

NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY OF BANGLADESH (NFNSP)

Draft

A. Preamble

Over the past three decades, Bangladesh has made substantial progress in improving food security and nutritional status of its population. Food production has more than kept pace with population growth despite almost doubling of the population. Bangladesh has broadly achieved self-sufficiency in food at least in terms of per capita calorie availability at the national level. Rising incomes and declining incidence of poverty indicate that access to food has also improved over time. Real wage rates of agricultural labour have almost doubled during the period 2000-2015. Rapid economic growth has enabled Bangladesh to reach the lower middle-income country status in 2015 and the country is on track for graduation from the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) list in 2024. Substantial progress has also been made in improving the nutritional outcomes. Indicators of malnutrition such as the rates of stunting and wasting among children under five-years of age have declined over time. For example, the prevalence of undernourishment has declined from 35% in 1990-2002 to 14.7% in 2016-18 (FAO 2019). Similarly, the incidence of stunting among children under five years of age decreased from 51% in 2004 to 31% in 2017-18 (BDHS 2019). These indicate a commendable progress in achieving food and nutrition security in the past.

Despite these impressive achievements of the past, Bangladesh still faces daunting challenges for ensuring food and nutrition security of its current population of around 160 million which is projected to reach over 186 million by 2030. There are several emerging trends that are likely to further increase the challenges for overcoming food and nutrition insecurity in the future. These include continuing population growth, increasing income inequality, deceleration in agricultural productivity growth, increasing scarcity of agricultural labour resulting from internal and international migration, likely adverse impact of climate change on food productivity, increasing pace of urbanization that will result in urban population becoming more reliant on the smooth functioning of the market chain to access food, and rising concerns regarding food safety. Food safety is becoming an important issue due to increasing geographic separation of consumption and production centres as a result of urbanization. Growth of the middle- and upper-income classes that increasingly rely on purchased food that may go through some degree of processing also makes food safety an important consideration. Increasing incomes and urbanization have led to some dietary diversification but the rate has been slow, with cereals still accounting for 65-70% of the dietary energy intake. Diets have remained largely unbalanced with diets of more than 50% the population being deficient in Vitamin A, calcium, zinc and iron. There is also the need to avoid the "multiple burden of malnutrition" that can result in high incidences of obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCD). These are important factors, if not addressed properly, can even threaten the progress made so far in reducing the food and nutrition insecurity in Bangladesh.

The Government of Bangladesh has made commitments to reduce poverty and improve nutritional status by 2030 in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Government of Bangladesh has subscribed to the objectives of Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Several initiatives are already underway with the Second Country Investment Plan for Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems (2016-20) providing a framework for resource mobilization, prioritization and integration of multisectoral actions. In the light of these commitments to global initiatives, the commitment made by the honourable Prime Minister to ensure "food security for all", and various trends that are likely to threaten food and nutrition security in the future, there is clearly

a need to redesign, revise and update the existing policies into a new food and nutrition policy for guiding investments and other interventions aimed at achieving food and nutrition security for all.

Past food policies used to be dominated by rice and achievement of self-sufficiency in rice was the primary objective. With the achievement of self-sufficiency, the role of rice, although still very important, is changing and it is now time to develop policies and policy instruments that promote production diversification to supply a range of food products, and promote the consumption of healthy, nutritious, diverse, safe and balanced diets. Improvements in water, sanitation and health are also needed to ensure proper utilization of the nutrients consumed. Past food and nutrition policies did not adequately emphasize the potential synergy that can be realized through a proper integration of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches for generating the desired nutritional outcomes rapidly and effectively. A new policy that is holistic and promotes the use of a “nutrition lens” to assess and prioritize various options will help design multi-sectoral inter-linked interventions that are centred around improving the nutritional outcomes. In addition, a new policy that cuts across the mandate of over a dozen ministries can provide an institutional platform under one umbrella for facilitating coordination (part of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16); partnership and policy coherence (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17) for effective implementation.

The Government of Bangladesh has accordingly decided to develop a new National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) to cover the period 2020-2030 in synchronization with the target year for SDG. National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) is also expected to guide the formulation and implementation of the 8th and the 9th Five Year Plans).

