

WAIS KABIR, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

I. General Information

Name: Wais Kabir

Nationality: Bangladeshi

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Date of Birth: 30 December 1954

II. Professional Information

A. Formal education

Degree	Year	Institution	Field
Ph.D.	1994	Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Philippines	Irrigation System Management
M Engg.	1985	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand	Agricultural Soil and Water Engineering, Food and Agricultural Engineering
BSc Agri Engg	1978	Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Bangladesh	Irrigation and Water Management

B. Professional training:

Received professional training from home and abroad, including water management, research system management, project planning, etc. Also received post-doctoral research experience at Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA in 2001 on crop water management.

C. Language Proficiency

Fluent in speaking, writing and reading in English. Also fluent in mother tongue in every aspect of expression. Well conversant in computer programs since 1985.

D. Policy formulation, Analysis, Review and Climate Change Related Experiences

- Lead researcher, “Agricultural extension policy landscape analysis, policy gaps for digital service provision and potential policy advocacy plan”, Feed the Future, USAID (completed in October 2023), An analysis of policy landscape towards digital agriculture, 2023
- Consultant in the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of SAFAL Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) implemented by Solidaridad in the South-Western region in Bangladesh, supported by EKN.

The innovative project encompasses agri-based livelihood, regenerative agriculture and water governance in the micro-watershed environment- Ongoing.

- National Consultant, “Review of Bangladesh’s agriculture sector and entry points for Global Change Adaptation (GCA) engagement on climate adaptation”, The Global Center on Adaptation, Rotterdam, Netherlands. The output was presented to the relevant stakeholder
- International Review Panel member of the Blue Gold Program (BGP), supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN) in the southern coastal polders (2015-16). Concurrently, structural and market-oriented farming solutions were undertaken. Provided input during review through intensive field visit in the team.
- External panel Expert, “Improving Research Qualities of ARIs through Review and Evaluation,” Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, 2023, ongoing
- National Consultant, “Transforming Agri food Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA)”, International Wheat and Maize Research Center (CIMMYT), 2023- until now (intermittent input).
(Task involved on crop diversification inventory, including present and past interventions by the public and non-public sector actors and policy environment analysis, advisory role).
- National Policy Formulation- policy guidelines for the Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Agriculture.
 1. National Agriculture Policy 2018 (as convener)
 2. Agricultural extension Policy 2020, (as convener)
 3. Agricultural Mechanization policy 2018. (Committee member)
- Project Formulation
 1. Developed National Agricultural Technology Program as project director (preparation phase), supported by the World Bank and IFAD-involving seven agencies of two ministries- Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The project covers both agricultural research and extension services and introduced institutional innovation and good practices in the technology system.
 2. Acted as member of project formulation mission of Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project in Bangladesh, funded by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and implemented by government agencies, including BADC (Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation). The project focuses in the southern part of Bangladesh.

E. Professional and Leadership Skills

- As the Head of the organization, led three national and regional bodies, namely Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO), SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC) including a public company Krishi Gobeshona (Agri research) Foundation (KGF)
- Strong leadership skills and visionary aptitude to lead multidisciplinary teams of experts, researchers and support workers
- Comprehensive knowledge of the operation and funding of the national agricultural R&D and extension system and institutional diversity in NARS in the South Asian region.
- Ability to work with government functionaries, representatives, donor agencies/international development partners, NGOs, and the private sector.
- Initiated a climate change study in the agri research system through capacity building and research program development

- Skilled in water resources management for irrigation and drainage, and participatory engagement of the community
- Involved with the southern coastal saline and non-saline agriculture-based livelihood in the south of coastal zone associated with waterlogging, salinity and land use conflict
- Exposed to UN security and service provision
- Produced around 50 research/knowledge-based publications in national and international journals/popular articles in diversified fields of agriculture.

III. Key Professional Positions

1. Position: Executive Director- CEO, (April 2017 to April 2020)

Organization: Krishi Gobeshona Foundation (KGF), Dhaka, Bangladesh

KGF (Agri Research Foundation) is a government-sponsored non-profit organization under the Companies Act and supported by the World Bank project (NATP). KGF is a research grant-making body and is responsible for, among other things, management of short- and long-term research programs. It serves as a pluralistic entity where public, private, academia and NGOs have access to receive funding on competitive mode. The research includes all aspects of agriculture including stress prone agriculture, crop development, post-harvest management and value addition of crops, fisheries, and livestock. Took initiative to enhance institutional visibility through various programs. Introduced technology commercialization with university developed poultry breed. Organized number of capacity building programs for the scientific professionals.

2. Position: Team Leader (April 2014 to April 2017)

Organization: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of UN, Bangladesh

Responsibilities:

- i. Team Leader of “Mapping Exercise of Waterlogging in the southwest of Bangladesh” (2014-16). It studied the root causes of waterlogging, the effect on life and livelihood, and suggestions for improvement. The study team consisted of agronomy, fisheries, water resources, sociology, and gender experts. The outcome was presented to the stakeholders, and feedback was incorporated. The study involved intensive consultation with local and national stakeholders, both public and private sectors. It focused on the effect of waterlogging on women and children in terms of schooling, food intake, early marriage, and violence against women in vulnerable areas. It recommended prevention and coping strategies from grassroots to national-level interventions. Also documented floating bed agriculture as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) in the southern non-saline floodplain.

2. Position: Executive Chairman (May 2009 – December 2013), Organization: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh

BARC is the apex public research coordinating body of 12 national research institutions, covering a diverse range of commodities. BARC is established to plan, monitor, and review research programs of the institutions. The Executive Chairman is the highest research position of the country to fix research priorities and lead agricultural research management. It also has responsibility for resource allocation to its affiliated institutions and human resources development. The task also involved planning, priority setting in research, monitoring, supervision, and review of research programs. Supported large number of research projects

implemented by the universities and NARS. The research focus remained on priority areas relevant to the challenges of agriculture.

Supported Ministry of Agriculture in seed, fertiliser and pest management in regulating Agri input. Introduced CGIAR Advisory Committee (CAC) to appraise the government with the programs of international research centers.

4. Position: Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), (June 2004-May 2009), Bangladesh

SAC is the inter-governmental body comprising eight countries in South Asia and acts as the CEO. Led a professional team composed of experts recruited from member states and organized several regional programs in the member states to promote good practices within South Asia. This provided adequate exposure in working with a multi-cultural environment and made a significant institutional transformation.



(Wais Kabir)