

**Inception workshop**  
**Market Access, Comparative Advantage, and Export Diversification**  
23 February 2023

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A workshop on the Inception Report for the study on “Market Access, Comparative Advantage, and Export Diversification” was jointly organized by the Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP), ERD and Policy Research Institute (PRI) on 23 February 2023 at the NEC-2 Conference Room of ERD. Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief of the Development Effectiveness Wing of ERD and the Project Director of SSGP chaired the workshop.

**Opening Remarks from the Chair Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary, ERD**

In his opening comments, the Chair of the event Mr. Farid Aziz recalled that the government intends to conduct in-depth sectoral studies and research to evaluate the effect of LDC graduation and devise suitable strategies. He also stated that the research is being conducted for the 'Sub-committee on Investment, Domestic Market Development, and Export Diversification' under the supervision of the National Committee on LDC Graduation. In 2018, Bangladesh became eligible to be recommended for Graduation from LDC. Currently, Bangladesh is enjoying a Grace Period of 5 years to prepare for Graduation. The purpose of this Stakeholder Consultation is to discuss the Inception Report by PRI. PRI was selected to carry out this Study after a competitive bidding process.

**Keynote Presentation from Dr. M. A. Razzaque, Director, PRI**

In his presentation, Dr. Razzaque emphasized the background of the study and its scope. He explained study outline and broad methodologies in his remarks. He emphasized the Revealed Comparative Advantage of Bangladesh's export goods in comparison to other comparable nations as the important paradigm. He also gave a comparative image of Bangladesh's 'Product Space Analysis' and the route toward potential industries and goods. Lastly, he provided a broad outline of the issues that would be covered by the study.

**Panel Discussion**

The Chair requested that the chosen discussants provide comments on the keynote address. At this point, they made the following significant remarks and provided input.

