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## SAARC countries show interest to import bio-remediation technology

BT Report

**ISLAMABAD:** The SAARC member countries have shown interest to import Bio-remediation technology from Pakistan to utilize the sewerage water of their respective countries for irrigation purposes and cope with the future water scarcity challenges.

Delegates from SAARC member countries including Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh attended a detailed briefing at the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) on "Pakistan Bio-remediation Model, Prospects and



Replication in SAARC Countries."

Pakistan has already developed bio-remediation

model for wastewater treatment for irrigation at NARC, the agricultural research center which is

now being targeted to establish housing society at its place as proposed by the Capital Development

Authority (CDA).

The delegates included Director

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Information, MoIAF, Afghanistan, Gh. Rabbani Haqiqatpal, Member Director, Fisheries, BARC, Bangladesh, Dr. Md Kabir Ikramul Haque, Program Director, ICS, Ministry of Agriculture Bhutan, Deputy Minister Fisheries and Agriculture, Maldives, Mohamed Shareef, Chief Communication, Ministry of Agriculture Nepal, IP Rijal, Director, HORDI, Sri Lanka, Dr. Memal Fonseka, Director SAC, Dhaka, SM Bokthiar and Senior Program Specialist (NRM), SAC Dhaka, Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung.

Prior to the briefing, the delegates visited the bio-remediation site in the center, where Director Bio-Remediation Institute, Dr. Yousuf Riaz gave them detailed presentation on this technology.

The NARC scientists have replicated the bio-remediation technology in other parts of the country including the Capital, Islamabad, where a project has been set up at Rose and Jasmine Garden to purify the waste sewerage water.

Chairing the meeting of the delegates, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Dr. Inikhar Ahmad said that the SAARC countries have great potential to cooperate with each other for the development of agriculture sector.