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Meeting between the USAID Director and the agricultural scientists held at BARC

An opinion exchange meeting was held between Dr. Josette Lewis, Director Office of Agriculture of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington and the scientists of the agricultural research institutes under the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) on November 12, 2009 at the Conference Hall of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka. She was accompanied by Mr. Mark Visocky, Deputy Office Director of the USAID based at the US Embassy in Dhaka. The Professors of the biotechnology and relevant departments of different universities were also present on the occasion.

The meeting was chaired by the Executive Chairman of BARC Dr. Wais Kabir. Referring to the US role in developing agricultural science in Bangladesh Dr. Josette Lewis exchanged views on the overall situation of the agricultural research in Bangladesh with especial focus on the use of biotechnology in developing drought, disease and salinity resistant variety, role of both public and private sectors in agricultural research and development in Bangladesh and the country's linkage with the research organizations at regional and international level.

Briefly discussing the existing research trend and priority in Bangladesh, the Executive Chairman Dr. Wais Kabir underscored the need for cross-country technology exchange in agricultural research. The scientists coming from different agricultural institutes and universities mentioned different constraints and opportunities of biotechnology in agricultural research. The USAID delegation assured of further cooperation in this respect.

Among others the Member Directors of BARC, Director General of BARI Md. Yusuf Miah, Director General of BRRI Firoz Shah Sikdar, Prof. of Dhaka University Dr. Zeba I. Seraj and Dr. Hasina Khan, Professor Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan of Shaer-i-Bangla Agricultural University and Professor Dr. KM Nasiruddin from Bangladesh Agricultural University spoke on the occasion.