

Good prospect for exporting Bogra brand agri-machinery

Prof Dr. M. Azizur Rahman

ACCORDING to www.al-ihshan.net Bogra Foundry industries or the agricultural machinery manufactured in Bogra has been contributing to the economic development of Bangladesh since the 1980's. Briefly, agricultural machineries and their establishment made-in-Bogra has been able to meet the domestic demand for such goods and materials by 80%. In other words, import need of agricultural machineries has been decreased to 20%. The quality of agricultural machineries manufactured in Bangladesh (Bogra) is very good, which are available in the market at a very competitive price. The quality of these goods are no less than quality of those made in China and Japan. Demand for these agricultural machineries has been steadily increasing in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Last year (2009) about 5,000 pieces of agricultural machineries were exported to India. This year more than double amount of agricultural machineries will be exported to India. It means that foreign demand for our agricultural machineries has been increasing at a rate of geometric progression. We can produce the equipment more than before. As a result we can export more and can earn more foreign exchange. These machineries and the related spare are shallow pump, all of spare parts including liner, all kinds of wheels, power tillers and their spare, tube-well or leath machineries, saw-mill, flour mill, slips of motor car, break-drum spare parts of textile and Jute mill, garments, grinding

machineries, oil-mill, spare parts of ship building and the related others. The yearly turn-over Tk. 1,000-1,500 crore which can be increased to hundred times if we can capture the foreign market to a substantial extent.

It is possible for us to capture even European market including German if we can produce the quality agricultural machineries acceptable to those countries and if we can sale it to them at a competitive price.

The entrepreneurs of agricultural machineries in Bogra have been suffering a lot due to their smallness or small finance and a lack of "for sale" marketing opportunity at home and abroad. They need an effective assistance for a big-push investment to

production, quality production, efficient marketing, good services etc everything would be very helpful to increase the size of these industries in Bogra and to contribute to the national economic development of Bangladesh to a greater extent. Good news is that we have the technology, trained, experienced and skilled manpower to implement the imitated technology and a number of established industrial units and engineering workshop in Bogra.

On the basis of these available infrastructure we can easily take a step further for the growth and development of these demanding industries in Bogra. If these industries in Bogra become lucky enough to receive a domestic and international help and co-

To repeat the title of this article, "Bogra captures the export market" because of many important reasons. These industries in Bogra have been able to increase production efficiency and production in the agricultural and related sector of Bangladesh. We used to import these machineries from China and Japan. We do not do that anymore. That way we have been able to save a lot of foreign currency. Rather we have been exporting the agricultural and the related machineries and materials made-in-Bogra to foreign countries including the neighboring India, Nepal and Bhutan.

These have increased the employment opportunity in Bogra. One lac families or more than 5 lac family members are directly or indirectly depended on this sector for their life and living. The sector of agricultural machineries in Bogra has been providing an increased food security of Bangladesh. All we need to do is to sponsor this sector to the maximum possible extent by the government of Bangladesh.

A new industrial city in Bogra has to be developed. The BSCIC industry must be provided in the private sector with an advantage of tax-holiday. VAT on the consumer of agricultural and related machineries has to be decreased to make these business profitable. Once again, there is no substitute of increasing production efficiency, quality control (QC) and expanding the export market for these agricultural machineries and related products.

The sector of agricultural machineries in Bogra has been providing an increased food security of Bangladesh. All we need to do is to sponsor this sector to the maximum possible extent by the government of Bangladesh. A new industrial city in Bogra has to be developed.

modernise and enlarge their workshop, employ a lot of more skilled and trained manpower and assistance of the buying house services or marketing agent, bank finance for the growth and development of their industry. Briefly, large scale efficient

operation in terms of technology and finance, we can dream of capturing the Asian and European market. That way we can save the foreign exchange as well as we earn the foreign currency and help boost-up the economy of Bangladesh.