

BIRTAN News Letter



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Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN)
Ministry of Agriculture





Ashraf Uddin Ahmed

Executive Director
BIRTAN

Editorial

I am deeply felicitated and honored to present the 1st issue of the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN) newsletter, which is new initiative of BIRTAN. This newsletter provides the information of activities rendered by BIRTAN regarding food based applied nutrition which eventually assists to disseminate nutrition knowledge among the mass people.

In spite of significant economic progress and poverty reduction, still, the under nutrition and over nutrition are prevailing in our society due to some challenges. Investing in nutrition has been a commitment in Bangladesh from the highest level of leadership.

This newsletter reports on the progress and coverage of BIRTAN activities in root level and all segments of mass people. The newsletter also covers the outcomes of the seminars, workshops, meetings, research and different initiatives on applied nutrition. I am conveying my gratitude to Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture for continuous support to various activities of BIRTAN. I also acknowledge the commitment and efforts of BIRTAN officials in preparing this newsletter a success. It is worth full to mention that, BIRTAN has started mammoth work through training, research, advocacy and many more meaningful work to attain it's highest commitment to work on nutrition issues.

I firmly believe that, the production of this valuable document will help better understanding about the ongoing activities and the efforts of BIRTAN on various aspects of nutrition.

Ashraf Uddin Ahmed

Food based Nutrition Training

One of the major function of Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN) is to conduct food based nutrition training among the field workers of government officials of DAE, school teachers, Field officer of NGO, elected representative of local government, Imam and farmers. Training program usually conducted in different upazilla with the assistance of concerned Upzilla Agriculture Officer. There are two types of training arranged in the same venue and each training consists of 30 participants respectively. Trainees in first batch includes the government and non-government officials, members of local representative, teachers, imams, priest, social workers etc. while in the second batch only farmers (both male and female) are the trainees. The objectives of the training are to increase the development of the awareness of mass people as well as scale up the nutrition knowledge. Training conducted by the officials of the head office of BIRTAN and also seven regional centers. A total number of 9093 participants of different categories received training on applied nutrition where 69 % was male and 31 % was female (Fig.1 & Fig. 2)

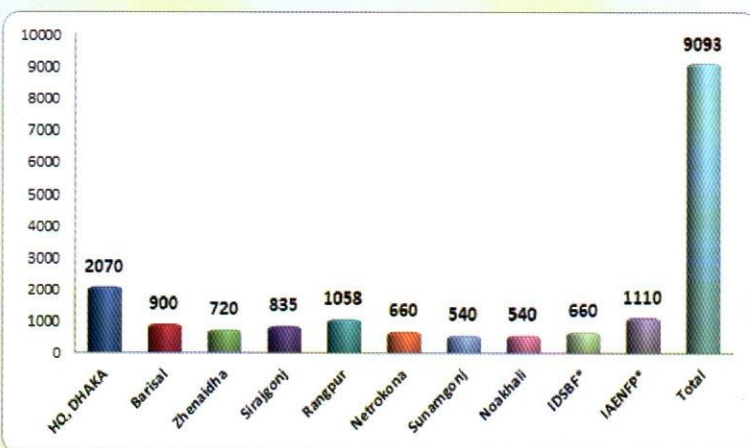


Fig.1: The number of participants received training on applied nutrition from July to December 2018.
IDSB: Infrastructure Development & Strengthening of BIRTAN project
IAENFP: Integrated Agricultural Approach for Ensuring Nutrition & Food Security (1st Revised) Project (IAENFP)

Gender wise participation in training

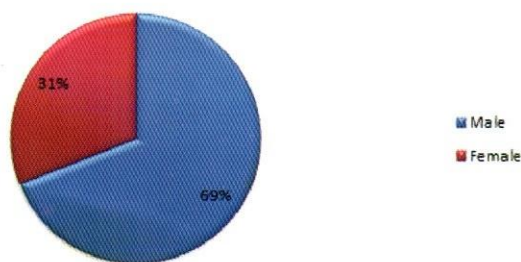


Figure 2: Gender wise participation in training on applied nutrition conducted by BIRTAN at different areas in Bangladesh from July to December 2018.

Training Area Coverage

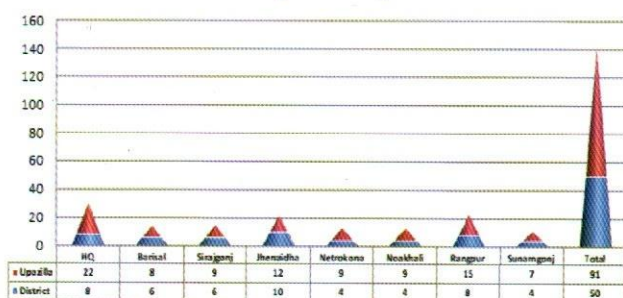


Figure 3: Area coverage by BIRTAN through training program on applied nutrition under revenue budget.

BIRTAN has mandate to make aware on nutrition at all strata of people in Bangladesh. A number of different categories like farmers including women, teacher, Imam, purohit, local leaders, NGO workers and also others categories got training from BIRTAN. About 50% participants were farmer.

BIRTAN recently started food based awareness training to garments worker and migrant workers. 75 female garment workers and 35 female migrant workers received hands on training on applied nutrition.

BIRTAN is disseminating knowledge and skill on food based nutrition all over the country and has already covered about 91 upazilla under 50 districts in last six months.



Food based (Applied Nutrition) nutrition training at Atpara Netrokona on 06-08 November, 2018

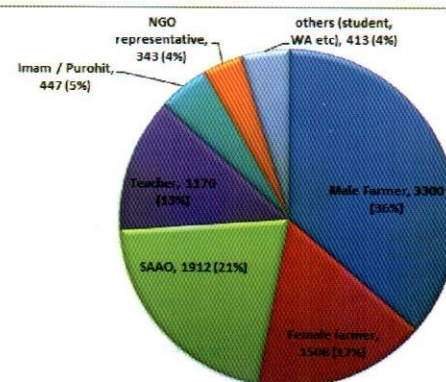


Figure 4: The number of different professionals' who received training on applied nutrition from BIRTAN.

In House Training

BIRTAN conducted in house training for its official. Innovation and integrity training was held on 20 October 2018 and the speaker was Kazi Abdur Raihan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture in the training session. Training session of e-nothi was held on 06-07 November 2018 and the session was conducted by Mohammad Khorshed Alam Khan, Domian Specialist and Mr. Md. Mohsin Mridah, Senior Assistant Secretary of A2i Program. Training session on Innovation was also held on 26-27 December 2018 and the session was conducted Mr. Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, Capacity Development Expert of A2i Program and Dr. Amithav Chakrabarty, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration.



Internal Training of Innovation and Integrity on 20 October 2018.



Student's of Jamalganj Girls High School, Jamalganj, Sunamganj.

School Campaign

Awareness of food based nutrition conducted among the school children through participating different activities arranged by BIRTAN under Integrated Agricultural Approach for Ensuring and Food Security Project (IANFP-BIRTAN part). Adolescent period is very important one in life cycle. Information and necessary messages referred to the school children through the campaign is one of the effective method to enhance the nutritional knowledge which enable them to have clear concept of the importance of nutrition. Nutritional awareness campaign includes the activities of homestead gardening, debate, distribution of food plate of balance diet etc. 1800 girls are participated in the school campaign program.

School campaign organized by BIRTAN in different educational institutions are as follows:

Sl No.	Date	Institutions	No.
1.	01 August 2018	Joy Kalash Uzanigaon Rashidia High School, Dakhin Sunamganj, Sunamganj.	100
2.	02 August 2018	Jamalganj Girls High School, Jamalganj, Sunamganj.	100
3.	11 August 2018	Kulaura Girls High School, Moulvibazar	100
4.	12 August 2018	Makadir Girls High School, Zuri, Moulvibazar	100
5.	06 September 2018	Hatibandha S S Govt. High School, Lalmonirhat	100
6.	08 September 2018	Tushvandar Nasar Uddin Govt. High School, Kaliganj, Lalmonirhat	100
7.	27 September 2018	Khaliajuri Model Pilot High School, Netrokona	100
8.	27 September 2018	Kazi Salima Haque Mohila College, Muhammadpur, Magura	100
9.	08 October 2018	Sadullapur Govt. A M Pilot High Girls School, Gaibandha	100
10.	11 October 2018	Amina Govt. Girls High School, Sundarganj, Gaibandha	100
11.	15 November 2018	Hathazari Girls High School and College, Chittagong	100
12.	17 November 2018	Bashkhali Govt. Girls High School, Chittagong	100
13.	03 December 2018	Char Alekzander Pilot Girls High School, Ramgati, Laxmipur	100
14.	05 December 2018	Sariakandi Pilot Girls High School, Bagura	100
15.	06 December 2018	Doalshara High School, Sherpur, Bogra	100
16.	13 December 2018	Raipur Mohila College, Laxmipur	100
17.	19 December 2018	Shathia Girls High School, Delduar, Tangail	100
18.	20 December 2018	Charbata Kasherhat High School, Subarnachar, Noakhali	100

