

Bangladesh Country Programming Framework

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

CPF 2014- 2018

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Acronyms & Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BADC	Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics BCC
	Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CED	Chronic Energy Deficiency
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CIP	Country Investment Plan
CPF	Country Programming Framework
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DOF	Department of Fisheries
DPs	Development Partners DRE
	Decent Rural Employment
ERD	Economic Relations Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPMU	Food Policy Monitoring Unit
FSC	Food Security Cluster
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HCTT	Humanitarian Coordination Task Team
HDI	Human Development Index
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIIDs	High-Impact Infectious Diseases
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
IADGs	Internationally Agreed Development Goals
ILO	International Labour Office
I/NGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LBM	Live Bird Markets
LCG	Local Consultative Group
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGIs	Local Government Institutions
LLP	Low-Lift Pump
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MoFood	Ministry of Food
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoInd	Ministry of Industry
MoL	Ministry of Land
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MoPME	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MRV	Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MT	Metric Tons
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NFP	National Food Policy
NFP POA	National Food Policy Plan of Action
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMTPF	National Medium Term Priority Framework
NSAPR-II	National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
R&D	Research & Development
SFYP	Sixth Five Year Plan
SME	Small & Medium Enterprise
SO	Strategic Objective
SSN	Social Safety Nets
TADs	Transboundary Animal Diseases
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United National Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United National High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Center
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Foreword

In the immediate post-independence period, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was one of the first international agencies to extend a considerable amount of assistance to Bangladesh to support relief and rehabilitation, as well as national efforts for economic recovery and reconstruction, and – on the other hand – Bangladesh has contributed significantly to FAO initiatives, commissions, committees and working panels, becoming an active and respected member of the governing bodies of FAO, Programme Committee, the Council and Conference. In keeping with this tradition of vibrant and two-way collaboration, I am pleased to see the continued commitment from the Government of Bangladesh and FAO in revising the Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is a critical tool to ensure more integrated and bottom-up approach to the FAO's programming process.

The CPF is a critical strategic document in supporting FAO's provision of technical, policy and capacity development support around the world as well as in our own country. The CPF 2014 - 2018 is the result of extensive consultation and collaboration between the Government of Bangladesh and FAO, and continuous commitment from the Economic Relations Division in coordinating the process between all key stakeholders. The positive response that has been received from not only government representatives, but also civil society organizations and the private sector has helped to reach a shared vision regarding FAO's assistance to Bangladesh in the next five-year period.

The Economic Relations Division which acts as counterpart to all UN agencies in Bangladesh, extends its full endorsement towards the CPF 2014-2018. I am convinced that this document will ensure greater development of the agriculture sector and the achievement of food security for all the people of Bangladesh. ERD will continue supporting the activities of FAO and ensure support and coordinated action to its endeavours to assist the people of Bangladesh. ERD extends its full support to the next phase, which is the implementation phase, where ERD will again play the key role of coordinating the resource mobilization process, bringing together development partners under the shared umbrella of the development priorities in the agriculture sector as highlighted in the document.

I would like to thank FAO for its continued support to the Government of Bangladesh in working for the sustainable development of the agriculture sector and the achievement of food and nutrition security for the people of Bangladesh at all times. I reiterate my appreciation for the dedication and hard work that went into it from both ERD and FAO's side as well other highly important stakeholders such as sectoral ministries of the Government, members of civil society, private sector and farmer representatives. This CPF really sets out a roadmap for five years of fruitful collaboration between FAO and the Government of Bangladesh.



Mohammad Mejbahuddin
Secretary
Economic Relations Division

Foreword

The Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2014 – 2018 is a central strategic document for FAO in Bangladesh. It sets out FAO's priorities for the current 5 year period, in its technical and development assistance to the Government of Bangladesh. It is also a tool to help mobilize resources in a programmatic manner, rather than on a project-by-project basis. FAO and the Government of Bangladesh developed the initial CPF from documents prepared during 2010, being among the first FAO Member Countries to do so. This first effort has helped raise over \$100 million in technical assistance for Bangladesh over the period 2010-2013.

Following the arrival of the new FAO Director General in 2012, there was clearly a need to align FAO activities in Bangladesh with FAO's new corporate Strategic Framework. This framework sets out our Members' vision of the areas where FAO should prioritize in its provision of technical assistance in food security and nutrition going forward. On the demand side, relevant Government of Bangladesh priorities are encapsulated in the Sixth Five Year Plan, the Country Investment Plan for Food Security, and the goal of attaining Middle Income Country status by 2021. The CPF for Bangladesh was therefore revised to match the new priorities in FAO technical assistance, with the government's expressed needs.

Under the new CPF, FAO Bangladesh will focus on delivering technical assistance programmes which develop capacity and institutions for the long term benefit of food security in the country. Work to support **evidence-based** policy making remains high on the agenda. Highlighting and addressing issues with the **sustainability** of the food system likewise, including topics such as food safety, and food waste. But FAO in Bangladesh will also retain a strong presence in the field, through field schools, and support to local institution-building. This will help to make sure that the technical assistance we provide remains highly **relevant** to the realities faced by producers, and consumers. One particular new priority will be to improve the **linkages** between farmers, extension workers and research, to improve the uptake and adaptation of new technologies. Climate change will also be addressed through the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme. And our disaster risk reduction work will continue to concentrate on building the **resilience** of the potentially-affected communities, while co-ordinating under the Food Security Cluster.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance has played a key role in helping to revise this CPF, coordinating a process of consultation across government; it will continue to be our main counterpart in the implementation phase, monitoring results and coordinating resource mobilization. On the latter point, future resource mobilization depends critically on the successful delivery of our ongoing FAO programme. We aim to build an **even stronger** food security and nutrition programme in support of the people of Bangladesh, based on this delivery, and on what we have achieved to date.



Mr Mike Robson
FAO Representative in Bangladesh





Preamble

The FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) for Bangladesh is a **strategic planning and management tool** which provides FAO with a sound basis for developing its mid-term country programme, in line with the policies and development priorities of the Government.

The specific objectives of the CPF are to identify country level priority areas of work, assistance needs and investment opportunities; to make FAO's response at country level more effective; to help coordinate and contribute to multilateral goals relating to sustainable agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition. The identified focus areas must also reflect and be consistent with the mandate and expertise of FAO as a specialized technical agency of the UN (defined by its corporate FAO Strategic Framework and Regional Priorities), and be consistent with other internationally agreed development goals (such as the MDGs).

The CPF represents a milestone in the decentralization of FAO, and lays the basis for a more integrated and "bottom-up" approach to FAO Programming at country level. Being formulated in close collaboration with the government, the process by which the CPF was produced has established a formal dialogue, created ownership, and instilled a shared agenda for work over the next five years. In turn, this coherence-in defining investment and support needs-invites support from Development Partners.

This document is a revised version of the first FAO CPF for Bangladesh which was formulated in 2010-11. The decision to revise the CPF was taken jointly by FAO and Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in late 2012 in response to changes in planning and strategic framework of both FAO and the GoB. This new document replaces the previous version. The new FAO country priority areas for 2014-2018 have been agreed as follows:

- 1. Reduce poverty and enhance food security and nutrition (access and utilization)*
- 2. Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization*
- 3. Improve market linkages, value addition, and quality and safety of the food system*
- 4. Further improve technology generation and adaptation through better producer-extension-research linkages*
- 5. Increase resilience of communities to withstand 'shocks' such as natural disasters, health threats and other risks to livelihoods*

The document is structured as follows. Section I introduces, while Section II provides context and current situation related to agriculture and food security in Bangladesh. Section III explores FAO's relative strengths in the country and relates these to the new FAO Strategic Framework and regional priorities. Section IV identifies the main development challenges and priorities that were articulated during the stakeholder consultations, followed by the outline of the new CPF Country Priority Areas. Finally, Section V describes how these priority areas are to be funded, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

Introduction

1.1 Context

Bangladesh joined FAO in 1973, within two years of independence. Since the start of operational activities in 1978, a close collaboration has been established between FAO and the Government of Bangladesh.

1.2. FAO's role in Bangladesh

From the beginning, FAO's technical assistance covered sustainable agriculture (including crops, livestock and fisheries), natural resources management, forestry, food security and rural development. These elements were considered indispensable for building the new Nation, and remain valid to the present day as a significant proportion of the population continue to work in agriculture and food production. In recent years, new themes to emerge include climate change, nutrition, food safety, post-emergency recovery in the agriculture sector, post-production, and animal health and transboundary disease.

FAO is committed to continue its longstanding, close collaboration with the GoB through the following modes of assistance:



1. Policy and technical advice in the areas of FAO's mandate

FAO builds on its technical knowledge and experience to assist member countries to devise agricultural policy, supporting planning and creating national strategies to achieve rural development and alleviate hunger. In addition, FAO tests its technical know-how in a field setting through projects and programmes, and this ensures that policy advice is relevant and useful. Although FAO's work concentrates on longer-term development assistance, it also has a role in emergency settings, particularly in post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery of the agricultural sector.



2. Advocacy and support to aid effectiveness

As a neutral forum, FAO can help bring government and development partners together to acquire shared understanding of technical issues and direct investments towards priority areas based on a common agenda and most up-to-date information. In Bangladesh, this includes participating in key partnership *fora* like the Local Consultative Groups (LCGs).



