Rural Housing (Palli Janapad):

Restoration of agricultural land and modern housing facilities is one of the commitments of ruling government. In this regard, RDA is implementing an action research project on “Construction of Co-operative based Multistoried ‘Palli Janapad’ Housing with Modern Urban Amenities for Livelihood Improvement of the Rural People” where 272 families will be able to reside in each building. In that building rural people will enjoy the living facilities with all modern urban amenities. This co-operative based housing project is implanting in 7 divisions of Bangladesh.



The new innovation of RDA is “**two storied agriculture with direct solar irrigation system**” minimizes pressure on national power supply grid. Where rice produce as base crop and cucurbit (bottle gourd) crop as 2nd layer crop. Solar panel placed on top layer generates power for lifting ground water using direct sunshine. Adoption of this system increase cropping intensity from 180% to 360% and even 500% in Bangladesh, accelerates rural development of Bangladesh.



Women in Seed Entrepreneurship: Women in Seed Entrepreneurship (WISE) model ensures women income to contribute their families. Under this program Women’s are trained on quality seed production, processing, preservation and marketing management issues. The trained women established themselves as private entrepreneur thus able to meet up their personal demand and the neighbour farmer as well. As a result of motivation, skill development and market linkage more than ten thousand women are now enjoying sustainable engagement in the seed sector as micro entrepreneur’s through WISE model.



Rural Plant Clinic: RDA working with rural women leaders to develop them as village Rural Plant Doctor. Plant Doctors are also connected with national plant protection laboratories via mobile phone for seeking advice and diagnostic services. For the first time in the history of Bangladesh, the agro-chemical dealers receiving written prescription from the farmers issued by plant doctors.

RDA-developed Industrial Water Supply Model



RDA has installed Industrial Water Treatment Plant (Capacity 720 tones/hour) for Uria Fertilizer Production at Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd. (JFCL) Premises, Tarakandi, Jamalpur in the year of 2000.



RDA has installed water treatment plant (Capacity 20 lakh Gallon/day) for supplying drinking and industrial standard water at Karnofuly EPZ Area, Halirshahar, Chittagong in the year of 2008. The system is working on Reverse Osmosis (RO) system and purifying the saline water of the river Karnaphuli.



A pressurized (without overhead tank) system of water supply plant (Capacity: 950 m³/hr) is installed by RDA at BSCIC Tannery Estate, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka. The plant is treating surface water from the river Dhaleshwari and also capable of purifying groundwater as well. Each tannery state is getting water of drinking and tannery standard in individual pipelines.



RDA-Credit for Rural Livelihoods Improvement Model: CIWM has developed a micro-finance model termed as RDA-Credit. The main principle behind the model is to empower rural people in such way that they become financially solvent to pay back system installation and water supply charges. Thus RDA-Credit is helping rural people in achieving investment capacity to earn additional income, improve standard of their living and boosting up their pay back capability of water for charges. Rate of interest of the RDA-Credit is 11% per annum of which 8% is used for management of credit operations and the rest 3% goes to CIWM.

The new dimensions of all these technologies are created fruitful impact in the socio-economic development of the rural poor. These are the success stories in Bangladesh. GO, NGO, private entrepreneur or individual owner may come forward to replicate this model for meeting up the challenges of water resources, agriculture and rural livelihood development issues in 21st century and achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) as well as over-all socio-economic development in all over Bangladesh and also where similar problems exists in SAARC member countries as well for better livelihood.

These models may be replicated in the rural areas of the South-east Asia and the areas where similar problem exists in all over the Globe for the rural livelihood improvement.

4. 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. RDA extended its technical advisory services to different government and non-government organizations, especially in the field of water resources management.

