



Economic Relations Division Ministry of Finance

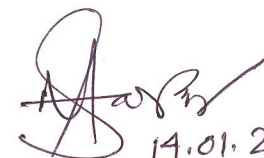
Date: 14 January 2015

Press Release

An Agreement was signed today 14 January 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 Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to implement a programme titled "Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge (MUCH): Strengthening the enabling environment for food security and nutrition". The programme will be implemented jointly by the Ministry of Food & FAO for the period from October 2014 to September 2019. The total amount of the programme aid is 20,144,544 USD (20.14m or BDT 156 crore 38 lakh) which will be funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and European Union (EU). FAO will provide technical support to the Ministry of Food.

The expected outcome of the Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge Programme (MUCH) is to *strengthen enabling environment for eradicating food insecurity and malnutrition* which will be achieved through five mutually reinforcing outputs, all of which are focused on strengthening national capacities through on the job, long and short term training programmes. Moreover, the project is aimed to Improve the capacities of Government and stakeholders for developing National Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Policy framework, Cross-sectoral policy frameworks, cross sectoral and sectoral investment plans as well as programmes for food security and nutrition; Improve capacities of Government for human resource and organizational development in the FSN domain; Increase capacities of Government to ensure the adequacy of resource allocation and use for food security and nutrition; and Improve capacities of FPMU and FSN related ministries to monitor and map trends and analyze the contribution of sectors and stakeholders to food security and nutrition.

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. Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam, Additional Secretary, ERD; Ms. Sultana Afroz, Joint Secretary, ERD; Mr. Mr. David W. Doolan, Deputy FAO representative in Bangladesh and Senior officials from the Government, USAID, EU and FAO were also present on the occasion.



14.01.2015

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