

**BFRF** Bangladesh  
Fisheries  
Research  
Forum

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**Promotion of  
Fisheries Research for  
Development & Poverty  
Reduction**



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## Background

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum (BFRF) is an outcome of the DFID funded 'Support for University Fisheries Education and Research (SUFER) Project' implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) implemented during 1999 to 2004. The aim of the SUFER was to improve the ability of the universities fisheries education and research in Bangladesh to support building the capability of aquatic resource development in ways that particularly focus the needs of the poor. On completion of the project period, SUFER handed over its responsibilities to BFRF through wider stakeholders conscious by adopting the latter's constitution in March 2004 in a National Workshop held at the BIAM, Eskaton, Dhaka. UGC has kindly provided the office room and other facilities to the BFRF. Dr James Muir, Professor, University of Stirling, Dr. Md. Abdul Wahab, Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Dr. Khabir Ahmed, Executive Director, BARC along with other members worked as the architect in formation and establishment of this research forum in Bangladesh.

BFRF is engaged as a national, non-political and non-profit professional body with the memberships from the universities, DoF, BFRI, BFDC, BARC, NGOs, private sectors, other departments involved and committed to fisheries and aquatic resources development. It is an umbrella organization with missionary zeal to serve the fisheries sector through enhancing collaboration among various stakeholders. BFRF is run by a 27 member Executive Committee.

BFRF is a professional body that foresees ahead to be flourished as an organization to provide a platform for scientific collaboration, team work and future horizon of research and development activities in fisheries sector.

BFRF is registered under the Companies Act of 1994 with Joint Stock Companies, Govt. of Bangladesh. Reg. No. C-665(05)/06 dated: 11 September. 2006





## BFRF Strategies

BFRF envisions promoting action, innovative and adaptive research in the fisheries sector relevant to development needs, reduction of poverty and improvement of livelihood of the people. BFRF has given emphasis on the collaboration among the researchers and research users and uphold some stated strategies -

- ❖ Promote participatory approach, encourage institutional collaboration, ensure equity and rights, establish ownership, enhance capacity building, and ensure transparency at all levels in future research programs in the country
- ❖ Maintain the momentum and cohesiveness among the forum members and follow up the mode of its award management, close monitoring of the research progress, ensure transfer of evolved technologies through proper extension agencies for wider adoption
- ❖ Encourage field visits and on the spot supervision of the aquaculture, and fisheries resource management and conservation activities carried out by GO-NGOs-private sectors and strengthen linkages between research and extension.

## BFRF Objectives

- ❖ Develop networking among fisheries professionals and institutions in different public and private sectors
- ❖ Share and exchange of knowledge and experience gained through research, extension maintains a webpage.
- ❖ Award Forum Crest and Certificate to the best researchers and contributors to the fisheries sector.





## BFRF Projects on Research for Development

Since its establishment in 2004, BFRF has been involved in implementation of several projects on research for development. The specific information of the projects with a brief on outcomes is shown below:

- ▶ Value Chain Analysis and Market Assessment of Coastal and Marine Aquatic Products of Bangladesh - 7 Research conducted and a Book on the outcomes as paper is published
- ▶ Impact Assessment - Experience of three AFGRP Funded Projects in Bangladesh – A Book is published as outcomes.
- ▶ Fisheries and aquaculture enterprise development for the Adivasi (indigenous) communities in the north and northwest region of Bangladesh 2007-2009 briefly called 'Adivasi Fisheries Project'. WorldFish lead the project, BFRF worked on implementation of several action researches involving several members with expertise in the respective areas.
- ▶ Promoting Sustainable Coastal Aquaculture in Bangladesh (ProSCAB) – Research Into Use Project of DFID 2008- 2010
- ▶ Training and manual development for culture of koi, pangas tilapia with a reference book for hatchery implemented as part of BFRF - Innovision Collaboration in 2009
- ▶ Aquaculture for food security, poverty alleviation and nutrition (AFSPAN) by FAO from January 2012- December 2014. The objective of this project is to better understand the current status of the contribution of aquaculture to food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation.
- ▶ Feed the Future Aquaculture Project also called Aquaculture for Income and Nutrition (AIN) Project which is a BFRF – WorldFish collaboration started from July 2012 and is continued. The activities includes implementation of the followings: management of the field research of 3 PhD programs in collaboration with the relevant faculty members from the University and other relevant experts, development of Technical and Business Plan for hatcheries, arrangement of Policy dialogue and Lessons Sharing Workshops and conducting of 3 Action Research. The more specific on the activities are noted below:
  1. Morphometry, breeding and larval development of mola, *Amblypharyngodon mola* (Hamilton, 1822) from different regions of Bangladesh by Manos Kumar Saha, supervisor - Dr. Mostafa Hossain, BAU, Mymensingh and Cosupervisor: Dr. Mike Phillips, and Dr. Benoy Barman, WorldFish
  2. Genetic improvement of rohu, *Labeo rohita* strain in Bangladesh - by Ms. Shahidul Islam, BFRI, Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Rafiqul Islam Sarder, BAU, Mymensingh, Co-supervisor: Dr. Golam Quader Khan (BAU) and Dr. Benoy Barman
  3. Impacts of Aquaculture on gender relations of HHs in south western regions of Bangladesh – Ms Ayesha Siddiq, Supervisor: Prof. Shaahroz Mahaen Hoque, BAU, Mymensingh
  4. Development of Technical and Business Plans for carp for 55 hatcheries in Bangla and English
  5. Policy dialogue workshop on Quality Fish Seed Production in Bangladesh - participants, published in the Daily Prothom Alo with having wider circulation throughout the country
  6. Action Research 1: Development of sustainable systems for increase production of indigenous fish, aquatic biodiversity, income, resilience and nutrition of poor households in Bangladesh – by a research team lead by Dr. Kazi Ahsan Habib of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.



7. Action Research: Development of commercial aquaculture – pros and cons with potential development of effective strategies for its sustainable development by a research team lead by Dr. Mahfujul Haque, Professor, BAU, Mymensingh
8. Action Research: Comparative studies on adoption of different components into homestead based aquaculture production system by a research team Lead by Dr. Zannatul Ferdoushi, Associate Professor, HSTU, Dinajpur

### **BFRF Katalyst Collaboration Project**

- Hatchery (koi, pangas and tilapia) training and manual development for advanced and basic hatchery owners/technicians
- Capacity building and research and technical plan development for BFRF
- Review of Fisheries formal and non-formal education in Bangladesh
- Research and development in different aspects of fisheries and aquaculture

### **BFRF Publications**

- **FAN-Bangladesh** – Half yearly popular journal (ISS N - 2219-9136)
- **Books** – BFRF published very best quality books on different aspects of Fisheries and Aquaculture written by BFRF members and non-members
- **Technology manuals** – Along with its partners, BFRF published and distributed some of the best technology manuals on aquaculture and hatchery for several fish species

**Training** - BFRF arranges regular training events on aquaculture, fish breeding, fisheries management, fish disease, fish nutrition and other aspects for fish farmers, hatchery technicians, students and others working for the sector.

### **Biennial Conferences**

- To date 8 biennial conferences and research fairs (2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2019) have been arranged at regular interval
- Several hundred researchers, academicians, students, development workers, private entrepreneurs and dignitaries along with overseas scientists attended the conferences
- More than 600 oral and poster presentation with a number of keynotes on the emerging issues of fisheries and aquaculture in Bangladesh and in the region have been presented in the conferences
- Lifetime achievement awards have been given to senior researchers and academicians for their contribution in the sector
- Book of abstracts, proceedings and policy guidelines have been published based on the conference presentations.



### **BFRF Executive Committee**

A 27 member executive committee (EC) are elected as per constitution representing the major stakeholder institutions of fisheries covering wider participation.

### **BFRF Membership**

The membership is open to all involved in fisheries research, extension and development - the researchers, extension agencies, private entrepreneurs, researchusers, exporters and development partners.

### **For further contact**

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