

# Innovation of “Brinjaloo” at IUBAT Through Grafting Brinjal on Potato

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## ABSTRACT

Brinjal (*Solanum melongena*) and potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) are the members of the family Solanaceae. They are the major winter vegetables of Bangladesh. Most of the vegetable plants of the same family, such as brinjal and potato plants can be grafted to create one plant named as “Brinjaloo”. The upper part of the plant becomes the top of the plant would produce brinjals, while the lower or underground part would produce tubers i.e., potatoes.

## INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is an agricultural country. Its economy and people fully depend on its agriculture. At present Bangladesh have 8.0 million ha of cultivable land. Different crops are grown in this land. The country has become sufficient in cereal food production but still deficient in vegetable production which is the chief source of nutrition. An area of 0.358 million ha of land is under the cultivation of vegetables and total production is 3.02 million ton. An adult should consume at least 200g of vegetables head-1 day-1. But people of Bangladesh consume only 60g leaving a demand of 140g more with a total requirement of 11.24 million ton. Population is also increasing day by day and putting pressure on further increase in requirement. Therefore, there is a scope of boosting up vegetable production. But the cultivable land is decreasing every year by 1% which is being used by new families for making their new homes and also utilized by the establishment of new industries and constructing new roads and highways. As such time has come for innovation of new technology to increase crop production from minimum land to ensure nutrition security of the country.

Brinjal (*Solanum melongena*) and potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) are the members of the family Solanaceae. They are the major winter vegetables of Bangladesh. Most of the vegetable plants of the same family, such as brinjal and potato plants can be grafted to create one plant named as “Brinjaloo”. The upper part of the plant becomes the top of the plant would produce brinjals, while the lower or underground part would produce tubers i.e., potatoes. This technology is a new practice for the growers. Growing two plants in one for two crops could be an advantageous practice among growers who lack in space to work

upon. Such plantation is accomplished through a process called grafting – a method of asexual propagation. This gardening innovation lets gardeners grow vertically stacked plants in small space. One such example of this could be the production of “Brinjal” plant that would produce brinjal and potato from one plant. Growing potatoes and brinjals as one plant offers huge benefits. Through them, small farmers can maximize use of their growing plots and thus lower the input costs.

## CONCLUSION

The resultant crops formed after the union of brinjals and potatoes would probably be more efficient than a single potato or brinjal plant. Planting a “Brinjal” plant also saves time and labor without affecting quality of produce. Another benefit of producing a “Brinjal” plant through grafting is that this method of propagation can improve resistance to certain pests. Of course all these are to be tested.

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