

18 DEC 2002

The Bangladesh Observer

Higher Agril. Education

Sir,

This is in reference to Mr. Haque's captioned letter which was published in these columns of your esteemed daily on December 1. Mr. Haque has emphasised on higher education in the Agril. Universities to produce more graduates who will help the farming community to be acquainted with the modern technique of agro-system and thus boost the production.

As of to-day over two thousand agril graduates are passing their hard days without having any job. Most of them are now roaming in the capital and district towns in search of private tuition. Mr. Haque's idea that agril graduates will teach the rural farmers about the modern scientific cultivation. But it is an absurd proposition.

First the fresh graduates from universities are not practically trained up to properly guide the professional farmers. In the present structure of Agril Extension Dept. there are 3-4 graduates in every thana and some promoted S M Os. At the union level 1-2 Block Supervisors are posted. But a very few of them permanently stay at their place of posting.

In case of Block Supervisors none of them reside in their respective union. Once the government and donor agencies took a massive programme for constructing residence for B S at the thana H Q. Most of these are now abandoned like those of about 4000 union seed stores which were constructed around the mid sixties.

Presently to impart training to the farmers, B. S and officials, there is special programme under the district training officer and subject matter specialists. In course of my frequent visit to rural areas I have observed very little impact of such training programme on the participants. I worked in the Extension Dept. for about five years (early sixties). But I hardly find any extension workers to help the farmers in the fields.

One of the seniormost Krishihids and top ranking senior civil servants, vehemently opposed the idea for higher education and status of union level workers on the ground that they will be reluctant and feel embarrassed to work side by side with the farming communities.

As to the contribution of the agril universities towards new research findings so far no tangible activities have ever been reported by any of the agril college/universities of the country. So in my opinion the increase in more agril graduates will further deteriorate the worst employment situation of the country.

Khd. M. A. Jalil,
372/B, Khilgaon, Dhaka.