



Economic Relations Division Ministry of Finance

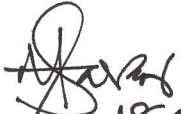
Date: 18 March 2015

Press Release

An Agreement was signed today on 18th March 2015 at the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to implement a programme titled "Strengthening National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring System in support of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; and '+' stands as the role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks) in Bangladesh". The programme will be implemented jointly by Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests & FAO for the period from 01 January 2015-31 December 2019. The total amount of the programme aid is USD 6,456,087 (20.14m or BDT 50 crore 36 lakh) which will be funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). FAO will provide technical support to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

This project is planned to develop complete and sound updated information on the forest and tree resources, assist the FD to set up a specialized structure "National Forest Inventory Unit (NFI)" and put in place a long term satellite monitoring system of the forestry ecosystems. It will also introduce policy relevant and holistic and integrated approach to forestry resources assessment that addresses all domestic needs of information as well as the international reporting requirements, thereby being able to provide data and information on the sub-sector to users (both local and international) on timely and regular basis. Moreover, this project is designed to strengthen the capability of BFD to collect, analyse, update and manage the needed information on forests and Trees outside forests (TOF) for planning and sustainable management of the forestry resources; prepare national maps of forests and land uses based on harmonized classification and forest related definitions; develop tools and methods for integration of REDD+MRV (Measurement Reporting and Verification) to NFI and Satellite land Monitoring System (SLMS) methodology.

On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division and on behalf of FAO, Mr. Mike Robson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh signed the Agreement. Ms. Sultana Afroz, Joint Secretary, ERD and Senior officials from the Government and FAO were also present on the occasion.


18.03.2015

Shah Mohammad Habibul Hasan
Assistant Chief
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh