

Early-harvesting high-yielding paddy mellowing

# BIRRI Dhan-33 shows hope to remove poverty

RANGPUR, Sept 9:- The short duration variety anti-Monga paddy of BIRRI Dhan-33 now grows excellent everywhere and its harvesting begins from the first week of October in all five districts of greater Rangpur to combat seasonal Monga this year, officials said here.

The farmers of Monga-prone Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Gaibandha districts cultivated the paddy in 40,122 hectares land this year, which is 122 hectares higher than that of the fixed target of 40,000 hectares for the area, they added.

They said the government, for the first time, launched the large-scale farming of the short duration paddy this year in the area as a part of the ongoing comprehensive programmes for eradicating Monga from the region by the year 2013.

The short duration paddy is being cultivated at larger scales under the GO-NGO collaborations during this T-Aman season in greater Rangpur to create job opportunities for the farm labourers during the lean period of Aswin and Kartik months.

Senior experts of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BIRRI) and Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) told BSS that plantation of seedlings and sowing seeds of the BIRRI Dhan-33 was completed timely.

Principal Scientific Officer of BIRRI and Programme Coordina-

tor of 'BIRRI-Model Monga Mitigation Programme for Greater Rangpur' Dr Abdul Mazid told that the crop now grows well and its harvest would begin in the last week of September and will get momentum from the first week of October next.

The farmers started planting seedlings and directly sowing seeds of BIRRI Dhan-33 using dry and wet Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

methods from the third week of June.

The government undertook a three-year Special Action Plan titled 'BIRRI-Model Monga Mitigation Programme for Greater Rangpur' to bring 1,07,000 hectares of lands suitable for farming BIRRI Dhan-33 under cultivation by the year 2010 to harvest about five lakh tonnes of paddy in only 115 to 118 days, officials said.