

GRASSHOPPER FARMING FROM LAB TO FIELD – A WISH UNFULFILLED**P. Haldar¹ and N. C. Nandi²**

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Edible insects may open up future prospects for food and feed security (Van Huis *et al.*, 2013), while farming of grasshoppers can play an important role in food and feed production at the global level. Haldar and his research scholars made vital researches on acridid rearing since 1992 (Nath and Haldar, 1992), focusing on various aspects of laboratory research/rearing of some grasshopper species in West Bengal, aiming to establish a grasshopper farm in India (Haldar and Malakar, 2017). To be specific, Haldar and Nandi (1997), for the first time, proposed the feasibility of grasshopper farming in West Bengal, India. Four species of grasshoppers, viz., *Oxya fuscovitata*, *Acridida exalta*, *Heroglyphus banian* and *Spathosternum prasiniferum* were highlighted as the fecund species. Anand, Ganguly and Haldar (2008) reported that these four grasshopper species have higher protein content when compared to soybean and fishmeal available in the market. Das, Ganguly and Haldar (2009, 2010) had further studied for space requirements, optimum temperature and photoperiods towards mass rearing of *O. fuscovitata* and *S. prasiniferum*. Furthermore, Haldar (2012) made market study to popularize the grasshoppers as food and feed resources, decreasing the demand/ supply ratio of fishmeal towards reducing the market prices.

It is mentioned that the first author (P. Haldar), had popularized grasshopper farming through the Doordarshan Calcutta by arranging/ broadcasting of the Documentary Film on “**In search for a new food**” (*Khadyabhase Nutan Diganta*) on Sep. 18, 2019 and by Dooradarshan Santiniketan. on (*Bipad theke Sampad*) through the newly invented system “PHLNM 20” on 10th June, 2020, and through You Tube Video (*Bipad theke Sampad*). He had the cherished desire of establishing grasshopper farm in West Bengal with support from government sources. However, grasshoppers are now apparently farmed (*vide* YouTube:https://youtube.com/shorts/d*wH17LJsZw?si=NIURXZODMACxmiqq) in Uganda showing as Grasshopper Farming Craze through the breeding and rearing of Nsenene grasshoppers (*Ruspolia nitidula*) as they are a popular delicacy as well as potential source of protein(<https://gcgh.granchallenges.org>;<https://www.monitor.co.ug/u>;<https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/grant/breeding-and-rearing-nsenene-grasshoppers-protein-source>). So, his desires of establishing a pioneering grasshopper culture/ farm, like Sericulture, Apiculture and Lac culture, in boosting Indian economy ahead of the world, now remained a dream unfulfilled for the country.

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