PGDRD

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

- Soft skill
- Managerial skill
- echnical skill and
- Internship

Recognitions | Awards

National



i. 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 through **Buried Pipe** system; **Innovation of Multipurpose Use of Low Cost DTW** and its multipurpose use, **Development of Arsenic-Free Safe Water Supply Plant and Development of Technical Protocol for Commercial Hybrid Maize Seed Production** in Bangladesh.



ii. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh confirmed the highest national award in agricultural sector- Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1415 (2010) to Mr. M.A. Matin a dedicated Agriculture Engineer of RDA for developing several environment friendly agricultural technology.



iii. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh confirmed the highest national award in agricultural sector- Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award 1417 (2012) to Mr. AKM Zakaria an innovative Agricultural Scientist of RDA for Creation Long lasting awareness among the rural women and farmer through ICT based agriculture and rural development initiatives.

International



i. African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), is a rural development alliance of 32 member countries confirmed **AARDO Award-2012** to Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra for its extra ordinary contribution in Rural Development. Mr. M.A. Matin, DG of RDA, Bogra received the Award in presence of Indian Prime Minister in a ceremony held in Delhi.



ii. International Visual Association (IVCA), London confirmed **International Communication Award, London 2004** to Mr. AKM Zakaria, Director of RDA for developing women to women extension model through digital video ICT approach.

iii. **Flame Award Asia 2016**, The RMI India confirmed Flame Award Asia, 2016 to Dr. AKM Zakaria, Director of RDA for developed Women led agri-business model.



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.

About AARDO

The formation of African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) in 1962 underscored the far-sightedness of the social and political leaders of Asia and Africa in recognizing the need for cooperation among the countries in the field of agriculture and rural development. AARDO which is one of the earliest examples of South-South cooperation in rural development in the African-Asian region, is an autonomous inter-governmental Organization comprising country governments of Africa and Asia. The Organization was set up with a view to promote coordinated efforts, exchange of experiences and cooperative action for furthering the objectives of development of the rural areas. AARDO is a non-political body enjoys observer status with various UN and other international organizations like Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), etc. It also promotes collaboration with various national/regional/international organizations for the economic and social welfare of the rural community.

Keeping in view the socio-economic scenario of the developing countries of the African-Asian region, AARDO is mandated to address both agriculture and rural development. AARDO's tagline "Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development" of its member countries is equally its main goal.

AARDO realizes its objective, among others, by way of human resource development which is based on training programmes, workshops, seminars, study visits, deputation of experts, etc. These programmes are designed to meet the real needs of and the problems facing the rural people. AARDO's strategies broadly are focused on four areas i.e. human resource development, financing of development pilot projects, dissemination of information and networking.

The membership of AARDO consists of governments of African and Asian countries. Currently, there are thirty two members; Seventeen from Africa and fifteen from Asia as full members and one Associate Member. These members are: Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, R O China (Taiwan), Gambia, Ghana, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Jordan, R O Korea, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen and Zambia, and the associate member is Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC). Countries falling outside the African-Asian region, as well as organizations and foundations, can join as associate members.

For better coordination and implementation of its Work Programme, the Secretariat is assisted by six regional offices set up by AARDO, three in Africa and three in Asia. These regional offices are located at: Accra, Republic of Ghana for the Western Africa; Lusaka, Republic of Zambia for the Southern Africa; Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt for the North-Eastern Africa; Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the Middle East, Seoul, Republic of Korea for the Far East and Islamabad, Pakistan for the South and Central Asia. The main objective for establishing the regional offices has been to ensure that the true image of the Organization is constantly projected and assist in the execution of approved programmes, including organization of seminars, workshops, conferences, etc. The Regional Offices are headed by Honorary Regional Representatives in their respective countries.

AARDO has **twenty six (26)** apex level Centers of Excellence in its **eleven (11)** member countries for specialized trainings/workshops on various facets of rural and agricultural development. Annually, AARDO provides around **four hundred (400)** fully-paid fellowships for specialized trainings ranging from one week to three months; moreover, fellowships of one-year Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) at NIRD, India; Master's Degree Programme at the Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul (PSPS) Yeungnam University, R.O. Korea; and Master's Degree & Ph.D. Programme at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Islamabad, Pakistan are available for the nominees of the member countries. In addition, AARDO organizes International/Regional workshops/seminars every year, where a considerable number of participants attend from its member countries.

