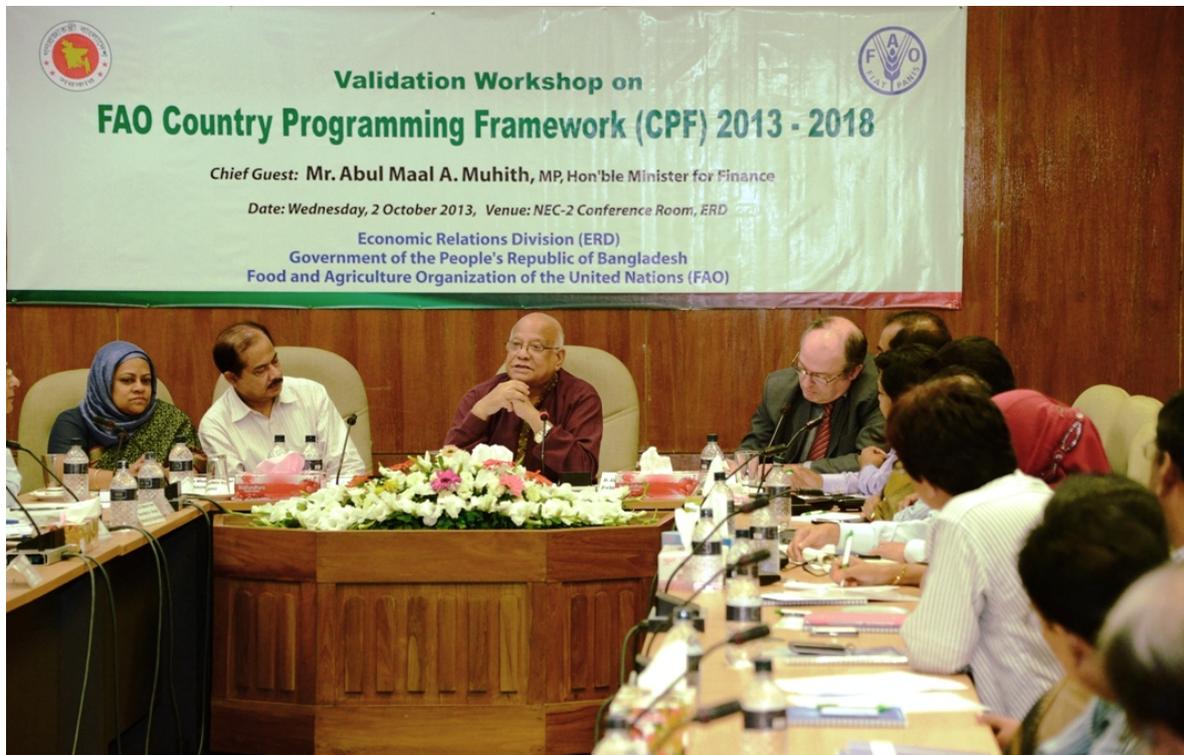


Press Release

New FAO Country Programming Framework 2013-2018 for Bangladesh launched today



Full endorsement ensured for ERD and FAO's joint new country strategy for the next five years

02 October 2013, Dhaka, Bangladesh – The Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) today organized a validation workshop for the new FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2013-2018, a tool used by FAO and Government to define the priorities of FAO's assistance to Bangladesh. The new CPF endorsed today is fully aligned to Bangladesh development objectives as well as the overall Strategic Framework of FAO, and has been developed over a number of months.

This five-year programme emphasizes five main areas – 1) enhancing access to food for better food security and nutrition 2) enhancing productivity sustainably including management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanisation 3) improved food systems (including safety) 4) better links between research, extension and farmers, and 5) increased resilience of communities to withstand shocks or natural disasters.

This Country Programming Framework identifies priorities for FAO's work with the Government of Bangladesh and maps out the road for further development of the agriculture sector and reduction in the number of hungry people in the country. Through discussions and collaboration with key stakeholders, including civil society and farmer representatives, this FAO CPF 2013-2018 received support and endorsement by all sides.

The validation workshop event brought together high-level participants, key stakeholders, civil society organizations and featured interventions from Chief Guest, Mr Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP, Honourable Minister for Finance and Mr Mike Robson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh. Dr S. M. Nazmul Islam, Secretary in Charge, Ministry of Agriculture, Begum Mushfeka Ikfat, Secretary, Ministry of Food, Mr Md Ashadul Islam, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division and Ms Sultana Afroz, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division also spoke in the event.

The Honourable Minister for Finance, MP, Mr Abul Maal Abdul Muhith ensured his full support to this new FAO Country Programming Framework 2013-2018 and expressed his appreciation for the dedication and hard work from both FAO's side and the Government. This CPF will ensure continued collaboration with FAO based on the challenges and priorities that are underwritten in this document and which are reflected and perfectly in line with other national strategic policies and plans, including the Country Investment Plan, the Sixth Five Year Plan, the National Food Policy and Plan of Action, and others.

Mr Mike Robson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh stated that this Country Programming Framework will strengthen the long-standing partnership between the GoB and FAO. In the coming five years, the Government with FAO's technical support will invest resources to reduce poverty and enhance food and nutrition security, increase agricultural productivity, improve food market systems and related technology, and increase resilience of communities to shocks.