

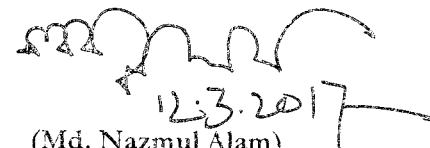
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Agriculture
Planning-8 Section

No. 12.00.0000.083.14.171.16.71

Dated: 12 March, 2017

A meeting was held in the Ministry of Agriculture on 07 March, 2017 with the Design Mission of "Smallholders Agriculture Competitiveness Project (SACP)". Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Islam, Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture chaired the meeting.

02. The undersigned is directed to send the minutes of the meeting for kind consideration and necessary action at your end.


12.3.2017
(Md. Nazmul Alam)
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Distribution (Not according to seniority):

Agencies

1. Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), Krishi Bhaban, Dilkusha C/A, Motijhil, Dhaka.
2. Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka.
3. Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka.
4. Director General, Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM), Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka.

Focal Persons

1. Mr. Md. Rezaur Rahman, Assistant Chief Engineer (MI), Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), Krishi Bhaban, Dilkusha C/A, Motijhil, Dhaka.
2. Dr. M. A. Awal, PSO (Planning), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka.
3. Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Deputy Director (PPE), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka.
4. Mr. Md. Anarul Kabir, Deputy Director (Deputy Secretary), Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM), Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka.

Design Mission

1. Peter Situ, Team Leader
2. Dave Doolan, FAO, Lead Horticulture Specialist/Deputy FAO Representative
3. Robert Delve, IFAD, Agricultural Research and Extension Specialist
4. Peter Batt, High Value Crop Production, Market and Value Chain Specialist
5. Yanoma Yukitsugu, FAO, Economist and Financial Analyst
6. Tabassum Sherina, IFAD, Country Program Officer, Bangladesh
7. Khan Imanun Nabi, FAO, Mechanization and Technology
8. Sheel Sreekanto, FAO, Value Chain Specialist
9. Wais Kabir, FAO, Irrigation and water management
10. Rahman Hamidur, FAO, Extension & Government Institute Institution
11. Giulia Re, FAO, Programme Officer
12. Shameem Ara Sheuli, IFAD, Knowledge Management Officer-Bangladesh
13. Wanaporn Yangyuentham, IFAD, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor
14. Rownok Jahan, IFAD, Targeting and Gender Specialist
15. Meng Sakphouseth, IFAD, Costab Specialist
16. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, IFAD, SECAP Specialist
17. Álvaro Fernandez, IFAD, Financial Management Specialist, Fiduciary aspect

Copy forward for information and necessary action:

1. ✓ Programmer, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka (with a request to upload the notice).
2. PO to Additional Secretary (PPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
3. PO to Joint Chief, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
4. PO to Deputy Chief-1, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.



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Sub: Minutes of the meeting with Design Mission of “Smallholders Agriculture Competitiveness Project (SACP)”.

The meeting with the Design Mission of “**Smallholders Agriculture Competitiveness Project (SACP)**” was held on 07 March, 2017 at the conference room of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Additional Secretary (PPC) of the Ministry Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Islam chaired the meeting. The list of the participants is attached in Annex – 1.

2. Discussion.

- 2.1 At the beginning, the chair welcomed the design mission of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO) and all the participants attended in the meeting. The ministry informed the house that the concept note drafted by IFAD/FAO went through the clearance process within IFAD. The partnership with MoA must be strong, as the design mission is key to the future of the project. The field visit of the design mission will give the chance to collect information which will be shared later on in the debriefing with MoA. The focal persons of four different agencies will be important at the field level and for the design of SACP.
- 2.2 Joint Chief, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) informed the house that the project is proposed for seven year. However, according to the planning guidelines, projects must be prepared for three years with an exception to be justified for a maximum of 5 years. The team leader of the Design Mission said, one year will be the minimum time just to have a proper kick-off. If the project duration is reduced, then 3 years will not be enough. Furthermore, MoA suggested that the Southern Bangladesh does have a unique ecosystem and diversified environment. So, Soil Management Component would be pertinent of this project.
- 2.3 Again, the house urged to amend the component wise allocation on the basis of importance. For this, MoA proposed Component 1 (Production and Technology Adaptation) about 30.00 million, Component 2 (Processing and Marketing) about 20.00 million and Component 3 (Water Management and Climate Change) could have a provision of 35.00 million US dollar. The team leader informed that it is not impossible to make a change as the design team has to see the practical sides now. Focal persons and team member should work together to look into this. In the meeting, the house talked about the share of FAO in name of Technical Assistance. The team leader informed the house about the need for FAO's assistance and for analysis of where exactly this is needed and where it brings best its comparative advantage. Previously, funds allocated were 5.00 million, now down to 3.50 million. The Chair mentioned that if



GAFSP on board, then the share of FAO for Technical Assistance would be amplified. After a successful discussion on this issue, the house opined that Technical Assistance Component should be as minimum as possible.