SEMINAR

BIRTAN arranges seminar in head office as well as regional offices with different nutritional related topics. The objectives for arranging seminars are to enhance the level of knowledge, development of skill and to better understanding of the nutritional issues by the participants. The participants are from different relevant government, non-government organizations, NGO, development partners, school teachers, imams, media personnel, local government representatives and the officials of BIRTAN.

Seminar on Food for Health: Nutrition and Safe Food

A seminar on Food for Health: Nutrition and Safe Food was held at BIRTAN Head Office, Dhaka on 12 September 2018. Dr. Md. Shah Mahfuzur Rahman, Head, Food Safety Unit, Institute of Public Health, Mohakhali, Dhaka presented the paper in the seminar. Kazi Abul Kalam, Director, BIRTAN presided the seminar.



Seminar on Ensuring Safe Food and Increased Nutrition to Build a Healthy Nation

A seminar on Ensuring Safe Food and Increased Nutrition to Build a Healthy Nation was held at Mirzapur Upazilla Auditorium, Tangail on 03 October 2018. Dr. Md. Latiful Bari, Chief Scientific Officer, Center for Advance Research, University of Dhaka presented the paper in the seminar. Seminar presided by Ms. Israt Shadmin, UNO, Mirzapur, Tangail.



Seminar on Child Stunting and Wasting in Bangladesh: Causes and Remedy

A seminar on Ensuring Safe Food and Increased Nutrition to Build a Healthy Nation was held at BIRTAN Regional Office, Sirajganj on 10 October 2018. Dr. Md. M Islam Bulbul, Deputy Program Manager, National Nutrition Service and Technical Specialist, Institute of Public Health (IPH) presented the paper in the seminar. Mr. Arshad Ali, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture Extension, Sirajganj presided the seminar.



Seminar on Nutrition and Food Security

A seminar on Nutrition and Food Security was held at Auditorium Room, Hazi Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur on 22 October 2018. Dr. Anwara Akhter Khatun, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Hazi Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur presented the paper in the seminar. Professor Dr. Bidhan Chandra Halder, Acting Vice Chancellor and Treasurer, Hazi Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur presided the seminar.



Seminar on Nutrition and Food Security

A seminar on same topic was also held in Seminar room of LGED, Netrokona on 25 October 2018. Dr. Gulzarul Aziz, Professor, Department of Food Technology and Rural Industries, BAU presented the paper in the seminar. Md. Borhan Uddin, Professor, Department of Food Technology and Rural Industries, BAU was Chief Guest of the seminar.



Seminar on Nutrition and Food Security

A seminar on same topic was again held in Sunamganj Regional Office on 02 November 2018. Dr. Wahiduzzaman, Associate Professor, Department of Food Technology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) and Dr. Z M Rabiul Islam, Associate Professor, SUST jointly presented the paper in the seminar. Mr. Bashir Ahmed Sarker, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture Extension, Sunamganj presided the seminar.



Seminar on Nutrition and Food Security

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Seminar on Food Safety, Nutrition and Public Health Concerns in Bangladesh

A seminar on Food Safety, Nutrition and Public Health Concerns in Bangladesh was held at Jhenaidah on 28 October 2018. Dr. A T M Mizanur Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Nutrition and Food Technology, Islami University presented the paper in the seminar. Mr. G. M. Abdur Rouf, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture Extension, Jhenaidah presided the seminar.



Seminar on Impact of Climate Change on Food Safety and Nutrition in Coastal Region

A seminar on Food Safety, Nutrition and Public Health Concerns in Bangladesh was held at Jhenaidah on 28 October 2018. Dr. A T M Mizanur Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Nutrition and Food Technology, Islami University presented the paper in the seminar. Mr. G. M. Abdur Rouf, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture Extension, Jhenaidah presided the seminar.