3. Support to investment and resource mobilization

On the basis of this shared understanding and agreement, FAO can also help support the mobilization of resources from development partners to transform goals and priorities into action on the ground.

Capacity development at all levels is a fundamental feature of all FAO activities in Bangladesh, both at institutional level (for example, through the strengthening of organisations within government) as well as at the individual level (including farmers, extension workers, agricultural professionals, health professionals, etc.).

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender equality and Women's empowerment are at the core of FAO's action in Bangladesh on food security and nutrition

In addition, the FAO programme in Bangladesh is fully dedicated to the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment. In Bangladesh (as elsewhere), gender inequalities affect many aspects of social, political and economic life. The different roles, activities, responsibilities, opportunities and restrictions faced by men and women are key to their capacity to be food secure, and for this reason those differences must be understood and made part of the development process.

Although Bangladesh has made much advance in social attitudes towards women, particularly regarding their participation in the economy, challenges persist. Although women and men both share many of the burdens of poverty, they also experience poverty differently and are affected differently by development interventions. FAO in Bangladesh is committed to ensuring that all projects and programmes reflect the different needs and challenges of men and women (the gender mainstreaming approach). In other cases, it works directly with women and other vulnerable social constituencies (ex. children, indigenous minorities) to provide greater opportunities, and redress imbalances created over time.

1.3. Rationale of the Country Programming Framework: from the first NMTPF to a revised CPF

Earlier Process of NMTPF formulation

The Government of Bangladesh and FAO prepared the first National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) in May 2011 as a precursor to the CPF. Covering the 2010-2015 time period, the NMTPF was formulated jointly by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and involving other primary line ministries. Bangladesh was one of the first countries to engage in this process, thereby taking a leading role in FAO's transition towards a country-led, bottom-up approach to defining the Organization's work at decentralized level.

Revision of the FAO Bangladesh CPF

Since the publishing of the first NMTPF/CPF, a number of developments have taken place which have led the GoB and FAO to jointly decide to revise and update FAO's country framework. These changes include the formulation of the new corporate FAO Strategic Framework (2013), and the endorsement of a number of key national policy and planning frameworks by the GoB which were not in place at the time of the first formulation. The revision of the CPF is an opportunity to re-align the FAO programme with the most up-to-date national development priorities, fill any gaps that have become apparent, and focus FAO's efforts on a reduced but more concrete set of country priority areas.

1.4. Process of CPF revision

According to established GoB procedures, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance is primary counterpart to all UN agencies in the country. For this reason, the process of revising the CPF was coordinated by ERD with the technical support of FAO.

The revision process was effectively launched following a preliminary meeting between FAO and the ERD on November 1st, 2012.

On December 12th, 2012 a first meeting was held with the principal line ministries with which FAO interacts, to discuss FAO priorities, gather support and identify a consensual process for moving forward. This meeting led to the creation in January 2013 of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for the revision of the CPF made up of eleven focal points from the ministries and departments with key relevance to FAO's mandate and country programme. This committee was responsible for providing strategic guidance in the revision process, facilitating sharing of information, fostering inter-ministerial cooperation, and clearing the document as representatives of FAO's key GoB partners.

In an effort to ensure that the revised CPF reflects the multi-dimensional, cross-sectoral and gender sensitive account of Bangladesh's challenges and priorities, the number of concerned ministries was this

Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Ministry of Food (MoF)

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL)

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)

Ministry of Primary & Mass Education (MoPME)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning (MoP)

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)

time expanded. The ministries which were involved in the CPF revision process were the following:

In a meeting held on March 7th, 2013, the committee agreed to hold a total of nine technical consultation sessions with different government and non-government stakeholders, in order to solicit input and views on the future direction of FAO's assistance to Bangladesh. In April-May 2013, seven consultation sessions were held with the above-mentioned ministries, while two additional sessions were held with civil society (NGOs, academia and private sector) on the one hand, and farmer representatives on the other.

A validation workshop was held on 29th September chaired by the honourable Finance Minister, where some further suggestions were made. The process of production of the CPF was consultative and participatory, as fitting for a tool in the fight against poverty and hunger in Bangladesh.



Situational Analysis



This section gives a brief overview of the macroeconomic context of present day Bangladesh, including the agricultural sector, socio-economic conditions, the food security situation and the major challenges which underpin the country's development setting.

2.1. National context

Bangladesh is a “low income” country of approximately 160 million people living on a land mass of about 147,570 km², constituting one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with a population density of over 1100 people per km². Nearly two-thirds of the population is of working age, and about half of all adults are literate. It is a country with low human development, having a Human Development Index of 0.515, ranking 146th out of 187 countries. Even if the index has shown progress (it was 0.30 in 1980), the country is still among the lowest ranking in South Asia.

However, since 1990 Bangladesh has achieved remarkable reductions in poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

These reductions were made possible by sharp increases in the real wages of agricultural day labourers, the growth in demand for (largely female) labour from the textile industry, remittances, better access to improved sanitation facilities, improvements in female literacy and better access to assets on the part of women. The first two factors increased household incomes and made it possible for the poorest households to increase their food consumption; the third, together with the other factors, led to better food utilization and thus reduced malnutrition for children as well as adults. Despite these achievements, however, formidable challenges remain. The task is to consolidate the successes achieved and extend them so that Bangladesh can succeed in eliminating hunger over the medium-term.

The sharp decline in poverty in Bangladesh, particularly after 2000, can be attributed to: **i) increased farm incomes** (particularly after 2005) as a result of, **ii) increased employment** (particularly for female workers) at steady albeit low wages in the export-oriented textile industry, **iii) a tripling of remittances** from migrants (standing at US\$ 11,650 million in FY 2010/11)

Economic growth has been accompanied by a decline in poverty and hunger. The proportion of the population living on less than 1.25 dollars a day fell from 72 % in 1992 to about 50 % in 2005 and then to 43 % in 2010. However, in terms of the national poverty line, 17.6 % of the country's population is still living in extreme poverty.

However, pockets of poverty and malnutrition persist, particularly in rural areas and among certain social groups (for example, women-headed households and the disabled) as well as in remote and vulnerable areas such as coastal belts, river banks, *char* areas and remote hilly territories. Their vulnerability is heightened by the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Barisal division in the South registered the highest poverty incidence in the 2000-10 decade, while Sylhet in the North-East had the lowest poverty incidence.

As regards income inequality, the results of HIES 2010 showed that 24.6% of total income is concentrated in the top 5% of households, while the bottom 5% only accounts for 0.78% of total income. Income inequality (measured by the Gini coefficient) improved only marginally nationwide from 0.467 in 2005 to 0.458 in 2010, reflecting increasing disparity between urban and rural areas.

2.2. Situation and outlook for food security and nutrition

Trends in food insecurity and malnutrition

As regards food insecurity and malnutrition, diets have improved considerably since 1990-92 in both quantity and quality. Per-capita availability of dietary energy increased from 2155 kcal/person/day in 1990-92 to 2413 in 2010-12, while the availability of protein increased from 46 gm/person/day to 56 gm/person/day and the availability of fat increased from 20 to 28 gm/person/day. However, diets remain unbalanced as cereals typically account for over 70% of the total intake of dietary energy per person per day.

In step with the increase in average dietary intake, the proportion of the population that was undernourished declined from 35 % in 1990-92 to 17% in 2010-12, while the prevalence of underweight among children of age 5 or less declined from 64 % in 1991 to 36% in 2011, implying that the country is on target to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets on poverty and hunger. The prevalence of stunting among children of age 5 or less, also declined from 77% in 1991 to 41% in 2011. A noteworthy feature is that malnutrition declined faster for female than for male children. Child malnutrition is known to lead to poor health outcomes, impaired brain development, cognitive deficits and reduced productivity throughout life. For children in particular, nutritional deficits especially in the first 1000 days of life means long term developmental problems.

Moreover, there is a strong seasonal component to food insecurity in Bangladesh. The lean season, called *monga* in Bengali, occurs twice per year, from September-November (while the *aman* crop is ripening) and from March-April (while the *boro* crop is in the field). Employment opportunities decrease after transplanting (and before harvesting). For the landless and poorest who survive on agricultural wage labour, lack of alternative sources of rural income creates acute vulnerability.

Such seasonal differences, as well as variations in food intake between regions of the country, between adults and children and between men and women at the household level, should be taken into consideration when designing responses and programmes.

There are also inter-year fluctuations in food availability caused by shortfalls in food grain production resulting from variations in rainfall and natural disasters such as floods, tidal surges and insect and pest attacks.

Achievements

Bangladesh has made huge improvements in the reduction of the proportion of the population suffering from hunger and is on track to achieve MDG1. In fact, in 2013 Bangladesh was awarded a diploma by FAO in a Special Event: "Recognizing notable and outstanding progress in fighting hunger". The country's efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development and South-South cooperation were also recognized on the occasion of the opening session of the 68th United

Challenges

Further reduction of the absolute numbers suffering from food insecurity, and improvement of key nutritional indicators (stunting, wasting)

Labour, food insecurity and poverty

In Bangladesh, the total figure for the economically active population stands at about 39 million males and 13 million females. However, it is thought that the majority of labourers are engaged in *informal*, low-income, low productivity jobs. The number of women in *formal* employment is substantially lower than that of men, especially as regards wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. This proportion has not changed significantly over the past twenty years (in 1990 the proportion of women was 19 percent). However, these figures do not account for the work carried out by women in the informal and subsistence agricultural sector, which is characterized by a much higher participation although figures are difficult to obtain.

