

Mobile Rice School

Agriculturally speaking maximisation of production has been the main plank of our enterprise for food-sufficiency. In fact our goal is more ambitious than mere sufficiency. By making the optimum use of the technological know-how we could make our natural resources yield much more than they have so far. And the crux of the problem lies in educating the farmer in the up-to-date skill and technique of cultivation, knowledge of seed-varieties, fertilizer use, pest-treatment etc.

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) has already made not only a theoretical breakthrough at the Institute's research cells. It has, according to a report, brought the essentials of production-technique to the very door-steps of the farmer. The reported mobile rice school opened Sunday at Barotopa in Sripur thana is the first significant step in this direction. Officers of BRRI along with the leader of the International Rice Research Institute and production specialists presented themselves at the said village to the welcome of hundreds of farmers whose spontaneous reactions were evidence

not merely of their emotions but long-standing needs in agricultural technology. What is important indeed is contact—and that at field-level, with growers and workers.

To be told that the soil that they had been tilling for ages was capable of yielding 4 times as much crop as they have reaped so long, by planting (BRRI developed) special high-yield potential varieties is almost immediately to make them set their hands to the plough. BRRI, we are told, has also set up a rice dryer. It has developed with the British Overseas Development Assistance.

The three-day training programme drawn up by the Mobile school with about 200 farmer trainees, to begin with, is also among the pragmatic measures involving agricultural development as a national priority. The tree-shaded Barotopa initiative, let us hope, will not remain confined there and will extend far and wide to help accomplish a vital Second Five Year Plan objective, namely, improvement of production technology and attainment of food-sufficiency and food-surplus.