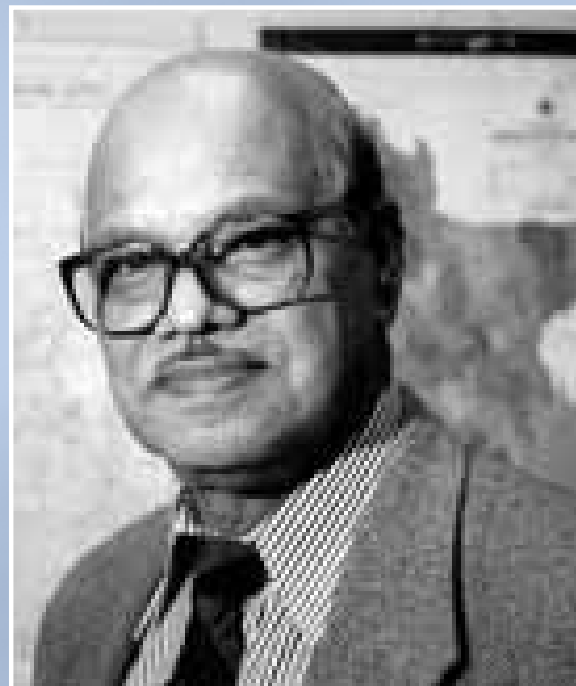


In Memory of Dr. Raisuddin Ahmed

Tanweer Akram, PhD
President, AEDSB
Jan 6, 2017, Chicago, IL

Dr. Raisuddin Ahmed (d. 2015) was a Distinguished Bangladeshi Scholar

- Dr. Raisuddin Ahmed passed away in October 2015. **On behalf of the Association, I extend our deepest condolences to his family and his near and dear ones.**
- Dr. Ahmed served at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for 25 years. He was the Director of the Markets and Structural Studies division of IFPRI before becoming an Emeritus Research Fellow in 2001. He also served as the President of AEDSB in the mid-1990s. He had been worked for the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Bangladesh in the early 1970s.
- He received a BSc in agricultural sciences from Dhaka University, after which he obtained an M.S. in agricultural economics from the American University of Beirut. Later he went on earn to an M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the Michigan State University.



Syed Akhtar Mahmood on Dr. Ahmed

- “Dr. Ahmed had spent this early career in government working with the agricultural marketing department of his country. ... **as he wandered in the haats and bazars of Bangladesh, engaging, in his inimitable style, with poor farmers and small traders, with big *arats* and low-level officials of the food and agricultural ministries, the young Raisuddin Ahmed acquired a knowledge and intrinsic understanding of agricultural markets in developing countries that was to stay with him for the rest of his life.** Later, as he combined that grass-roots knowledge with the modern techniques of economic analysis, Dr. Ahmed produced his incisive work that has shaped our understanding of how markets work in developing countries.”
- “**Raisuddin Ahmed believed strongly in the power of the markets; this was not an ideological belief** nurtured in western ivory towers but born out of his first-hand experiences of markets in a developing country. That experience also taught him about where **markets can go wrong and why good public policy was needed** to address the weaknesses of markets and unleash their potential. No wonder that this was the subject to which he devoted most of his research career.” [Emphasis added]

Source: Mahmood (2015). “The Ginger Trader and the Ocean Liner: Remembering the man who understood both” <https://m.facebook.com/notes/akhtar-mahmood/the-ginger-trader-and-the-ocean-liner-remembering-the-man-who-understood-both/10153321721321339/?ref=bookmarks>

Personal Recollection : Akram

- Dr. Ahmed was the President of the Association in the mid-1990s. This was during the time I first served as assistant General Secretary. So I got to know him.
- He was a very senior scholar with many years of experience and extensive contacts with important officials and politicians in Bangladesh, policymakers in Washington DC, and elsewhere. He knew the failures and follies of policymakers in Bangladesh very well but he also believed in constructive engagement.
- He was very kind, interested in a wide range of topics, and always keen to listen. I discussed my work on privatization in Bangladesh, international foreign aid, and other issues with him. He did not hesitate to engage with young people.
- He was deeply passionate about Bangladesh's development, particularly issues, such as agriculture, the rural economy, infrastructure, local government, regulation, and administrative reforms.

Key Features of Dr. Ahmed's Scholarship

- Dr. Ahmed published in leading journals in the West, such as the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. His work is widely cited and read.
- Dr. Ahmed also published in Bangladeshi journals, including the *Bangladesh Development Studies* and wrote the first article of the inaugural issue of *Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Economics*.
- Not only did he publish technical papers, but he also wrote papers that are accessible to policymakers, such as his 2004 paper in *Economic and Political Weekly* on "Rice Economy of Bangladesh: Progress and Prospects."
- His books (with his coauthors) were widely and favorably reviewed in the leading professional journals in economics, including *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, and *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

Dr. Raisuddin Ahmed's Scholarly Contributions Are Too Numerous to List

Here some examples of his work:

- Ahmed, Raisuddin, and Mahabub Hossain. *Developmental Impact of Rural Infrastructure in Bangladesh*. 1990.
- Ahmed, Raisuddin, Steven Haggblade, and Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, eds. *Out of the Shadow of Famine: Evolving Food markets and Food Policy in Bangladesh*. 2000.
- Goletti, Francesco, Raisuddin Ahmed, and Naser Farid. "Structural Determinants of Market Integration: The Case of Rice markets in Bangladesh," *The Developing Economies* 33, no. 2 (1995): 196-198.
- Mellor, John Williams, and Raisuddin Ahmed, eds. *Agricultural Price Policy for Developing Countries*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.



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