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Agro-education world help boost production : PM

## Compulsory agri course at secondary level launched

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday launched compulsory agriculture course at secondary level— from Class six to Class ten— saying introduction of agro-education would help boost production, create enormous self-employment opportunities and play more effective role in ending poverty in the country, reports BSS.

"We have to establish such a revolutionary education system which will be life-oriented,

production-oriented and meaningful one to guide the nation onto the path of development and help build Bangladesh as a prosperous country.

Compulsory agro-education at school, I believe, will open up a new chapter in this field. Let us, therefore, come forward to work sincerely to implement agricultural education," she said.

Begum Zia was inaugurating the national conference marking the introduction of compulsory agricultural courses in all

12000 secondary schools in the country in Dhaka Saturday morning at the International Conference Centre.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Majid-ul-Haq, Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain, State Minister for Education Yunus Khan, Education Secretary Irshadul Haq and Chairman of National Curricula and Text book Boards Professor Khurshid Alam also spoke. Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar presided over the conference attended by a large number of teachers, academics and district-level officials.

The Prime Minister said, education complements all development of the human being and that is why her government has adopted education as a strategy to eradicate poverty.

Begum Zia described agriculture as the base of the country's economy and said the livelihood of its people was still related with agriculture. But, she said, this largest sector of the economy could not stand firmly on a solid base even today.

Listing various programmes and steps undertaken by her government to infuse new dynamism and pace in this vital sector, she said compulsory agricultural courses had been introduced from class six to class ten as part of the curricula.

Begum Zia said the curricula had been formulated in such a way so that the students of lower and secondary schools could engage themselves in self-employment through cultivation of fruits and crops, poultry and dairy farming, plantation and pisciculture.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the modern concept of agriculture integrates crop production, poultry and dairy farming, pisciculture and afforestation and her government had initiated a realistic plan with specific programmes and directions to help more broaden the base of agriculture.