

Experience of Bangladesh in ensuring food security: challenges, solution, prospects and proposal

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- Food Security governance and policies
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At the dawn of independence in 1971, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took strong steps to ensure the overall development of agriculture and food security in Bangladesh in the light of the constitutional commitment.

Thanks to his vision and the foundations he laid, Bangladesh has achieved food security and is globally recognized today a **Role Model** for others.

Constitutional Obligation for Food and Nutrition Security in Bangladesh:

‘Food & Nutrition Security for all’ is protected in the Constitution of Bangladesh

- **Article 15(a)**- The provision of the basic necessities of life, including **food**, clothing, shelter, education and medical care - fundamental responsibility of the State.
- **Article 15(d)**- the right to **social security**, that is to say, to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases.
- **Article 18(1)**- The State shall regard raising of the level of **nutrition** and improvement of public health are among the primary duties of the State.

Political Commitment in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution



Government has already ensured food security for all by boosting food production. Our aim is now to ensure nutrition for all.

HPM Sheikh Hasina

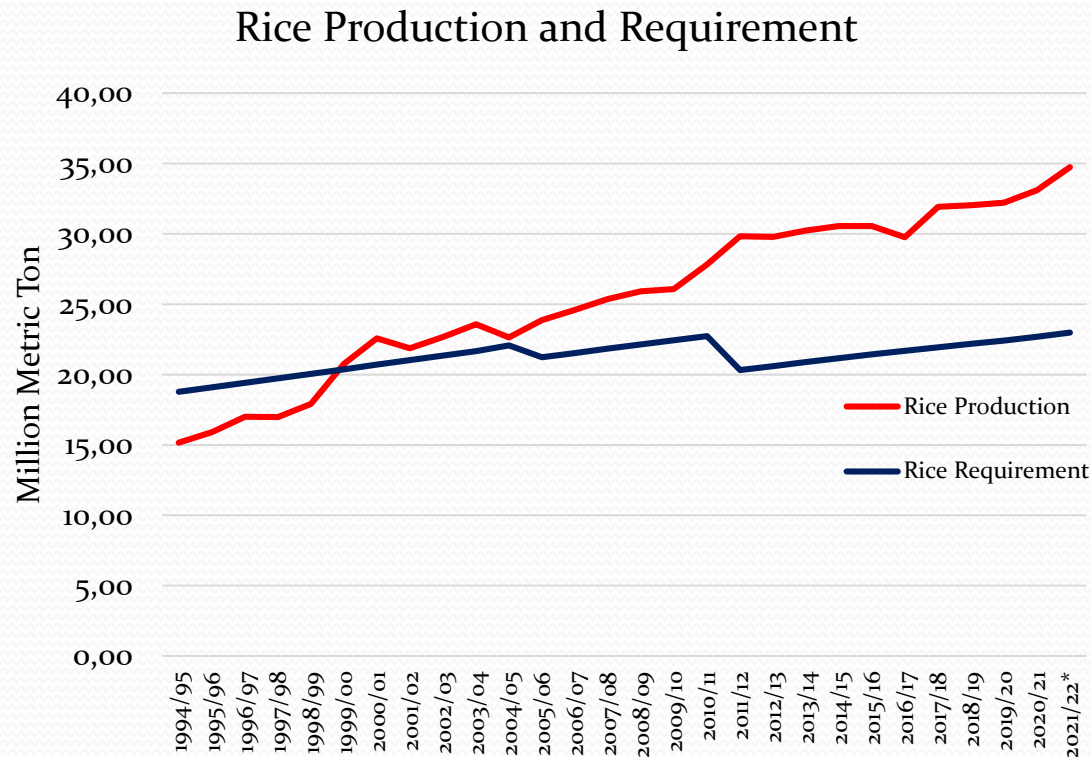
“Malnutrition is the largest single contributor to physical and mental under-development and disease. Personally, I am committed to taking up these challenges at all levels.”

*-Her Excellency **Sheikh Hasina**,
Prime Minister of Bangladesh*

Present Food Security Situation in Bangladesh

1. Diversified food supply

- Production of staple food rice : Continuously increasing since the independence and now it is 3.7 times more than that was in 1971.



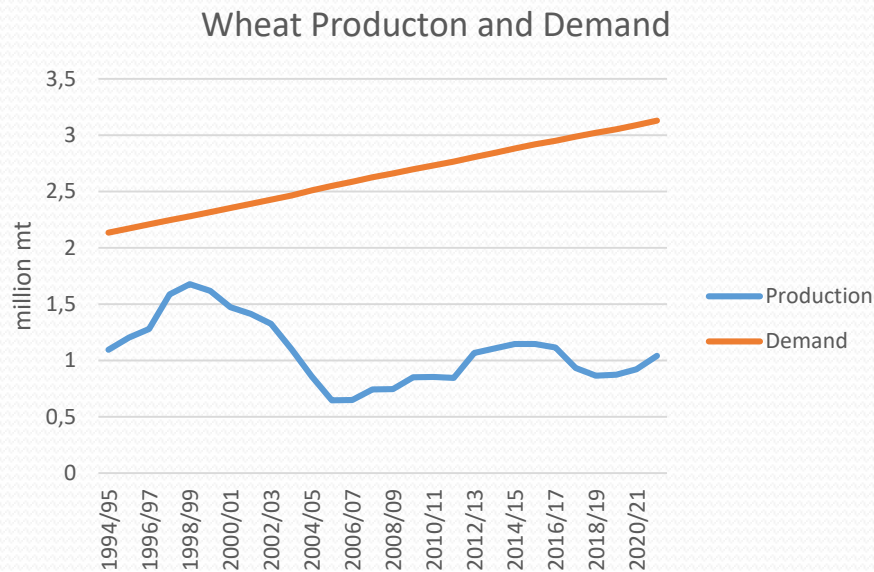
Facts for rice

- Bangladesh achieved self-sufficiency in rice production in 1998-99 which got stability.
- Currently food production growth exceeds population growth rate.
- Rice production has increased by more than three (3.7) times since independence in 1971 and the country ranks third globally

Present Food security situation in Bangladesh (contd.)

