

Dear Sir,

I read your write up on biotechnology before, and I must confess with apology that not very carefully. I read it once again. First and foremost, I fully support your opening statement. In fact, for years I have been advocating among friends that Bangladesh does not need a cutting edge research that does not directly address her national, economic, and social needs. And often I am shut down!

You obviously spent a good deal of time in gathering several specific examples of our scientific/biotechnology success stories that did not see proper application or recognition. I truly enjoyed the reading. Your article reminds me of a successful effort by Dr. Fazle Rabbi's group of BCSIR in the mid seventies of canning industrially (pilot) cooked Ilisha (Hilsha) Fish chunks. To popularize, he supplied few cans in some scientific meetings/gatherings that I attended, with the hope to reach entrepreneurs to market through technology transfer. I still remember relishing every small spoonful of that boneless delicacy, and narrated the taste to my family and friends. Years later many of them enquired if the product was in market for them to have a taste of it. I never saw such a product in the supermarket shelves. After reading your article, I am sure, that success of BCSIR too could not be bridged with the industry due to lack of a proper intermediary.

Many a time we casually talk about one or the other such issues but fail to document to follow up. Contrary to that, you made a pragmatic approach that has a link between the problems and your thoughtful observations for solutions. I hope at least a few conscious scientists in Dhaka will take up your views seriously and follow up with a zeal to make the necessary changes in the culture of both the scientific institutions and the government policy makers. Thanks for your efforts.

Best regards.

Ashraf