- 2.4 The house raised the issue of aligning the SACP with Seventh Five Year Plan, the Southern Master Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Director General of Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM) opined that South of Bangladesh is seen as a good choice of the project as a very demanding area. There is a lot of work to do for marketing and to link to sustainable agricultural production. The representative from Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) mentioned that the issues of water logging and salinity must be addressed to work in the South.
- 2.5 To ease the evaluation at the end of the project, MoA suggested the Design Mission to focus on preparing a baseline survey as per need assessment of the project area. The Design Mission informed the house that baseline is a requirement from IFAD also. Although at this stage might be complicated. It may support the justification of the areas selected. It must be done before the start-up of the project but it is already under the frame of the project.
- 2.6 Beside that, the members of the meeting raised an issue of avoiding the duplication with other ongoing project activities. The team opined that in principle, overlapping should be avoided but it could be that some areas will be targeted again. From the management side, some overlapping may be helpful to learn and contribute to previous results. The focal persons will help to assess the level of overlapping. The Chair urged the issues raised by MoA must be taken care of by the Design Mission. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) highlighted the importance of the linkages with agri-business. In addition, the specifics of the South of Bangladesh must be understood and taken into account as not all crops will be suitable. Transportation will be an issue in the area and local marketing can be also be a solution, he opined.
- 2.7 Taking part in the discussion, MoA informed that, the Ministry has different projects with established Project Management Unit (PMU)s and the experience of having PMU is not up to the mark. MoA would rather select a lead agency with a project director. So that the financial management, reporting and M&E plus inter-agency coordination would be analyzed and more ideas could put together easily. Additional technical staff can be hired under the project director if required. MoA would like to see a slimmer and manageable structure of SACP.
- 2.8 The MoA informed the house that according to government rules, funds must be allocated as per the implementing agencies in the Development Project Proposal (DPP). The Chair opined that the agency wise allocation would ease the implementation of the project. The team agreed to work on it.



4. **Decisions.**

After a successful discussion, the house came up with following decisions/recommendations:

- 4.1 Following the planning guidelines, the proposed SACP may be prepared for a maximum of 5 years with proper justifications;
 - 4.2 The Southern Bangladesh does have a unique ecosystem and diversified environment. So, Soil Management Component may be pertinent of this project;
 - 4.3 Based on its importance, the component wise allocation may be amended like Component 1 (Production and Technology Adaptation) about 30.00 million, Component 2 (Processing and Marketing) about 20.00 million and Component 3 (Water Management and Climate Change) could have a provision of 35.00 million US dollar;
 - 4.4 Technical Assistance Component of FAO should be reduced and be as minimum as possible for SACP. If GAFSP on-board, then the share of FAO for Technical Assistance would be amplified;
 - 4.5 The SACP must have alignment with Seventh Five Year Plan, the Southern Master Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
 - 4.6 The issues of water logging and salinity must be addressed by the proposed project to work in the South;
 - 4.7 To ease the evaluation at the end of the project, the Design Mission would focus on preparing a baseline survey as per need assessment of the project area;
 - 4.8 Overlapping should be avoided where possible and the focal persons would help to assess the level of overlapping;
 - 4.9 The project should have a linkage with agri-business;
 - 4.10 The SACP should have a Lead Agency instead of PMU. Additional technical staff can be hired under the project director if required; and
 - 4.11 According to government rules and to ease the implementation of the project, funds must be allocated as per the implementing agency wise in DPP.
5. Having no further discussion, the chair thanked all the members of the Design Mission and closed the meeting.

Sd/-

12 March, 2017

(Mohammad Nazmul Islam)
Additional Secretary (PPC)
Ministry of Agriculture



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কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের সম্মেলন কক্ষে ০৭ মার্চ ২০১৭ তারিখ বেলা ১০:০০ টায় Smallholder Agriculture Competiveness Project (SACP) - IFAD-FAO Formulation Mission Team এর সভায় উপস্থিত কর্মকর্তাগণের তালিকা -

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4	Md. Mahboob Ahmed.	DAM	01511610610	[Signature]
5	Md. Ayub Ali Deputy Director	DAE	0171188104	[Signature]
6	Md. Basir Uddin Director	DAE	01714485022	[Signature]
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