



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

# INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN BANGLADESH TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs: A CASE STUDY

## BANGLADESH AND THE SDGs

Having recorded significant success within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Bangladesh has also embraced the international commitments to a fairer future for people and the planet set out in the 2030 Agenda. The Second Country Investment Plan 2016-2020 (CIP2), the Seventh Five Year Plan 2016-2020 (7FYP) and the Country Investment Plan for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (EFCC CIP) are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with other international initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.

In 2019, the first in an annual series of reports tracking progress towards the CIP2 results framework was also released: the CIP2 Monitoring Report 2019 was led and facilitated by the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) of the Ministry of Food, in collaboration with 19 partner ministries and divisions, with technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU). The government has put in place a structure and process for coordinated planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDG implementation, coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office. The Bangladesh Planning Commission acts as the secretariat, with the General Economics Division (GED) coordinating operational work.

## PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Sustained economic growth in recent years has secured the country's position among lower-middle-income countries, with concrete prospects of achieving middle-income status by 2021 – a key national policy objective. Spurred by an average 6.5 percent growth over the past decade, the country has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty, which dropped from 44.2 percent in 1991 to 14.8 percent in 2016/17, as well as significantly increasing life expectancy, literacy and per capita food production.

Despite unquestionable progress, Bangladesh has experienced a rise in rural depopulation, an increase in natural shocks, calamities, and the adverse effects of climate change, which have led to a significant degradation of natural resources, air and water pollution. The Government of Bangladesh worked with FAO, USAID and other partners to address these challenges, seeking to identify and implement a fair, effective and sustainable action plan.

## FAO'S ROLE

Working with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and USAID, FAO identified a number of significant obstacles to the effective management of the country's environmental challenges. Among them:

- Inadequate interagency coordination in the area of project identification and implementation;
- Weak linkages between policies, plans and implementation projects;
- Limited results' monitoring;
- A lack of certainty in the area of financing.

Leveraging FAO's expertise and knowledge of the country's specificities, matured over the long-standing collaboration between the Organization and Bangladesh, including during work on the MDGs, FAO and the MoEFCC laid out a set of objectives, including:

- Develop a 5-year (2016-2021) roadmap and strategic framework for a whole-of-government action plan on environment, forestry and climate change issues;
- Facilitate coherence and coordination of projects that are cross-sectoral in nature;
- Estimate the financing needs to be provided by the Government and development partners;
- Establish institutional mechanisms to monitor investments and assess their adequacy and effectiveness.

A comprehensive, participatory process facilitated by FAO was undertaken. It included: (a) a review of policies and legislation, with a team of experts evaluating hundreds of documents including laws, policies, plans, studies and scientific literature, with the aim of identifying existing trends and opportunities in the EFCC sector; (b) the compilation of data on sectoral trends, which was essential in informing the results framework of the CIP; (c) conducting stakeholder consultations involving over 2 000 people, with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations, the private sector and a wide range of other development partners, at the national, regional and local levels.

## OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

The joint efforts of the MoEFCC, FAO and other development partners produced the Bangladesh Country Investment Plan for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change 2016-2021 (EFCC CIP). The plan is a key element in Bangladesh's strategy to achieve the SDGs.

### The four pillars of the Bangladesh Country Investment Plan for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change 2016-2021

**Pillar 1** Sustainable development and management of natural resources

**Pillar 2** Environmental pollution reduction and control

**Pillar 3** Adaptation and resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change

**Pillar 4** Environmental governance, gender, and human and institutional capacity development

The aim of the EFCC CIP is, as described in the plan itself, to "increase the contribution of the EFCC sectors to national sustainable development through the enhanced provision of ecosystem services, thereby helping to reduce poverty, improve environmental and human health benefits, and increase resilience to climate change."

The EFCC CIP has been endorsed by the National Environment Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, and is being implemented by the MoEFCC.



### THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SFA

1. Increase productivity, employment and value addition in food systems
2. Protect and enhance natural resources
3. Improve livelihoods and foster inclusive economic growth
4. Enhance the resilience of people, communities and ecosystems
5. Adapt governance to new challenges

### FAO'S VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

A world where **food is nutritious and accessible for everyone**, in which natural resources are managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support **current and future human needs**.

In this vision, **farmers, pastoralists, fisher-folk, foresters and other rural dwellers** actively participate in, and benefit from, economic development, have decent employment conditions and work in a **fair price environment**.

**Women, men and communities live in food security**, and have **control over their livelihoods** and **equitable access to resources** which they use in an efficient way.

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