

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Act, 2017

(Act No. 19 of 2017)

[July 19, 2017]

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Act, 1973 repealed and re-enacted to increase rice production through agricultural and technical research, to develop improved and high-yielding varieties and to conduct research on related matters

Whereas it is expedient and necessary to repeal and re-enact the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Act, 1973 (Act No. X of 1973) in a timely manner for increasing the production of rice through agricultural and technical research, developing improved and high-yielding varieties and conducting research on related issues;

Therefore it is hereby enacted as follows:-

- Short title and introduction**
- (1) This Act may be called the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Act, 2017 .
 - (2) It shall take effect immediately.
- definition**
2. Unless there is anything contrary to the subject or context, in this Act—
- "Institute" means the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute established under section 3;
 - "Council" means the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council established under section 3 of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Act, 2012 (Act No. 13 of 2012);
 - "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Finance Board;
 - "regulations" means regulations made under this Act;
 - "rules" means rules made under this Act;
 - "Board" means the Board constituted under section 7;
 - "Director-General" means the Director-General of the Finance Institute.
- Establishment of Institute**
- (1) The Bangladesh Rice Research Institute established under the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Act, 1973 (Act No. X of 1973) shall continue as if it had been established under this Act.
 - (2) The Institute shall be a statutory body and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and shall, subject to the provisions of this

Act, have power to acquire, hold and transfer property, both movable and immovable, and the Institute may institute suits in its own name and A case will also be filed against it in that name.

**Office and
Center of
the Institute**

4. (1) The head office of the institute will be in Gazipur district.
(2) The Institute may, with the prior approval of the Government, establish its regional center and sub-centres at any place in Bangladesh.

**Functions
of the
Institute**

5. For carrying out the objectives of this Act, the functions of the Institute shall be as follows, namely:-

- (1) Undertake research programs on various issues related to increasing rice production and developing improved and high yielding varieties in collaboration with national and international organizations and organizations;
- (2) establishing the required number of laboratories and libraries;
- (3) delineate areas and adopt schemes for demonstration of new rice varieties and technologies developed by the Institute and training of farmers in the same;
- (4) providing training to government or private employees, farmers and domestic and foreign researchers on advanced technology in rice production;
- (5) creation of postgraduate research facilities;
- (6) Organizing seminars, symposia and workshops to facilitate exchange of views on problems identified by experts from various research institutes and centers and to familiarize with recent innovations in the field of rice;
- (7) undertaking rice research programs to address the risks posed by climate change;
- (8) through the application of biological technology (biotechnology) in rice research to prevent diseases and insects and to invent rice varieties and rice production technologies that are tolerant to various adverse environments including drought, salinity, waterlogging, cold and heat;
- (9) Conduct and ensure intellectual property of rice germ plasm collection, preservation, evaluation and development activities;
- (10) conducting research on agricultural mechanization, nutrition, supply and value chains and socio-economic development;
- (11) To produce and supply sufficient breeder seed for rapid propagation of rice varieties developed by the Institute;
- (12) Application of ICT in rice research, education and extension;
- (13) Development of various rice varieties and technologies used by farmers locally;

(14) publication of monographs, bulletins, crop-lists and other information relating to rice research;

(15) to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Government, subject to the directions given from time to time; And

(16) To perform any other functions as may be necessary.

Follow the instructions given by the Council

6. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, the Institute shall carry out any direction, recommendation or advice given by the Council:

Provided that if it appears to the Institute that it is not possible to implement any such recommendation or advice, the Institute shall, without delay, communicate its opinion to the Council stating the reasons therefor.

(2) The Council may revise or cancel any recommendation or suggestion made by it or make any new recommendation or suggestion in the said matter after considering the opinion received from the Institute under the terms of sub-section (1).

Board composition

7. (1) The Board of the Institute shall consist of the following members, namely:-

(a) the Director General, who shall also be the Chairman of the Board;

(b) a representative of the rank of Deputy Secretary below, nominated by the Finance Department;

(c) a representative of the rank of Deputy Secretary below, nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(d) a representative of not less than the rank of Director nominated by the Council;

(e) a representative below the rank of Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(f) a Director of Bangladesh Atomic Agriculture Research Institute;

(g) a senior scientist from an institute concerned with rice research nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(h) two senior scientists from outside the institute nominated by the Government, one of whom shall be a scientist in sociology and the other in any related field with the specialty of the institute;

(i) two representatives engaged in agricultural work nominated by the Institute, one of whom shall be an experienced farmer and the other shall be a representative of a non-governmental organization; And

(j) Directors of the Institute, the Senior Director of which shall be a Member-Secretary of the Board.

