



The U.S. Department of Agriculture funded Bangladesh Trade Facilitation Project promotes policy reform, and provides technical, logistical, and technological assistance to Government of Bangladesh agencies and agro-food trade industry stakeholders. The goal is to make importing and exporting agricultural products more efficient.

Project activities will strengthen the capacity of Bangladesh to achieve the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Category C measures covering Test Procedures, Risk Management, Perishable Goods, and Formalities.

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE

- Streamline and automate export and import processes
- Reduce the cost of trade in agricultural goods
- Decrease release time for consignments
- Increase transparency
- Expand and improve cold chain infrastructure

The Bangladesh Trade Facilitation Project will expand cross-border trade in agricultural goods by addressing systemic constraints at Bangladeshi ports; simplifying and automating import and export processes; improving the capacity of government agencies, laboratories, and warehouses; and by fostering private and public investment in cold storage facilities and temperature-controlled logistics.



Timeframe: **October 2020 to September 2025**

Project Budget: **USD 20.8 million**

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<https://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/food-progress>

Implemented by: **LAND O' LAKES VENTURE 37**

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1



Increase Harmonization of Processes, Formalities, and Pre-Clearance Processing

- Advocate for policy reform by updating laws, rules, and standard operating procedures that govern the agricultural trade processes and develop digital and user-friendly export and import manuals
- Develop an online e-certificate system for agencies to issue export and import related certificates licenses and permits for agricultural products
- Conduct a series of agro-focused Time Release Studies

2



Increase Transparency in Trade Information and WTO Notification

- Introduce a dedicated agro-trade section on the Bangladesh Trade Portal and an agricultural product clearance process section on the Customs Portal
- Develop and facilitate a coordination mechanism for the agro-trade-related agencies, private sector, and national portals/enquiry points
- Enhance the capacity of the SPS and TBT Enquiry Points managed by the Ministry of Commerce and BSTI respectively and improve coordination of Enquiry Points across trade agencies

3



Strengthen Risk Management Systems

- Establish information systems and institutional frameworks for risk-based compliance and risk management at agro-trade-related agencies
- Support reform of the legal framework regarding risk management
- Communicate with and inform commercial traders and businesses about risk-based clearance procedures

4



Improve Laboratories and Testing Procedures

- Install digital infrastructure needed to automate transfer of laboratory test reports and certificates to Bangladesh Customs
- Develop the capacity of laboratories, testing facilities, and certification bodies to accredit against international standards and assist laboratories to apply ISO 17025 standards
- Improve sample test procedures at point of entry

5



Enhance Cold Storage Infrastructure for Perishable Goods

- Advance the institutional and legal framework to operate and invest in cold storage facilities
- Develop SOPs and manuals for improved functioning and utilization of cold storage systems
- Facilitate investment in the cold storage and temperature-controlled logistics sector



Partner Organizations



Ministry of Commerce



National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, বাংলাদেশ



Implementing Organizations



BTF supports and works with port authorities, chambers of commerce, and with trade and industry associations representing agro-food exporters and importers and food processing and marketing sectors.

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