



Prof. Dr. S. M. Rezaul Karim

Vice Chancellor, ASA University Bangladesh

Professor Rezaul Karim is a distinguished academic, visionary educationist, and internationally reputed weed scientist who currently serves as the Vice Chancellor of ASA University Bangladesh. With over four decades of excellence in higher education, research, and academic leadership, Prof. Karim's career reflects an unwavering commitment to innovation, academic rigor, and global collaboration.

Early Life and Academic Excellence

Born in 1957 in a respected Muslim family in Sirajganj, Bangladesh, Prof. Karim's academic journey began with brilliance and determination. He completed his **B.Sc. Ag. (Hons.)** from **Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)** in 1979, graduating **second in order of merit**. He continued his studies at BAU and earned a **M.Sc. in Agronomy** in 1981 with **first position**.

Seeking advanced knowledge in agroecology, he pursued international higher studies and earned an **M.Phil. in Agroecology** in 1991 from the **University of Reading**, a prestigious institution in the United Kingdom. His academic pursuit reached its peak with a **Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen**, Scotland, UK, where he conducted extensive research in his field.

Prof. Karim further enriched his academic credentials through **two post-doctoral fellowships**—the first from **Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Bangi (2003–2005)**, and the second from **Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang** in 2010.

Academic and Administrative Career in Bangladesh

Prof. Karim began his teaching career as a **Lecturer of Agronomy** at the then **Bangladesh Agricultural Institute** (now **Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University**) in 1981. After one year and eight months of service, he joined his alma mater, **Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)**, as a Lecturer in 1983. Over the next 33 years at BAU, he progressed through the academic ranks—**Assistant Professor, Associate Professor**, and finally **Professor of Agronomy** in 2000.

While at BAU (1983–2016), Prof. Karim was deeply engaged in both teaching and administration. His leadership roles included:

- **Director, Agronomy Field Laboratory**
- **Chairman, Students' Discipline Committee**
- **Provost, Student Halls**
- **Convener, Provost Council**
- **Member, Academic Council**

Contributions to Weed Science and International Recognition

Prof. Karim is widely regarded as a pioneer in **Weed Science** in Bangladesh. In 2008, he founded the **Weed Science Society of Bangladesh** and currently serves as the **Bangladesh Country Representative** for the **Asia Pacific Weed Science Society** and the **International Parthenium Weed Research Group**.

International Academic Leadership in Malaysia

In 2011, Prof. Karim accepted a professorship at **Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)** in the **Faculty of Agro-Based Industry**. Over his **eight-year tenure (2011–2018)**, he:

- Led the **CPT Research Group**
- Chaired multiple academic and administrative committees
- Supervised and examined **Master's and Ph.D. students** in Malaysia and India

- Chaired several **Master's and Ph.D. viva voce sessions**

In 2013, Prof. Karim made a landmark discovery by identifying the presence of ***Parthenium hysterophorus* (Killer Weed)**, a highly invasive and allergenic weed, in Malaysia. His discovery received national recognition and was featured in various Malaysian media outlets. In response, he established the **Parthenium Weed Research Group** at UMK in 2014, leading it until 2018. He also delivered a **professorial talk at UMK** and a **public lecture at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)**, promoting sustainable Parthenium management.

From 2014 to 2018, he served as an **advisory consultant** to the **Biosecurity Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Malaysia**, for Parthenium weed management. During this period, he was also appointed **Country Representative (Bangladesh)** for the **Regional Network on Poverty Eradication (RENPER)**, presenting research in Vietnam, Philippines, India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.

Return to Bangladesh and Leadership at UPM, Malaysia

After returning to Bangladesh in January 2019, Prof. Karim continued his academic endeavors and, in **2020**, was offered the prestigious position of **Professor and IOI Chair** in the **Department of Crop Science at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)**. He served there from **November 2021 to January 2024**, forging impactful research collaborations between UPM and institutions such as:

- **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines**
- **Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)**
- **Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)**
- **International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)**
- **Daffodil International University (DIU)**
- **Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA)**

Publications and Academic Contributions

Prof. Dr. Karim is a prolific author, having written seven books and contributed chapters to seven internationally acclaimed scientific books. He has published more than 180 scientific papers in the national and international impactful journals. He has attended and presented at **45 scientific conferences**, delivering **ten keynote speeches** at international forums.

Personal Life and Vision

Prof. Karim is married and blessed with **one son and three daughters**. As Vice Chancellor of ASA University Bangladesh, he envisions leading the institution to new heights through **academic excellence, impactful research, and institutional growth**, aspiring to make it a beacon of higher education in Bangladesh and beyond, **In Sha Allah**.