

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
UN Branch IV

PRESS RELEASE

Technical Assistance Project Agreement Signed between Bangladesh and FAO

29 August, 2023 Dhaka

The Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance has formalized a technical assistance project agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The core objective of this collaboration is to evaluate the potential of mechanized ratooning rice systems.

The project aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Development of a regional project proposal to expedite the transformation of rice-based agri-food systems by promoting the adoption and expansion of mechanized ratoon rice cultivation.
- Identification and accessibility of rice varieties/germplasm that exhibit robust ratooning capability.
- Creation and implementation of ecologically sustainable management practices for mechanized rice ratooning.
- Enhancement of awareness among diverse stakeholders regarding ratoon rice technology through project workshops and field exhibitions, fostering the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experience.

The agreement was formalized through the signatures of Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division, and Mr. Robert D. Simpson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh. Implementation of the project will be led by the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture. This collaborative initiative will be carried out simultaneously in Bangladesh, China, and Viet Nam. The allocated budget for the project in Bangladesh amounts to \$146,044 USD.

Since becoming a member of FAO in 1973, Bangladesh has benefited from the organization's technical and financial support across various domains, including food, agriculture (crops, fisheries, livestock), and environmental matters. Over the years, FAO has contributed to 400 projects within the country. These projects are closely aligned with the objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby supporting Bangladesh's endeavors to establish efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems.

The project's execution falls within the framework of FAO's Country Programming Framework for 2022-2026. This framework is centered on the attainment of improved production, nutrition, environmental sustainability, and overall quality of life for all citizens, leaving no one behind.



Signing of the project 29 August 2023

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