Definition of food and nutrition security:

Food and nutrition security exists when “all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to healthy and nutritious food, which is consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life” (CFS 2012). This is the definition of food and nutrition security adopted by this policy.

B. The Vision, Goal and Objectives of Food and Nutrition Security Policy

Vision: All people of Bangladesh will attain food and nutrition security needed for a healthy and active life.

Goal: The goal of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh (NFNSP) is to improve the food and nutrition security status to the level needed to achieve the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS)-relevant SDG targets and fulfil related national and international commitments by 2030.

Objectives:

The following five objectives have been identified for NFNSP.

1. To ensure availability of safe and nutritious food for healthy diets
2. To improve access to safe and nutritious food at an affordable price
3. To enhance the consumption and utilisation of healthy and diversified diets for achieving nutrition improvements
4. To increase access to nutrition-sensitive social protection and safety nets across life cycle with a focus on vulnerable groups and regions
5. To strengthen cross-sectoral food and nutrition security governance, coordination, capacity building and partnership for effective policy implementation

C. Adopted Process and dependency on Complementary Policies in Formulation of the Policy

The approach taken in NFNSP is to consider the food system in its entirety, i.e. a system 'that embraces all elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, markets and trade), and the activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution and marketing, preparation, consumption and utilisation of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes' (UN High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security). Such a holistic food systems approach is essential to expand opportunities to strengthen nutrition access, enhance capabilities of individuals to make nutritionally balanced healthy dietary choices and ensure sustainability of nutritional outcomes. The approach also facilitates the identification and prioritization of multi-sectoral interventions for synergistic impact. The overall framework of NFNSP is based on the five pillars identified in the Second Country Investment Plan for Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems (2016-20).

The economy of Bangladesh is market-oriented with food production, processing and marketing being largely in the domain of the private sector. The new policy is based on this reality. Hence, incentives and regulations are viewed as the main instruments to encourage changes in the economic decisions of private sector agents such as farmers, processors, marketers and consumers. In addition to this, the policy recognizes the potential direct role of the public sector in areas such as procurement and management of public food stock for price stabilization and social security programs; and an indirect role in partnership with the private sector on investment in agricultural infrastructures, product development, or on specific aspects of agricultural R&D.

The Government of Bangladesh has formulated several policies in various sectors related to food and nutrition security in the past. NFNSP builds on and updates the past policies, such as the National Food Policy (2006), National Nutrition Policy (2015), National Social Security Strategy (2015), and the National Agricultural Policy (2018). Other relevant policies that will complement NFNSP and were reviewed extensively during the formulation of NFNSP are listed in the Annex. These policies documents provide a full listing of strategies, justifications and various activities needed to be implemented. It is recognized, however, that the achievement of NFNSP objectives will depend also on the extent to which some of these cross-sectoral activities previously identified are successfully implemented.

D. Description of Strategy-wise Initiatives to achieve objectives of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy

Objective 1: To ensure availability of safe and nutritious food for healthy diets

Food availability in Bangladesh depends mainly on the domestic production, with international trade playing a role in only some specific food items. To increase the per capita food availability, production must increase at a rate greater than the population growth rate. Although the population growth in Bangladesh has decelerated, the total population continues to grow at the rate of around 1.25% per year. Therefore, food production from the available land must continue to increase at least at the rate of population growth for meeting the increasing food and nutritional demands.

Productivity gains resulting from the use of improved technologies and sustainable intensification are two of the ways of increasing the food production. Continued increases in productivity of major staple cereals, in addition to increasing the overall availability, will also enhance production diversification by releasing resources such as land and labour tied up in cereal production. It is also important to improve the productivity of nutrient-dense crops and animal-source food through the development and spread of improved technologies. Livestock and fisheries have multiple roles in food security. They provide readily digestible protein and essential nutrients and help improve dietary quality and

diversity, thus making critical contributions to ending hunger, ensuring food security and improving the nutritional status. Such products have not been supported adequately in the R&D system due to the past policy focus on staple food production.

NFNSP will ensure greater Research and Development (R&D) investments in technology development for productivity enhancement and dissemination of such technologies through effective extension services to increase production and overall availability. Such production expansion will not be made at the cost of environmental degradation and unsustainability. Sustainable intensification will be promoted as it involves integration of various technological options into an ecosystems approach to achieve higher productivity, profitability and resource use efficiency, while protecting the environment.