Financing of development pilot projects is also one of AARDO's important activities undertaken in its member countries. The Organization lays emphasis on encouraging member countries to undertake such projects which significantly contribute in their rural economy through alleviation of poverty, provision of good living conditions, creation of opportunities for income and employment generation, etc. Since 1991, AARDO has financed more than **sixty (60)** development pilot projects in its **twenty (20)** member countries. As per modus operandi, AARDO's projects are implemented on cost sharing basis with the concerned host government/institutions as well as the beneficiaries.

Prior to attending programme, all the participants are invited to visit AARDO's website (www.aardo.org) and equally register as AARDO Alumni after the training workshop.

Know Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a South Asian country located beside India. It is bordered in 3 sides by India, and one side by the Bay of Bengal. In colonial period, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan were the same country. In 1947 when British left the sub-continent, it was divided in two countries based on religion – India and Pakistan. Bangladesh was then a part of Pakistan as a Muslim major area. In 1971 Bangladesh was liberated from Pakistan after 9 months of war, in which 3 million Bangladeshi people died.

How is the people of this country?

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated country in the world. About 160 million people live in this country. People of this country are most hospitable and friendly toward foreigners. If you go to a home, they will invite you and offer food and drinks without any expectations from you. Unlike other countries, they won't ask for any money if you want to take photograph of them.

What language people speak in Bangladesh?

Bengali or Bangla is the language in Bangladesh. The country name Bangladesh actually means "Country of Bangla". Everyone in this country speak Bangla, except some tribal people in the hill-tract area.

Is English understood by people here?

English is the second language of Bangladesh. Children learn English in school from Grade-1. You'll always find people around you who can speak English, and willing to help.

What are the major cities of Bangladesh?

The capital of Bangladesh is Dhaka. More than 15 million people live in this mega city. This is the most densely populated city in the world. Chittagong is the commercial city of Bangladesh. Largest port of the country is located here. Other major cities are – Sylhet, Khulna, Barishal, Rangpur, and Rajshahi.

What are the key tourist attractions of Bangladesh?

Bangladesh is a very beautiful country. It has the largest mangrove swamp in the world – Sundarbans, which is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has the largest unbroken sandy beach in the world – Cox's Bazar. Archaeological sites of Buddhist, Hindus, and Muslims are spread throughout the country many dated back to 3rd century B.C. Century old peddle steam boats roams through it's beautiful rivers which could be a memorable journey of a life time. It has many forests, tea plantations, rickshaws, and most of all it's open hearted people who will welcome you everywhere you go.

What kind of telecommunication facilities available in Bangladesh?

You'll find mobile phone network almost everywhere in the country. There are 6 mobile phone operators in Bangladesh. Call rates are very cheap. Recently 3G service is started in Bangladesh.

What is the working hour here?

Working hour of Govt. offices and banks are from 10.00 am to 04.00/05.00 pm. Friday and Saturday is govt. holiday. Shopping mall are open from 10.00 am to 08.00 pm. There is weekly holiday for shopping malls, which depends on the area the mall is located at.

What is the name of Bangladeshi currency?

The name of Bangladeshi currency is BDT – Bangladeshi Taka. People simply call it Taka. Exchange rate of Taka is about 82 against 1 USD as of January 2016

Is money changers available everywhere?

You can exchange your foreign currencies in the foreign exchange branches of banks, and money exchange companies. You can find money exchange companies in any big cities, although rates could be differ in the remote places.

Is ATM Machines available everywhere?

You'll find ATM machines which support international credit cards in every major city of Bangladesh. International Visa and MasterCard are accepted in the Standard Chartered and HSBC bank's ATMs.

