



## **Brief description of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)**

**Fatema Nasrin Jahan**  
**Senior Program Officer (NRM)**  
**SAARC Agriculture Centre**  
**Dhaka, Bangladesh**



SAARC AGRICULTURE CENTRE (SAC)

# SAARC Agriculture Centre

## An Overview

**First SAARC Centre**



**Estd. 1988**



## Evolution of SAC

- ❖ Considering that the agriculture as the priority sector that engaged majority of population and supported their livelihood, SAARC decided to open the first regional centre to support agriculture development
- ❖ 1988- SAARC Agriculture Information Centre (SAIC)- Information exchange on Agriculture
- ❖ Agricultural research and development, policy planning, and knowledge management, 2007- SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)

### GOAL

Promotion of agricultural Research and Development (R&D) as well as technology dissemination initiatives for sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation in the region



## SIX OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1-** To strengthen agriculture research and technology transfer through establishment of regional networks

**Objective 2-** To provide inputs for developing regional policies, strategies, and projects

**Objective 3-** To promote innovative techniques and systems in agriculture production, post-harvest and processing

**Objective 4-** To facilitate collaborative studies on agriculture marketing, distribution system, standards, food security, risk and disaster management in agriculture

**Objective 5-** To facilitate and undertake collaborative capacity building

**Objective 6-** To collate and disseminate information for agriculture advancement



## Major field of activities



Agriculture



Livestock



Fisheries



Natural Resources Management



# Current collaborations

- ❑ **SAARC-Australia Project**
- ❑ **SAC-International Rice Research Institute - Stress tolerant rice for poor farmers in Africa and South Asia (STRASA)**
- ❑ **SAC-University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka - SAARC Pesticide Information Network**
- ❑ **SAC-APAARI/GFAR/FAO - ICT**
- ❑ **SAC-AVRDC**
- ❑ **SAC-ICIMOD**
- ❑ **SAC-CIRDAP**



# Emerging Issues

- Safety standards – food, machine, chemicals, etc
- Climate change
- Value chain
- Public-private partnership in agriculture R&D
- Organic agriculture
- Trans-boundary diseases
- Marine fisheries
- Sustainable development
- Natural resource degradation





# Value chain analysis of fruits in SAARC Region: Issues and Recommendations







# Outline of presentation

1. Introduction
2. Issues
3. Recommendations





# Introduction

1. South Asian region grows a large variety of indigenous and exotic fruits
2. Fruits play an important role- vitamins, minerals, dietary fibre
3. Enhancing farmer incomes, alleviating poverty and improving dietary nutrition





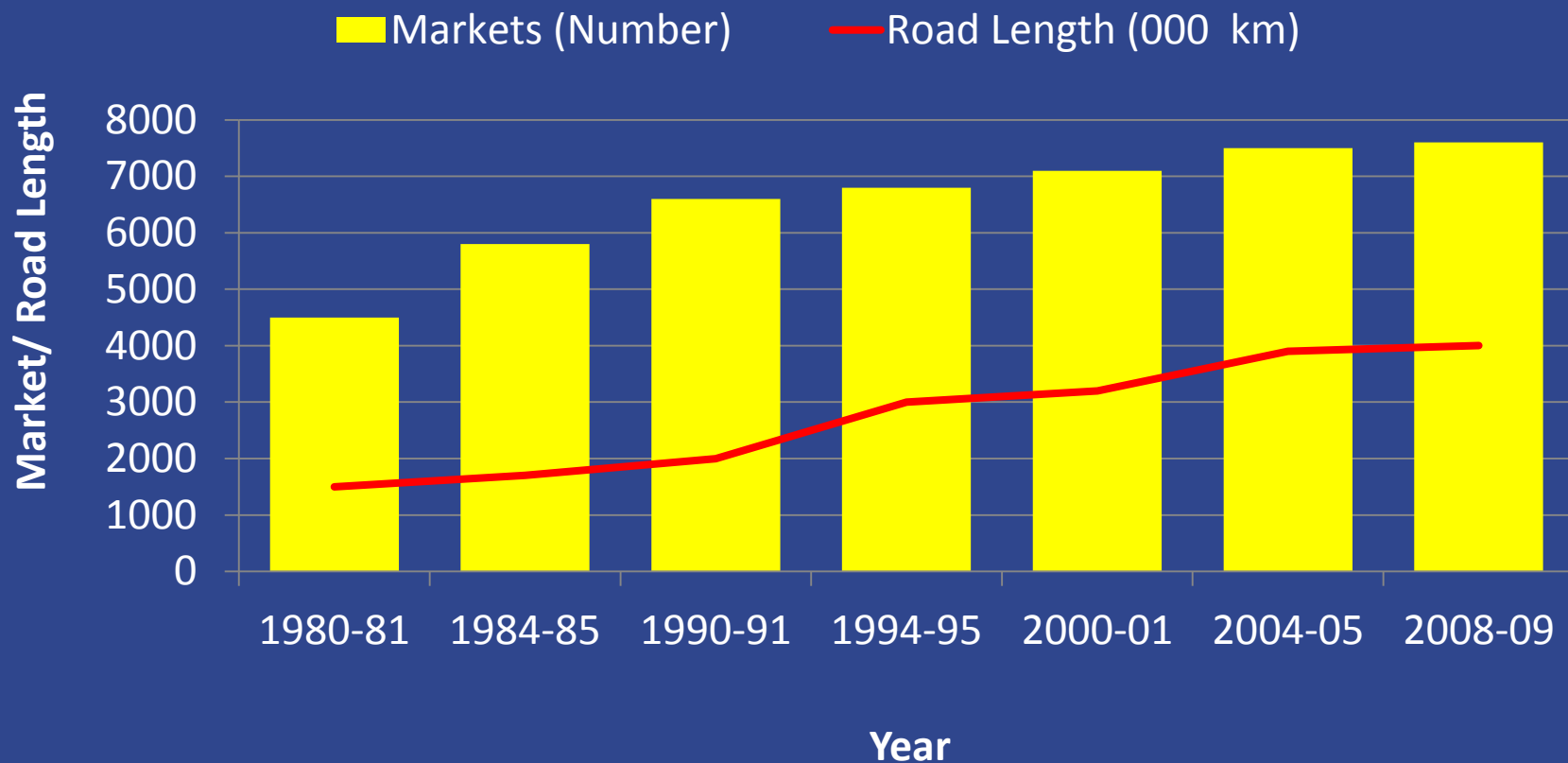
# Distribution of fruit production Area in Asia