Strategy 1.1 Increase productivity while ensuring sustainable production of cereals and nutritious food including horticulture, fisheries and livestock

A key strategy of NFNSP to achieve the productivity gain is to develop, promote and disseminate improved production technologies. Climate-smart technologies that are tolerant of drought, flood, heat, cold weather and salinity reduce production losses from high frequency of extreme weather patterns that are likely to result from climate change. In addition to traditional staple crops, such as rice, wheat and maize, the technologies for protein-rich crops, for example, pulses and beans and vitamin-rich fruits and vegetables, will also be emphasized. Improved breeds of livestock and poultry that can withstand climatic extremes will be similarly developed, promoted and disseminated. Such genetic improvements will be achieved using a mix of conventional and biotechnology methods.

Improvements in crop, livestock and fisheries management - including “blue growth” - singly or together with genetic improvements, will be emphasized to provide another set of opportunities for productivity gain. By making more efficient use of inputs and reducing the environmental footprints of agricultural practices, improved management practices not only raise the profitability to producers but can also simultaneously contribute to sustainability.

Reforms in extension delivery systems will be emphasized to accelerate the adoption and scaling out of improved technologies. The traditional extension system follows a linear and top-down transfer of fixed technology package from researchers to farmers. Such extension systems are less suitable for promoting rapid diffusion of improved technologies in diversified commercial agriculture in which real-time contingent adjustments in farming operations based on weather, crop conditions and prices are of premium value. As elaborated in the National Agricultural Policy 2018, capacity building of extension systems to enable it to provide real-time advice to producers, promoting participation of local government institutions, farmers’ associations or groups and co-operatives, and ensuring that local knowledge and experiences are properly reflected in extension advisories, especially in risk-prone areas, will be the major strategies deployed for improving the extension systems.

The following initiatives will be implemented under Strategy 1.1.

- i. Develop improved and climate-smart technologies for productivity gains, agricultural diversification, sustainable intensification, and enhancement of nutrient content through bio-fortification
- ii. Disseminate improved technologies through effective and participatory extension services
- iii. Increase access to credit and make it available timely, including micro-credit, to small-scale producers through suitable institutional reforms

- iv. Improve input use efficiency (seed, feed and fodder, labour, water, land, agricultural machineries, fertilizers and pesticides) for productivity gains, sustainability, and health and environmental protection. These may involve the following:
 - Scale-out improved crops, fisheries and livestock management practices;
 - Promote balanced use of chemical fertilizers and organic fertilizers and/bio-fertilizers;
 - Frame regulations to ensure quality of seeds, agro-chemicals and fertilizers and ensure their strict compliance;
 - Develop mechanization options for various agricultural operations from land preparation to harvesting;
 - Ensure responsible use of biocides (e.g., pesticides, fungicides and herbicides) and minimize adverse effects on human health, non-target biota, and the environment;
 - Develop and promote eco-friendly and responsible practices for animal health along the principles of “One Health”; and
 - Ensure development of animal health care services, particularly the control of parasitic and infectious diseases through wider coverage of vaccination of poultry and cattle heads.
- v. Expand support to feed and fodder industries for fisheries and livestock
- vi. Promote “blue growth” through development of sustainable management approaches and techniques for marine fisheries and aquaculture
- vii. Strengthen the role of producers’ organizations and cooperatives in reducing the cost of production, improve market access, and increase the prices of the outputs produced by the producers.

Strategy 1.2 Scale up nutrition-sensitive diversification of food production

There is clearly a case for increasing R&D support for developing and disseminating improved technologies for boosting the production of nutrient-dense non-cereal crops, livestock and fisheries through nutrition-sensitive diversification of production systems. Such a diversification strategy must include support for both commercial production and homestead production which are mostly consumed by the producing households. NFNSP will ensure that adequate R&D and extension support are provided to promote diversification of food production.

