

Staff Reporter

Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque on Monday asked the private seed production companies to make less profit as part of their social responsibility during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Minister came up with the remarks at an online meeting over production and distribution of seeds of different food grains.

“Considering the purchasing capacity and financial conditions of farmers, this year private companies should stand beside the government by providing seeds at less profit as part of their corporate social responsibility,” he said.

Although at the beginning of the outbreak, there were some problems regarding the marketing of seasonal fruits and vegetables but now they have been resolved, Razzaque said adding that currently farmers can sell their production at desired rate.

The biggest challenge is to increase the production of Aman in the upcoming season during this crisis moment of the country as it is cultivated in large areas but carry less production, the minister said.

The production can be increased up to 15-20 percent by only using highly productive and qualitative seeds, he said adding that the Ministry has been trying to produce and supply quality seeds to ensure sustainable food security.

“The ministry has taken short-term, mid-term and long-term plans and hopefully Bangladesh will be out of the possible food crisis that might hit the world if the plans are implemented properly,” Razzaque said.

The government has provided Tk 20 crore subsidy for selling 19,500 metric tonnes of Aman seeds among farmers this year, he said.