

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

(বিদেশী সংস্থা সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয় পত্রটি ইংরেজিতে জারী করা হলো)
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Agriculture
Planning Section- 2
www.moa.gov.bd

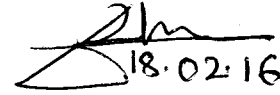
Memo No: 12.80.0000.083.99.142.14(Part-1)-250

Date: 18-02-2016

Subject: Steering Committee (SC) meeting minutes of the Development of Standards and Scheme for Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Implementation and Certification in Countries of SAARC (SAARC GAP Scheme)".

The Undersigned is directed to send herewith the minutes of the Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the "Development of Standards and Scheme for Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Implementation and Certification in Countries of SAARC (SAARC GAP Scheme)" which was held on 10 February, 2016 for kind information and necessary action.

Enclosed :(04 pages)



(Mohammad Fahim Afsan Chowdhury)
Assistant Chief
Ph. 9567677
Email: fahim_moa@yahoo.com

Distribution (Not according to seniority):

1. Additional Secretary (Administration & Input/ PPC/ Extension/ Research), Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
2. Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka.
3. Vice Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.
4. Director General, Bangladesh Accreditation Board, Ministry of Industry, 91, Mothijhil, C/A, Dhaka.
5. Director General, South Asian Regional Standard Organization, 116/A Tejgaon, Elenbari, Dhaka.
6. Director General, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI), 116/A Tejgaon, Elenbari, Dhaka.
7. Director General, Department of Agriculture Extension, Khamarbari, Dhaka.
8. Director General, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Gazipur.
9. Managing Director, Hortex Foundation, Sech Bhaban, Manik mia Avenue, Dhaka.
10. Representative, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Bangladesh, House no. 37, Road no. 8, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
11. President, Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables and Allied Products, Exporters Association, 28/1 Toynobi Circular Road, 6th Floor, Mothijhil, Dhaka.
12. President, Consumers Association of Bangladesh, 8/6, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000.
13. National Project Coordinator (NPC), SAARC GAP Scheme Project, BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka.
14. Programmer, ICT Cell, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. **(With a request to publish the minutes in the Website)**

Copy for kind information & necessary action:

1. P.S to Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
2. PO to Joint Chief, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
3. Office Copy / Master file.

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Agriculture
Planning Section-2

Subject: Minutes of the 3rd Steering Committee (SC) meeting of Development of Standards and Scheme for Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) Implementation and Certification in Countries of SAARC (SAARC GAP Scheme) Project.

The 3rd Steering Committee (SC) meeting on Development of Standards and Scheme for Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) Implementation and Certification in Countries of SAARC (SAARC GAP Scheme) Project was held on 10 February, 2016 in the conference room of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. The members present in the meeting are shown in **Annexure-A**.

Delivering the opening remarks, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture emphasized the importance of GAP and its implication in Bangladesh. The Secretary requested the National Project Coordinator (NPC) of SAARC GAP Scheme Project to initiate discussion as per agenda of the meeting. The NPC presented a detailed presentation highlighting the scope, objective, activities, action plan and relevant issues that require advice and guidance of the SC.

2.1 The NPC informed the meeting that no comment on the minutes of 2nd SC meeting has so far been received from any SC member. Therefore the minutes of the 2nd SC meeting could be confirmed. The Chairperson invited discussion on the decisions of the 2nd SC meeting minutes but nobody raised any disagreement.

2.2 The NPC informed that Bangladesh is one of the four piloted SAARC countries for adoption and implementation of SAARC GAP project vide agreement entered between Government of Bangladesh and FAO. The project was initiated during two days regional workshop comprising of all 8 SAARC countries, held during Sep 2014 in Dhaka. There was a detail and extensive discussion in the workshop on the entire SAARC GAP and the structure of SAARC GAP in the context of Bangladesh was identified. Later on, an exclusive stakeholders meeting for Bangladesh was held on 25.09.15 at BARC, Dhaka where formation of technical committee / certification committee and steering committee was finalized. Besides a time bound action plan

was drawn. The Chairperson told that the project would be ended in a few months. Therefore, he suggested that an action plan to ensure sustainability should be drawn before the completion of the project. He emphasized on the capacity development of concerned personnel in every agency. Joint Chief, Ministry of Agriculture said a module for GAP scheme should be developed immediately in order to implement GAP scheme in all relevant development projects under Ministry of Agriculture. The Chairperson suggested a dedicated manpower should be required as ToT in every agency for the implementation of GAP.