The following initiatives will be implemented under this strategy:

- i. Promote diversification into horticultural, fisheries, livestock, poultry and dairy products with high nutrient and micronutrient content, including homestead production, indigenous food and underutilized food sources
- ii. Reduce market-induced risk of producing high-value and nutrient-dense food through facilitating contract farming, improving the access to credit and reducing losses (quantity and quality) during harvesting, storage, transportation, and marketing
- iii. Design and implement suitable crop and livestock insurance programs to reduce production and marketing risks
- iv. Develop organized marketing facilities as well as processing and preservation techniques to boost the production of non-cereal crops, livestock and fisheries products
- v. Increase allocation of funding to generating and disseminating improved technologies for producing nutrient-dense food, such as pulses, lentils, nuts, oilseeds, horticultural crops, and animal source food, with due consideration to reducing the environmental footprints
- vi. Improve coordination and convergence of R&D activities of various research and development agencies for greater effectiveness

Objective 2: To ensure access to safe and nutritious food at an affordable price

Accessibility is the second important dimension of food and nutrition security. Accessibility has two important components: one is physical access and the other is economic access. Physical access by households depends on marketing infrastructures such as household to market roads, storage infrastructures, and the whole market chain. It also depends on the continuous availability of food in local markets even in regions characterized by difficult terrain and remoteness.

Economic access depends on the household entitlements to food which in turn depend on food prices, household income, and assets or resource base. Undoubtedly, increased income of households can improve household food security by increasing their purchasing power. Poverty is a major determinant of chronic food insecurity as the poor lack adequate purchasing power to access food even when food is available in local markets. Moreover, the poor are vulnerable to shocks that reduce their access to food. A rise in food price is equivalent to a fall in real income and makes food less accessible. Hence, food price stability is a vital component of access to food particularly for low income people. Expanded asset bases similarly reduce the vulnerability to short-term disruptions in income flows, because part of the asset bases can be liquidated to overcome transitory income shortfalls.

The value chain for food products influences access to healthy and nutritious food in two different ways. Economic value is added to a product along its value chain as it moves from primary producers to consumers. This value addition process increases the incomes of various agents along the value chain. Connecting small-scale producers and non-farm small and medium entrepreneurs with markets and supermarkets is an important strategy for raising their incomes and access to food through the income pathway. Improvements in the efficiency of value chains and marketing systems can have similar income effects in addition to contributing to the quality, safety and nutritional content of food.

Strategy 2.1 Improve market access and stabilize food markets

For achieving efficient food market, the market structure should keep pace with changes in demand, production patterns, technological changes and the global trade environment. Improved market environment requires development of market and mediating infrastructure, marketing system, improved procurement and management of food stock, and in relevant cases, provision of institutional support and incentives for trade. NFNSP will prioritize the development of efficient food market through development of infrastructures, provision of non-discriminatory financial services, development and enforcement of safety and quality standards, enactment of trade-supportive legal and regulatory mechanisms, and operation of selective non-distortionary public food market interventions for price stabilization.

To help the private sector contribute to the establishment of nutrition-sensitive food systems, long term investments in marketing infrastructures and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-based information/marketing system are necessary. Marketing facilities such as appropriate selling spaces, auctioning rooms, weighing equipment and electronic billing systems are instrumental in improving market performance. Market infrastructures need to be expanded: for example, fish landing sites, harbour-based fish dressing centres, fish processing estates, live poultry marketing facilities, modern slaughter houses, meat processing and preservation facilities, milk collection and processing centers as well as cold chain storages and transportation.

The Government of Bangladesh has used public food stock acquired through public procurement to intervene in the market for price stabilization and for supporting social security and safety nets for vulnerable groups. In this context, emphasis will be placed to increase the capacity and improve the management of procurement, storage, transport and distribution of food stocks, such as buffer stocks and social security and safety net stocks. The determination of the desirable food stock amount and

locations of those food stock is crucial in this context (Cross-linked with Objective 4). The operation of public stock procurement and management will be designed to minimize the potential distortionary effects on the grain market.

Various forms of marketing charges, taxes and levies that are currently being charged along the marketing systems need to be rationalized. Positive roles of intermediaries, for example, marketing agents, wholesalers, informal investors and financiers in marketing should be recognized. Regulatory and legal support will be provided to improve the market structure and to increase competition by bringing in new entrants at different levels of marketing system.

In order to improve market access and stabilize food market, the following initiatives will be implemented.

