



Krisoker Saar (Farmers' Voice) is a tiny Farmers' Research Institute evolved from the local community itself through a non-conventional way of institutional formation and development. Since started dreaming and conceptualising the Institution; we are working to developing a Holistic Way of living by using research to foster local development.

The Institution focuses on Ethical - Production, Research, Conservation, Marketing, Policy Analysis and Advocacy.

Within five years of formal evolvement in 2001, it has been able to attract the attention and involvement of National and International farmers, researchers, policy makers and activists; mainly because of its non-conventional approach to nurturing the change.

Krisoker Saar (Farmers' Voice) is a research based Institute, funded by the *samaj* (Society) itself and registered under license of the Local Government. We undertake research initiatives based on our ongoing and forthcoming needs, crisis, benefits etc. under one life long program "*Notun Jibon (New Life)*."

What we are doing:

Although conventional research discourse is considered as a constructive factor for development. But we felt the main constraint of development through research is often "fixed objective oriented research", So we the farmers are looking for existing wisdom and knowledge based transformative approach to research and local development.

With all the existing resources, we started to looking within ourselves into our actions to nature, life and development. Following the way of our ancestor's experiential experiments and researches, we are performing the actions consciously - considering the continuous changes of policies, technological commodities and human perceptions as well. We certainly have grown up to make the linkage between our wisdom and existing knowledge.

Therefore we are carrying out a "*Notun Jibon* program" of development through research, referred to as the "**Krisok Approach**"

Krisoker Saar (Farmers' Voice) is working in East Sujankathi, Barisal, Bangladesh with a small *samaj* (Traditional strong organization of a village) through discussion, motivation, seed exchange, results demonstration, technical knowledge exchange, problems and solutions creation, and regular newsletter to:

1. Make ourselves aware of:

- The various process of agricultural production systems.
- Negative consequences of Different Agricultural Inputs.
- Different existing laws related to Agriculture and the Environment.
- Biodiversity and Plant Genetic Resources.
- Natural Infrastructure and the Environment.
- Lost of the Natural Resources and the Local Knowledge Base we do have.
- National and International Policy Formulation and Adoption Strategy.

2. Motivate ourselves on:

- Organic agricultural production and preservation of the environment.
 - Alternative Energy Sources.
 - Gender equality.
 - Envisioning new possibilities with the Farmers' Research Institute.
 - Implementing research initiatives.
 - Proposing modifications to socialize different Laws - mainly pertinent to agriculture, environment and natural resources.
 - Providing support to different Agricultural, Development and Environmental organizations.
- 3. To make a bridge among farmers, researchers and policy makers.**
- 4. Keep an eye to ensure farmers' interests and rights are discussed in different seminars, workshops and dialogues.**
- 5. Organise non-formal training at the local community level on business development.**
- 6. Provide support to other organizations with trainers, research approach and research results.**

Ongoing Researches (Research Summeries will be available soon on the website

www.farmersvoice.nav.to):

- Soil health improvement by using available resources.
- Local fish conservation, their habitat improvement and natural breeding.
- Assessing the contribution of local fruit trees to the society for nutrition and agriculture, their conservation and multiplication.
- Low cost bio-gas plant innovation.
- Salt accumulation problem on irrigated rice field - causes, short term and long term solution.
- Saving local trees, as a contribution to Global Climate Change.
- Integrating children to local development process.
- Home garden re-establishment by school children.
- Eco housing-justification from social attitude, economy, feasibility and importance.
- Save and management of local water sources.
- Conservation, improvement and promotion of biodiversity.
- Localisation, Socialisation and Humanitarianisation of Environmental Policies, Laws and Agreements.
- Forth coming National election procedures analysis- viewed from the locality and local peoples' enthusiasm.

Our voices to different National and International forum:

Although *Krisoker Saar* (Farmers' Voice) begins its small steps to make inroads into this vast realm of national and international forum but already in various events the *Notun Krisok* has played significant role for ensuring his/her voices to be heard.

