

Role of tropical and subtropical fruits for crop diversification, biodiversity, environmental protection in changing climates, nutritional food security and poverty reduction in Bangladesh

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Although Bangladesh is self sufficient in cereal foods but seriously suffering from nutritional foods. Recent report of UN said about 40 million peoples are suffering from malnutrition that is deficiency in nutritional food specially vitamins and minerals (hidden hunger). Our recent study reveals that production of horticultural crops now a days contributing lots to fulfill the nutrition deficiency specially for the rural poor and ultra poor peoples. Recent study also found that production of fruits and vegetables in the homestead of Bangladesh supplementing household income and leads to the sustainability of horticultural production, utilization and protection of houses from adverse environmental hazards in changing climate. Recently, through the research and development by BAU-Germplasm center of improved varieties, sustainable technologies and effective extension activities contributed tremendous development in nutrition, food security and safety. This paper mainly deals with how and what extent

horticultural development contributed in nutrition aspect in Bangladesh. The development of the Bangladesh Agricultural University – Germplasm Centre –the largest fruit repository in Bangladesh by research team has had a direct impact on hundreds of graduate students, thousands of fruit tree industry personnel, and tens of thousands of farmers who benefited from their improved knowledge, nutritional deficiency problem, resulting from the efforts of Dr. Rahim. Bangladeshi farmers have also benefited from the 50 million fruit tree saplings provided by this project. Furthermore all citizens of Bangladesh have benefited a more abundant supply of nutritious fruit that has resulted from BAU-GPC. In short, the BAU GPC is now become the one stop service for largest in situ fruit repository center, fruit variety development, research, extension, recreation, and sustainable agricultural development and education for nutrition and food security.

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