(2) Members nominated under clauses (g) to (j) of sub-section (1) shall hold membership for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of their nomination: Provided that the Government or, as the case may be, the Institute may at any time before the expiry of the said period, without assigning any reason, discharge any member so nominated from membership and any nominated member resigns by written notice addressed to the Government or, as the case may be, the Institute. can do

**Functions
of the Board**

8. The functions of the Board shall be as follows, namely:-

- (1) determining the content of the study;
- (2) provide direction and supervision of the activities of the Institute;
- (3) making decisions on policy matters of the Institute;
- (4) approve the proposed policies and action plans of the Institute;
- (5) Approving proposals to accept grants from the Government or from any other source;
- (6) Approving loan proposals;
- (7) approving the proposed budget for the approval of the Government;
- (8) Approving proposals for awarding fellowships;
- (9) approve proposals for financial assistance for higher education or research abroad;
- (10) Project approval.

**Board
meeting**

9. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this section, the Board may prescribe the procedure of its meetings.

(2) The Board shall meet every 4 (four) months and the date, time and place of the meeting shall be fixed by the Chairman.

(3) The Member-Secretary of the Board shall, with the concurrence of the Chairman, convene a meeting of the Board by notice in writing.

(4) The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Board, but in the absence of the Chairman, any member nominated by the members present, from among them, may preside over the meeting.

(5) The presence of at least half of the total number of members shall be required for the quorum of the meeting of the Board, but no quorum shall be required in the case of adjourned meeting.

(6) Each member present at the meeting of the Board shall have one vote and the decision shall be taken at the meeting on the basis of the majority of votes, but in case of equality of votes cast, the President may cast the deciding vote.

(7) The action or proceedings of the Board shall not be invalid and no question shall be raised in this regard merely because there is a vacancy in

any member's post or a defect in the constitution of the Board.

**Director
General**

10. (1) There shall be a Director General of the Institute.

(2) The Director General shall be appointed by the Government and the term and conditions of his service shall be determined by the Government.

(3) The Director General shall be the Chief Executive of the Institute and he shall—

(a) exercise and perform the powers conferred by the Board;

(b) be responsible for the implementation of all decisions of the Board; And

(c) perform the duties assigned to him, from time to time, by the Government.

(4) If the post of Director-General becomes vacant or if he is unable to perform his duties due to absence, sickness or any other reason, any person appointed by the Government shall perform the duties of Director-General until the Director-General newly appointed to the vacant post takes over or until he is again fit to discharge his duties. .

**Director,
Advisor and
Consultant**

11. The Institute shall have such number of Directors, Advisors and Consultants as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its functions and they shall be appointed by the Government and their terms and conditions of service shall be fixed by the Government.

**Recruitment
of
employees**

12. (1) The Institute may, subject to the organizational structure approved by the Government, employ such number of employees as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its duties.

(2) The terms and conditions of employment and employment of employees shall be prescribed by regulations.

funds

13. (1) The Institute shall have a fund to which money shall be deposited from the following sources, namely:-

(a) Grants and Grants made by Government;

(b) loans taken;

(c) grants made by any local authority;

(d) grants received from any domestic or foreign development aid organization with the prior approval of the Government;

(e) Income received from the Institute's own sources.

(2) All moneys of the fund shall be deposited in any scheduled bank in the name of the institute and the fund shall be managed in the manner prescribed by the rules.

Explanation.- "Scheduled Bank" shall mean a Scheduled Bank as defined in Article 2(j) of the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972 (President's Order No. 127 of 1972).

(3) The necessary expenses of the institute shall be met from the fund in the manner prescribed by the rules.

Budget

14. Every year, the Institute shall submit to the Government the annual budget statement of the following financial year with possible income and expenditure within a specified period and it shall also mention the amount of money required by the Institute from the Government in that year.

Accounting and auditing

15. (1) The Institute shall maintain its accounts and prepare an annual statement of accounts in the manner prescribed by the Government.