Diversified food supply (Contd.)

Production of Wheat



Facts for wheat

- Due to unfavourable weather condition wheat production is decreasing gradually.
- Bangladesh is now a wheat deficit country
- Wheat import dependency is about 80%

Present Food security situation in Bangladesh (contd.)

Diversified food supply (contd.):

Production of other foods

Foods	Production	Demand	Coverage (%)
Fish	4.50 MMT (2019/20)	60 gm/capita/day	100%
Egg	17.36 billion (103.15/year/ head)	17.50 billion (104/year/head)	99.2%
Milk	10.68 MMT (173.86 ml/day/head)	15.36 MMT (250 ml/day/head)	69.5%
Meat	7.67 MMT (124.86 gm/day/head)	7.37 MMT (120 gm/day/head)	104.1%

Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in fish, egg and meat.

Bangladesh ranks 3rd in inland open water capture production of fish and 5th in aquaculture

The production and availability of other foods such as fruits, vegetables, and livestock products has also increased

2. Access to Food

Physical access:

- **Roads**- 67% of the roads are fair condition
- **Growth center** : Every year huge number of growth centers are being developed in rural areas
- **Cold storage** : About 400 cold storage across the country, capacity is more than 7 mmt
- **Public storage capacity**: Around 2.1 million MT.

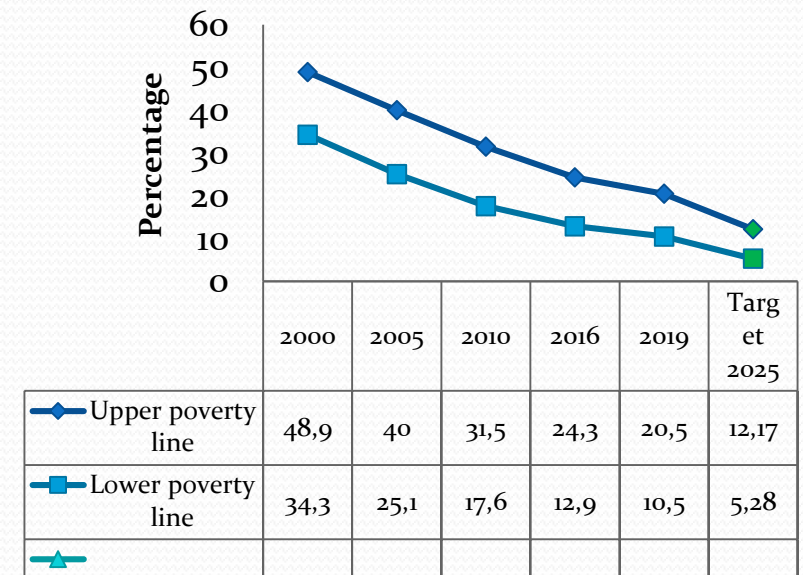
Economic access:

- **Poverty** – average declining rate is about 1.4% every year
- **GNI per capita**- 2824 US\$ (growth rate is 9%)
- **Rice purchasing capacity**- 10.5 kg by one day agr. wage

Social Access:

- Social Safety net budget (2021-22) as a percentage of GDP- 3.11%
- Coverage of safety net program- 100% poor and vulnerable