- i. Increase investments in connective marketing infrastructures (household to market roads, farms to market roads, cold storages, improvements in local fresh markets), mediating infrastructure (financial services/insurance, regulatory institutions, and property rights), and marketing systems (linking small farmers with local growth centers and supermarket chains)
- ii. Determine the desirable quantities of staple food to be included in the public stock according to purpose (buffer stock for price stabilization and safety-net stock for disaster relief) and identify the best geographical locations of warehouses for efficient food movement
- iii. Introduce mechanisms for sharing credible information on public stock and distribution plan with market actors and general public
- iv. Maintain orderly market management systems by eliminating the causes of market failures and avoiding excessive price fluctuations
- v. Improve nutrient-sensitivity of public food stock by including other nutritious items, such as pulses, nuts and edible oil
- vi. Develop ICT-based market information systems for efficient provision of market information
- vii. Liberalize and simplify food trade to ensure adequacy and efficiency of market supply including quality assurance

Strategy 2.2 Improve value chain and marketing systems

The way food is handled, processed and marketed affects not only the marketing efficiency but also the final nutritional value and safety of food. Efficiency gains can be achieved by shortening the value chain through elimination and consolidation of intermediate steps that add little to the total food value. Potential income sources that these value addition activities can constitute also needs to be exploited, especially for women and the poorest population. More investments will be made to support value chains for nutritious healthy food. More favourable prices will be provided to producers through value chain development for nutrition-sensitive products. Unorganized markets will be restructured and developed into well-defined marketing channels to link producers, processors, marketers, and consumers.

Safe and nutrition-sensitive product development is the key to establish nutrition-sensitive food systems. NFNSP will strengthen the capacity of agro-processing entrepreneurs or those aspiring to join the sector by supporting improvements of their technical, managerial and business skills. Tailored training can provide the most vulnerable groups with the skills that can help them find employment opportunities in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The private sector food market chain involves hundreds of thousands of millers, wholesalers, and small traders who buy, process, store, transport and sell food throughout the country. Modern and nutrition-sensitive collection, milling, polishing,

sorting, cleaning, packaging and preservation techniques will be promoted to cater both the domestic and export market demand.

Market participants need adequate, reliable and timely market information to ensure informed decisions regarding buying and selling. ICT-based market information systems can provide high-quality real-time information to improve such decisions. Mobile phones and the internet can facilitate access to market information and reduce transaction costs to small farmers and producers. NFNSP will support enhanced access to market information through a combination of conventional means and ICT.

The following initiatives will be carried out under this strategy:

- i. Improve value chains of various food products for efficiency gains (reducing the marketing chain length or the number of intermediaries, improving linkages among agents or marketing groups, and reducing food losses)
- ii. Encourage establishment and growth of self-supporting financially viable, small, medium and large commercial units capable of adopting latest energy-efficient technologies including facilities for processing and value-addition
- iii. Create an enabling environment to attract private investments in infrastructure, processing, value addition and marketing
- iv. Prioritize the development of nutrient-sensitive food processing and marketing systems and eliminate business barriers
- v. Efficient provision of market information/early warning through ICT

Strategy 2.3 Preserve/enhance nutrient content along the value chain

Post-harvest handling and storage, processing, transportation, marketing, trade and retail - all stages can compromise or enhance the nutritional value a food item can offer. For example, enhancement of nutritional content (protein, vitamin, and mineral) and bioavailability can be improved by germinating and malting of grains and pulses, whereas the nutritional content can also be lost due to prolonged exposure to heat.

NFNSP will support the development and promotion of suitable food storage practices to prevent losses in both quality and quantity. Similarly, development of good hygienic food practices to prevent food-borne illness and extend the shelf-life of products through freezing, pickling, canning and pasteurization will be supported.