Climate

Straddling the Tropic of Cancer, Bangladesh's climate is tropical with a mild winter from October to March, and a hot, humid summer from March to June. The country has never recorded an air temperature below 0 °C, with a record low of 1.1 °C in the north west city of Dinajpur on 3 February 1905. A warm and humid monsoon season lasts from June to October and supplies most of the country's rainfall. Natural calamities, such as floods, tropical cyclones, tornadoes, and tidal bores occur almost every year, combined with the effects of deforestation, soil degradation and erosion.

Clothes (Temperature in April: 300 to 400 C)

Please respect local customs whilst in Bangladesh. You will see various styles of dress in Bangladesh including. Indian dress, Sharee and Western style clothes are becoming more popular among the middle class youth.

Women

- Please wear loose skirts or trousers that cover up to your ankles, and tops that cover your arms up to the elbow or preferably the wrist.
- If wearing tight trousers try and cover your bottom with a loose tunic top.
- You do not need to cover your hair but it is useful to wear a light scarf to drape over your head if needed.
- You can wear open shoes but flipflops are not seen as suitable for the office.
- Bring comfortable clothes (since the temperature will be too high) and sturdy shoes (sneakers/trainer will do) for field visits (sandy lands).

- Bright colours are fine.
- Carry an umbrella and/or raincoat (chances of rainstorms are high)

Men

- Please do not wear shorts
- Dress smartly for the office (does not need to be a suit but a shirt is seen as respectable)
- Smart shoes or sandals are suitable for the office.
- Please do not wear vest tops.
- Bright colours are ok but not seen a lot on men.
- Bring comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes for field visits.
- Wearing a hat can protect you from the sun.

Web use

All webs are working here. In addition some websites may be closed permanently or temporarily by the authorities. This has happened previously with Facebook although it is now available.

Bengali

Bengali is an eastern Indo-Aryan language with around 300 million speakers mainly in Bangladesh, and in the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and South Assam. Bengali is the national and official language of Bangladesh, and one of the official languages in India. It is also spoken in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Bengali at a glance

- **Native name:** বাংলা (Bangla) ['banla]
- **Linguistic affiliation:** Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Eastern Zone (Magadhan), Bengali–Assamese
- **Number of speakers:** c. 300 million
- **Spoken in:** Bangladesh and India
- **First written:** 11th century
- **Writing system:** Brahmi and Bengali alphabets
- **Status:** official language in Bengali, and one of the official languages of India

There are some differences in pronunciation and vocabulary between the Bengali of Bangladesh and the Bengali spoken in India.

Written Bengali

The Bengali alphabet (বাংলা লিপি - Bangla lipi) is derived from the [Brahmi alphabet](#). It is also closely related to the [Devanagari](#) alphabet, from which it started to diverge in the 11th Century AD. The current printed form of Bengali alphabet first appeared in 1778 when Charles Wilkins developed printing in Bengali. A few archaic letters were modernised during the 19th century.

Bengali has two literary styles: one is called Sadhubhasha (সাদুভাষা - “elegant language”) and the other Chôlitôbhasha (চলিত ভাষা “current language”). The former is the traditional literary style based on Middle Bengali of the sixteenth century, while the later is a 20th century creation and is based on the speech of educated people in Calcutta. The differences between the two styles are not huge and involve mainly forms of pronouns and verb conjugations.

Some people prefer to call this alphabet the Eastern Nagari script or Eastern Neo-Brahmic script

Notable features

- The Bengali alphabet is a syllabic alphabet in which consonants all have an inherent vowel which has two different pronunciations, the choice of which is not always easy to determine and which is sometimes not pronounced at all.
- Vowels can be written as independent letters, or by using a variety of diacritical marks which are written above, below, before or after the consonant they belong to.
- When consonants occur together in clusters, special conjunct letters are used. The letters for the consonants other than the final one in the group are reduced. The inherent vowel only applies to the final consonant.