Gender, food insecurity and poverty

The incidence of poverty is higher among women than men. Various micro studies indicate that the 'hardcore' poor are largely women and such poverty is most prevalent among female-headed households. The ultra poor have an average intake of dietary energy below 1,600 kcal/person/day and the hardcore poor an intake below 1,805 kcal/person/day.

Chronic energy deficiency (CED) prevalence among women is decreasing: from 38% in 2004 to 24% currently. On the other hand, high levels of anaemia still manifest today among women and children: 33.1% amongst preschool children, 19.1% amongst 6-11 year olds, 17.1% amongst 12-14 year olds, 26% amongst non-pregnant, non-lactating women, and 39% of pregnant women.

2.3. Sectoral overview of agriculture

The agriculture sector (including forestry and fisheries) remains important for the country's economy, accounting for 18% of GDP in 2012 (down from 26% in 1990) and still employs about 44 % of the country's labour force. The proportion of the land area that is arable has declined from 70% in 1990-92 to 59% in 2007-09, implying that only about 5 hectares of arable land per 100 persons are available now against 9 hectares in 1990. Agricultural GDP (excluding forestry) rose by 3% in 2011/12 implying a significant slowdown compared to the peak of 5.2% in 2010/11. The slower growth is mainly explained by the deceleration of the crop and horticulture subsector which only grew by 2% in 2011/12 compared to 5.6% in 2010/11. Relatively faster growth is observed for fisheries (5.4%) and animal products (3.4%) which, however, also grew slightly more slowly in 2010/11. Forest area amounts to about 11% of the total land area, but barely half of that is actually tree-covered.

The agriculture of Bangladesh is dominated by the crop sub-sector (which in turn is dominated by rice production), amounting to around half of agricultural GDP. In recent years, the other sub-sectors - livestock, forestry and fisheries - have grown faster than the crops sub-sector, but there are substantial year to year fluctuations in these growth rates. Between 1990 and 2009, production of potatoes and vegetables increased considerably, while the area planted to and production of wheat, pulses and oilseeds declined substantially. Maize is a recent success story with spectacular growth, driven by expanding poultry and aquaculture in recent years.

➡ Agricultural growth in the country has been heavily dependent on the expansion of **irrigation** through the use of tubewells. The area equipped for irrigation amounted to about 60% of the arable and permanent cropland in 2009, with groundwater supplying 80% and surface water 20% of the total irrigated area.

➡ **Fertilizer use** has also increased sharply in recent years: from 2002 to 2009 national fertilizer use figures increased at an annual rate of 4.2%. For 2007-09, fertilizer use averaged 250 kg of nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) per hectare of arable and permanent cropland, one of the highest rates in the world. There are some imbalances in fertilizer use, partly due to differential subsidies on fertilizer by type.

➡ As regards **seeds** use, high quality, certified seed is still not always used: typically over 80% of the seed used comes from farmers' own stocks, which is generally of lower quality.

➡ As regards the **livestock** sub-sector products, milk production increased substantially from 2002-03 to 2007-08, reaching about 2.7 million tonnes, while meat production is static - meat remains expensive and out of reach for many, as animal feed prices remain high. Egg prices are however falling.

➡ **Fish production** grew at a long-run trend rate of about 2.5% from annum from 1971 to 2007, with inland fish and cultured fish production gaining in importance.

➡ Finally, as regards **agricultural trade**, in FY 2010-11, Bangladesh earned US\$ 1.3 billion from the export of agricultural products equivalent to 5.7% of total export earnings. In addition to the exports of main agricultural commodities such as shrimp, raw jute, jute goods, tea, frozen foods, the Government has taken steps to increase exports of non-traditional agricultural commodities.

Rice is one of the success stories of Bangladesh agriculture, with its production growing at a long-term trend rate of 2.8 percent p.a. over the period from 1981-82 to 2006-07, and tripling since independence in 1971. Current production is estimated at around 35 million tonnes (milled equivalent).

This Bangladeshi Green Revolution – based on adoption of high yielding varieties, fertiliser and irrigation – produced a stepwise increase in yields, as the average paddy production rose from 2.5 tonnes per hectare in 1990 to nearly 4.3 tonnes per hectare in 2009.



The good performance of Bangladesh's agriculture has resulted in a improved availability of food and increase in earnings for those involved in agriculture with daily energy supply, which rose from about 2155 kcal/person/day in 1990-92 to about 2413 kcal/person/day in 2010-12. Protein and fat availability per person also increased by about 20 percent over this period. This contributed to a sharp drop in undernourishment and malnutrition among children.

However, despite these improvements, under-nutrition remains a serious problem. The bottom sixth of the population is still only getting about 1800 kcal/person/day. In addition, diets are unbalanced, being too dependent on carbohydrate sources (rice). Moreover, unsafe drinking water and poor hygiene cause gastro-intestinal diseases that prevent food from being absorbed properly, underlining the need for multi-sectoral approaches to tackling under-nutrition in Bangladesh.

The main **challenge** for agriculture in Bangladesh is to consolidate the growth that has been achieved over the past 20 years, in the face of declining arable land per person, depletion of ground water, periodic natural disaster due to extreme weather events, changing dietary patterns towards foods, and other challenges.

➡ Where rice is concerned, the main challenge is to increase paddy **yields** to the levels achieved by e.g. Viet Nam or Indonesia. This would entail an increase of about 0.5 to 1 tonne per hectare from the present level of about 4.3 tonnes. This will require support of the extension system, relying on needs-based and appropriate technology generation and dissemination mechanisms. Achieving this level of infrastructure should free up natural resources for other diversified types of production.

➡ Better quality **seeds** are an essential part of this effort. Here, there are two main challenges, how to make breeder seed and foundation seed available, and how to help farmers improve the quality of their own seed.

➡ Achieving an increase in yields is particularly important because arable area is declining by around 0.3% per year. **Land** is subject to degradation caused by depletion of soil organic matter, water logging, soil salinity, pan formation, acidification and deforestation. In the last three decades, 170,000 ha of agriculture land have been affected by increased salinity alone. The causes of soil degradation lie in the inability of resource-poor farmers to procure and use balanced inputs for crop production, aggravated by the government policy of subsidising urea alone; and increased sale of crop **residues for feed** instead of leaving them on the fields to decompose.

➡ **Water erosion** accounts for a significant proportion land degradation. The Flood Action Plan for Bangladesh predicts a net annual erosion loss in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna basin of about 34,000 hectares of "mainland" acreage for the period 1992-2011. .

- ➡ Good quality **irrigation** water is also scarce; other non-agricultural uses compete. Where surface water is concerned, one difficulty is that, Bangladesh carries a huge sediment load through its river system creating problems of drainage. Regular dredging is required to cope with this problem. With regards to groundwater, irrigated area has increased (increased annual 60%) owing to the rapid expansion of tubewells. But this has also resulted in a continued decline of the water table during the peak dry months. Another problem is arsenic contamination of the tubewells.
- ➡ In relation to increased environmental **vulnerability** and climate change impact on agriculture, Bangladesh low lying and has a coastline of 710 kilometres inhabited by about 30 million people, relying on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, salt industries, etc for their livelihood sustenance. The coastal zone of Bangladesh is identified as highly vulnerable to extreme weather event; it suffers from intrusion of saline water; and periodic drought.
- ➡ The Southern region has the lowest record of **agricultural development**. The current agricultural land use in the South consists of transplanted *Aman* rice, irrigated *Boro* rice, agro-forestry, livestock and fisheries (e.g. shrimps). But there are further opportunities for integrated crop, fish and livestock farming.
- ➡ Small and marginal farmers face particular problems **marketing** their products because of poor infrastructure, lack of storage and processing facilities, and poor roads and communications. Credit facilities are required to promote private initiative for small and medium-scale agribusinesses in processing and packaging. Formation of farmers' groups with enhanced access to credit could encourage their direct participation in the marketing of agricultural produce. There are also large post harvest losses of up to 20 %in rice and 30-40% in vegetables and fruits. There is also scope for adding value through agro-processing of agricultural commodities.



2.4. Relevant national policies and plans: putting the CPF in the national development context

The CPF has been developed taking account of several other policies and planning frameworks that influence development in Bangladesh. It links to the main GoB strategic documents that substantiate the nation's declared objectives for sustainable development along with economic growth and poverty reduction, and achievement of Middle Income Status by 2021.

