

National Agricultural Research System (NARS)

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Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) the apex body of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), is located at Farm Gate, Dhaka. It was established in 1973 under the Ministry of Agriculture. The continuing reorganization of research institutions led to further restructuring of the agricultural research system in 1976. The parliamentary act in 1996 empower BARC with a wider responsibility of the planning, priority setting, coordination, monitoring, reviewing, and evaluation of research programs and human resource development of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) institutes. Later, under the provision of the BARC Act 2012, the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) has been formed with BARC as the apex body and twelve agricultural research organizations are the constituent units.

The agricultural universities, NGOs and private sectors, though not integrated but linked with NARS in terms of research collaboration.

Among the thirteen research organizations including BARC, six are autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Agricultural and the remainders are under other ministries and three organizations BFRI (Forest), SRDI and BCDB are government departments.

Table 1. NARS Institutes and their year of establishment

Research Institutes	Year of Establishment
1. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)	1976
2. Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)	1970
3. Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI)	1951
4. Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA)	1984
5. Bangladesh Sugarcrop Research Institute (BSRI)	1994
6. Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI)	1984
7. Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (FRI)	1984
8. Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI)	1955
9. Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI)	1958
10. Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI)	1983
11. Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute (BSRTI)	2003
12. Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB)	1972

Table 2. NARS Institutes, their governing ministries and areas of research

Institute	Ministry	Areas of Research
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)	Agriculture	Research on cereals (other than rice), pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, horticultural crops etc.
Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)	Agriculture	Research on rice
Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI)	Agriculture	Research on jute and allied fiber production and utilization
Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA)	Agriculture	Application on nuclear techniques in agriculture
Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI)	Agriculture	Research on sugarcane
Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI)	Agriculture	Soil survey, soil classification and soil characterization
Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI)	Fisheries and Livestock	Freshwater, brackish water and marine fisheries research



Institute	Ministry	Areas of Research
Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI)	Fisheries and Livestock	Research on livestock and poultry
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI)	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Forestry and agroforestry research
Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI)	Commerce	Research on tea
Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute (BSRTI)	Jute and Textile	Research on silk
Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB)	Agriculture	Research on different aspects of cotton production

Brief Objective and Functions of BARC

- The objectives of BARC are to improve research effectiveness and efficiency by better planning, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of research conducted by NARS institutes and associate organizations.

Functions of BARC are to:

- Identify priorities on the areas of research under the guidelines of National Agriculture Policy;
- Provide guidance and direction of the research activities of Institutes;
- Scrutinize, evaluate and approve budget of contract research proposals;
- Review and monitor the progress of research activities of the NARS institutes;
- Establish or assist in establishing research institutes, research centers, experimental stations, libraries and information centers, museum, herbarium, plant introduction centers and germplasm banks;
- Monitor the technology transfer process and advise the institutes to implement research results and popularize the evolved technologies for field level application;
- Arrange higher education and training, and participation in the national and international seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences in the field of agricultural research;
- Maintain liaison with national and international agricultural research organizations/institutes;

International Linkages of BARC

Over the last 31 years Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council played an important role in sharing its technologies and information with the rest of the world and also benefited from the inflow of technologies, scientific information and germplasm for promoting agricultural development. Moreover, international cooperation, encompassing exchanges of ideas, know-how, personnel and materials, has been systematized during the last 10 years BARC has been a partner with the research centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and research coordination bodies of the various countries.

At present BARC maintains working relations with a large number of international research organizations. Some of them are:

CGIAR Centres

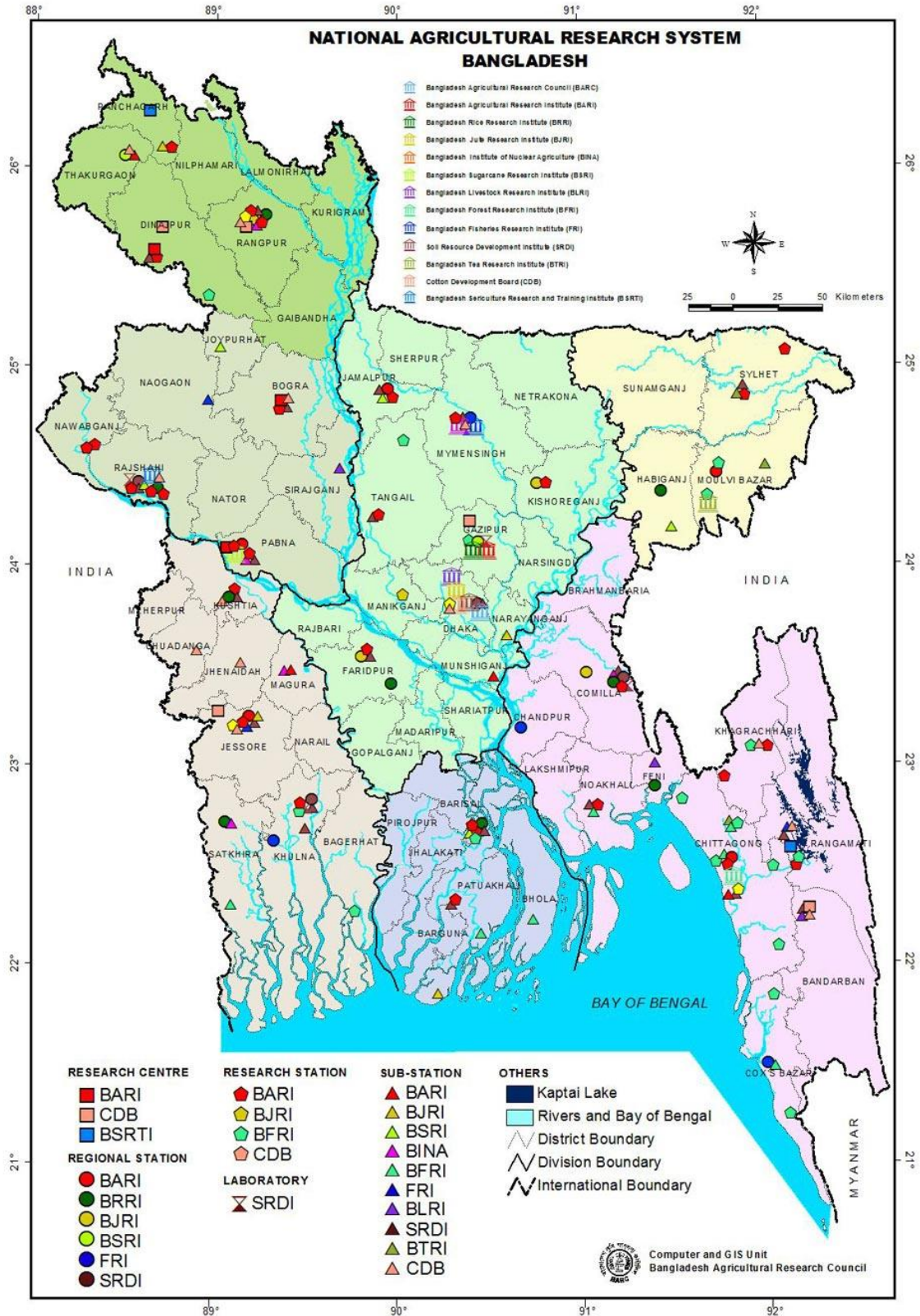
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Banos, Philippines
- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), El Batan, Mexico
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, India
- International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Rome, Italy
- International Potato Centre (CIP), Lima, Peru
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC, USA
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo, Sri Lanka
- International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Aleppo, Syria
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi, Kenya
- World Fish Centre, Penang, Malaysia
- World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi, Kenya



Regional/International Organizations/Networks

- Regional/International Organizations/Networks
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India
- Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Islamabad, Pakistan
- Sri Lankan Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP), Sri Lanka
- Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Kathmandu, Nepal
- Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Malaysia
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Canberra, Australia
- Philippines Council for Agricultural and Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), Philippines
- The World Vegetable Centre / South Asian Vegetable Research and Development Network, Hyderabad, India
- Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institute (APAARI), Bangkok, Thailand
- Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia (CORRA), IRRI, Philippines
- Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), U.K.
- International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS), FAO, Rome, Italy
- Asia Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM), Beijing, China
- Rice Wheat Consortium for the Indogangetic Plains (RWC-IGP), CIMMYT/IRRI/NARS
- Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA), Bogor, Indonesia
- SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC) of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal





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