Bengali alphabet

Vowels and vowel diacritics

অ	আ	ই	ঈ	উ	ঊ	ঋ	এ	ঐ	ও	ঔ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛ	e	ai	o	au
[ɔ, o]	[ɑ:]	[i, e]	[i]	[u, o]	[u]	[ri]	[e, æ]	[oj]	[o]	[ow]
ক	কা	কি	কী	কু	কূ	ক্	কে	কৈ	কো	কৌ
ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	kṛ	ke	kai	ko	kau

Consonants

ক	ka	[kɔ]	খ	kha	[kʰɔ]	গ	ga	[gɔ]	ঘ	gha	[gʱɔ]	ঙ	ña	[ɲɔ]
চ	ca	[tʃɔ]	ছ	cha	[tʃʰɔ]	জ	ja	[dʒɔ]	ঝ	jha	[dʒʱɔ]	ঞ	ña	[nɔ]
ট	ta	[tɔ]	ঠ	tha	[tʰɔ]	ড	da	[dɔ]	ঢ	dha	[dʱɔ]	ণ	na	[nɔ]
ত	ta	[tɔ]	থ	tha	[tʰɔ]	দ	da	[dɔ]	ধ	dha	[dʱɔ]	ন	na	[nɔ]
প	pa	[pɔ]	ফ	pha	[pʰɔ]	ব	ba	[bɔ]	ভ	bha	[bʱɔ]	ম	ma	[mɔ]
য	ya	[dʒɔ]	র	ra	[rɔ]	ল	la	[lɔ]						
শ	śa	[ʃɔ/sɔ]	ষ	ṣa	[ʃɔ]	স	sa	[ʃɔ/sɔ]	হ	ha	[ɦɔ]			
য়	ya	[jɔ]	ড়	ra	[rɔ]	ঢ়	tha	[tʰɔ]						

Numerals

০	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০
শূন্য	এক	দুই	তিন	চার	পাঁচ	ছয়	সাত	আট	নয়	দশ
śūnya	ek	dui	tin	cār	pñāc	chay	sāt	āt	nay	daś
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Useful Bengali phrases

A collection of useful phrases in Bengali, an Eastern Indo-Aryan language spoken in mainly Bangladesh and in the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and South Assam.

To see these phrases in many other languages click on the English versions.

Key to abbreviations: (v-)inf = (very) informal, (v-)frm = (very) formal, sg = singular (said to one person), pl = plural (said to many people).

English	বাংলা (Bengali)
Welcome	স্বাগতম (shagotom)
Hello (General greeting)	নমস্কার (nômoshkar) - for Hindus আসসালামু আলাইকুম (assalamualaikum)
Hello (on phone)	হ্যালো (Hello)

How are you?	(আপনি) কেমন আছেন? (apni kemon achhen?) frm sg (আপনারা) কেমন আছেন? (apnara kemon achhen?) frm pl)
Reply to 'How are you?'	আমি ভাল আছি। (ami bhalo achhi) - sg আমরা ভাল আছি। (amra bhalo achhi) - pl)
Long time no see	অনেক দিন দেখা নেই। (onek din dekha nei)
What's your name?	তোমার নাম কি? (tomar nam ki?) - inf আপনার নাম কি? (apnar nam ki?) - frm)
My name is ...	আমার নাম... (amar nam ...)
Where are you from?	আপনি কোথা থেকে আসছেন? (apni kotha theke ashchhen?)
I'm from ...	আমি... থেকে আসছি (ami ... theke ashchhi)
Pleased to meet you	আপনার সাথে পরিচিত হয়ে খুশী হয়েছি। (Apanar sathe paricita haye khushi hayechi)
Good morning	সুপ্রভাত (shuprobhat) - frm)
Good evening	শুভ সন্ধ্যা (shubho shondha)
Good night	শুভ রাত্রি (shubhoratri)
Goodbye (Parting phrases)	খোদা হাফেজ (khoda hafez)
Good luck	সৌভাগ্য (soubhagya)
Cheers! (Toasts used when drinking)	জয়! (jôe!) lit. 'Victory!'
Have a nice day	শুভ দিন (suvo din)
Bon appetit / Have a nice meal	সু তৃপ্তি! (su tripti)
Bon voyage / Have a good journey	শুভ যাত্রা (shubho jatra)
I understand	আমি বুঝতে পারছি (aami bujte paarchi)
I don't understand	আমি বুঝতে পারিনি (bujhte pari ni)
I don't know	আমি জানি না (ami jani na)
Please speak slowly	আসতে বলবেন কি? (aste bolben ki?)
Please say that again	আবার বলবেন প্লীজ (abar bobelon pliz)
Please write it down	এটি একটু লিখে দিবেন? ([eti] ektu likhe deben?) - frm
Do you speak English?	আপনি ইংরেজী বলতে পারেন? (apni Ingreji bolte paren?)