	Total '000 ha	Total '000 tonnes	% of world ha	% of world tonnes
<b>World</b>	<b>55,856</b>	<b>608,926</b>		
Asia	28,168	310,267	50%	51%
India	6,403	75,121	23%	24%
Pakistan	781	6,370	3%	2%
Bangladesh	455	4,004	2%	1%

Source: FAO, 2013



# Fruit milage



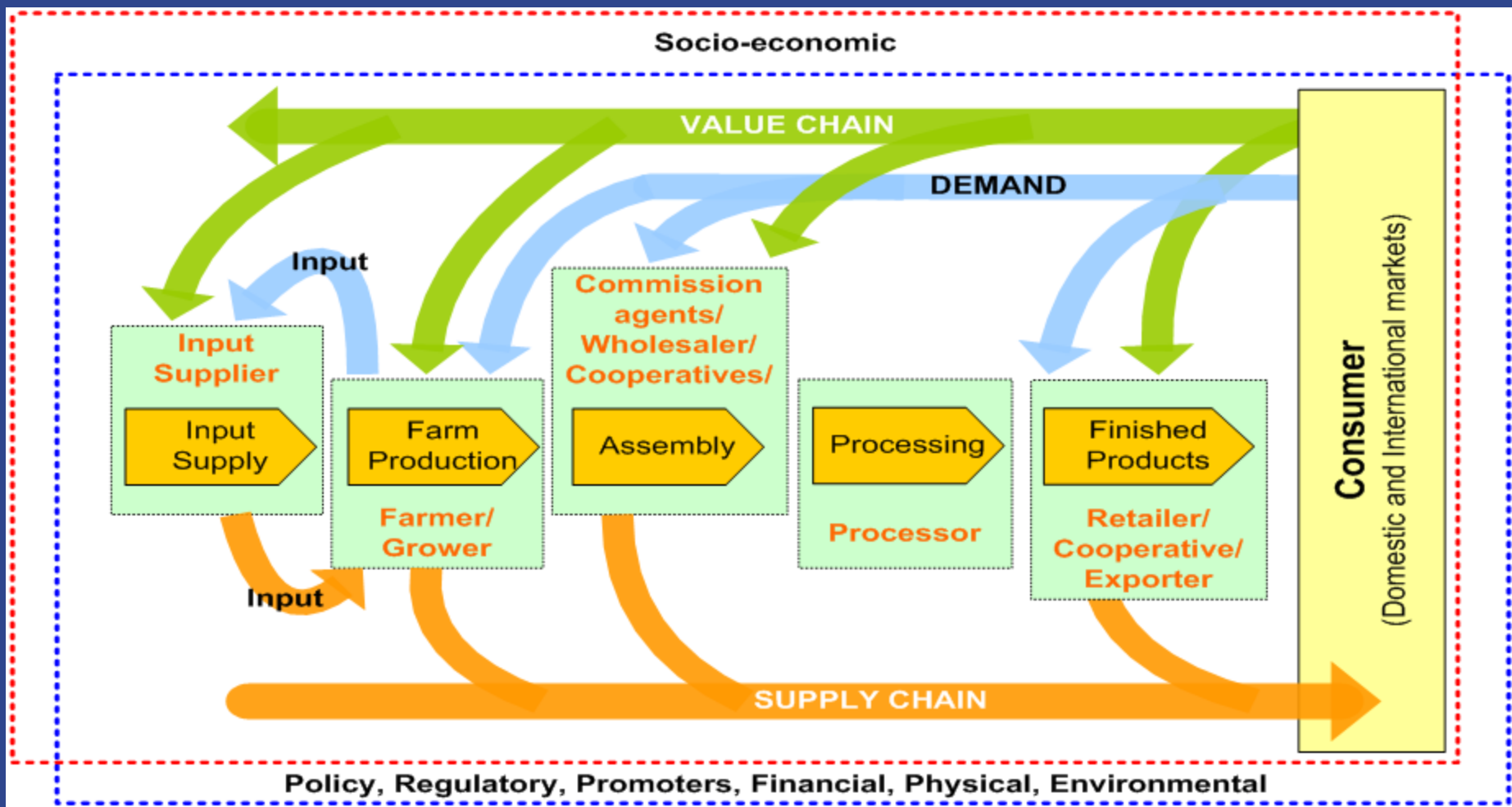
*Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, GoI*