Perspective Plan 2010-2021

The government embarked on a Perspective Plan covering the period 2010 to 2021. "Achieving food security" and "pursuing environmental friendly development" have been specially mentioned as broad development goals, translated into successive five year plans. Priority attention in planned crop intensification in *the coastal zone* is

Master Plan for Agricultural Development in the Southern Region of Bangladesh (2012)

This Master Plan was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture with FAO's technical support. It provides a road map for the integrated development of Bangladesh's coastal region focusing on increasing agricultural productivity and

Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (2013)

The Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies were developed in 2013 by FAO under the guidance of Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MOCHTA). They were motivated by concerns over environmental degradation and food insecurity in the hill tracts, and define priorities in five areas: i) enhancing productivity, conservation and diversification, ii) more sustainable jum, iii) upscaling technology and sustainable input supply, iv) market/value chain

6th Five Year Plan (2011-2015) - Accelerating Growth and Reducing Poverty

The 6th Five Year Plan (SFYP) provides a strategy, framework and guidelines for reducing regional disparities, developing human capacity, managing land constraints, using natural resources, increasing agricultural *productivity, household income and employment and ensuring food security*. "Ensuring food security" has been outlined as a key strategy in the SFYP. In case of food production, climate change adaptation strategy in the agriculture sector is also prioritized. In addition, special emphasis is given to development of agro-processing and non-farm economic activities in more remote areas. The SFYP is supported by a Development Results Framework which includes three main indicators for agriculture, food security and rural development – rate of growth of agricultural GDP; average growth of wages expressed in kg rice;

Country Investment Plan (CIP 2011)- A road map towards investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition

The CIP was elaborated through an inclusive, participatory process in response to the L'Aquila Initiative. The CIP is a planning, fund mobilization and alignment tool. It was first approved on 14 June 2010 and revised and released in June 2011. It provides a coherent set of 12 strategic priority investment programmes under three components of food security: access, availability and utilization.

National Food Policy 2006

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (now two separate entities) prepared the National Food Policy (NFP) in 2006, which strives for adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food, with interventions in technology generation, use and management of water resources, supply and sustainable use of agricultural inputs, crop diversification and market infrastructure development. The NFP is implemented through a **NFP Plan of Action (PoA, 2008-2015)**, which consists of 26 areas of intervention and 314 actions.

2.5. Stakeholders and capacity in the agricultural and food security sectors within the Government of Bangladesh

FAO and GoB have a close relationship established through many years of collaboration and partnership. Coordinated through an effective partnership with ERD, the following is a list of the main institutions with which FAO works in Bangladesh. FAO partners with one of more ministries of the GoB in each of its projects. The choice of ministry depends on the project's main subject or theme.

They provide authority for implementation, give technical support throughout project operations, provide in kind contributions particularly through extension agents and facilities, and ensure government uptake. The main line ministries with which FAO works are the following:

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

- *Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)*
- *National Agricultural Research System (NARS)*

Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock (MoFL)

- *Department of Livestock Services (DLS)*
- *Department of Fisheries (DOF)*

Ministry of Food (MoFood)

- *Directorate General of Food*

Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF)

Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)

- *Institute of Public Health*

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA)

Ministry of Planning (MoP)

Ministry of Finance

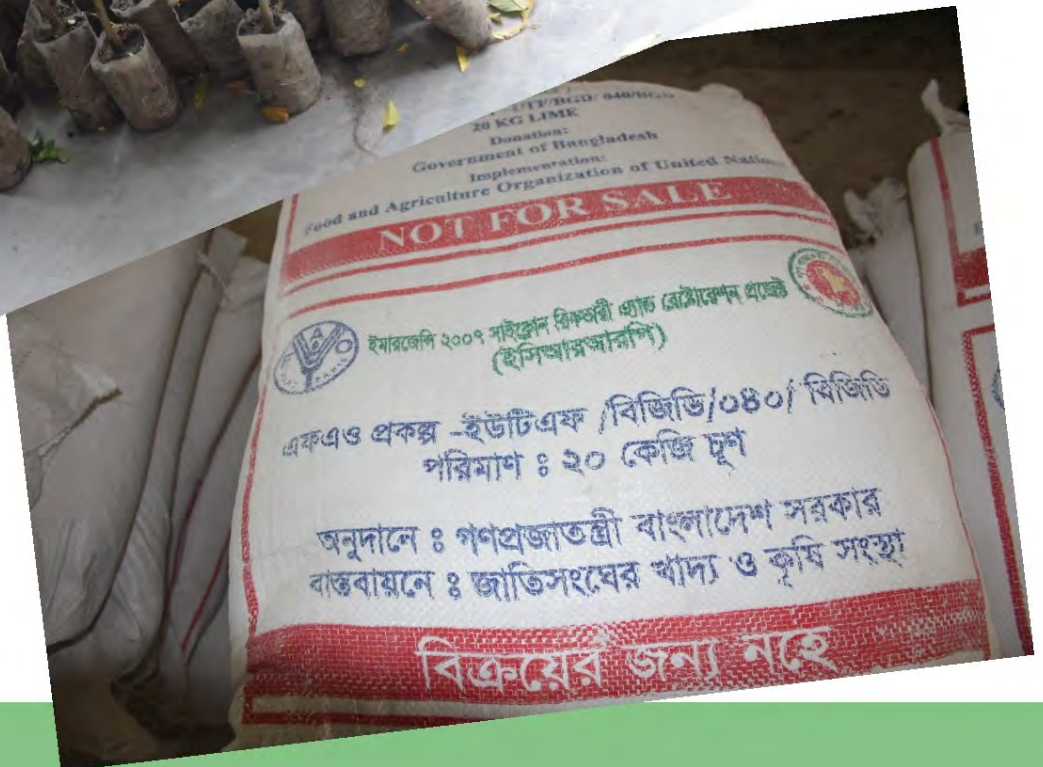
- *Economic Relations Division (ERD)*

NGOs and CSOs

A number of NGOs and CSOs play an important role in sustainable agriculture and food security. Despite extensive social safety nets, many people, particularly marginal groups such as the rural poor, women, disabled, can have trouble accessing the system. NGOs and CSOs have taken on a significant role in areas such as credit, extension, research, promotion of farmers' organizations, etc. They can also be sources of policy advocacy on sensitive topics such as violence against women, labour standards and work safety, environmental conservation, indigenous and minority rights, etc. They also mobilize and promote the activities of farmers' organizations and cooperative groups ensuring community ownership of changes in agriculture and other sectors.

Private Sector

Factors limiting productivity improvement include limited access to credit, and the absence of effective linkages between smallholder producers and the market. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, entrepreneurs, and even farmer producer organizations themselves could fill this void. Major private sector players include the Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce as well as a small number of large integrated food companies.





FAO Comparative Advantage and Priority Areas



3.1. FAO new Strategic Framework and Regional Priorities

In 2012, FAO underwent a process of reviewing its corporate **Strategic Framework**, the central planning document which provides the overall direction, goals and targets for the Organization until 2018. The decision to refine FAO's Strategic Framework was made by the new FAO Director General (Jan 2012), and builds on numerous reforms being undertaken in recent years to modernize the Organization and improve focus, results-based management and impact orientation through decentralisation.

The review and preparation was guided by extensive consultation involving FAO Member Countries, FAO staff and technical experts. Major current trends and challenges related to food security and agriculture were identified, and on the basis of these, five focus areas were suggested. These constitute the major issues that the Organization should tackle worldwide over the next decade.

New Strategic Objectives

1. *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*
2. *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*
3. *Reduce rural poverty*

These overall Strategic Objectives are reinforced by five Regional Strategic Priority Areas for the Asia Pacific territory:

- Strengthening food and nutritional security
- Fostering agricultural production and rural development
- Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization
- Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies
- Coping with the impact of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security.

3.2. Comparative advantages of FAO in Bangladesh

In planning to deliver these Strategic Objectives and Regional Priority Areas at country level, the FAO Bangladesh team analyzed its strengths and comparative advantages, defined through recent experience in the country, and a close relationship with government and other stakeholders.

Generally, FAO's strengths are to:

- Support the formulation and implementation of policies and plans on sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security - **Policy and normative role**

- Undertake capacity building to support management and implementation of projects and programmes for sustainable food and nutrition security - *Technical support and implementation role*
- Help build partnerships and alliances between national actors and between national and international partners - *Partnerships role*
- Support the generation, management and exchange of relevant knowledge and data related to sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security - *Knowledge role*

3.3. New FAO Country Priority Areas for Bangladesh (2014-2018)

In order to further define the priority areas for Bangladesh during 2014-2018 a series of consultations with different stakeholders were held, including relevant ministries and departments, civil society organisations, academia, private sector and farmer representatives. The purpose of these consultations was to discuss persistent challenges and emerging issues within different sectors related to agriculture, and food and nutrition security, and to define the assistance which FAO could provide. Five priority

1. *Reduce poverty and enhance food security and nutrition (access and utilization)*
2. *Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization*
3. *Improve market linkages, value addition, and quality and safety of the food system*
4. *Further improve technology generation and adaptation through better producer-extension-research linkages*

areas emerged from this process.

These are the main areas of work for FAO in Bangladesh for the next five year period (2014-2018), reflecting the challenges and national priorities that emerged during the consultation sessions.

Geographic priority

The areas currently lagging in the process of sustainable development in Bangladesh are Haor, Coast, CHT, Barind and Peat basin areas, and this is generally seen in the food security and nutrition indicators. These will receive particular attention during implementation of the FAO CPF.

Cross-cutting objective: gender

All FAO projects and programmes will be formulated and designed in such a way so as to reflect the different needs, challenges, interests and opportunities held by men and women. Proposed interventions will be based on an analysis of feasibility given the gender-based roles and constraints existing in a determinate area. Activities will be tailored in such a way so that men and women benefit equally from development and inequality is not perpetuated.





Summary of development challenges related to agriculture, food security and nutrition



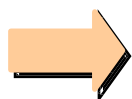
Poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition

Bangladesh faces pressure to feed increased numbers of people, and land availability is decreasing. Bangladesh is estimated to have reached MDG 1 on hunger around 2002. However, further progress since that date has been limited. An estimated 30 million people still live in extreme poverty; malnutrition - in terms of rates for stunting (41% of children under 5), underweight and wasting - remains high. Certain social constituencies also tend to suffer more from poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity, including women, children, elderly, the disabled and remote rural dwellers. As noted above, dietary diversity is low.



