

Transcription – Radio Program featuring DCCI workshop on “Preservation and Packaging of Agro-Processing Products,” broadcast on June 29, 2005.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: [Bengali]

Music

DANIELLE HERMANN: This is Bandradi Vettar , UHUV.

Music

DH: Welcome to our program. I am giving a brief presentation covering two items based on current [unintelligible] seen in Bangladesh. Today, we are going to present: first, a seminar on the development of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Japan; and second, a workshop on the preservation and packaging of agro-processing products in Bangladesh.

Music, excerpted segment on irrelevant information

DH: Let us now move on to our next item. Our second item is about a recent development in agriculture in Bangladesh dealing with the preservation and packaging of agro-processing products. Recently, a training workshop took place in the city in order to provide technical know-how through hands-on exercises on the different stages of preservation, canning, and packaging of some agro-processing products so that quality of products can be assured to ensure its marketing outlet. The workshop, titled “Preservation and Packaging of Agro-Processing Products,” was held at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium at Motijheel. The discussion was organized by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), and the Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project (ATDP). [unintelligible] the occasion, Mr. Ron D. Gillespie, Chief of Party, ATDP said that:

RG: Now, based on your knowledge of California, which is our largest state in terms of economy, I would ask you, what is the major economic sector, what is the major industry in California? [audience reply] Agriculture. See, you beat me. Most people would have said Hollywood, or they would have said IT, or they would have said the defense industry, but this gentleman is quite right, it’s agriculture. More than half of all people in California are employed in the agriculture sector. Few of them are in production. Most of them are in processing and handling and marketing. And I think this makes a significant message for not only what we’re doing today but for the future. You can imagine that part of 52 more million people in Bangladesh are going to be employed in food processing and handling and marketing in the next decade.

DH: KMH Shahidul Haque, director of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said in his speech:

KSH: DCCI, since its inception in 1958, has been playing a vital role for the cause of its members in the industry, trade, industry, and commerce, and with its limited resources, DCCI-CIPE ERRA project has been implemented by DCCI since 1999. The purpose of this project is to help government in formulating policy for creating a private sector-friendly environment in Bangladesh, by conducting necessary research and undertaking advocacy programs. DCCI in cooperation with CIPE so far has prepared Economic EPPs on 34 business sectors to lobby with the government for policy changes as necessary. It also has a component on Women Entrepreneurs Development project. DCCI has Women Entrepreneurs trainings, workshops, and exhibitions, et cetera. I am pleased to inform that so far the Chamber has organized 30 training courses on different issues and trained about 650 women entrepreneurs under the WED component of the project. The Chamber has published first ever Women Entrepreneurs Directory 2002 and second edition 2004 in Bangladesh.

DH: Ferdaus Ara Begum, Additional Secretary Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries, also spoke at the occasion. She said that:

FAB: [unintelligible] agro-processing so that [unintelligible] the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project (ATDP) in cooperation with the Center for International Private Enterprise, Washington, DC under the DCCI-CIPE ERRA project.

DH: Mr. Omar Faruque, director Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and session chairperson said:

OF: ...a training workshop on the preservation and production of agro-processing products. This is jointly organized by DCCI, CIPE, and also ATDP. The objective of this training workshop is to provide technical know-how to plan some exercises on the different stages and the preservation, canning, and packaging of some agro-processing products so that the quality of the product can be assured to ensure its marketing outlet. Entrepreneurs have to mitigate consumer benefits by producing good quality products concerning [unintelligible], and how limited can the standards of this special care be at affordable prices. The entrepreneurs have to learn specifically on how to produce local products but at international standards. From all trainees, we have seen that maybe the lack of training, appropriate technology, education, small entrepreneurs often found themselves struggling to stay in the new system of market economy.

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DH: That's all for tonight. Thanks for staying with us. Hope the program was beneficial. Have a nice day tomorrow; hope to meet you same time with some new items. Before leaving, let me acknowledge to the team behind the program. This program is designed and presented by me, Danielle Hermann, and is adapted by Marukan Bekaan(phonetic) and is produced by Errman Edhock(phonetic).

Music, Bengali