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# Value chain of fruits in SAARC Countries







## Stakeholders engaged in value chain of fruits in SAARC countries

<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Local dealers	Farmers	Commission agent at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre (DDEC)	Processors	Wholesaler, retailers
<b>Pakistan</b>	Retailers	Farmers	Commission agents, retailers, wholesalers	Processors	Wholesalers, Exporters, retailers
<b>Nepal</b>	Cooperatives, Agro-Vets, Gos, NGOs	Farmers	Road head traders, collection centres	Processors	Wholesaler, Commission agents, retailers
<b>India</b>	Input suppliers	Farmers	Consolidators	Processors	Exporters, retailers
<b>Bhutan</b>	Commission agents, nursery operators, National seed centre	Farmers	Local vendors, farmer groups, wholesalers	Bhutan Agro Industries Limited, Village processing units, Regional fruit processing units	Exporters, retailers, cooperatives and groups
<b>Bangladesh</b>	BADC, retailers	Farmers	Bepari, rural assembly market, Faria, rural retailers	Processors	Rural wholesaler, urban wholesaler, super stores, urban retailer
	<b>Input Supply</b>	<b>Farm Production</b>	<b>Assembly</b>	<b>Processing</b>	<b>Finished Products</b>



# Issue of value chain of fruits in South Asia

1. Input supply
2. Market
3. Awareness and capabilities







## 1. Input Supply

- a) poor quality and adulterated inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) by the input supplier
- b) lack of organic fertilizer and pesticides
- c) inadequate knowledge and skills in adhering to the use of recommended pesticides and ignorance of environmental concerns as demanded by importing countries
- d) lack of awareness on the quality and environmental issues
- e) lack of sufficient air cargo space and unexplored sea vessel exports
- f) high royalty, handling charge, cost of aviation and fuel etc.,
- g) poor packaging of perishables and
- h) finally the absence of functional SME's associations





## 2. Market issue

- a) inadequate market information
- b) lack of poor marketing initiative and market linkages





### 3. General awareness

- a) lack of improved production technique of fruits
- b) inadequate knowledge and skills on soil, fertilizer, seeds and pest management
- c) lack of knowledge of seed production, collection and preservation
- d) inadequate knowledge on harvesting, post-harvest handling, storage and transportation
- e) limited research and poor dissemination of research findings, and
- f) insufficient extension services and poor delivery system.





## Recommendations

- a) Supply of Good quality seed and fertilizer from input supplier
- b) Subsidy for production of fruits and vegetables
- c) Market access and price system
- d) Marketing information
- e) Promotion of Advanced Tools for Harvesting
- f) Post Harvest Technology
- g) Efficient, equitable and viable fruits and vegetables regional and global value chains
- h) Creating Awareness on quality, safety and nutritional security aspects





## Fruits program initiated during last three years in SAC

1. Value chain analysis and market studies of fruits and vegetables in SAARC member countries-completed
2. Regional consultation workshop on mite management of coconut in SAARC Countries-completed







# Future program regarding Fruits in SAC

1. Status on varietal improvement propagation technique, cultural management of fruits in South Asia-Strategy for future research
2. Innovative technologies of post harvest management of horticultural crops in SAARC Countries





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