

**Workshop on  
Annual Work Plan & Procurement Plan for the FY 2023-24 of SSGP  
Organized by Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP)**

Date: 25 June 2023

Venue: SSGP Conference Room-2, Manik Mia Avenue

A workshop on the draft Annual Work Plan and Procurement Plan of SSGP for the Fiscal Year 2023/24 was organized on 25 June 2023 at the Conference Room of block 6 of the Planning Commission campus. Additional Secretary and Wing Chief of the Development Effectiveness Wing of ERD and the Project Director of SSGP Mr. Farid Aziz chaired the workshop. Detailed discussions and recommendations coming from the workshop are noted below.

**Welcome Remarks by Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary & Wing Chief, DE Wing, ERD**

The Chair of the workshop Mr. Farid Aziz, in his welcome remarks, explained the objective and background of organizing the workshop. He observed that the recommendations coming from this workshop would provide important directions regarding the activities of the project in the coming fiscal year. In this context, he called for effective contribution from all the participants. Afterwards, he asked the concerned officials to present the draft Annual Work Plan and Procurement Plan.

**Presentation on Annual Work Plan & Procurement Plan for the FY 2023-24 of SSGP by Mr. Nesar Ahmed, International Trade Expert, SSGP & Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Deputy Secretary & DPD, SSGP:**

Mr. Nesar Ahmed and Mr. Abul Kalam Azad presented the draft workplan and procurement plan of SSGP for the fiscal year 2023-24. They highlighted the month wise and component wise activities that are planned to be carried out during the upcoming fiscal year. They also presented and estimated cost, source of funds and procurement methods of various procurement packages as per the draft procurement plan.

**Remarks from Discussants**

**Mr. Mohammad Masud Rana Chowdhury, Joint Secretary, ERD**

Mr. Mohammad Masud Rana Chowdhury, in his remarks, observed that the draft annual work plan and procurement plan had been formulated keeping in mind the broader context of Bangladesh's LDC graduation. Noting that the next few years would be crucial for ensuring a smooth and sustainable LDC graduation of Bangladesh, he called for timely completion of the ongoing LDC graduation related studies.

**Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration**

Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, in his remarks, noted that SSGP had been playing a substantial and effective supporting role in the LDC graduation process of Bangladesh. However, he called for effective

dissemination and awareness raising about the LDC graduation related and project related activities among the relevant stakeholders. He also put emphasis on effective implementation of the recommendations coming from various workshops, seminars, and studies.

### Open Floor Discussion

At this stage, the floor was opened for feedbacks and recommendations from participants. During this session, the following feedback came from them:

- SSGP should designate and communicate with the appropriate resource persons for various planned workshops, seminars and FGDs in advance—so that he/ she can prepare himself/ herself on the topic in advance and can provide substantial inputs into the subject matter.
- SSGP may also sensitize the graduation related subcommittees about the themes of the planned national seminar in advance so that the concerned subcommittees can have enough time to prepare themselves.
- Thematic workshops can also be organized in collaboration with the concerned subcommittees that are dealing with that particular theme.
- The events or activities of SSGP in the upcoming fiscal year may also have some special focus on the ‘Smart Bangladesh’ theme.
- The 80<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCAP is expected to be held in April 2024. SSGP may provide necessary technical support during this event.
- A planning workshop can be organized in May 2024 to chalk out the annual work plan and procurement plan for the fiscal year of 2024/25.
- It is expected that a regional conference, co-financed by Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations, will be organized in Dhaka during the next quarter for knowledge sharing among the graduating countries of the region. SSGP, along with the United Nations, may provide necessary technical and financial support in organizing this event.
- SSGP may also provide technical support regarding the LDC graduation related issues during the upcoming Financing for Development Forum (FfD) and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- Ministry of Commerce has recently sent a letter to ERD proposing a study on WTO subsidy on fisheries. SSGP may look into this issue.
- There are scopes for further communication and follow up with the UN Technology Bank regarding their recent initiatives related to Bangladesh’s LDC graduation.
- SSGP should regularly monitor the progress of various studies being conducted on the impacts of LDC graduation and should ensure the timely completion of those studies.
- A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) can be organized with the officials of the Ministry of Commerce and the concerned commercial wings of various Bangladeshi missions abroad for identifying the potential export items in various overseas markets.
- The SSGP website should be reactivated. It should be made more dynamic and interactive. It should also be updated on a regular basis featuring the latest activities of the project. There should be provision for these activities in the annual procurement plan.

- Many more training programs should be organized by SSGP on a regular basis on various LDC graduation related issues.
- Necessary steps should be taken to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations coming from various workshops, seminars and FGDs organized by SSGP. There can also be a separate agenda during the NCG meetings for following up the implementation of the recommendations.
- Necessary measures should be taken for recruitment in various vacant positions within the project management unit of SSGP.

### **Concluding Remarks by Chair**

The Chair, in his concluding remarks, thanked all the participants for their feedback and recommendations. He observed that the recommendations coming from them would provide valuable inputs in finalizing the work plan and procurement plan. Lastly, he concluded the meeting by thanking all the participants.