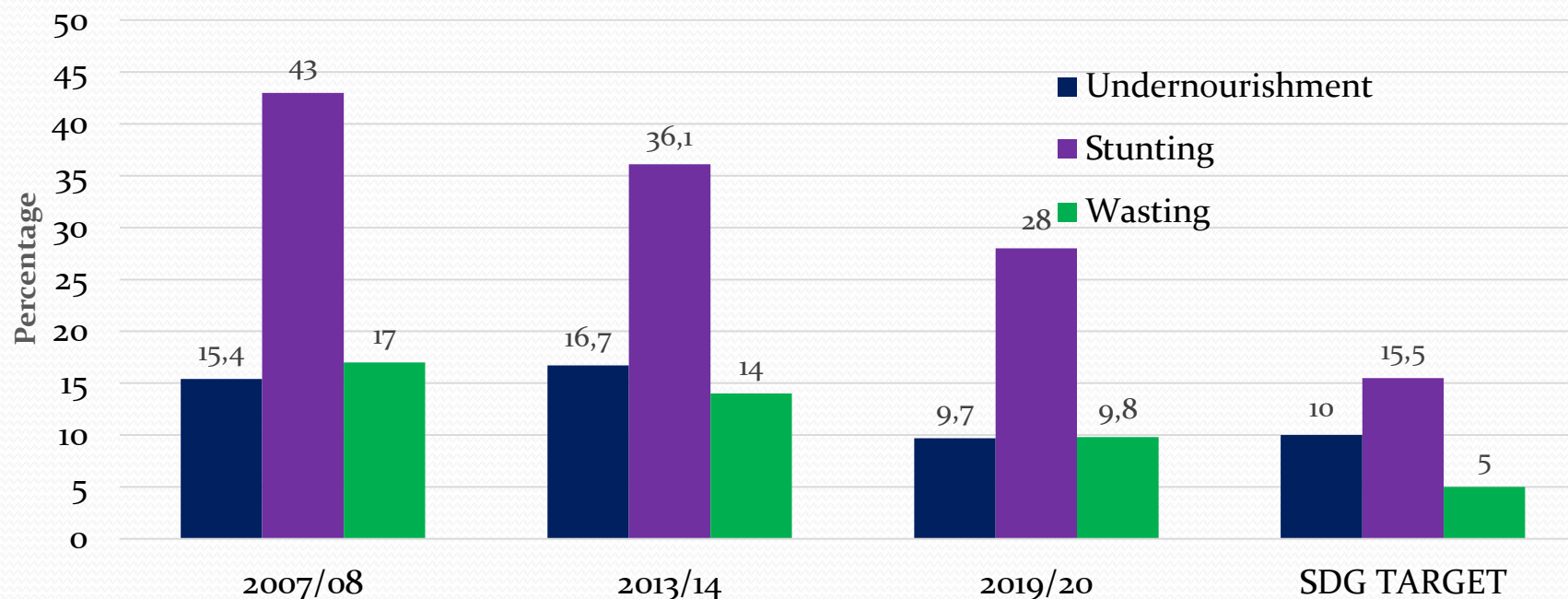
Poverty in Bangladesh



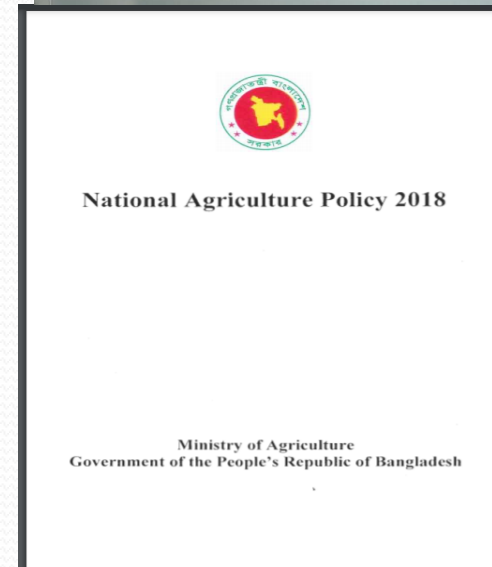
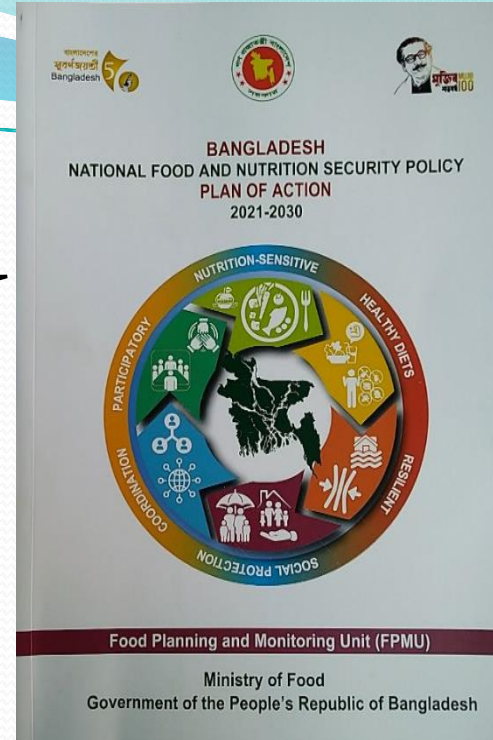
3. Access to Nutrition:

- Prevalence of undernourishment- 9.7% (5.2% declined since 2015/16)
- Prevalence of stunting- 28% (about 8% declined since 2015/16)
- Prevalence of wasting- 9.8% (about 5% declined since 2015/16)

Nutrition Status



Food Security governance and policies



Food and Nutrition Security related policies and strategies in Bangladesh.

- National Food Policy (2006) and its Plan of Action (2008-2015)
- Food Safety Act (2013)
- National Nutrition Policy (2015)
- 2nd National Plan of Action for Nutrition – NPAN2 (2016-2025)
- 1st Country Investment Plan – CIP1 (2011-15) for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition
- 2nd Country Investment Plan - CIP2 (2016-20) for Nutrition Sensitive Food Systems
- National Agricultural Policy (2018) and its Plan of Action (2020)
- National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) 2020 and its Plan of Action (2021-30)
- National Social Security Strategy (2015) and its Plans of Action
- Eight Five Year Plan 2020-2025
- Perspective Plan (2000-2021)
- SDG

Background-Evolution of food policies in Bangladesh

- The first National Food Policy, was adopted in **1988**- this policy was to achieve food security for all people by **increasing food production and attaining self-sufficiency**. However, many important aspects of food security remained unattended in the food policy of 1988 which was based on **availability** of food grain alone.
- As Bangladesh was poverty stricken malnourished nation with a highly dense population (of 112 million denser than in any other country), malnutrition was endemic in the country, with high infant, under five and maternal morbidity and mortality. Almost the whole population were suffering from **micro-nutrient deficiencies** such as iodine, iron, zinc, vitamin A and riboflavin. In that context develop the **Food and Nutrition Policy 1997** was developed.
- Again in 2006 The government of Bangladesh adopted the **National Food Policy 2006** which was developed in the light of the agreed *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper* and also in a broader perspective according to the definition of food security as adopted in the **World Food Summit-1996**.