Women's access to resources

Although women play a significant role in production of food in Bangladesh, they do not have the same rights of ownership of resources as men, and can be excluded from schemes on the grounds of enjoying a 'second class' status. Reducing the 'gender gap' and ensuring equal access to resources and services can increase yields to a significant degree and have multiple benefits for household nutrition, education and health.



Degradation of natural resources (soil, water, forests, fish)

The growing population places stress on agricultural land and natural resources. Urbanization comes at the expense of other land use (available land is estimated to be falling at a rate of 0.3-0.5% per year), while other degradation includes soil erosion, river erosion, soil fertility decline, depletion of soil organic matter, water logging, soil salinity, pan formation, siltation, acidification, over-exploitation of groundwater and deforestation.



Low productivity (crop, livestock, fisheries, forest), and limited investment and/or diversification

Decreasing farm sizes, inefficient use of water resources, soil degradation and failure to adopt improved technologies/practices contribute to low productivity. At the same time the cost of agricultural labour is increasing as new rural non-farm sources of income emerge. Yield gaps – productivity differences between farmers, and between farm and research conditions - exist in all farming systems in Bangladesh. In addition, poor quality seed and low levels of investment (in farm machinery, processing, storage facilities, etc.) also affect factor productivity.



Lack of organized markets and limited opportunities for value addition

Agricultural produce markets are typified by poor infrastructure, and complex arrangements with many middlemen and wholesalers. In such a situation, small and marginal farmers have little bargaining power. Furthermore, opportunities for business development, and small to medium scale agro-processing activities are limited. Credit is not always available, and rural institutions do not support the development of businesses. Coupled with food safety issues and lack of standardization/certification, the lack of market development hampers the country's potential to produce and trade some of the high value commodities produced.

Need for more adaptive research

Despite a long history of Farmer Field Schools in the country, there is a very limited amount of “action” or “adaptive” research currently being practised. The mainstream extension services need to be further strengthened (in terms of human or financial resources), and linkages improved between farmers, researchers and extension staff to ensure that the research agenda further caters to real farmer/producer needs.

Inadequate coverage of animal health services

Bangladesh is vulnerable to infectious animal diseases, whether transboundary or emerging/re-emerging. A lack of community-based animal health services, including vaccination and disinfections hampers development of the livestock and fishery sub-sectors. Extension staff lack the skills and necessary local diagnostic facilities, while producers are not widely aware of the benefits of treatment or practices such as artificial insemination.

Food safety concerns

According to anecdotal, and some survey, evidence, food contamination by natural agents and by adulterants (unethical business practice) is common along the food chain in Bangladesh. Food safety incidents and food-borne illness outbreaks are frequent. This burdens the public health system, and reduces consumer confidence in the safety of food. The lack of a national food control system also reduces market access for Bangladesh exports of food products.

Increased environmental shocks and livelihood risk

The prevailing high incidence of poverty, high population density, and certain specific biophysical vulnerabilities make Bangladesh extremely vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. In addition to affecting lives and livelihoods directly, it also puts a strain on



PRIORITY 1

agricultural production and limits investments due to concerns over risks.

Reduce poverty and enhance food security and nutrition (access and utilization)

In line with the widely-agreed Country Investment Plan (2010) on agriculture, food security and nutrition, FAO in Bangladesh will focus part of its activities on:

Support to **policy development on food security and nutrition**, building on work done over the past seven years jointly with the Ministry of Food through the strengthening of its Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU). The aim is to create capacity within the GoB to design, implement and monitor policies and programmes in food security and nutrition. As the GoB has a major commitment to the use of social safety nets as a strategy for poverty reduction, FAO may provide technical assistance to further design and evaluation of schemes.

The **promotion of decent rural on- and off-farm employment** (DRE). Employment generation is an ever-present concern for an already densely-populated country with a growing population, and limited natural resources or government funds for widespread welfare programmes. Uncontrolled expansion of Dhaka and the major urban centres – through rural to urban migration - is also a concern, as is the tightening of the agricultural labour market, with rising wages translating into increased food prices.

Improving nutritional awareness, linked to food availability within the food system. FAO specializes in food-based “nutrition-sensitive” approaches to improving nutrition. By focusing on locally-available foods, programmes can mobilize the economic potential of a particular geographic location, and conserve local biodiversity. A special focus in this area goes to women as primary carers. FAO will also work with primary and mass education on nutrition and food production. This will be complemented by involvement in school feeding programmes, by linking existing programmes to local producers such as dairy cooperatives. Such partnerships increase nutritional status of school children, increasing attention span and reducing drop-out rates. They also provide economic benefit to local businesses, and the rural population employed by them.

Women's participation as a key to tackling food insecurity and under-nutrition. Improving women's access to productive resources has been shown to be particularly effective in increasing agricultural production and reducing poverty. Activities will be based on advocacy, knowledge exchange, demonstration and capacity development for greater women's empowerment and more effective participation in agricultural activities through better access to productive resources (including training, knowledge and assets). This can also apply in a homestead setting. In addition, gender issues will be systematically considered (mainstreamed) in all FAO projects and programmes in Bangladesh.

PRIORITY 2

Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization

➡ Also in line with the CIP, FAO in Bangladesh will work on availability of food, through its programme of work on sustainable increase in agricultural productivity.

➡ **Foster national dialogue**, and bring together producer and conservation interests to balance the needs to improve livelihoods and to protect the environment and biodiversity of Bangladesh.

➡ **Strengthen technical capacity** within the GoB, and help identify technologies and practices for adoption by the farmers, adaptation and dissemination through its access to global and regional expertise. One aspect of this will be Bangladesh's involvement in the UN-REDD programme. FAO will assist in the implementation of monitoring activities, along with other UN assistance in capacity building for forest monitoring, an assessment of REDD+ corruption risks, and development of nationally-appropriate social safeguards.

➡ Support development of **capacity** for assessment of stocks, as well as providing assistance in devising **policies** and programmes to discourage unsustainable practices in the **fisheries sector**. FAO can also work directly with fishers to harness better fishing **technologies**, and can promote the use of capture fisheries in community ponds as a means for supplementary income generation and nutrition.

➡ Provide support to **scaling up pilot schemes to improve use of surface water** for irrigation and reduce pressure on ground water use. Particular emphasis will be placed on finding **community-based solutions** for creating and maintaining irrigation structures, and for optimising economic crop water use. Community maintenance is crucial as structures such as canals will have to be intermittently re-excavated, and the management of public water bodies needs consensual arrangements through user and management groups.

➡ Work with all stakeholders (producers, equipment manufacturers, research, credit institutions and GoB) to **promote small scale mechanization in production**. Up-scaling of agricultural technology, mechanization and quality input supply is necessary to modernize Bangladesh's agricultural sector. Extended and proper usage of machinery such as power tillers, irrigation equipment, threshers, drum seeders, maize shellers, rice milling equipment, improved storage, cool chain and transportation, etc.

At the farm level, FAO can work through the farmer field school system and other mechanisms (including the extension service) to help ensure that producers have the most up-to-date information and techniques for sustainable production intensification. This applies to for all sub-sectors, including crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, horticulture and aquaculture.

With greater knowledge and skills on issues such as animal health, feeding, breeding practices, seed selection, conservation tillage, rainwater harvesting, balanced use of fertilizer, etc. greater production can be achieved without depleting or damaging the resource base.

PRIORITY 3 can go a long way in promoting more productive food production, and in reducing post-harvest losses.

Improve market linkages, value addition, and quality and safety of the food system

Marketing of agricultural produce in Bangladesh, as in many other countries, is characterised by seasonally low prices for producers, high rates of post harvest loss and a complicated system of value chain actors or “middle man”. FAO will:

Engage in policy dialogue focused on creating an **enabling environment for effective agri-business development** and performance in line with the provisions of the National Food Policy Plan of Action. This includes bringing private sector and government to the same table to discuss potential improvements in the policy framework governing the sector. There is a need, for instance, to update the institutional and governance arrangements for improving physical access to markets, credit and market information systems. In addition, the possibility of reintroducing some form of crop insurance as a potential risk management strategy against extreme shocks may be considered, provided governance issues can be addressed.

Help farmers to improve their access to markets on more attractive terms through the development of new forms of **farmers' associations or groups** where there is sufficient trust and collective motivation to work together. These associations can be both formal and informal; they can increase the bargaining and purchasing power of farmers within the system, through better market information and clearer price signals. Again, FAO can provide technical assistance in the design and piloting of schemes for farmers' associations or groups, building in particular on existing groups and farmer field schools.

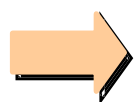
Work with producer organisations, and **small and medium sized agribusiness** enterprises, and identify technical constraints and/or policy obstacles to sector development. Rural entrepreneurs are key. FAO can play a role in mentoring and training of such individuals where they exist, and linking them to prospective producers, and/or buyers.

Support targeted industries (ex. mushroom, vegetable, shrimp, poultry) and institutions for meeting of sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. **Product standardization and certification** will improve the quality of produce, reduce the incidence of food-borne diseases (thereby improving health) and potentially increase the volume of exports.

