

Annual Report 2021-22



Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
Mymensingh

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প্রকাশনা কর্মকর্তা
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Foreword

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) is publishing Annual Reports 2020-22. It is very important and praiseworthy initiative.

Fisheries sector has enormous potential for food, nutrition and economic development of Bangladesh. As a nutrient rich ideal food, fish plays an important role in improving public health and building a healthy nation, which is so relevant in the current context of global pandemic. Under the dynamic leadership of our Hon'ble PM Sheikh Hasina, the present government is making all out efforts for conservation, development and scientific management of these important resources for sustainable production. For her dynamic Steps even in the pandemic situation, the production and supply of fish was stable and contribution to employment and rural economic development was unimpeded.

Modern aquaculture technologies developed by the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) played an important role in the fish sector of the country. BFRI has already developed breeding and culture technologies of 37 endangered species and established Live Gene Bank for the conservation of the fisheries resources. On the other hand, the Government is implementing various programmes for the development of the fisheries sector which include co-management of hilsa fish, open water stocking, establishment of sanctuaries and beel nurseries, habitat restoration and transfer of new technologies to the fish farmers.

Under the best diplomatic leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sovereign right over a vast area of the sea was established, which is almost equivalent to the land boundary of Bangladesh. That's why a new horizon of blue economy was unveiled. Proper exploration and utilization of both conventional and nonconventional fisheries items have the potential to become a major source of the blue economy. The Government has taken various steps for seafood product development from conventional and non-conventional items including seaweeds, crustaceans and molluscs for domestic and international market through scientific research. In this context, a mega project on 'Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries' is being implemented. Fishing ban for 65 days from May 20 to July 23 each year is in force to control over exploitation, maintain marine fisheries biodiversity and propagation.

I would urge upon the scientists, development and extension workers and all concerned working in the fisheries sector to work together to achieve the goals as outlined in 8th Five Year Plan, Vision 2041, Delta Plan 2100 and all other plans of the Government in realizing the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build 'Sonar Bangla', a prosperous Bangladesh.

I wish all the success for progressive development of the fisheries sector.

S M Rezaul Karim, MP
Minister
Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock

Foreword

Following the footsteps of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh has already achieved self-sufficiency in fish production under the dynamic leadership of his worthy daughter Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Not only that, the sector has made a special position in world fish production, being one of the top ten fish producing countries. In global production, Bangladesh ranks 3rd in inland capture fisheries and 5th in inland aquaculture production. These two sectors have made much advancement due to scientific research. Now the government has given special attention on the development of the marine fisheries resources which have great potential to enhance Blue Economy.

The present per capita daily fish intake in the country is 62.58 g which exceeded the targeted 60 g. According to the FRSS, 2022 the fisheries sector contributes 3.57% of the country's total GDP and 26.50% of the agricultural GDP. In 2008-09, the country produced 27.01 lakh MT fish, which has increased to 46.52 lakh MT in 2020-21. More than 12% of the total population of the country, directly or indirectly are engaged in fisheries and ancillary activities.

The present Government is totally committed to harness the full potential of the fisheries sector. With this in view, the Government has undertaken various development projects for a balanced development of the inland capture and culture fisheries, and coastal and marine fisheries. The important programmes that are being implemented under these projects include cluster-based shrimp farming, eco-friendly aquaculture, community-based fisheries management, conservation of natural fisheries, restoration of degraded fisheries habitat, establishment of fish sanctuaries and closed fishing season, alternate employment for fishers, establishment of Live Gene Bank, development of breeding techniques for endangered fish, utilization of nonconventional fisheries resources and value addition and quality control. As a result, production has significantly increased and thus, fish which once became very scanty is now available in plenty.

Bangladesh fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) has done a commendable job in fisheries research and development activities. It has successfully developed breeding and culture technologies for many endangered fishes which are now being commercially cultured by the fish farmers and entrepreneurs. The current research focus of the institute is the development of technologies for utilization of the nonconventional marine fisheries resources. The institute in the meantime, made a good progress in this aspect. In addition to development of breeding and culture technologies for some important non-conventional items, it has successfully produced a number of seaweed-based food products which have a great demand in export market. We need to further refine and popularize these value-added products among the consumers.

I wish Continued progress of BFRI in its all research endeavor.

Dr. Nahid Rashid
Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock

Preface

Fisheries sector plays an important role in nutritional food security, livelihood development, poverty reduction, export earnings and economic development of Bangladesh. However, there is a great scope to enhance the contribution of the sector through proper research and development. Keeping this in view, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) has been conducting research reflecting the national policy and demands. BFRI has so far developed 75 improved aquaculture and management technologies many of which have been disseminated in the field. As a result, fish production has increased from 2.70 million MT to 4.621 million MT during the last 12 years.

The mandate of BFRI is to carry out and co-ordinate fisheries and aquaculture research in the country in consonance with the national policy and plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations. To achieve this goal, we have also undertaken the collaborative research with relevant universities and organizations for faster development of appropriate technologies through utilization of available expertise in the country. The Institute follows bottom-up approach in planning research programmes which are finalized through the annual workshop participated by different stakeholders such as academicians, scientists, extension workers, policy makers, farmers and entrepreneurs.

The research programmes and other administrative activities performed by the Institute during 2021-22 for the development of the sector have been presented in these Annual Reports. A total of 48 research project during 2021-22 were implemented in different regional stations and sub-stations of the institute during the reporting period. It succeeded to develop seed production and culture technologies of endangered fish species, Balachata (*Somileptes gongoto*). Mud Crab (*Scylla olivacea*) and identified a new breeding ground of Hilsa in Baleshwar River of Barisal district during the reporting period. Other activities included in the report are training, publication and financial matter of the Institute.

While aquaculture has been progressing very well due to development of various technologies, some of the new and emerging issues have cropped up in the process, which need to be seriously addressed to maintain the current growth of the aquaculture industry. On the other hand, marine sector is a thrust area in the current context, where new research intervention is needed on priority basis. In this context, along with the conventional resources, BFRI has given more focus on the development of nonconventional marine fisheries items like snails, mussels, crabs and seaweeds.

We hope, this Annual Report with a focus on the major research conducted last year will be useful to researchers and planners of different national and international organizations in formulating project proposals and policy guidelines for fisheries development.

Dr. Yahia Mahmud
Director General