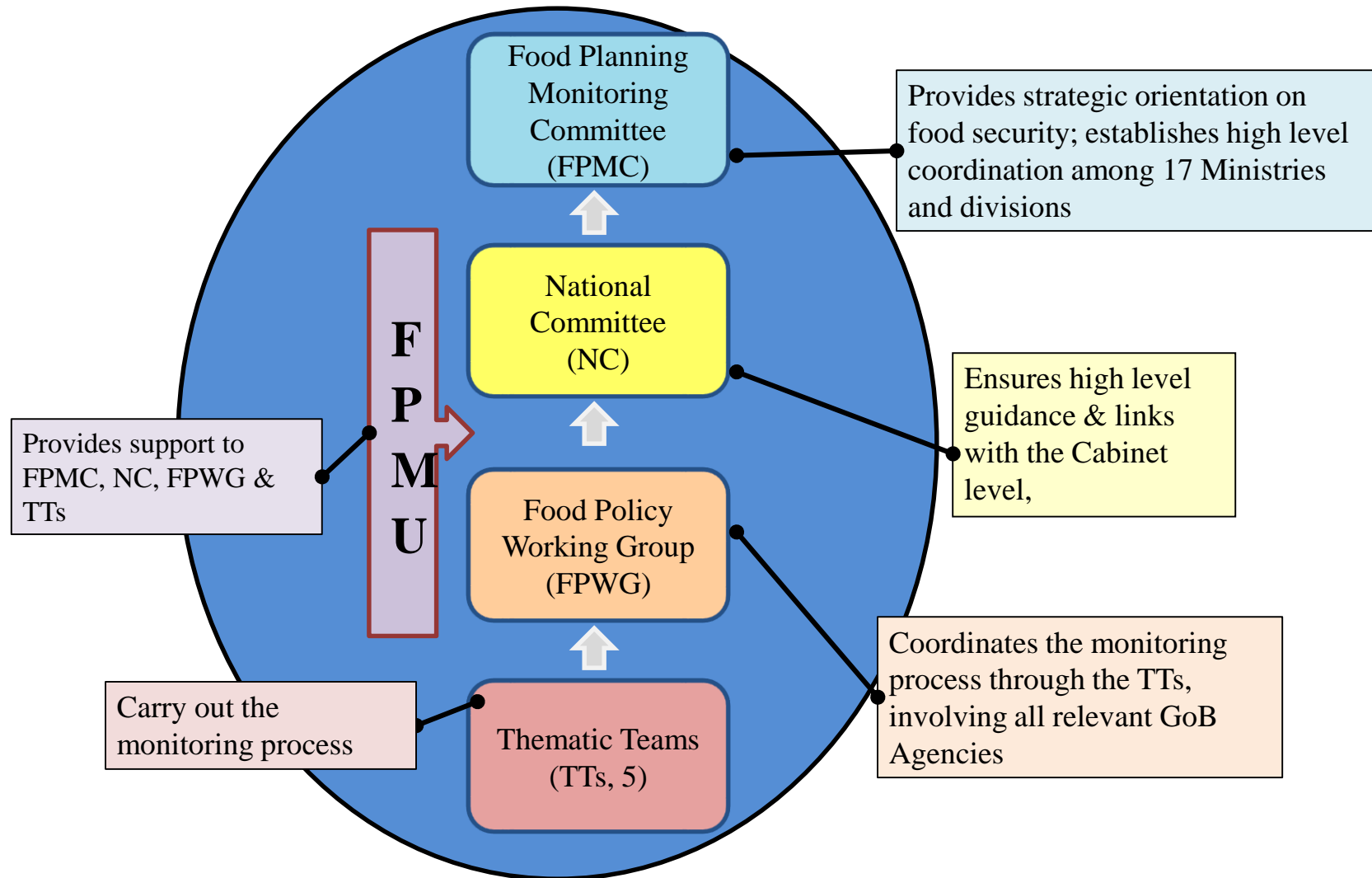
Background-Evolution of Food Policies in Bangladesh (Cont.)

- The FNSP-2020 accommodates the whole things of the food and nutrition affairs i.e. the food system approach (from farm to plate) prioritizing the adequate supply and consumption of **diversified safe and nutritious food**. This policy put more emphasis on **coordination** (SDG-16) under the umbrella of outlining interconnected actions and achieving results under **multi-agency activities** regarding the development of food and nutrition security.



