



46

CFS 46 Delegate Statement

Name:

Country/Organization/Constituency: Bangladesh

Statement:

Honourable the Chair of the Session----

CFS Delegates and Observers

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon

I am honoured to speak on this august Session. Let me first thank CFS, FAO for inviting me to share the Bangladesh achievements in the food and nutrition security (FNS) agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to express our applause to CFS for this comprehensive SOFI 2019. Bangladesh achieved sustainable self-sufficiency in food production in the turn of a few decades. Last year we had record rice production, and all credit goes to our indomitable farmers and our government, led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Moreover, Bangladesh continued to maintain its strong GDP growth that is projected more than 8% this year.

Excellency,

Bangladesh present government is committed by their Election manifesto that enshrined ensuring *“safe and nutritious food for all citizens”* and *“leaving no one behind”*. We targetat nurturing the vulnerable population in general, and the pregnant women and lactating mothers, infants, adolescents in particular. As such, the Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security Programme (BFNSP) is running in 11 districts under funding from EU, USAID and UKAID, and implemented by many international and national partner. Bangladesh's policy and interventions go very much in line with those highlighted and recommended in SOFI 2019.

Bangladesh is justifiably proud of its progress in reducing poverty in all its form and dimensions. In the 1970s the poverty incidence was in the 80 percent range; while by 2018, the poverty incidence had fallen down below 22 percent and extreme poverty below 12 percent. To protect the incomes of the poor and vulnerable, the Government is placing greater attention to inclusive development and social protection. The social protection budget share is around 2.25 percent of GDP and 15 percent of public expenditure.

In this context, we are to formulate a new Food and Nutrition Security Policy (BFNSP) this year, aimed at achieving the relevant SDGs targets. This new policy process follows the food systems approach and covers, inter alia, priorities of the Second Country Investment Plan for Nutrition Sensitive Food Systems (2016-2020).

Ladies and gentlemen,

As part of the larger policy framework for food security and nutrition, Bangladesh has also embarked on institutionalization of food safety by improving the integration of national food safety control systems and by enhancing inter-agency collaboration and cooperation, leading to greater consistency in enforcement of regulations and a safer food supply. At this point, I would like to mention that we are the first nation who observe 2nd February as National Safe Food Day throughout the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bangladesh recognizes that a market economy like Bangladesh, where the bulk of the economy is privately owned and managed, should, therefore, aim its plans and regulations at stimulating the private sector. Nevertheless, there is an important complementary role for public sector investment programmes, particularly in the areas like food and nutrition security of the poor and other social sectors where private sector is less interested to invest in. We hope that our development partners and UN agencies will continue to join hands with the Bangladesh's daunting task of ending hunger and establishing a sustainable food and nutrition security enhancing environment friendly food and agricultural systems.

Excellency Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman,

In conclusion, I like to assure you on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh that improving food and nutrition security is at the top of the political and inclusive development agenda in Bangladesh. With the sustained political commitment at the highest level, we had achieved our target for reducing hunger by half before 2015. Likewise, Bangladesh aspires to achieve the relevant SDG targets in the same way. Along with other Ministries, the Ministry of Food is playing a more vital role in implementing plans for SDG targets; and achieving Bangladesh's sustainable food and nutrition security.

Thank you