

Ref.: TA 1/1 (GAFSP 2021)

Dhaka, 07 September 2021

Dear Ms. Hayward,

**Statement of readiness of FAO as supervising entity for GAFSP Country-led proposal**

Greetings from FAO Bangladesh.

This letter is to confirm that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is ready and willing to serve as the Supervising Entity (SE) for technical assistance (TA) of the Bangladesh Country-led proposal: *Diversified and Resilient Agriculture for Improved Food and Nutrition Security* proposed for GAFSP financing by the Government of Bangladesh.

FAO has been thoroughly involved in the preparation of the proposal in close collaboration with the Government and the SE for investment selected by the Government i.e. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). From the FAO side and along our own procedures, the *Diversified and Resilient Agriculture for Improved Food and Nutrition Security* TA project would be a new stand-alone project.

In Bangladesh, FAO has a current portfolio of 55 nos. of projects under implementation for a total value of US\$ 80 million all related to agriculture and food security. FAO does not have a performance rating mechanisms and is implementing a number of range of projects financed from its own resources, Government resources and bilateral and multilateral donors. The projects most relevant to this proposal are the following:

Project Name	Financed by	Duration	Location	Major focus
Technical Assistance to the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project	Government of Bangladesh USD 3,000,000	5-Jul-2019 – 4-Jul-2023	Coastal region of Bangladesh	Producers' organizations, value chains, market competitiveness for smallholders
Increasing Access to Finance for Farmers Organizations in Bangladesh	GAFSP USD 3,701,000	28-Mar-2018 - 27-Mar-2022	Total 16 districts of Northern and Southern region of Bangladesh	Producers' organizations, value chains, market competitiveness
Strengthening Sustainable Wetland Agriculture for Resilient Farmers' Livelihoods and Ecosystems	FAO-Technical Cooperation USD 245,000	1-Aug-2021 – 31-Jul-2023	Wetland areas of Bangladesh	Resilient livelihoods
TCPF: Strategic Support for Development of Investment Strategies and Action Plans for the Agro-Processing Sector	FAO-Technical Cooperation USD 100,000	1-Jul-2021 – 30-Sep-2022	Bangladesh	Actionable policy for agro-industries
Farmers' Market – Safe Horticultural Crop Production in Peri-urban Areas and Marketing in Dhaka City to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 Crisis	FAO-Technical Cooperation USD 265,000	1-Jul-2021 – 31-Dec-2022	Dhaka	Establishment of farmers' markets
Community-Based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh	Global Environment Facility USD 5,425,114	1-Jan-2019 – 31-Dec-2022	All over Bangladesh	Fishers community development, adaptation

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Technical Assistance Services on Development of Farmer Field School Curricula, Livestock Extension Manual, Animal Breeding & Artificial Insemination Policy, Livestock Extension Policy, Vaccination Strategy, Hatchery Act & Rules, Sustainability Model	Government of Bangladesh USD 733,600	31-Jan-2021 – 31-Dec-2022	All over Bangladesh	Extension strategies and policies
Technical Services on Farmers/Producers Group Formation and Mobilization for Farm Development	Government of Bangladesh USD 1,830,800	8-Jan-2021 – 30-Sep-2023	All over Bangladesh	Mobilization of livestock POs
Technical Assistance Services on Participatory Mapping of Farmers Groups, Baseline Studies, National Risk Analysis and Management Strategy Development	Government of Bangladesh USD 428,200	6-Dec-2020 – 31-Dec-2021	All over Bangladesh	Mapping of livestock POs
Integrated Agricultural Development for Nutrition Improvement in the NW Region of Bangladesh	FAO-Technical Cooperation USD 355,000	1-Nov-2019 – 31-Dec-2021	Northwest region	Smallholder farmers, nutrition

It should be mentioned that the GAFSP supported recently completed Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP-TA) and the ongoing MMI approach- both worked well because it focused first on strengthening the organizational capacity of the Government agencies and the Producer Organizations (POs) respectively.

Subject to GAFSP's funding decision by the end of 2021, we expect the following tentative project milestones. Please note however that the schedule for processing of the FAO TA project documentation is also dependent on the processing of the investment components by the Government and its investment supervising entity. The tentative schedule is as follows:

By July 2022- the project document would be prepared according to the FAO format and submitted for clearance within FAO and for no objection by the GAFSP steering committee.;

By August 2022- the project document would obtain all internal FAO clearances and the document could be signed with the Government;

By September 2022- FAO expects that the TA project activities could start implementation.

Allow me to again affirm FAO's commitment to the successful design and implementation of this proposed project, if approved.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert D. Simpson  
FAO Representative in Bangladesh

**Ms. Natasha Hayward**  
Manager  
Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)  
MSN MC5-510, The World Bank Group  
3301 Pennsy Drive  
Landover, MD 20785, USA