Seminar on Climate Change and Its Impact on Nutrition

A seminar on Climate Change and Its Impact on Nutrition was held at BIRTAN head office, Dhaka on 15 November 2018. Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Member, Independent, Technical Advisory Panel, Green climate Fund presented the paper in the seminar. Kazi Abul Kalam, Director, BIRTAN presided the seminar.



Seminar on Impact of coastal food production system on food and nutritional security in Bangladesh

A seminar on Impact of coastal food production system on food and nutritional security in Bangladesh was held at seminar room of Noakhali Science and Technology University on 26 November 2018. Dr. Abdullah Al-Mamun, Associate Professor, Fisheries and Marine Research Department, Noakhali Science and Technology University presented the paper in the seminar. Dr. M Wahiduzzaman, Vice Chancellor, Noakhali Science and Technology University was the Chief Guest and Mr. Nani Gopal Barman, District Livestock Officer, Noakhali presided over the seminar.

Seminar on Conceptual framework for Social Protection in context of Bangladesh and Nutrition sensitive school feeding program

A seminar on Conceptual framework for Social Protection in context of Bangladesh and Nutrition sensitive school feeding program was held at BIRTAN head office, Dhaka on 04 December 2018. Mr. Rezaul Karim, Head, Social Safety Net Policies and Programmes and Ms. Monique Bean, Head of Nutrition, World Food Programme of United Nations, Bangladesh jointly presented the paper in the seminar. Mr. Nazmul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Executive Director, BIRTAN presided the seminar.



Seminar on 'Why is Nutrition an Important Component of Food Security? Evidence from Bangladesh'.

A seminar on 'Why is Nutrition an Important Component of Food Security? Evidence from Bangladesh' was held at APSU Meeting Room, Dhaka on 10 December 2018. Mr. Akhter Ahmed, Country Representative, IFPRI, Dhaka presented the paper in the seminar. Mr. Nazmul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Executive Director, BIRTAN presided the seminar.

WORKSHOP

The validation workshop on curriculum development of proposed diploma course on 'Applied Nutrition and Food Science' at 8 December 2018. Good number of researcher, scholar, teachers from reputed universities, government and non-government officials, NGO and UN officials. Threadbare discussions held at the workshop and valuable suggestions recommended by the participants.



FAIRS

Nutrition awareness buildup through participation in fairs is one of the activities of BIRTAN. BIRTAN Head Office participated 1 fair (Food fair) at Deputy Director, Agriculture, Dhaka premises on 2018. Apart from that all 7 BIRTAN Regional Offices also actively participated in 7 Development Fair organized by the respective district administration.



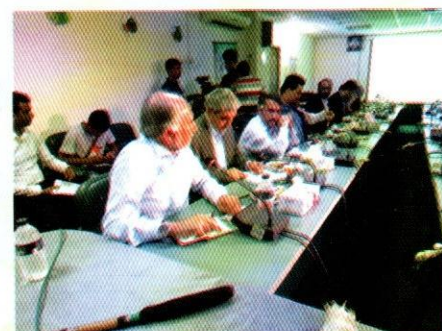
Mass Media

Creation of nutrition awareness through mass media is another important activity of BIRTAN. Nutrition messages particularly nutritive value and diversified use of different fruits and vegetable are communicated to the general mass through radio program on regular basis in Dhaka and regional centers. BIRTAN officials participated 28 'betar kathika' on different nutrition topics at Bangladesh Betar at Dhaka and Barishal centers.



Participation in different seminar, workshop and meetings

BIRTAN officials participate in seminar, workshop and meetings organized by different organizations on regular basis. BIRTAN officials participated in technical consultation on Second International Conference on nutrition follow up action, technical symposium on nutrition-sensitive water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), workshop on stake holder mapping for nutrition M & E in Bangladesh, inter-ministerial meeting on accelerating the implementation of the second national plan of action for (NPAN2), annual conference and workshop on bio safety and bio security 2018, meeting on combined SDG road map formulation, consultation meeting with the case studies from the agriculture, nutrition and genders linkage (ANGEL) project of IFPRI and APSU.



Miscellaneous

A delegation from Afghanistan visited BIRTAN Head Office, Dhaka on 05 July 2018. The delegation led by Mr. Nasrullah Arsalai, Director General, Afghan Council of Minister's Secretariat and 13 Senior Officials from Food Security and Nutrition. Visiting delegation has shown keen interest to know the activities of BIRTAN and also shown their interest to work together in coming days.