Nationally the Institute is always active in any kind of pro-people movement, especially on the issues of environment, ecology, agriculture and human rights etc. The farmers gave significant inputs in the Asia Pacific People's Convention on Food Sovereignty, organized by Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) and People's Food Sovereignty Network, Asia Pacific (PFSNAP) from November 24-27 in Dhaka, Bangladesh and also worked as rapporteur for documentation of the whole convention, which address to bring an end to poverty and hunger. The fellow farmers of the Institute also actively took part in the month long mobilization of the peasants, farmers and fisher folk in September 2004, under the banner of "The People's Caravan for Food Sovereignty", which was organized by PAN Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) and Pesticide Action Network, Malaysia. Moreover, one of the *Krisok* contributed in the research process for preparing the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NBCSAP) of Bangladesh which is being implemented by Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoEF) in collaboration with IUCN (World Conservation Union). Also participated in the South Asia People's Summit for People's SAARC (PSPS), held from 5,6 February 2005, jointly organized by South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and South Asia Partnership (SAP). The main focus of the programmed was to promote the process of development, peace and regional cooperation in South Asia.

One important achievement is that one of the research study titled "Integrating Nature as an educator for Children's curriculum", of *Krisoker Saar* (Farmers' Voice) was accepted and presented at the Sixth Bangladesh Educational Development Conference, jointly organized by UNESCO and BAFED (Bangladesh Forum for Educational Development) on 12th July 2005.

Internationally *Krisoker Saar* (Farmers' Voice) is always active in contributing in various forum and conferences. Some of the significant contributions are: The Research paper "Environment related Research and Development, experience of local communities in a developing country." was accepted for the conference of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology, held in Lausanne (Switzerland) from 23rd to 26th August, 2006. Following Research papers were selected for oral and poster presentation at the 15th IFOAM World Organic Congress, which was held at Adelaide, Australia from 20-23rd September 2005

- "Localizing and Socializing of Environmental Agendas as a tool for holistic rural development: *Krisoks'* Perspectives."
- "Acknowledging the role of gender in organic farming, particularly informal seed sector and *Krisoks'* Perspectives."
- Traditional wisdom and Medicinal Plants: Reviewing the ancient heritage for life support systems of *Krisok Samaj*."
- "Evolving strategy, philosophy, ethical guideline and driving mechanism of local farmers' research institute "

Research Paper titled "Acknowledging the Role of Gender in farming, particularly informal seed sector and *krisoks'* perspectives" was selected and accepted as Key-Note paper on The 6th IFOAM-Asia Scientific Conference and General Assembly in South Korea from September 7-11, 2004. Abstract titled "Experiential Wisdom of Nature-Humanity Relationship; Learning from *Krisok Samaj*" was accepted for the International Conference "NATURE, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS", Organized by University of the Aegean, Greece, 25-28 June, 2004. Abstract titled "An auto reflex of *Notun Krisok* to life, rationalizing the action as a research" was accepted for oral presentation at the International Conference "Reconciling Holism and Reductionism, the new Science and Practice of Health care, Organic Agriculture and Nutrition", organized by Louis Bolk Institute, The Netherlands, 14-17 May, 2003. And "Pain and Joy on the way of a *Notun Krisok* (Organic Farmer)" - paper presented at 14th IFOAM Organic World Congress, organised by Canadian Organic Growers & International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), 21-24 August 2002, Victoria, Canada.

One of the *Krisok* also nominated in the Hearings of the General Assembly (23-24 June 2005) at UN Head Quarter in New York as speakers and active participants and placed the Institute's message and recommendations in the events.

Beside those the Institute participated in different dialogues, debates on different policy issues nationally and internationally and also active member of different scientists-activists networks.

The Institute is fully funded by the local people and its present stands starts with the various stages of metamorphosis that we had to go through to reach at this stage of achievement and acceptance by the Samaj itself. In spite of all the odds, social and technical drawbacks and the overwhelming costs of the farmers' efforts, the organization at least has been able to create a platform to explore the views of Krisoks at local, national and international levels. The struggle is made possible because it has been continuously blessed with the incredible team work of the whole Samaj that has converged into a collective strength. In spite of all the formidable obstacles and the regular crisis situation, it is the worth that become a part of the magic of creating something different and innovative that reaches the local people and touches their souls, no matter how brief the moment.

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