Address **food safety**, quality and standards in food chains at risk due to poor handling practices, hygiene shortcomings or adulteration. FAO technical expertise can help build capacity on testing and monitoring, and enhance the regulatory framework managed by the assigned Ministry through the proposed new Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (October 2013).

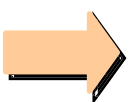
PRIORITY 4

Technical assistance to the Government to improve the **public food management system and domestic procurement capacity**, as well as to other actors in the value chain to strengthen storage and processing capacity.

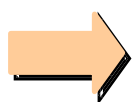


Further improve technology generation and adaptation through better producer-extension- research linkages

As stated above, the agriculture sector in Bangladesh is in need of **improved technologies** to increase productivity. But even with the technologies which are already known there are significant yield gaps. Farmers do not achieve the same results as achieved on research stations. Equally, neighbouring farmers applying recommended practices do not all achieve the same good results. Work is needed with each of the main stakeholder groups - farmers, extension and research. FAO will:



Enhance **farmer** capacities through field schools and programmes of adaptive farmer-centred research. FAO can draw on a wide range of experience in this area to help design effective programmes, in some cases pilot them, and provide quality assurance of programmes which are currently being implemented.



Provide assistance to **extension services** (of DAE, DLS and DoF) through programmes to improve their effectiveness at individual and institutional level. One important factor will be the increased use of ICT to support communication in agriculture, with both knowledge and data transfer to- and from - the field. Another element will be the strengthening of **rural communication services**, including traditional and modern media techniques, for improving grassroots level exchange and linkages.

Target **research** will be in programmes to help ensure the relevance of research to farmers needs, and to ensure that the NARS institutes are supported with infrastructure and qualified staff. Partnership is a key element in frontier research. To increase yield and resilience of farmers, more investments need to



PRIORITY 5

Bangladesh itself.

be made in the development of **stress-tolerant crop varieties** (salt-, drought-, cold-tolerant varieties, and others), quality seed, soil health, pest management, and better agronomic practices. FAO can play a role in building partnerships between Bangladesh and other countries, as well as between stakeholders within

Increase resilience of communities to withstand 'shocks' such as natural disasters, health threats and other risks to livelihoods

Sustainable agriculture under a worsening climate change scenario will at least in the near term depend heavily upon crops that can withstand higher temperatures and require less water, and so research has a key role to play

Bangladesh is a country extremely vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, and its agriculture is widely exposed to both sudden- and slow-onset risks (flood, drought, salinity).

Climate 'proofing' of agriculture is absolutely central to addressing these vulnerabilities, and for ensuring that smallholder farmers and other rural men and women increase their resilience to cope with threats and crises. FAO can help promote a number of technical climate risk mitigation measures.

In addition, FAO can contribute to strengthening **local response capacity** at community level, to ensure that food grain and seed storage arrangements are in place, and that all necessary stakeholders collaborate as needed in a coordinated manner.

In view of the high vulnerability of Bangladesh to natural disasters, FAO will also continue to chair, along with WFP, the national **Food Security Cluster** (FSC), a platform which brings together government, UN, donors and CSOs/NGOs in order to improve preparedness for and response to humanitarian emergencies in the country.

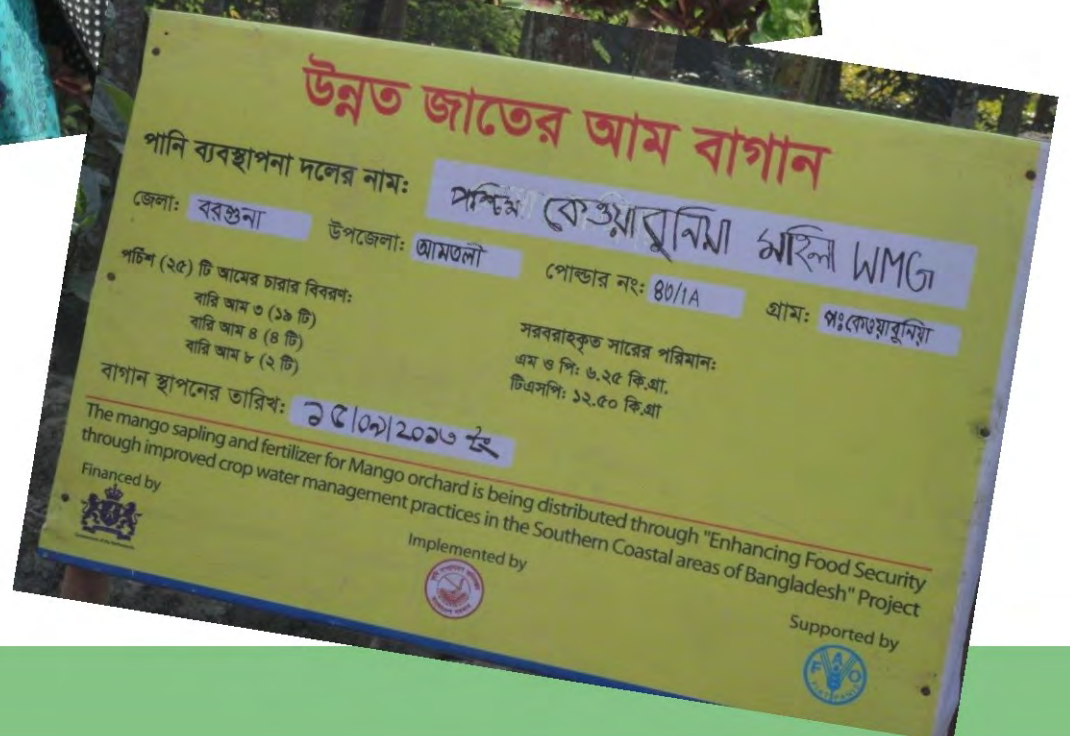
In an effort to ensure the availability of most up-to-date information on food security, FAO will also continue with the **consolidation and institutionalization of standard tools for food security analysis** to inform policy and programming. This will be done by continuing the roll-out of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for food security, and ensuring there is a critical mass of trained and certified IPC analysts in government that can continue this work in future.

Besides the high vulnerability to sudden-onset natural disasters, Bangladesh is also faced with a number of "systemic" threats such infectious animal disease, which affect people's livelihoods as well as the economic potential of the livestock sector. In this respect, FAO will work with relevant institutions to strengthen coordination, planning and policy support for effective **management and control of emerging and re-emerging diseases**, and to give higher profile to parasitic infestation

Table. Relationship between FAO new Strategic Objectives and CPF priority areas

CPF Bangladesh Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	FAO Corporate Strategic Framework
1. Reduce poverty and enhance food security and nutrition (access and utilization)	SO1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food security and malnutrition SO3. Reduce poverty
2. Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization	SO2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner SO3. Reduce poverty
3. Improve market linkages, value addition, and quality and safety of the food system	SO4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems of local, national and international levels SO3. Reduce poverty
4. Further Improve technology generation and adaptation through better producer-extension-research linkages	SO2 (as above)
5. Increase resilience of communities to withstand 'shocks' such as natural disasters, health threats and other risks to livelihoods	SO5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises





Implementation arrangement and M&E



5.1. Implementation mechanism

The CPF is both a framework and a planning and management tool which will be implemented jointly by the Government of Bangladesh and FAO. After its final endorsement the document will be widely circulated to all GoB Agencies and Development Partners working in Bangladesh, and FAO shall encourage LCG members to participate in the implementation process.

Indeed, the UN system is extremely active in Bangladesh (<http://www.un-bd.org/>), with 17 agencies that hold a diverse and close relationship with both Government and development partners. They bring specific assistance in the areas of their respective mandate, and collaborate on advocacy, awareness, policy dialogue, resource mobilization and implementation of development efforts. They collaborate under the framework of the common UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Hence, they are an important partner to FAO, along with NGOs and CSOs.

A National CPF Committee (NC) will be formed to monitor and oversee the implementation process of the FAO CPF. It will be co-chaired by the Secretary of ERD and the FAO Representative in Bangladesh, with members from relevant ministries. The function of this committee will be to periodically review the CPF implementation activities within the different ministries, agencies and development partners and to provide strategic decisions on priorities and/or further developments. In addition, the option to create sub-committees within the sector ministries will be considered as a further step for overseeing the implementation process. These sub-committees can play a critical role in reporting and administering the detailed contributions of the respective ministries to the implementation process. The NC would then act as interface with FAO on the matter. Subsequently, FAO will report back to the NC for further action from different working ministries and agencies.

5.2. Resource requirements

Upon final endorsement of the CPF document by the Government of Bangladesh, several priority projects/programmes will be identified for immediate project formulation using TCP Facility funding from FAO's regular budget, for eventual funding by other development partners. Subsequently, a joint ERD-FAO donor briefing meeting will be organized in 2014 with an aim to brief donors and other partners on the content of the CPF document and some of the priority interventions, and seek their collaboration and financial support on the implementation of CPF.

At this point a costing and full resource mobilisation plan has deliberately not been provided. Although other country CPFs have done this, this is by no means an oversight by FAO Bangladesh. During the last 2-3 years, there have already been several attempts to create master plans and costed strategies relating to food security, and other development goals in Bangladesh. It is clear now that such "broad brush" documents, usually with a price tag of several billions of USD, are not the most effective means of resource mobilization. These have taken considerable time to produce and benefit has been rather limited. It has also placed FAO in the role of fund raiser rather than technical adviser to the government.