Do you speak Bengali?	আপনি কি বাংলা বলতে পারেন? (apni Bangla bolte paren?)
Yes, a little (reply to 'Do you speak ...?')	জি, একটু বলতে পারি (ji, ektu bolte pari)
Excuse me	শুনুন (shunun)
How much is this?	এই জিনিসটার কত দাম? (ei jinishtar kôto dam?)
Sorry	মাফ করবেন (maf korben)
Thank you	ধন্যবাদ (dhonnobad)
Reply to thank you	আপনাকেও ধন্যবাদ (Aponakeo dhonnobad)
Where's the toilet?	টয়লেটটি কোথায়? (tôelet ti kothae?)
This gentleman will pay for everything	এই ভদ্রলোক সবকিছুর জন্য টাকা দেবেন। (ei bhôdrolok shôbkichhur jonno taka deben)
This lady will pay for everything	এই ভদ্রমহিলা সবকিছুর জন্য টাকা দেবেন। (ei bhôdromohila shôbkichhur jonno taka deben)
I love you	আমি তোমাকে ভালবাসি (ami tomake bhalobashi) - inf
Get well soon	শিগগিরই স্বাস্থ্য ভাল হোক (shiggiri shastho bhalo hok)
Help!	বাঁচাও! (bâchao!)
Fire!	আগুন লেগেছে! (agun legechhe!)
Stop!	থামুন! (thamun!)
Call the police!	পুলিশ ডাকুন (pulishe dakun!)
Christmas and New Year greetings	শুভ নববর্ষ (shubho nôbobôrsho)
Birthday greetings	শুভ জন্মদিন (shubho jônmodin)
My hovercraft is full of eels Why this phrase?	আমার হভারক্রাফট কুঁচে মাছ এ ভরা হয়ে গেছে (amar hobharkraft kunche machh-e bhora hoye gechhe)
One language is never enough	মাত্র একটি ভাষা যথেষ্ট নয় (matro ekti bhasha jôtheshto nôe)

Training on Green Innovation in Agriculture & Rural Development

01-12 April, 2018

Programme

Date and Day	Time	Session	Resource Person/ Facilitator
Day-01 01 April, 2018 [Sunday]	-	Arrival: Dhaka Arrival: Bogra	CMT
Day-02 02 April, 2018 [Monday]	09:30-10:30	Session-01 Opening Ceremony	Chief Guest, Secretary General, AARDO, Special Guests, DG & Faculty Members, RDA
	11:00-12:00	Session: 02 RDA and Course Orientation	CMT & Dr. Zakaria
	12:00-13:00	Session: 03 Group Report Preparation Guideline	CMT & Dr. Zakaria
	14:30-16:00	Session: 04-05 Green Innovation in AG and RD	Dr. Munsur Mr. Mizan MS. Sarowat & Dr. Zakaria
	16:00-18:00	Session: 06-07 Guided Visit to Units of RDA Demo Farm	Mr. Mamun Dr. Majid Unit In-charge (All)
Day-03 03 April 2018 [Tuesday]	09:00-13:00	Session: 08-10 Country Paper Presentation: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Tunisia, Zambia	Chairperson: To be decided
	14:00-16:00	Session: 11-12 Country Paper Presentation: Pakistan, Palestine, R.O.C (Taiwan), Sri Lanka, Sudan	Chairperson: To be decided
	16:00-18:00	Session: 13-14 Field Visit: TMSS (NGO)	CMT