The NFNSP (2020) was approved at a virtual Cabinet meeting chaired by Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 24th August 2020

Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Mechanism in Bangladesh



Apex Body of Food Security Governance

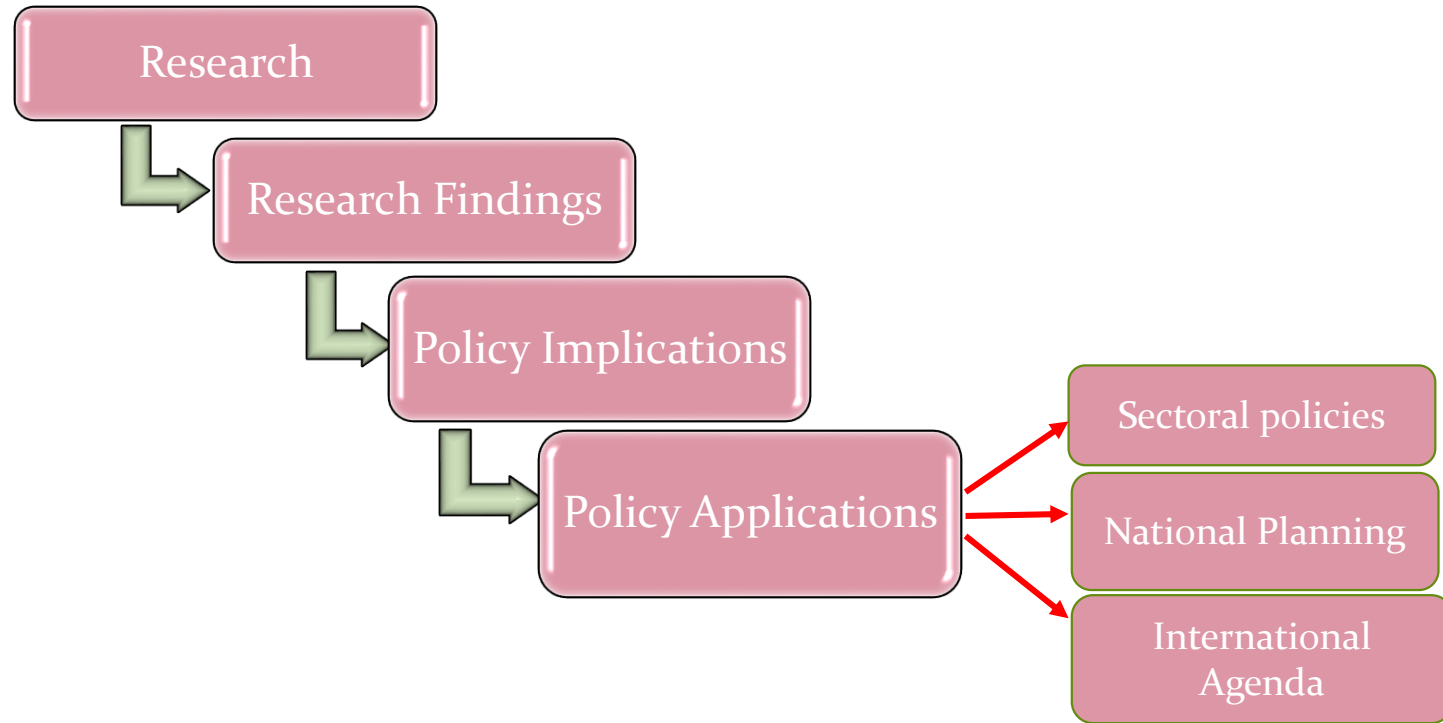
(a) Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC)

Composition of the Committee

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| (1) Minister, Ministry of Food | -Chairman |
| (2) Minister, Ministry of Finance | -Member |
| (3) Minister, Ministry of Commerce | -Member |
| (4) Minister, Ministry of Agriculture | -Member |
| (5) Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives | -Member |
| (6) Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | -Member |
| (7) Minister/State Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock | -Member |
| (8) Minister/State Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief | -Member |
| (9) Cabinet Secretary | -Member |
| (10) Secretary, Internal Resources Division | -Member |
| (11) Secretary, Finance Division | -Member |
| (12) Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division | -Member |
| (13) Secretary, Ministry of Food | -Member |
| (14) Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs | -Member |
| (15) Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief | -Member |
| (16) Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | -Member |
| (17) Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture | -Member |
| (18) Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock | -Member |
| (19) Director General, FPMU, Ministry of Food | - Member-Secretary |

