

Climate Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Nutrition

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Climate is ever changing. Our climate is constantly changing. Climate is a long term issue. Changes occur in 20-30 years. Climate-resilient agriculture is the method of increasing agricultural production to cope with the harmful effects of this climate change. Climate-tolerant agriculture is now practiced in many countries around the world. Climate-resilient agriculture is especially important in countries like ours that are vulnerable to climate change. Its main objective is to ensure food security and development of food safety. At the same time, climate-resilient agriculture helps in achieving favorable environment, economic growth and social equity.

We are born or live in a geographical location that is blessed in many ways but cursed in terms of climate change. But we are more blessed than other countries in the world. Bangladesh has done and is doing a lot to adapt to climate change. Various types of work are being done especially at personal, family and state level. Bangladesh is considered number one in adapting to climate change in Asian continent as well as in different platforms of the world. This is the contribution of our common people. However, the government is making policies, creating an enabling environment and having various types of plans or strategic plans. It proves how active our government is to work in this field. From the state level to the very grassroots level and every program be it education, health or agriculture everyone is being encouraged to focus on climate change issue.

Climate change threatens the livelihoods and equity of fragile economies like ours, large populations especially coastal communities, rural and poor people. Climate-resilient agriculture ensures food and nutrition security by increasing production and also helps increase the financial income of vulnerable populations. In addition, climate-resilient agriculture helps to address climate-related fragility and ensure sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. Through this the practice of climate-tolerant agriculture is being increased by encouraging the people of rural communities. Efforts are being made to explain to the public how it supports nutrition, how it contributes to nutritional security. Suitable fertilizers, seeds, pesticides are needed for this climate-tolerant agriculture. The main supplier of these is the private sector. However, there is hope that the families at risk of climate change have mastered climate-tolerant agriculture through the coordinated efforts of all public and private sectors. They themselves are now cultivating it. Seeing them, the people around are gradually getting excited. This information is being conveyed to the families involved in agriculture which are at risk of climate change. Just as nutritional needs must be ascertained, so must information. Information about when new seeds are coming, how to market them should be conveyed to the farmers. All concerned authorities are now trying to ensure that they get the right information at the right time.

Community support groups are playing a very important role in imparting various important agricultural information to the farmers. In addition to providing information on community clinic services, community support groups are helping farmers connect with various government and private service providers, as a result of which farmers know what kind of crops to grow at what time, what kind of inputs are needed to produce good crops. Apart from this, the institutions are also getting field level support in crop production.

Nutrition is not a single structure. It is a multifaceted subject. In fact, nutrition is not possible without food. Food and agriculture are inextricably linked. Along with nutrition, safe agriculture also needs to be taken into consideration. If food production is disrupted, food supply is not possible. Disasters or climate change are directly related to food production. If food production is not sustainable, there will be no consistency. Again, not only food should be available, its price should also be under control. Almost hundred percent of food in Bangladesh comes from agriculture. If agriculture cannot adapt to climate change, food production conditions will deteriorate. Production must be increased by adapting agriculture to climate with nutrition in mind. There are special programs for this. Through this program, the work has started from the school level. From there it is taken to the village level and finally to the family level. A community movement is being created through this. It is necessary to explain why a vegetable is needed from the school level. Those works are being done through this program. Men and women are making the gardens at the village level. They are trying to adapt to climate change. We know that the weather in North

Bengal is very disaster prone. Winter fog, flash flood, there is no disaster that is not in North Bengal. But keeping in mind the weather, the parents have made a garden of beautiful vegetables and fruits. It will fix our nutrition. The government is working on how to disseminate this education, this experience and knowledge, this achievement at the national level. Nutrition is a long term influence. Nutritional results are not achieved in a day. We do not have a food security crisis. However, there is a deficiency in nutritional security. The government is implementing various schemes to ensure nutritional security. We are self-sufficient in paddy production, but our dependence on rice is decreasing day by day. Therefore, considering the issue of nutritious food, the government is giving importance to ensuring nutrition for the poor people. The Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 will not be met if the nutrition of the poor is not ensured. However, there is hope that Bangladesh is on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

There are some government and private projects that are directly related to agriculture. One such project is the Nutrient Gardening Project on Fallen Land. It is a farmer friendly sustainable project. Here farmers are getting technology very easily. If they want, they can plant in the yard, which was previously fallow. The Honorable Prime Minister has already called on everyone to ensure that there is no fallow land and that all land is brought under cultivation. Seed is a big factor in any crop production field. Some of those varieties may be saline tolerant, some may be drought tolerant, some may be flood tolerant. Our scientists are working on these varieties. If it can adapt to the environment, it will be possible to improve and enrich agriculture and ensure nutritional security as well.

BADC is the biggest seed company in Bangladesh. BADC can supply 25 percent of the seed requirement. However, BADC has several schemes for seed storage, production and seed distribution to farmers for each crop. Through these projects, farmers are trained on how to produce, store and distribute seeds.

It is possible to transform Bangladesh into one of the most tolerant and developed countries in the world by ensuring climate tolerant agriculture, sustainable nutrition and social security. For this, all concerned should work through coordination to see the challenges as opportunities and turn them into opportunities. Through this, it will be ensured that our motherland is free from hunger and poverty.

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