2.3 The NPC said most of the decisions taken in the previous SC meeting were implemented. But some decisions like proposed name of the organization, project logo and project name requires endorsement and guidance of SC. He proposed that the name of the organization may be corrected as "Bangladesh Agricultural Certification Body (**BACB**) rather than BAB to avoid overlapping with Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB). All the participants in the meeting were agreed with his proposal. He also suggested that the project should be named as "Bangla GAP" instead of SAARC GAP-Bangladesh Chapter for future internalization. Director General, Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) said that the export market of Bangladesh was basically focused on Europe. He emphasized that a regional standard should be developed for GAP scheme before competing in Europe market and therefore SAARC GAP Scheme would be more appropriate. The NPC told the meeting that four countries in SAARC region had their own GAP Scheme with individual name. Additional Secretary (Admin & Input), Ministry of Agriculture and representative of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) opined that individual branding was essential for future improvement of GAP scheme in Bangladesh. After brief a discussion, the Chairperson suggested the project should be named as Bangladesh-GAP. Members of the SC were agreed in this regard.

2.4 The Chairperson expressed his deep concern regarding the slower progress in the 3rd quarter of the project. The NPC informed that the number of training provided by FAO did not achieve its quarterly target. In this regard, Assistant Country Representative, FAO said that the progress of project was little bit slower in the 3rd quarter due to number of holidays in December, 2015. But, FAO already took steps to expedite the training activities under the project. The Chairperson requested concerned project officials to speed up the activities so that the project could reach its ultimate goal.



- 2.5 Director General, Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) told that the module to be developed under the project as well as the certification process should get clearance from Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). The NPC informed the certification process in GAP scheme did not need clearance from BSTI because BSTI offers clearance only to industrial products. National consultant, FAO told that a meeting was held with BSTI in the regard where it was clarified that clearance from BSTI would not be necessary. The Chairperson suggested that a meeting should be organized with BSTI to clarify the issue.
- 2.6 The NPC presented the proposed project logos in the meeting. There were several logos of which, one was designed by BARC and the others were by FAO. The participants in the meeting apprised the NPC for the logo design and also suggested some modifications in the logo. The NPC was asked to submit the modified project logo to the ministry.
- 2.7 The NPC raised the issue of accreditation fee to be provided to BAB for accreditation of DAE as certification body. He said a fee around two lacs taka (TK. 2, 00,000) is required to be paid to BAB by CB (DAE) as the cost of accreditation. After accreditation by BAB, DAE would be capable of giving the accredited certificate to the growers. Executive Chairman, BARC suggested that the fee should be provided by FAO from the project fund. The Additional Secretary, (Admin & Input) proposed fee can be provided from the budgetary allocation of the ministry. The NPC also presented a report on the study visit in India submitted by the participants from Bangladesh.
- 2.8 The FAO representative in Bangladesh opined that the project would be ended in a few months. Therefore a future plan should be drawn to look way forward and ensure sustainability of GAP scheme in Bangladesh. The Chairperson was agreed with his opinion. He again emphasized on the necessity of permanent manpower to implement GAP scheme at agency level.

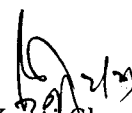
Decisions :

The following decisions were taken in the meeting :

1. All concerned Department / Agency will develop its permanent manpower for implementation GAP scheme;
2. The proposed name of the organization is corrected as “**Bangladesh Agricultural Certification Body (BACB)**”;
3. The project will be named as “ **Bangladesh-GAP** ” for future internalization;

4. BARC will take necessary steps to expedite the project activities based on the approved action plan;
5. The NPC will submit the modified project logo to the Ministry based on the suggestion by SC;
6. A meeting comprised of MoA, BARC, DAE, BAB, BSTI and FAO will be held within Fifteen (15) days to settle down issues like clearance from BSTI, future plan, etc.

There being no other issue for discussion the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.



(Shyamal Kanti Ghosh)
Secretary
Shyamal Kanti Ghosh
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Government of Bangladesh
People's Republic of Bangladesh