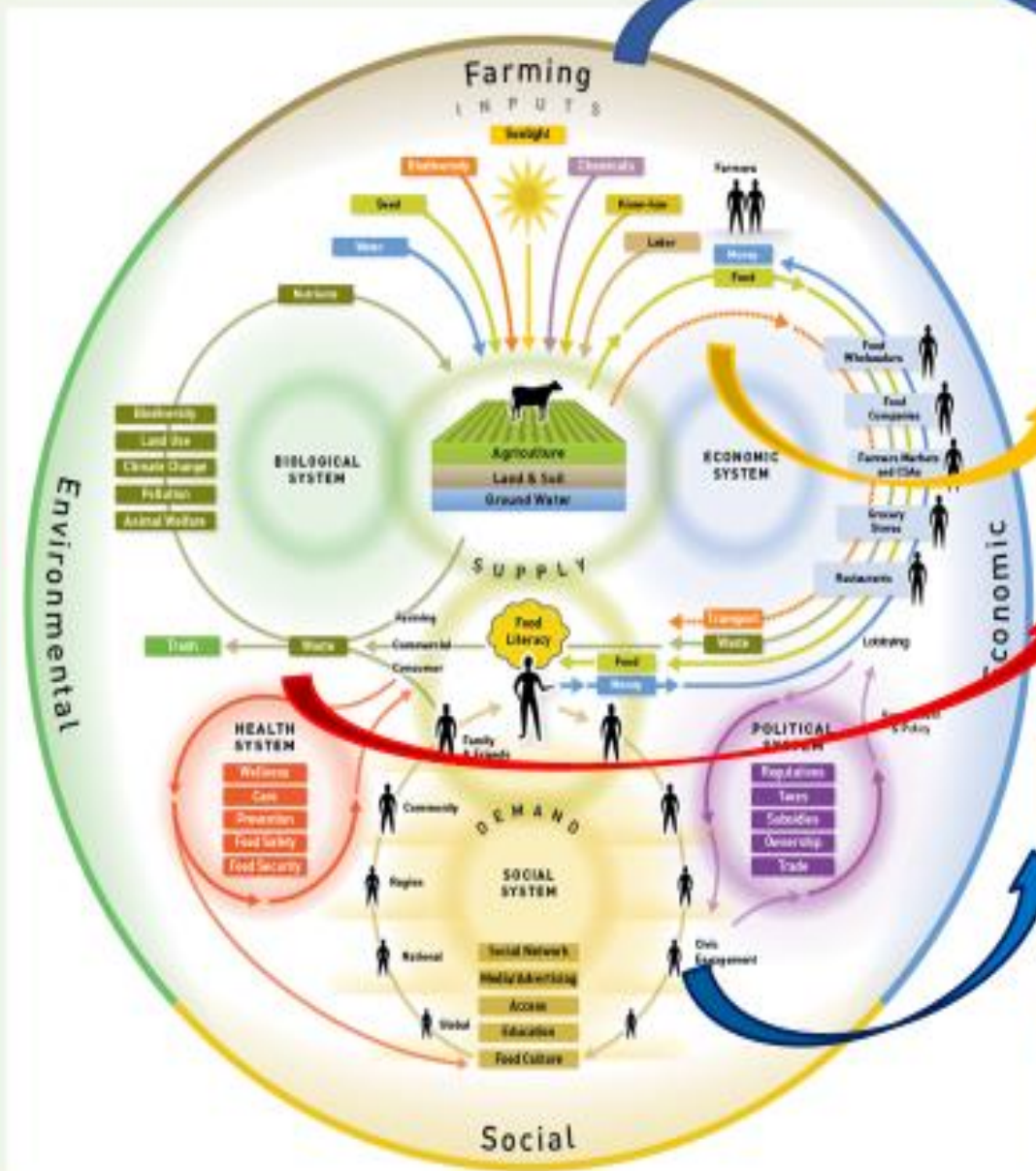


Trade off between Research and Policies



A Food Systems approach to FNS: From Production to Consumption

NFNSP Objectives



Pillar I

- Availability of safe and nutritious food for healthy diets

Pillar II

- Access to safe and nutritious food at an affordable price

Pillar III

- Consumption and utilization of healthy and diversified diets for achieving nutrition improvements

- Access to nutrition-sensitive social protection and safety nets across life cycle with a focus on vulnerable groups and regions

Pillar IV

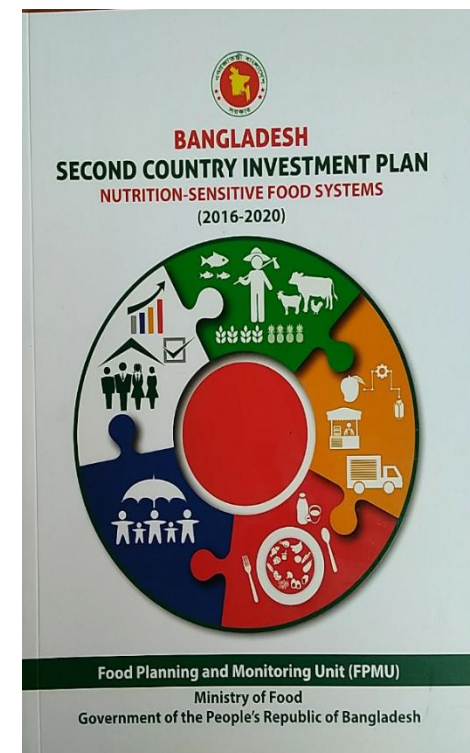
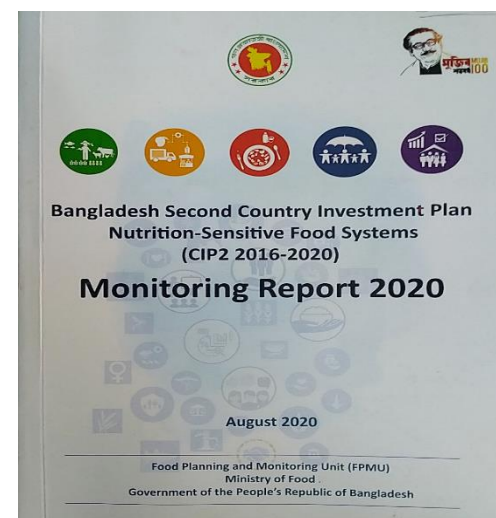
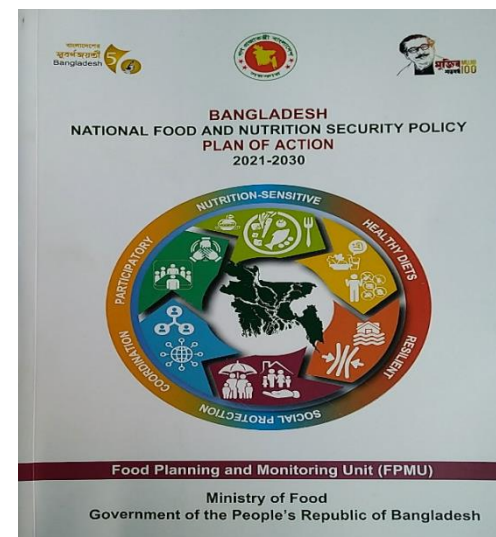