The following initiatives will be implemented under this strategy:

- i. Preserve nutrients along the value chain (transportation, processing, packaging, storage, wholesaling and retailing)
- ii. Carry out food fortification and nutrition enhancement, where desirable and efficient
- iii. Develop and promote nutrient preserving technologies in local and export processing zones (EPZ), including under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mechanisms
- iv. Establish and promote food safety standards, guidelines, nutrient, safety, traceability, labelling, and enforcement mechanisms (linkage with Objective 5).
- v. Build the capacity of the private sector to:
 - a. Carry-out effective participation and engagement with producers, distributors, marketers and retailers for testing food safety and recall management
 - b. Develop localized laboratories to examine compliance with food safety standards and effectively communicate the results with stakeholders
 - c. Establish shared market intelligence on value chain activities and financial services

Strategy 2.4 Raise incomes of the poor and food insecure

There are various strategies for increasing the employment and incomes of the rural poor. As the rural poor in Bangladesh have limited access to land, their income growth depends mainly on non-farm employment. Within rural areas, non-farm activities have expanded, and these include heterogeneous activities such as cottage industries, transport operations, agro-processing for value addition, provision of repair/maintenance of agricultural machinery, personal services, small-scale trading and construction. NFNSP will promote further expansion of the rural non-farm economy through skill development, provision of credit, improvements in transportation infrastructures, and marketing support.

The following initiatives will be carried out:

- i. Promote agriculture-driven, non-farm employment by expanding vocational training opportunities emerging out of the mechanization boom (e.g., servicing and repairs of agricultural machineries), particularly for rural youth and women
- ii. Provide adequate credit, technology, information, training and other related services for the growth of agro-based industries and the broader rural non-farm economy
- iii. Support the development of cooperative-based processing industry by expanding branding activities, including creating opportunities for value addition and sales through local processing
- iv. Create employment opportunities at all levels of the value chains, especially for women
- v. Create special employment opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged people and eliminate any wage discriminations against them

Objective 3: To enhance the consumption and utilization of healthy and diversified diets for achieving nutrition improvements.

A healthy diet is the foundation for good nutrition, human health and well-being. Protein and micronutrient deficiency and unsafe diets can impede physical and cognitive development and economic productivity. Dietary diversity is the basis for provision of essential nutrients in appropriate amounts to all the individuals in a family.

Globalization, urbanization and income growth are major drivers of dietary diversification from energy-rich cereals towards nutrient-rich fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and animal source food. Bangladesh is undergoing such a dietary diversification, but the pace has been slow. At the same time, these drivers can also have negative impacts on dietary patterns. For example, consumption of convenience foods with little nutritional value has increased over time. NFNSP will accelerate the process of dietary diversification and increased consumption of nutritionally balanced diets through enhancing consumer awareness on nutrition knowledge for promoting good food habits, consuming healthy diets, supportive advisories and enforcing regulations to discourage the intake of foods high in energy but low in nutrient density. Food choices are often influenced by personal factors, such as knowledge, taste, preferences, emotional status, and hunger. They are also shaped by external factors: the people in social circles, such as friends and family; physical surroundings, including the stores in the communities, the food they sell, and how much they cost; and other more indirect influences, for instance, exposure to advertising; and government policies that shape food systems. These external factors influence part of the food environment. Personal priorities have an important influence on what people eat. Consumers base their food choices on their values, prioritizing their beliefs about public health, environmental stewardship, social justice, or even animal welfare, for example.

Strategy 3.1. Develop a long-term national plan for ensuring safe, nutritious and sustainable diets in alignment with recommended nutrient intakes at every stage of the life cycle.

Long-term estimates of total dietary needs of the country considering the population growth, demographic composition, and changes in dietary patterns induced by urbanization and income growth are needed to guide the planning process for ensuring adequate availability of nutritious and healthy food. Estimates of gaps will help the government to take remedial actions through increased production, processing or trade. Food systems, especially in urban areas, are evolving to adapt to the changing food demand and increasing consumption of convenience and modern food.

