



Figure: Workshop on Cotton Marketing was held at the seminar room of Cotton Development Board, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka.

## Cotton Development Board organizes workshop on cotton marketing

### Staff Correspondent

Workshop on Cotton Marketing was held at the seminar room of Cotton Development Board, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka on 19th October 2022. The workshop was presided by the Executive Director, Cotton Development Board Md Akteruzzaman. Dr. Md. Bashirul Alam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest of the workshop.

Different stakeholders including representative from ginning industries, spinning and textile industries, seed company, cotton association, cotton connect were attended the workshop.

Field level regional, zonal, research farm and head quarter officers of Cotton Development Board was also present in the workshop. Keynote paper of the workshop was presented by Dr. Md. Fakhre Alam Ibne Tabib, Additional Director of Cotton Development Board.

Bangladesh is the 2nd largest cotton importer with annual demand of around 8.5 million bales every year. The domestic production is only 2 lakh bale that meet 2-3% of the demand. Right now, quality of local cotton is better than imported cotton.

Cotton is profitable to the farmers in marginal land areas of Barind Tract, char land, hilly areas, and agroforestry areas, saline areas of southern region and through replacing tobacco. Intercropping and relay cropping is another scope to increase profitability of cotton cultivation.

Cotton Development Board visioned to grow 7 lakh bale cotton from 1 lakh hectares of land by 2030. Cotton Development Board emphasize on biotech research to improve stress tolerant, short duration and environmentally safe production practices by

strengthen research activities in Bangladesh.

The chief guest of the workshop Dr. Md. Bashirul Alam, Additional Secretary stated that the present government led by honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave more importance in agriculture for utilizing every inch of land to increase crop production.

He also mentioned that cotton is an important cash crop for saving foreign exchange and raw materials for the emerging textile industries of the country. Chief Guest has given more importance for strengthen capacity of cotton research and extension services in the country to increase cotton production.

The chairman of the workshop informed that cotton grown in the marginal lands and become profitable to the small-scale farmers in Barind Tract, charland and hilly. He said that CDB has given more importance on intercropping and relay cropping of cotton with vegetables, spices, pulses, chilli, and turmeric to utilize every inch of land.

He also mentioned over the period quality of cotton fiber has improved and sustainable cotton is growing in Bangladesh with the help of Cotton Connect- an international social enterprise.

The chair of the workshop mentioned that cotton seed is good source of edible oil that contribute to edible oil demand of the country. He acknowledges the contribution of ginners, spinners, seed company and other stakeholders in cotton production, research and marketing & ginning in Bangladesh.

Cotton Development Board was established by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 14 December 1972. The Board is celebrating 50 years of its establishment in this year.