Pillar V

- Cross-sectoral issues

Major Policy Documents- Research output

- **1. National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2020-Plan of Action-** Achieve food and nutrition security related Sustainable Development Goals and fulfill the relevant national and international commitments by 2030. It addresses both immediate and longer term food and nutrition security challenges in the country.
- **2 Country investment Plan (CIP1, CIP2, CIP3)-**Nutrition Sensitive food system, resource mobilization, stronger & effective coordination
- **3 Monitoring Framework of the NFNS PoA & CIP-** The monitoring framework adopts a results-based monitoring (RBM) approach which actually track the year-to-year results that will arise from implementing the PoA-constructed by the research findings. This would help to inform government and non-government actors in their FNS activities so that all actors can contribute collectively and cumulatively towards Bangladesh's FNS vision and goal.



Implementation Approach 3. The Country Investment Plan

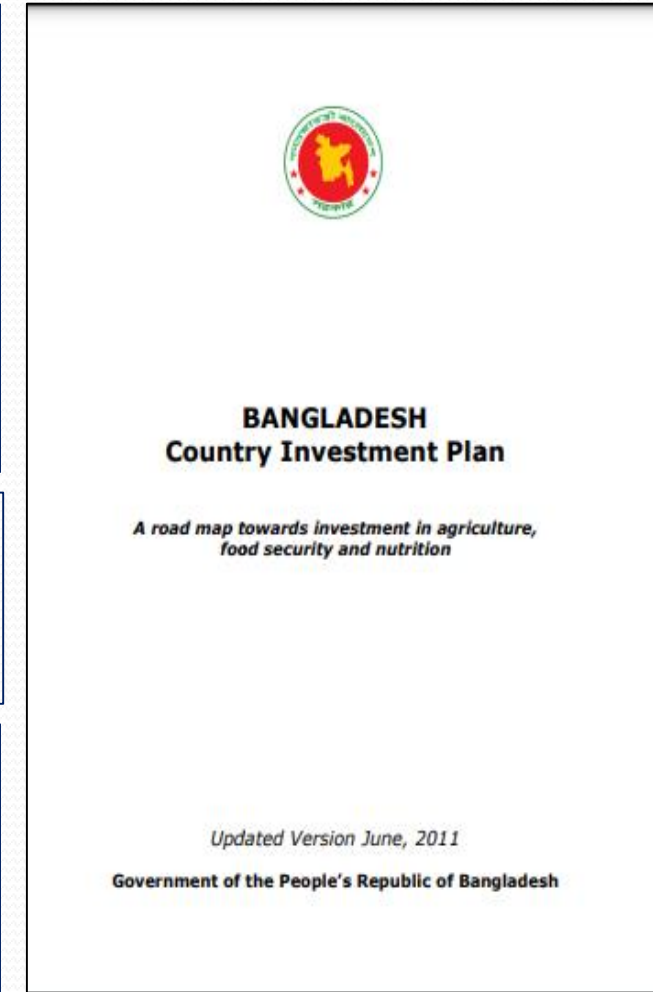
The Country Investment Plan as a framework for food security interventions: a response to the 2008 food security crisis



Responding to L'Aquila Initiative that ensued the 2008 food crisis and in line with the 5 Principles agreed in the Rome Food Summit, the first CIP was approved in 2010 and revised in 2011 based on extensive consultations

The CIP1 was a roadmap towards investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition.

The CIP and PoA provide the framework for monitoring impacts, implementation and financial commitments



Country Investment Plan (CIP)

CIP1 (2011 to 2015)- A roadmap towards investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition

- It support the implementation of the National Food Policy (2006) and its Plan of Action (2008-2015) and it reflects the food security content of the **6th Five Year Plan**;

