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Thoughts & Initiatives i

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Being a riverine country with fishing right over sea surface 31% of its total land area, Bangladesh does possess potential to build a viable fisheries industry to satisfy internal demand and to export fish and fish products. We need to create realistic awareness of the potential among the policy-makers so that a systematic and formal development program of related knowledge base is undertaken. This knowledge can then be utilized (1) to manage different fish species and their habitat and (2) to apply biotechnological knowledge in an ecologically balanced fashion to enhance fish production through aquaculture.

Proper management alone, based on intimate knowledge of reproductive biology and habitat of all sorts of fauna, can produce dramatic results at this stage. As in the other sectors of the economy, technology related to fish culture and associated resource management, cannot be imported and used directly without its assimilation in the society through formal R&D in the universities and research institutes sponsored by the industries engaged in fish production and trade.

If high technology in aquaculture and biotechnology is applied in the field without the parallel existence of knowledge base in the country, then the undertaking cannot be expected to have a long-term success. However, we feel it would be detrimental (it already is) to attempt to perpetuate so-called informal knowledge base and system existing in rural Bangladesh, as advocated as policy prescription by many. See for example: Lewis, J. D., Wood, G. D. and Gregory, R., *Trading the Silver Seed: Local knowledge and Market Moralities in Aquacultural Development*, University Press Limited, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1996 [“Whereas a purely technological, production-oriented approach to development intervention may make little impact on the rural poor (or even have negative effects), it is possible to build on existing relationships and technologies and facilitate innovative poverty-focused strategies. ... the study of the fish trading network demonstrates that a preoccupation with high technology ‘quick fix’ solutions in development may overlook the indigenous problem-solving strategies of local people. One of the most striking examples of this is the simple yet effective transportation technology used by the economically-vulnerable fry traders, who have found ways to keep large quantities of fingerlings alive over journeys of several days by oxygenating the water by hand.”].

Technological, production-oriented approach will not succeed as long as the R&D knowledge base resides outside the country. Furthermore, the very notion of poverty alleviation and poverty-focused strategy adoption is wrong and unscientific. The capitalist development is an impersonal and objective process, which expands production for profit, in turn broadens high-paying skilled employment base and breaks open technological frontiers guided by competition.

The above-mentioned book made a correct statement in the introduction: “Economic transactions link people systematically, binding them into persistent relationships, defining codes of behaviour for different sets of occasions, amounting to a morality for the society as a whole.” As in the industrially developed countries, formalized development of fisheries industry will

uproot the inefficient informal rural system existing in Bangladesh right now. This, along with formal development of other industries, will unleash a massive and irreversible reorganization of the society, leading to the prosperity of the entire nation. We cannot expect Bangladesh and other developing countries to hang on to antiquated indigenous methods which the industrialized countries were forced to leave behind many years ago.

Let us note here, as in other areas of economic development efforts, the growth in fisheries industry cannot proceed in isolation with disregard to growth in the rest of the economy. Rashid and Quibria (Rashid, S. and M.G. Quibria, "Is Land Reform Passe? With Special Reference to Asian Agriculture", in *Critical Issues in Asian Development*, edited by M.G. Quibria, Oxford University Press, Hong Kong, 1995.) had the same realization when they made following comment on the prospect and limitation of redistributive land reform in Bangladesh: "Even if there were no difficulties in implementing land reform, it does not offer a panacea for poverty eradication. To improve the economic status of the poor, whose principal asset is labor power, it is crucial that there are sufficient productive employment opportunities in the economy."

You may remember BDI had a website, where we posted some basic information about BDI and past issues of this journal. That website was discontinued recently. The new website is being rebuilt at this location: <http://home1.gte.net/ashraf/index.htm>.

For information on how to submit articles for publication in this journal, please refer to the outside back cover or send email to e-sas@msn.com.

Editor-in-chief
Thoughts & Initiatives
A **BDI** Journal

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NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Thoughts and Initiatives is an internally reviewed journal published annually by BDI. The focus of this journal is to promote value-added commodity production in Bangladesh. BDI invites articles from experts on different areas that are directly or indirectly related to this subject.

Two kinds of articles, viz., short communications and full-length articles can be submitted. Analysis of recent development, short reviews of books or research articles, and expert comments on specific issues are treated as short communications. These should be limited to four 11"x8½" typed pages (Times New Roman font size 10, single space), including tables and figures. A full-length article should have an introduction and conclusions and several other organized sections. It should be limited to twenty 11"x8½" typed pages including figures, tables and notes and references. There should be no headers or footers except author's identification and affiliation. References and Notes should be numbered in English numerals, referred to in the text within brackets []. Contributors are advised to search literature so that highly relevant antecedent papers are cited. References must contain all the authors and complete title. The formats of References and Notes should conform to the following examples:

References and Notes

1. It is well-known that there are questions in different professional circles regarding the "transparency" and "accountability" of the NGO's.
2. Rashid, S., "Migration and Bangladesh's Economic Development", *Thoughts & Initiatives* (A BDI Journal), Vol. 2, No. 2, December 1995.
3. Ali, A., "On Formalization of Bangladesh's Economy", in *Development Issues of Bangladesh*, edited by Ashraf Ali, M. Faizul Islam and Ruhul Kuddus, University Press Limited, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1996.
4. Woronoff, J., *Asia's 'Miracle' Economics*, M. E. Sharpe, Inc., New York, Second Edition, 1992.

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