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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 USS 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:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 CO VID-19 Crisis | FAO-Technical Cooperation  USD 265,000 | l-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 | l-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

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