CIP2 (2016-2020)- Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems

- It address **7th Five Year Plan** and SDGs

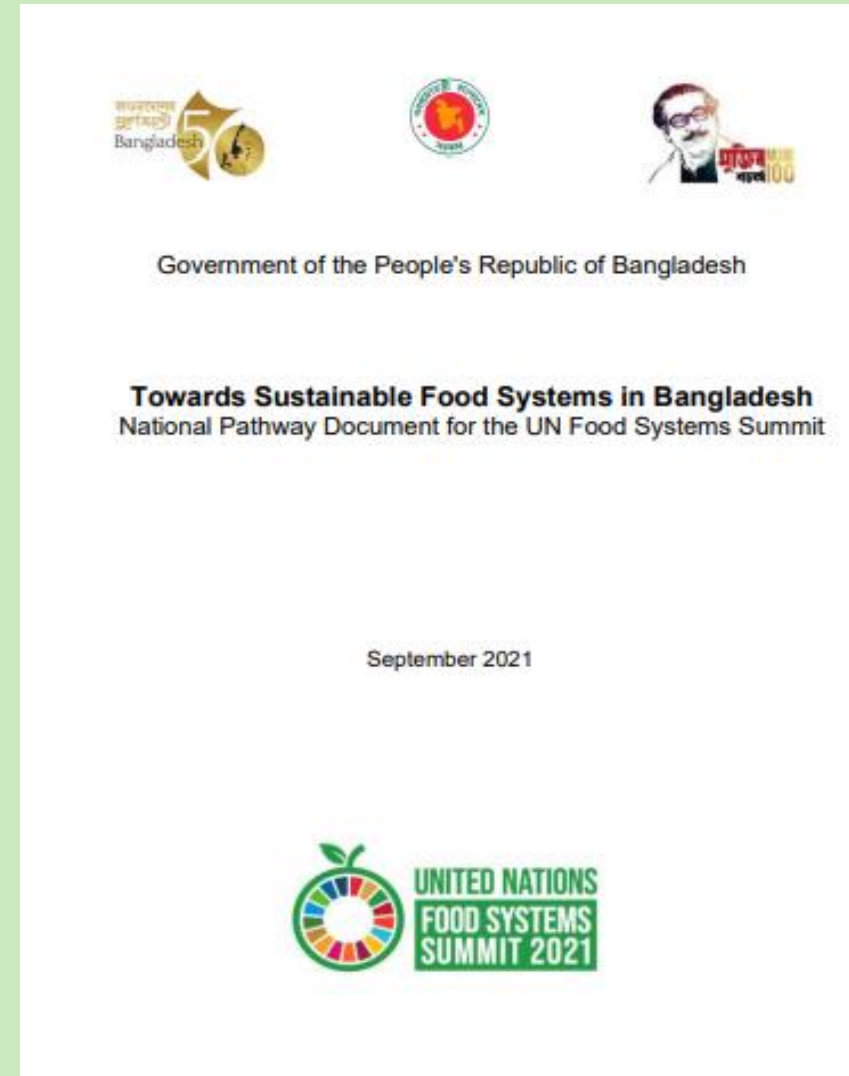
CIP3 (2021-2025)- Food system's approach based on NFNSP (2020) & PoA (2021-30)

- Consistent, timebound, result-oriented (SDGs)
- Nutrition-sensitive

UNFSS Commitment to Realize Agenda 2030

The National Pathway to Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Food Systems in Bangladesh

FPMU: nodal agency to coordinate inter-ministerial engagement process



National Pathway: Priorities

- Sustainable intensification, diversification, and resilience, of production systems
- Transformation of agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods
- Increased investment to equip the Smallholder farmers and the Cottage, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (CMSMEs) in rural areas
- Reducing Food Loss and Waste (FLW)
- Ensuring Safe and Nutritious Food and Healthy Diets for All
- Zero Hunger and Ending Malnutrition
- Enhancing Social Security for the vulnerable
- Promoting One Health
- Building Resilient Food Systems

Hon'ble Prime Minister's Statement at UNFSS 2021

Her excellency Sheikh Hasina highlighted five asks from the global community, particularly the developed countries:

- Research, investment and advanced technology sharing for agricultural development;
- Increased funding for developing countries for achieving sustainable food systems;
- Developing regional and global coalitions and partnerships;
- Reducing food waste through collaboration among countries;
- Disbursing the committed fund to adapt to the climate-led extreme events, including sharing of technologies to achieve sustainable food security.



Food security Challenges



Food and nutrition security Challenges in Bangladesh

- Population growth (1.37%)
- Scarcity of Agricultural land (0.45% decreasing per year)
- Growing urban population
- Land degradation
- Climate change
- The acceleration in the frequency of natural disasters
- Intemperate rural-to-urban migration leading to a concentration of poor
- Malnourished individuals in urban slums and the so-called triple burden of malnutrition
- Post Covid-19 impact



Food security solutions



Food and nutrition security solutions in Bangladesh

- Promote a diversified, resilient and nutrition sensitive agriculture
- Reduce population growth
- Introduce climate smart agriculture
- Develop flood and draught tolerant varieties
- Improve rural livelihood
- Innovate in food processing, packaging and storage
- Improve public food distribution systems and improve public food grain storage facilities
- Strengthen food safety and nutrition awareness programme

Food security prospects



Food and nutrition security prospects in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh achieved self-sufficiency in rice, egg, fish and meat production. Production of other foods like vegetables, fruits, poultry and pulses has also increased.
- Considering access to food, poverty rate has declined from 40% in 2005 to 20.5 % in 2019-20.
- Undernutrition situation has declined. Stunting rate of under five children has decreased from 36% in 2014 to 28% in 2019.
- Considering food safety issue, Bangladesh has enacted Food safety Act 2013 and has established Bangladesh Food safety Authority.
- Bangladesh has prepared National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2020 and its Plan of Action (2021-2030)

Food Security: Proposals



Food Security: Proposals

- Developing partnership on agricultural research and food security
- Explore opportunities to improve partnership and coalition among the member countries of CICA to improve business
- Reducing food loss and waste among CICA members
- Increased investment to equip the smallholder farmers and the micro, small and medium enterprises in rural areas
- Sharing experiences, knowledge and research findings on food security and nutrition
- Implementation of National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Plan of Action (2021-2030) in Bangladesh



Thank You