



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC **FOOD SECURITY FORUM 2024**

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ADB

## **Seed Without Border Overview**

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# Background

- Varietal performance depend on agro-ecological condition rather than geographical location
- A number of rice varieties from Bangladesh are widely grown in India
- Indian rice varieties, Swarna, Sarju 52, Samba Mahsuri and Ranjeet are popular in Nepal terai
- A number of Indian rice varieties are being cultivated in Africa

# Background

- Rice variety Swarna-Sub1 is officially released from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia and Myanmar
- Potato variety UNICA is released in Peru, Georgia, China, Tajikistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India and is at advanced stage of release in Uzbekistan, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

# Why SWB?

Varietal development : **6 to 8 years / 8 to 10 years for potato**

Varietal evaluation and release : **4 to 5 years/ 6 to 7 years for potato**

Seed multiplication: **2 to 3 years/ 4 to 5 years for potato**

- ◆ To speed up the process of varietal release, awareness creation, seed multiplication and varietal out scaling without sacrificing quality.
- ◆ More efficient use of resources.
- ◆ To encourage formal seed system.

# Dhaka Agreement (17.02.13)

- Joint varietal evaluation and release.
- Reciprocal recognition of evaluation data for varietal release.
- Reducing time for the evaluation of varieties released in neighbouring countries for similar agro-ecologies.
- Pre-release seed multiplication & promotion.
- Encouraging private sector by providing level playing field.
- Harmonization of seed system.



# Kathmandu Agreement (18.10.2014)

- Three countries agreed to share the evaluation data and varieties released in their respective countries for release and commercialization in other two countries for similar agro ecologies.
- Agreement signed by Bangladesh, India and IRRI extended to Nepal.



L to R : Md. Nazmul Islam, Secretary Agriculture, Bangladesh; Robert S. Zeigler, DG, IRRI; Jaya M. Khanal, Secretary Agriculture, Nepal; Ashish Bahuguna, Secretary Agriculture, India.

# Siem Reap Agreement (10.06.2017)

- Signed by Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and IRRI in Siem Reap.
- Later on joined by Myanmar and Bhutan.
- Agreement extended beyond rice to include other cereals, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, sugarcane and fiber crops.
- Recognition of each other's seed certification system.



L to R : Additional Secretary Agriculture, Bangladesh; Secretary Agriculture, Cambodia; Secretary Agriculture, India; Director General, IRRI; Secretary Agriculture, Nepal and Secretary Agriculture, Sri Lanka.

# Thimphu Agreement (22 November 2022)

- **Signatory Countries:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam & IRRI signed as facilitator
- **Observer Countries:** Indonesia, Lao PDR & 8 African countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda & Zambia)
- **Donors Participation:** ACIAR, ADB, BMGF, IFAD, JICA, KOIKA, World Bank



# Way Forward

- 1. Establishment of counterpart by each country**
- 2. Identification of needs and strengths of different signatory countries.**
- 3. For financial support, development of project proposal for strengthening of seed system, crop improvement, value addition and capacity of scientists and officials.**
- 4. Development of a database of varieties of different crops from signatory countries**
- 5. Sharing more new varieties**

# Thank you!

