

BANGLADESH

Country Challenges

Bangladesh is a primarily agrarian country with more than 70 percent of its land dedicated to growing crops. Close to 50 percent of its population is employed in agriculture, with a wide range of crops cultivated, including rice, jute, wheat, tea, pulses, oil-seeds, vegetables and fruits. Despite this vital role agriculture plays in the country, it has remained largely subsistence based, and uncertain crop yields and inefficient infrastructure limit the ability of farmers to commercialize their production. Sustained food and livelihood security is needed as Bangladesh's population and density continue to grow. Agricultural and rural communities are also vulnerable to climate change and the increasing threat of cyclones, floods and droughts.



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Global Strategy Solutions

Recognizing Bangladesh's unique environment, an in-depth capacity assessment conducted as part of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics concluded that the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics needs to improve internal and external coordination with statistics producers and users. Data gaps in several core areas already being studied such as food balance sheets, livestock and agri-environmental indicators need to be filled to produce more effective statistics and responses. Amongst those tasked with using and analyzing statistics, knowledge and skills need to be further developed. In addition, a plan focused specifically on agriculture is needed to complement and supplement national strategies for the development of statistics.

Current Country Work

The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is collaborating with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and other relevant government ministries to activate an ambitious plan that will meet the country's agricultural and rural statistics needs. The plan will concentrate on the following actions.

- Develop a strategic plan for agricultural and rural statistics
- Strengthen the agricultural crop estimation system
- Develop an integrated framework of census and surveys
- Strengthen analytical capacity of institutions
- Strengthen coordination, documentation, research and analysis in national statistics systems
- Improve application of information and communications technology in production and dissemination of statistics
- Improve knowledge and skills of statistics researchers and users
- Focus on statistics users' advocacy

Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Strong participation from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and other involved partners has led to strengthened institutional relationships and Global Strategy based mechanisms that have resulted in the preparation of a strategy paper to improve agricultural and rural statistics that the Government has endorsed. A roadmap for a strategic plan for agricultural and rural statistics (SPARS) has also been completed and endorsed by the Government. The roadmap has been integrated into Bangladesh's agricultural sector development plan. The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is currently collaborating with the Government to further develop an effective SPARS. Once adopted, the Plan will become an integral component of government policy for Bangladesh's sustainable development and answer to the challenges of food security, poverty and climate change.



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