

The present government under Begum Khaleda Zia has lately introduced a new element in our secondary level education in schools the positive effects of which are likely to be far reaching in the long run. Agriculture science education has been made a compulsory subject in secondary schools from the sixth to the tenth grade. The effects of the introduction of agricultural education in the school curricula will not show up immediately. But the country is likely to reap the benefits of this most thoughtful introduction of a new discipline in the schools some years from now when several batches of youngsters will have passed out from high schools with adequate knowledge of agriculture and agro-production techniques.

oriented schemes. It is precisely this problem of insufficient knowledge of modern agriculture which the introduction of agriculture science at secondary level of education aims to solve.

secondary level of education aims to solve. In our circumstances of worsening unemployment and the presence of a large number of people not finding jobs although they possess high university degrees, the attraction of higher education is already beginning to dim among the rank and file of our youngsters. This trend is nothing to be regretted. Even in developed countries it is neither desirable nor possible to accommodate too many people in institutions of higher learning and for a very large number of young people in those countries education pursuits may end at secondary or higher secondary stages. Subsequently they simply enter the job markets equipped with their intermediate range knowledge and skills in different technologies and trades. Such a path is also the practical necessity in our country and many young people in Bangladesh after passing out from schools and colleges will appreciate the value of the agriculture science course they have had and in not uselessly wasting their time chasing jobs but in setting up gainful agro-enterprises basing on the knowledge they have acquired on agriculture.

Introduction of agriculture science in school texts has been only the first step. It has become imperative to introduce in schools and colleges compulsorily other practical courses such as computer science, basic electronics, basic engineering, etc. which can equip our young learner with the ability to earn a living subsequently from what they learn at schools and colleges.