



Discussants and guests along with Nobel Laureate in physiology Sir Richard J Roberts, middle in chair, pose for a photo during a seminar on GMO crops at North South University on Saturday.
— Press release

Nobel laureate addresses GMO crop policies at NSU

Staff Correspondent

NORTH South University's South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance and NSU-UWA Agribusiness Centre of Excellence on Saturday hosted a talk by Sir Richard J Roberts, a distinguished Nobel Laureate in physiology or medicine on its campus.

The seminar centred on the crucial topic of 'GMO Crops' in Bangladesh: Policies and Practices,' aiming to assess and discuss the current policies and practices related to GMO crops in the country, along with identifying the significant challenges and advancements in research and production, said a press release.

NSU vice-chancellor professor Atiqul Islam presided over the session. The distinguished panel of experts included Anwar Faruque, former agriculture ministry secretary, prof Abdul Khaleque, department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at NSU, M Mahfuzul Haque, associate prof at SIPG, and Md Shawkat Islam Sohel, assistant prof, department of Environmental Science and Management at NSU.

Richard J Roberts shed light on what he perceives as contradictions within the anti-GMO movement. He also addressed the pressing issue of global hunger, presenting GMOs as a potential solution. He emphasised the need for a nuanced perspective on the term 'Genetically Modified Organism,' highlighting that evolution has continually shaped all life forms on Earth, and genetic modification has been an integral part of plant and animal breeding practices for centuries.

Prof Atiqul Islam underlined the challenges in persuading policymakers regarding GMO food and its potential to address prevalent vitamin deficiencies among the Bangladeshi population.