



USAID Feed the Future Bangladesh Policy LINK Agricultural Policy Activity

The USAID Feed the Future Bangladesh Policy LINK Agricultural Policy Activity is a five-year initiative that has the goal of “strengthening the capacities of Bangladesh’s agricultural key actors and institutions, improving the policy environment and cultivating the policymaking processes that will enable inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth, strengthen resilience among people and systems, and create a well-nourished population, especially women and children.” A significant aspect to achieving this goal will be a stakeholder engagement process that includes the USAID Mission, USAID Implementing Partners (IPs), and a broad set of Bangladesh agricultural stakeholders such as academia, financial institutions, government, the judiciary, media, nongovernmental organizations and other civil society representatives, the private sector, and value chain actors at the national, regional, and local levels. At each of these geographic levels, the Activity will work to support four policy pillar areas—the seed sector, food safety, the social safety net system, and nutrition—to improve policy 1) formulation, 2) analysis, 3) advocacy, 4) reform, and 5) implementation.

CONTEXT

USAID has a long history of supporting local actors to build their leadership skills, collaborate meaningfully with one another, and work with diverse stakeholders to transform agriculture policy systems. In Bangladesh, despite progress, many stakeholders lack awareness of agriculture policy processes, hindering both their participation in policymaking and their ownership of policy outcomes. Many non-state actors—particularly those representing smallholder farmers, women, and youth—lack the leadership, capacity, resources, information, and organizational infrastructure to engage effectively in the policymaking process. Including a broader group of stakeholders in the agriculture policy discussion will encourage better governance while accelerating private sector engagement.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Co-creation:** Convening inclusive and diverse stakeholders to collectively identify mutually valued solutions, using a participatory, two-way, sustained engagement process.
- **Sustained Engagement:** Through repeated interactions, demonstrating the value of collaborating and working more transparently, catalyzing a series of collaborative actions among Bangladesh stakeholders in different settings, both geographically and thematically.
- **Inclusive Partnership:** Within each policy pillar area, facilitating the inclusion of a more diverse set of stakeholders throughout the policy process—from formulation, analysis, advocacy, and reform, to implementation—is central to the Activity’s multi-stakeholder approach.

Basic Facts

5 years (September 4, 2020 – September 3, 2025)

Geographic Focus

Zone of Influence (Dhaka, Khulna, Jessore, Barisal)

Zone of Resilience (Cox’s Bazar and Bandarban)

Policy Pillar Areas

- 1) Seed sector
- 2) Food safety
- 3) Social safety net system
- 4) Nutrition

Four Interrelated Objectives

- Enhanced food security leadership and management capacities;
- Strengthened communication, coordination, and cooperation among institutions (such as policy institutes, universities, and think tanks) for more effective and accelerated policy implementation;
- Increased influence of local actors and communities to affect food security policy and governance decisions; and
- Increased participatory policy learning and knowledge-sharing practices at national and sub-national levels.

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- **Collaborative Governance:** Using tested tools and approaches, supporting dialogue, trust-building, and shared understanding and commitment among stakeholders as a foundation for collaborative action to ensure better governance.
- **Facilitative Leadership:** Serving as a neutral facilitator to help stakeholders identify and work toward a common purpose, ensuring all partners contribute to and have ownership of activities, and developing and maintaining open lines of communication.
- **Enhance Local Capacities:** Identifying a diverse set of key actors and institutions and strengthening their capacity, agency, and participation to improve the efficacy of the entire policymaking process.

INTERVENTIONS

1. **Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement:** The Activity will undertake a two-step process for stakeholder engagement to set the foundation for follow-on implementation activities, first engaging with USAID and its IPs, and then engaging with a broad, inclusive set of Bangladesh agricultural stakeholders at the national, regional, and local levels. All stakeholder engagement will be done through convening a series of sequential and mutually reinforcing consultations and co-creation exercises. The purpose of this crucial stakeholder engagement approach and process is to establish a common understanding of challenges and align around a set of strategic interventions, which will entail collaborative action among USAID IPs and Bangladesh's agriculture-sector stakeholders. While stakeholder engagement will be the focus of year one, this engagement will continue throughout the Activity's five-year tenure.
2. **Follow-on Targeted Initiatives:** The Activity will consolidate learning from this initial consultation and engagement to institutionalize and scale stakeholder-led collaborations. This will lead to targeted initiatives, co-created alongside key stakeholders, to strengthen the ability of institutions and actors to work better together and achieve sustainable policy outcomes. A series of potential activities will include multi-level systems mapping, leadership training, individual and organizational strengthening, communication and outreach, policy dialogue, knowledge management, and learning events.
3. **Capacity Strengthening:** Throughout its five-year lifespan, the Activity will strengthen the capacities of key actors and institutions at the national, regional, and local levels. At the key agricultural actor level, leadership training would focus on changing target actors' and institutions' bureaucratic mindset and creating an urgency as they endeavor to develop, lead, and manage the policies, structures, and processes needed to transform the policy and regulatory environment. Examples include transformative leadership training to develop stronger growth and collaboration mindsets among stakeholders, including a five-day Champions for Change course, a six-month executive leadership program, and bespoke options. At the institutional level, agricultural transformation can be accelerated with targeted strengthening of organizational capacity and performance by key agricultural actors and institutions in areas such as policy performance monitoring and data collection, and agricultural financing and budgetary processes. The Activity will work with USAID, its IPs, and Bangladesh stakeholders to identify a subset of highly committed institutions that are critical to improving policy systems and the performance of the agricultural sector.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Policy system actor roles as well as opportunities for collaborative action and leadership development identified using political economy analysis, systems analysis, and network mapping.
- Multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination among actors at all geographic levels catalyzed or strengthened.
- Local networks and policy communities for engaging diverse stakeholders, including women, youth, and smallholder farmers, developed or strengthened, enabling them to engage in technical and policy issues and facilitate sharing of knowledge and skills.
- Evidence for fruitful collaboration, starting with sharing immediate outcomes of the collaborative process, generated.
- Learning promoted during implementation and tangible learning used to inform further policy development.