Date and Day	Time	Session	Resource Person/ Facilitator
Day-04 04 April 2018 [Wednesday]	09:00-11:00	Session: 15-16 Green Innovation in e.inclusion	Guest Speaker: (EBEK, BMDA, mPower) Mr. Saeem Mr. Asim & Dr. Riaz
	11:30-13:30	Session: 17-18 Green Innovation in Soil and Water Resource Management	Mr. Matin Mr. Mamun Mr. Ferdous Mr. Abid & Dr. Zakaria
	14:30-17:30	Session: 19-21 Field Visit: RDA Action Research Village	CMT, Researchers
Day-05 05 April 2018 [Thursday]	09:00-12:30	Session: 22-24 Green Innovation in Food Security and Food Safety. Field Visit: RDA Action Research Village	Guest Speaker: (Food Safety Authority) Dr. Rashid Mr. Samir Mr. N Amin Mr. Mizan Mr. Khalid MS Rebeka MS Mashrufa & Dr. Zakaria
	14:00-16:00	Session: 25-26 Green Innovation in Energy Sector	Guest Speaker: (SRE-DA) Mr. NI Khan & Mr. Samir
Day-06 06 April 2018 [Friday]	-	Session: 27-31 Study Tour : Rangpur District	CMT
Day-07 07 April 2018 [Saturday]	-	Session: 32-36 Study Tour : Gaibandha District	CMT

Date and Day	Time	Session	Resource Person/ Facilitator
Day-08 08 April 2018 [Sunday]	09:00-11:00	Session: 37-38 Climate Smart Green Innovation in Livelihood Improvement and WID	Mr. Matin MS Nargis Mr. Ferdous Mr. Delwar MS Salma MS Sarawat & Dr. Zakaria
	11:30-13:00	Session: 39-40 Green Innovations by Farmers	Mr. Khalid MS Rebeka Mr. Noor Mohammad & Dr. Zakaria
	14:00-16:00	Session: 41-43 Green Innovation in Agril Marketing System	Dr. Rashid Dr. Munsur Mr. Subrata & Dr. Zakaria
Day-09 09 April 2018 [Monday]	09:00-12:30	Session: 44-46 Green Innovation in Agril. Financing	Guest Speaker: (Polli Sonchoy Bank) Dr. Mehdee Mr. Majhar Mr. Delwar Dr. Majid & Mr. Mohiuddin
	14:30-17:30	Session: 47-49 Field Visit : Maria Village (Farmers Innovation)	Mr. Khalid Mr. Tanbir MS Rebeka MS Parvin & Dr. Zakaria

Date and Day	Time	Session	Resource Person/ Facilitator
Day-10 10 April 2018 [Tuesday]	09:00-13:30	Session: 50-53 Presentation: Group Report and Back home plan	Faculty Members, RDA
	15:00-16:00	Session-54 Course Evaluation	Research & Evaluation Division & CMT
	16:00-17:00	Session-55 Closing Ceremony, Certificate Awarding	Chief Guest, Special Guest DG, RDA & Faculty Members
	19:00-21:00	Cultural Evening and Official Dinner Hosted in Honor of the Guests & Participants.	CMT
Day-11 11 April 2018 [Wednesday]	-	Session:56-61 Field Visit around Dhaka	CMT
Day-12 12 April 2018 [Thursday]	-	Departure	CMT

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