Lessons need to be drawn from the recent experiences to ensure that FAO advocacy role can be more effective.

The future CPF funding strategy which is being recommended is instead much more targeted and based on technical justification. It will take a much more conservative approach to fund raising, to avoid confusion with the previous general advocacy-style efforts. It will focus initially on the delivery of actual programmes (there are currently around 30 ongoing programmes or projects implemented by FAO in Bangladesh) which already contribute to the five priority areas. Thematic donor meetings will be held to review progress on these – by CPF priority area - to identify synergies with the programmes of others, and identify specific funding gaps.

Finally, it should be noted that the nature of the resource requirements for FAO's programme in Bangladesh is changing. Previous programmes in the period 2009-2013 have delivered results on the ground through strategies based on procurement and distribution of inputs, along with training and other support, and the annual programme delivers assistance worth around \$25m per year. However, more recent requests for assistance have focused on capacity development and institution-building, which though costed at a lower level are actually more knowledge- intense, and require a different skills mix to deliver. The overall pattern of the FAO programme in Bangladesh is thus changing; the size of the programme is likely to remain in the range \$15-25m per year, but the proportion of procurement will fall, and the delivery of technical advice, training, consultancy and letters of agreement with local partner organisations are all expected to rise.

5.3. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting system

What counts is not so much the resources mobilised by FAO directly, but the indirect impact of those resources in catalysing investment of others in the uptake and scaling up of new approaches in sustainable improvement of food security and nutrition. Monitoring and evaluation methods will be refined to capture such information

The main methods and tools for M&E that will be used are:

- The results framework itself, based on clearly defined goals, objectives, outputs and activities with corresponding key performance indicators;
- A comprehensive M&E strategy based on the Country Investment Plan monitoring report..
- Innovative approach to ex post evaluation of the projects and programmes.

5.4. Review and adjustment

FAO, jointly with ERD, will prepare a mid-term progress report of the implementation of the CPF during late 2015/early 2016. A CPF implementation review workshop may be organized annually to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation and make necessary adjustments to the CPF document if required, with the participation of the members of the National CPF Committee and the representatives of other concerned ministries and departments.



CPF Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	Outcomes/Major priorities within thrust	Outputs/Focused activities	Performance indicators	Concerned Ministries and agencies
1. Reduce poverty and enhance food security and nutrition (access and utilization)	1. Strengthened national capacity for devising pro-poor, equitable food security and agricultural development policies and social safety nets	1. Policy support provided in the areas of food and nutrition security 2. Capacity built in designing, implementing and monitoring of NFP PoA and CIP investment implementation 3. Advocacy and dialogue to support to fund mobilization under CIP	1. Number of policy initiatives and policy-relevant knowledge products implemented with FAO support 2. Number of individuals and institutions actively engaged in policy-related activities following capacity building activities 3. Funds mobilized under CIP from domestic and international sources 4. Level of participation in the Local Consultative Group on Agriculture and Food Security	MoA, MoFL, MoFood, MoDMR, MoPME, BRDB, DPs
	2. Opportunities created for on- and off-farm effective employment for men and women, to improve livelihoods, nutritional status and reduce pressure on natural resources.	1. Investments in rural non-farm employment generating activities (SMEs, homestead production, fisheries) promoted 2. Job opportunities from livestock, fishery, seed and nurseries and agribusiness enterprises created, as a result of project activities	1. Funds mobilised as a result of FAO promotional activity (by survey) 2. Number and coverage of crop diversification programmes developed with FAO support 3. Sustained jobs created by gender after FAO activities in the input and production sectors (by survey)	MOL, LGED, MoA, MoEF, MoFL, MoInd, MoDMR, MoWCA, MoWR, DPs
	3. Enhanced food utilization and household nutritional status through improved awareness and "nutrition-friendly" diversification	1. Integrated farming systems supported to promote improved livelihoods, and household food and nutrition security 2. School feeding, school gardening, and community-based nutrition education and training programmes supported	1. Number of farm households adopting nutrition-focused integrated farming methods as result of FAO initiatives 2. Number of participants with improved nutritional awareness from nutrition training programmes 3. Nutrition and agricultural skills development incorporated in school curricula 4. Indicators of nutritional status of children and women in project areas	MoA, MoFL, MoHFW, MoPME, MoFood, MoWCA, DPs
	4. Enhanced women's participation in agricultural activities, access to productive resources and entrepreneurship development	1. Mainstreaming gender considerations into agricultural and food security policies and programmes supported	1. Number and percentage of active women producers receiving FAO training 2. Numbers of FAO projects and programmes assessed that explicitly include a gender dimension 3. Number and percentage of women participating in agric activities	MoA, MoFL, MoWCA, MoFood, MoHFW, MOCHTA, Planning Commission

CPF Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	Outcomes/Major priorities within thrust	Outputs/Focused activities	Performance indicators	Concerned Ministries and agencies
2. Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/ intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization	1. Improved dialogue to reconcile environmental and production concerns where there are multiple options for land (and other NR) use	1. Awareness built on environmental issues through regular consultations and information sharing	1. Extent and nature of dialogue between production and conservation interests supported by FAO	MoA, MoFL, MoEF, MoFood, MOCHTA
	2. Strengthened technical capacity (institutional and individual) for developing and implementing sustainable production programmes	1. Capacity of all stakeholders developed on management of sustainable practices	1. Number and extent of programmes formulated and implemented by GoB with FAO support incorporating concepts of sustainable management of natural resources	MoA, MoFL, MoEF, MoFood, MOCHTA
	3. Sustainable increase of production in livestock, dairy, poultry, horticulture and aquaculture sectors are identified and promoted through improved technology, better health, and resilient management practices	1. Mobilisation of resources to implement sub-sector policies and strategies supported 2. Prevention and control of trans-boundary livestock diseases supported through effective surveillance systems 3. Animal health services improved, including veterinary and diagnostic facilities and capacities to adopt a One Health approach to preventing and controlling infectious diseases 4. Expansion of horticulture production promoted	1. Resources mobilised for sub-sector policies and strategies with FAO assistance 2. Sustained increase in livestock, dairy, poultry and aquaculture productivity as a result of FAO programmes 3. Joint protocols and SOPs developed for zoonotic disease surveillance, prevention and control 4. Number of days from reporting an outbreak of a zoonotic disease to responding to it.	MoFL, NARS, MOCHTA, MoA

CPF Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	Outcomes/Major priorities within thrust	Outputs/Focused activities	Performance indicators	Concerned Ministries and agencies
2. Enhance agricultural productivity through diversification/ intensification, sustainable management of natural resources, use of quality inputs and mechanization	4. More sustainable capture fisheries promoted through stock assessment, improved technology, and better natural resources management policies and practices	1. Stock assessment of marine fisheries carried out 2. Capacity strengthened for more sustainable management of marine bodies, including reversing depletion of local species (ex. hilsa fish) 3. Improved gear introduced for marine fishing 4. Capacities strengthened for small scale capture fisheries in rural communities with access to ponds 5. Fishermen in coastal areas supported through capacity strengthening and/or alternative employment generation during off-season 6. Co-management practices for public water bodies promoted	1. Stock assessment completed 2. Number of fishers with improved gear, through FAO projects 3. Income of vulnerable fisher families in the coastal areas, from non-fishing sources (by survey) in those upazilas where FAO has active fisheries-related projects 4. Number of organizations built up for co-management of capture fisheries with FAO support	MoFL, MoWR, MoA, LGED, MOCHTA
	5. Sustainable surface water irrigation promoted	1. Utilization of surface water irrigation practices through community-based solutions for re-excitation of canals and small-scale structures scaled up 2. Water saving and cost reducing irrigation technology promoted 3. Technical capacity building in sustainable surface water management undertaken	1. Numbers of new water user groups created for managing surface water irrigation, with FAO support 2. Extent of take up of water saving technologies promoted by FAO (by survey)	MoA, BADC, MOCHTA, MoHFW
	6. Sustainable natural resources management practices promoted for protection of environment and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity	1. Capacity developed for policy, strategy and programme formulation on sustainable NRM and environmental protection 2. Practices promoted for improving soil health and land productivity in environmental stress prone areas 3. Conservation agriculture, conservation tillage, soil moisture harvest and increased productivity of rain-fed farming system promoted 4. Conservation of forests through co-management practices promoted, including opportunities of carbon-financing	1. Increased volume of projects/programmes on natural resource management within the MoEF 2. Area using conservation practices introduced with FAO support 3. Forest degradation indicators monitored through UN REDD Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV process) for which FAO is lead agency 4. Number of projects/initiatives adopting effective participatory approaches to sustainable natural resource management	MoA, MoFL, MoEF, MoL, MOCHTA
	7. Farm mechanization promoted and disseminated to enhance agricultural productivity and intensification	1. Incentive packages for rapid farm mechanization developed and promoted 2. Skills of rural youth developed for operation and maintenance of farm implements including tiller, tractor, pumps, motors, thresher, harvester, etc. 3. Small scale low cost agro-processing equipment promoted and disseminated	1. Numbers of schemes in farm mechanisation introduced with FAO assistance 2. Number of sessions on operation and maintenance of equipment targeted at rural youth run through FAO projects 3. Numbers of innovative technologies in small scale agro-processing introduced through FAO projects 4. Number of small equipment businesses set up and supported in an initial phase through FAO projects	MoA, MoFL, NARS, BADC, private sector, BCC