The following initiatives will be undertaken:

- i. Establish desirable dietary patterns and nutrient targets for diversified food planning, demand for healthy food and enhanced food patterns by analysing local food supply and nutrition situations
- ii. Establish the per capita energy and nutrient requirements for healthy diets of population groups with varying ages, body sizes, gender, physical activity levels, occupations, and physiological status
- iii. Develop a national-level need-based agricultural production plan based on nutrient gap analysis and by considering the total nutrient demand for a healthy and active life
- iv. Ensure balanced nutrition at minimal costs, developing diets and food lists based on local menus, especially for chars, haors and hills
- v. Undertake supply and demand-side measures and support enabling actions for achieving healthy and sustainable food systems environment for all

Strategy 3.2 Enhance nutrition knowledge, promote good dietary practices and encourage consumption of safe and nutritious diets

In addition to adequate macronutrient intake, i.e. carbohydrate, protein, fat and oil, it is essential to ensure intake of diets rich in iron, vitamin A and other micronutrients for better health of the Bangladeshi population. NFNSP will emphasize the implementation of cost-effective nutrition education programmes. Such education programs will include agents along the food value chain (processors, transporters and marketers) and consumers, with substantial emphasis on women who mostly take care of food preparation at the household level. Industrial fortification will be a part of a broad strategy to promote healthy diets and should complement dietary diversification. It is also important to ensure that commercial complementary food (including fortified food) are not promoted as a better option than homestead or locally available whole food for complementary feeding in order to meet recommended nutrient intake. However, effective programmes will be explored for micronutrient supplementation and food fortification - with established standards and regulatory mechanisms – targeted to vulnerable people to overcome critical micronutrient deficiency. Considering the long-lasting negative effects of micronutrient deficiency, programmes to increase availability and accessibility of micronutrient rich food will be given a high priority. Special attention will be given to improving the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and children during their first 1000 days and to reducing child stunting in the bottom two-fifth income quintiles which have higher incidences of stunting than in the upper three-fifth income quintiles.

The following initiatives will be carried out in support of this strategy:

- i. Develop, promote and disseminate nutrient-dense recipes, appropriate cooking techniques, and nutritious food combinations using local and seasonal nutritious food for diversified food consumption and nutrient adequacy

- ii. Scale up food-based nutrition training and coordination across the agriculture, aquaculture, livestock and dairy value chains, and in extension services including health and family planning
- iii. Promote consumer awareness and nutrition behaviour change communications (NBCC) towards increased consumption of healthy food combinations, use of micro-nutrient rich local recipes, safe food handling, preparation, storage and labelling with a focus on children, adolescents and women
- iii. Scale-up integrated nutrition education strategies for the prevention and control of malnutrition
- iv. Promote age, gender and need-specific (pregnant and lactating mothers) food-based dietary guidelines suitably linked with national NCD strategies to inform and stimulate demand for healthy food and related national services

Strategy 3.3. Optimise food utilization through disease control, provision of safe water, improved food hygiene and sanitation.

Malnutrition in all its forms has many interrelated basic, immediate and underlying causes that need to be addressed simultaneously for impact (UNICEF 1998). Malnutrition is caused, among others, by lack of stable access to healthy and safe diets and safe drinking water, inadequate infant and young childcaring and feeding practices, poor sanitation and hygiene, insufficient access to health services, poverty and low socio-economic status.

Proper physiological utilization of consumed nutrients depends on health status which in turn depends on many factors, including hygiene and sanitation. Hence, policies to improve interventions related to water, health and sanitation (WASH) will be emphasized. Inadequate WASH conditions facilitate ingestion of faecal pathogens which lead to diarrhoea, intestinal worms and inhibit a child's ability to absorb nutrients. Frequent illness impairs nutritional status and poor nutrition increases the risk of infection. This forms a vicious cycle of recurring sickness and further deterioration of nutritional status. NFNSP will emphasize provision of safe water that is free of bacteria, industrial wastes and heavy metals, such as arsenic and lead.

Control of diseases contributes to improvements in health and nutritional status. In order to improve nutrition and proper utilization of food, Bangladesh has been implementing different programs including the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPS) in close cooperation with civil society. Such programs will be further strengthened.

The following initiatives will be implemented under this strategy.

