

03

## Agricultural Education

Bangladesh's economy is largely dependent upon agriculture. Agriculture is providing basic needs to the Bangladeshis-Food, Clothing and Shelter. A huge number of people is engaged in agriculture and related occupations. So, agriculture is and will be always at the top agenda of Bangladesh's socio-economic development policy.

Agricultural education plays a vital role in the development of agriculture. But the agriculture education sector is not getting proper attention. At present, there is only one Agriculture University at Mymensingh which is controlling the entire agricultural education policy. Three agriculture Colleges including Bangladesh Agricultural Institute (BAI), Dhaka is functioning under the academic control of BAU as it's affiliated institutes. There is no competition in agricultural education because the BAU is controlling every matter ranging from preparation of curriculum to evaluation of examination scripts. The Agricultural Colleges including BAI have been urging upon the authorities to provide academic autonomy to them for infusing

dynamism and competition in agricultural education. If we look at BUET, it would be found that BUET had never controlled the academic activities of the Engineering colleges or none of the Engineering Colleges had ever been affiliated to the BUET. Presently the government has given full autonomy to the Engineering Colleges and these are now functioning as BITs.

Due to BAU's academic control over the Agricultural Colleges, the colleges are facing several academic problems. We find no justification for keeping the agricultural colleges situated at different parts of the country under the academic control of BAU.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Institute Teachers' Association has already submitted memorandum to different authorities suggesting the academic affiliation of BAI with the Dhaka University as the later's Faculty of Agriculture as it was before the establishment of BAU.

We sincerely hope that all the quarters will give urgent and serious consideration to our proposal for the greater national good.

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