

Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman, Former Director General, BARI

Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman was born on 14 March, 1950 in the village Jhikra under Charghat Upazila of Rajshahi district. He passed SSC in the 1st division from Sardah Pilot high School in 1966. He obtained B. Sc. Ag (Hons) degree from the Bangladesh Agricultural University in 1971 (Exam held in 1972) and stood 1st class second. He also obtained M.Sc.Ag. (in Genetics and Plant Breeding) from the same university in 1972 (Exam. held in 1974) and secured 1st position. He completed his PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding in 1982 from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK under the Commonwealth Scholarship Programme of the UK.

Dr. Rahman started his carrier as an Assistant Cane Breeder at the Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI), Ishurdi, Pabna in 1974 and continued till October 1977. He left BSRI in October 1977 and joined Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) as Senior Scientific Officer (Wheat Breeding). After returning from PhD in January 1983, he took over as SSO (Pulse Breeding) of BARI. In December 1983 he was promoted as Principal Scientific Officer (PSO) and shouldered the responsibility of Programme Leader of Pulses and led the pulses breeding group. From 1991 he acted as the Director of Pulses Research Centre (PRC) BARI and In-charge of the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) Ishurdi. In 2001 he was promoted as Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) and took over as the project director of Plant Genetic Resource Centre (PGRC), BARI and later on was transferred as the Director, Oil Seed Research Centre (ORC) of BARI. In 2002 he joined as the Director Research of BARI and continued till 2006. In 2006 he took over as the Director General of BARI and retired in March 2007.

Dr. Rahman spent most of his active period on pulses research and development. Under his leadership and on his personal activities 25 varieties of different pulses were released by BARI during 1987- 2003. Many of these varieties have been adopted and popular among the farmers of different pulse growing areas of Bangladesh. For instance, about 50% of local lentil cultivars have been replaced BARI varieties. Chickpea varieties are popular in Barind area and the mungbean varieties have been extended in the northern and western districts of the country. These have made significant contribution to the total production pulses in the country. Not only these, some of these lentil and blackgram varieties been introduced in Nepal and India also.

Dr. Rahman published 45 Scientific Articles in Journals, Proceedings, etc. He participated in more than 30 international events on pulses research and development in Bangladesh. Dr. Rahman also established a very strong linkage of PRC, BARI with the international Centres working on pulses like ICRISAT, ICARDA, AVRDC, etc. In recognition of his outstanding contribution in pulses research Dr. Rahman received Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award of ICRISAT and ICARDA in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Received national plant breeding award of the genetics and plant breeding society of Bangladesh for the year 2012.

Retirement from govt. service could not stop Dr. Rahman from his active life. After retirement he did short consultancy in FAO, ILO, KGF, etc. He worked as the National Coordinator of Research at PCU, NATP from January 2010 to March 2011. Due to his love and interest on pulses, he left PCU and joined IRRI as the National Coordinator of the ACIAR supported Rice-Pulse project in March 2011 and continued till 2016. He is actively involved in agricultural research and development activities with BARI, KGF and BARC. Currently he has been working as an expert member of the External Panel of Experts for evaluation of NARS institutes, formed by the Ministry of Agriculture, GoB, for improvement of research quality.