CPF Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	Outcomes/Major priorities within thrust	Outputs/Focused activities	Performance indicators	Concerned Ministries and agencies
3. Improve market linkages, value addition, and quality and safety of the food system	1. Farmers groups/ associations strengthened for transfer of knowledge and improved access to markets and input delivery	1. Capacity of farmers' groups/associations developed 2. Effective participation of women and minority groups farmers in group/association leadership supported	1. Number of effective farmers groups/associations active (by survey) 2. Number and percent of women and minority groups farmers in leadership positions 3. Indicators of participation in meetings and activities of farmers groups/associations	MoA, MoFL, LGED, CSOs/ NGOs, ATIs
	2. Policy dialogue established on supporting an enabling environment for agri-business development	1. National policies and regulations related to agri-business and agricultural input development, certification and marketing reviewed, to facilitate a national dialogue on how to improve the enabling environment for agribusiness development	1. Extent and nature of dialogue held with GoB and private sector on this subject 2. Evidence of improved enabling environment, from business perspective (by survey)	MoA, MoFL, BADC, Fertilizer/ Agri-business/ Seed Association
	3. Enhanced private sector-producer linkages for development of food products value chain	1. Processing and value chain development of vegetables, fruits, fish and livestock products using appropriate technologies promoted through introduction of farmer's group marketing practices	1. Volume of activity of new group-based marketing schemes supported by FAO 2. Number of agreements between producers and private service providers facilitated by FAO	MoA, MoFL, LGED, MOCHTA, MoWCA, LGI, CSOs, private sector
	4. Technical assistance provided on storage technologies for reduction of post-harvest loss and preservation of micronutrients	1. Community-based processing, storage facilities, warehouse receipt schemes, etc promoted 2. Producers trained on improved grading, storage and packaging practices 3. Technical support provided to government for enhanced public food management system and storage	1. Number of schemes for community based storage implemented as a result of FAO promotion and specific projects/programmes	MoA, MoDMR, MoFL, LGED, BADC, private sector, CSOs
	5. Improved quality and safety of food systems at national and local level	1. Public awareness developed on food quality/ safety and hygiene 2. Revision of national laws, policies and programmes on food safety supported (in particular the new Food Safety Act 2013) 3. Hygiene promoted in wet markets and slaughter house 4. Capacity developed for implementing sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards 5. Public officials trained in food control management 6. Laboratory testing facilities and HR capacity development within national food safety institutions strengthened (in particular the proposed new Bangladesh Food Safety Authority)	1. Improvement in food safety remains an articulated priority for the Government of Bangladesh 2. A functional national network of ISO17025 accredited laboratories for food analysis including a fully operational National Food Safety Laboratory 3. A more functional food safety system as evidenced by Establishment of the proposed BFSA Number of revised/new food safety standards and regulations Number of well trained and resourced corps of inspectors Reliable baseline data on food-borne illness incidence and outbreaks Number of consumer awareness campaigns transmitting food safety and hygiene messages Number of domestic food business operators adopting	MoHFW, MoFood, MoA, MoFL, MoInd

CPF Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	Outcomes/Major priorities within thrust	Outputs/Focused activities	Performance indicators	Concerned Ministries and agencies
4. Further improve technology generation and adaptation through better producer-extension-research linkages	1. Capacity of relevant institutions to deliver integrated extension services strengthened	1. Further modernization of mainstream extension agencies supported for effective delivery of demand - driven extension services targeted to all categories of producers (men and women) 2. Coordination of extension services delivery at grass root level improved	1. Number of producers/farmers reached by extension agents after 5 years 2. Evidence of greater satisfaction with extension services at grassroots level (by survey)	MoA, MoFL
	2. Strengthened research-extension-farmer linkages at different tiers of the national system	1. Capacity of researchers to identify and address producer needs; and of producers to articulate technology needs both increased 2. Support provided to expand demonstrations of modern technological packages at farm level, and to conduct adaptive research 3. Rural communication services for agricultural development enhanced 4. Adoption of participatory methods of farming systems research and extension services, monitoring and evaluation promoted	1. On-farm research activities established associated with Farmers'Field Schools, and other participatory methods, with FAO assistance 2. Uptake of rural communication services by projects and programmes by FAO projects and programmes, and by government through creation of a budget line in AIS regular programme	MoA, MoFL, MOCHTA, NARS institutes, Local Government, CSOs
	3. Increased support for partnerships in advanced agricultural research including biotechnology	1. Biotechnology and other advanced research techniques in crops, fish, livestock and forest promoted for agricultural improvement and economic benefits 2. Partnerships built for other advanced agricultural research for crops, fish, livestock and forestry production 3. Knowledge exchange on advanced agricultural practices fostered	11. Number of partnership-related projects developed with FAO assistance 2. Evidence of uptake of advanced agricultural practices in government extension service and/or at grassroots level in FAO projects	MoA, MoFL, NARS institutes, academia

CPF Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	Outcomes/Major priorities within thrust	Outputs/Focused activities	Performance indicators	Concerned Ministries and agencies
5. Increase resilience of communities to withstand 'shocks' such as natural disasters, health threats and other risks to livelihoods	1. Improved household coping strategies in specific vulnerable areas to natural disasters and climate change impacts (flood, drought, salinity)	1. Knowledge base and community level awareness enhanced on the impacts of climate change, including gender sensitive disaster risk reduction 2. Strengthening of climate change and disaster response capacity at community level supported, including emergency planning, response, early recovery and rehabilitation of livelihoods 3. Technical support provided to ensure adequate climate-resilient public food grain storage for vulnerable areas; promote community-level climate-proof seed storage 4. Dissemination and knowledge of climate stress-tolerant technologies supported	1. Men and women farmers involved in FAO programmes in vulnerable areas are better able to articulate how natural hazards impact on them 2. Number of Climate- or emergency-resilient facilities made available in communities, through FAO projects/programmes including seed storage, information system, stress tolerant varieties, etc. 3. Number of households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards affecting the local area (by survey)	MoA, MoFL, MoEF, MoDMR, MoHFW, DPs, CSOs
	2. Strengthened preparedness and response to humanitarian crises in a strategic and coordinated manner through the Food Security Cluster (FSC)	1. Appropriate and timely food security responses to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on the affected communities supported, with a focus on operational gap-filling and elimination of duplication of assistance in times of emergency	1. The FSC Contingency plan is developed and revised based on lessons learnt 2. The FSC participates in joint needs assessments (JNAs) in Phase 1 and 2 (HCTT) and leads FSC Assessments in Phase 3 & 4 3. The FSC develops coordinated and appropriate response strategies for immediate needs whilst considering short-term early recovery and medium term rehabilitation	FSC (FAO and WFP as co-leads, MoF, MoA, MoFL, MoDMR, UN agencies, I/NGO, DPs) and other Humanitarian Clusters, HCTT (UNOCHA), LCG-DER, LCG-
	3. Consolidation and institutionalization of standard tools for consolidated food security analysis to inform policy and programming in humanitarian, transition and development action	1. Use of the Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) in Bangladesh strengthened	1. IPC is institutionalised for food security analysis including both humanitarian action (FSC) and the greater development agenda (food and nutrition security policy and planning) 2. A pool of certified IPC analysts and certified trainers is in place to continue the IPC analysis	MoFood, IPC TWG and Analyst group (FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNOCHA, I/NGOs) HCTT, FSC (MoF, MoA, MoFL, MoDMR, UN agencies, I/NGO, DPs) and other relevant Humanitarian Cluster members

CPF Country Priority Areas (2013-2018)	Outcomes/Major priorities within thrust	Outputs/Focused activities	Performance indicators	Concerned Ministries and agencies
5. Increase resilience of communities to withstand 'shocks' such as natural disasters, health threats and other risks to livelihoods	4. Effective containment and control of the most serious Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD) - as well as newly emerging diseases	1. Coordination, planning and policy support for effective management and control of HPAI and other emerging and re-emerging diseases strengthened 2. Veterinary services capacities in disease surveillance and control enhanced 3. Bio-security of Live Bird Markets (LBM) improved through targeted renovation	1. Evidence of greater government support for effective management and control of animal disease 2. Enhanced technical capacity at community and district level to contain and control animal diseases	MoFL, MoHFW
	5. The One Health strategy for Bangladesh is promoted and action plans are developed and implemented to address health risks at the animal- human-ecosystems interfaces.	1. Multi-sectoral coordination, collaboration and governance mechanisms strengthened through the strategic framework of the One Health approach 2. Community level One Health pilot initiatives planned and implemented; prevention and control of high impact diseases (e.g. rabies, anthrax, brucellosis, Nipah, HPAI promoted)	1. One Health strategic framework and action plan is adopted and operational 2. Evidence of prevention and control of high impact diseases in communities, and reduced disease burden at human-animal-environment interface level	One Health Bangladesh (relevant line Ministries, UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WHO), universities, research institutions and NGOS
	6. Institutional capacity is developed to provide an adequate response to food borne illness outbreaks and food safety emergencies	1. A Food Safety Emergency Response plan developed, simulated and adopted 2. The co-ordination mechanism to implement the plan institutionalised	1. Documented response to food safety outbreaks and emergencies	MoHFW, MoFood