(2) The Auditor General and Controller of Bangladesh shall audit the accounts of the Institute every year and shall send one copy of the audit report to the Government and the Institute.

(3) For the purpose of auditing the accounts under sub-section (2), the Auditor General and Comptroller of Bangladesh or any person authorized by him for the purpose may inspect all records, documents, documents, cash or bank deposits, securities, deposits and other property of the Institute. Can see and question any member of the board or any employee of the institute.

(4) In addition to the audit under sub-section (2), the accounts of the Institute shall be audited by a Chartered Accountant as defined in Article 2(1)(b) of the Bangladesh Chartered Accountants Order, 1973 (President's Order No. 2 of 1973) and for this purpose The Institute may appoint one or more Chartered Accountants.

(5) The Institute shall, as soon as possible, take steps to remedy any errors or irregularities identified in the audit report.

Report

16. (1) Within 4 (four) months after the end of every financial year, the Institute shall submit an annual report to the Government on the activities carried out for that year and the Government shall arrange for its submission to the National Parliament.

(2) The Government may, if necessary, call for reports and statements from the Institute at any time on any subject of the Institute and the Institute shall be bound to supply the same to the Government.

Committee

17. The Institute may constitute one or more committees to assist it in discharging its duties.

Borrowing capacity

18. For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Institute may, with the prior approval of the Government, borrow and be liable to repay the same.

Execution of contract	19. For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Institute may, with the prior approval of the Government, enter into contracts.
Foreign training and higher education	20. (1) The Institute may, subject to the approval of the Board, undertake necessary foreign training and higher education arrangements for its scientists in accordance with the prevailing regulations. (2) If a scientist is nominated for training or research by an internationally recognized international institution and requires financial assistance in that regard, the institute may, with the prior approval of the Government, provide all or part thereof.
Recruitment of researchers or technicians	21. The institute, if not capable of its own manpower, may appoint researchers or technicians through open competition, with the prior approval of the Government, to solve any problem arising in relation to rice or to develop any technology or strategy for increasing its production.
Grant of fellowship	22. With the prior approval of the Government, the Institute may award fellowships to those who have obtained a degree with success and merit in various subjects of agricultural science from any university recognized by the Institute, with the aim of developing them as competent scientists, researchers and technicians in the subjects related to the objectives of the Institute.
delegation of power	23. The Board may, if necessary, delegate any of its powers, by order in writing and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, to any of its members, employees or any committee.
public servant	24 All employees, advisers and consultants of the Institute and any other person authorized to do any work on behalf of the Institute shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Penal Code (Act No. XLV of 1860).
Power to make rules	25. To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules.
Power to make regulations	26. For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Institute may, with the prior approval of the Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, make such regulations as are not inconsistent with this Act or the Rules.
Revocation and	27. (1) The Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Act, 1973 (Act No. X of 1973), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, is hereby repealed. (2) Notwithstanding the repeal under sub-section (1), under the said Act—

Custody

(a) any act done or any measure taken, any notice given, budget estimate prepared, scheme or scheme prepared shall be deemed to have been done, taken, given or prepared under this Act;

(b) any rule or regulation made, order, notification or notification issued shall remain in force until repealed or amended and shall be deemed to have been made or issued under this Act;

(3) With the repeal of the said Act, the Institute established under the said Act -

(a) All assets, rights, powers, authorities, privileges and all property, movable and immovable, cash and money in banks, all other claims and rights, all accounts, registers, records and other documents assets, rights, powers, authority of the Institute; , facilities and movable and immovable property, cash and money in banks, claims and rights, accounts, registers, records and documents shall be deemed to be

(b) all debts, liabilities and obligations and all contracts entered into by, on behalf of or with it, shall be deemed respectively to be debts, liabilities and obligations of the Institute and contracts entered into by, on behalf of or with it;

(c) any suit or legal proceeding instituted by or against the Institute shall be deemed to be a suit or legal proceeding instituted against or by the Institute;

(d) All employees shall be deemed to be employees of the Institute and shall be employed on the same terms and conditions on which they were employed immediately before the commencement of this Act, until the conditions of their employment are varied by the Institute.

**Publication
of
translated
texts in
English**

28. (1) After the commencement of this Act, the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, publish an authentic English text of the original Bengali text of this Act.

(2) In case of conflict between the Bengali and English texts, the Bengali text shall prevail.