



Rice wheat Information sheet

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Updates

GIS Update

Bangladesh Country Almanac going great guns

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in association with Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and a host of participating organizations conducted an advanced training workshop on Bangladesh Country Almanac at Cornell University on 2 to 6 June 2003. BAC is a GIS-based powerful yet user-friendly GIS database system composed of spatially linked data on various agricultural and allied fields and is meant for agricultural research and development.

A team effort of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Sustainable Development Research Initiative, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, and

CIMMYT, the tool delivers the spatial information on a CD ROM covering agricultural and natural environment characterization information for Bangladesh. The base data provided includes data on climate, soil, cropping, demography, infrastructure, and agricultural production zones. Census and other sources of socioeconomic information was included where possible.

During the presentations made, it was heartening to know that the participating organizations could conduct five in-country workshops attended by more than four hundred participants with an estimated BCA uptake of 25%. The partner

organizations could award 8 mini grants to different institutions in a span of five months.

"The workshop saw creation of 4 new databases and updating of 2 existing databases, making BCA one of the most data rich almanacs put together by the CIMMYT GIS lab" says Dave Hodson, GIS specialist based at CIMMYT, Mexico. The pick of the things was a complete case study made on arsenic problem in Bangladesh and it became an asset to the BCA itself. The workshop also saw potential proposal from Peter Hobbs and McDonald, both from Cornell, for Nepal Country Almanac. Contact: d.hodson@cgiar.org.

WWW Update