- i. Expand programs for immunization, control of acute respiratory infection (ARI), prevention of cholera and diarrhoeal diseases
- ii. Strengthen the implementation of antenatal care (ANC), post-natal care (PNC), growth monitoring and promotion (GMP), National Nutrition Services (NNS) delivery targeted to children and women suffering from persistent weakness and micronutrient deficiencies
- iii. Scale up the supply of safe water for consumption and domestic use
- iv. Ensure hygienic food handling and preparation, protective display of food, and scale-up hand-washing behaviour
- v. Establish garbage disposal and recycling systems, including disposal of medical waste safely for environmental hygiene and human health protection
- vi. Improve sanitary facilities and practices, including prevention of animal to human cross-contamination for reducing food- and water- borne illness

Objective 4: To increase access to nutrition-sensitive social protection and safety nets across life cycle with a focus on vulnerable groups and regions

NFNSP will support social protection and safety nets for people who experience transitory food insecurity due to disasters as well as poor and vulnerable populations throughout the lifecycle. A mix of social protection and safety nets interventions will be adopted to support strengthening capacities of the poor and vulnerable to cope with and recover from shocks, generate long-term incomes, and move out of poverty. Public procurement of food grains, stock management and distribution, together with other interventions, will be used for these purposes.

People living in the areas affected frequently by flooding, drought and other natural disasters, and in the areas severely affected by climate change, are more likely to be poor and vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. Although these events may be transient, the people affected may remain food insecure for a long time because the shocks can rapidly deplete productive assets and health, disrupt child education and undermine the future productive capacities. Suitable safety nets are, hence, needed for effective transitory shock management. Such safety nets are important not only for preventing transitory food insecurity but also for avoiding a transition to chronic food insecurity. Furthermore, greater adaptation to potential shocks will help reduce household risks and the time to recover from the shocks.

In addition, other groups such as children, aged, disabled, minorities and those living in remote marginalized areas or in urban slums, and displaced people may be chronically food insecure. Such population are likely to need a well-designed social protection system to assure their food and nutrition security. In addition, they will also need resilient agricultural systems supported by agricultural sector rehabilitation and mitigation measures.

Strategy 4.1. Improve management of the public food stock and distribution system

The public food stock and distribution system will continue to play a key “protective” role in food and nutrition security in Bangladesh, especially with regards to staple food grains. This is achieved in three ways: (i) producer support through the government’s procurement of food grains from the open market; (ii) consumer support through the government’s price monitoring and stabilization and subsidized food sales; and (iii) direct public distribution of food in disaster-affected areas and to targeted vulnerable groups. In implementing these measures, the government will manage the public food system through non-distortionary market interventions, while balancing producer interests and consumer interests, and while improving the nation’s disaster preparedness.

Producers and consumers benefit from predictable prices. Government procurement prices are set higher than the average production costs to provide incentives to poor farmers. Management of the food stock requires substantial storage facilities, in which the government has already invested. Appropriate logistics and quality control mechanism needs to be developed and maintained to prevent quality deterioration of stored food stuffs in public food storages, including fortified rice. The private sector could – and will be encouraged to – play a further important role in food delivery and storage.

The following initiatives are considered under this strategy:

- i. Purchase food grains based on stock levels required to meet the need for timely implementation of public food distribution, and maintenance of incentives for growers and traders
- ii. Integrate public imports with public food operations to efficiently and timely meet strategic objectives, such as rapid disaster responses (whilst avoiding excess imports that might have negative impact on domestic production)

- iii. Improve quality control and prevent deterioration of stored food stuffs in public food distribution system (PFDS)
- iv. Introduce suitable legislative mechanisms to discourage and prevent speculative hoarding of food and creation of artificial shortages
- v. Monitor regularly food grain prices, stock, domestic production, and imports
- vi. Provide targeted support to poor consumers through food grain sales at affordable prices

Strategy 4.2. Improve disaster preparedness, responses, rehabilitation and mitigation

This strategy is aimed at mitigating disasters and enhancing coping capacity of households by distributing food, and by helping to quickly re-establish their food productive capacities. The strategy will also help vulnerable households better protect themselves against disasters and climate change by adapting and diversifying agricultural production (i.e. risk reduction).

A key component will be the public distribution of food in disaster-affected areas. It will look for ways to enhance the inclusion of nutrient-dense food, such as dried fish and pulses, in the package of food distributed. The effectiveness of such public food distribution programs will depend critically on gender considerations in terms of not only targeting but also proper utilization of food received by the household, given the important roles women play in food preparation, childcare and family hygiene. While direct public distribution of food will continue to provide relief, cash-transfers can be used increasingly as a longer-term, cost effective approach to disaster management. The private sector could play an important role in speedy and efficient delivery of food.

Disaster preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation are important components of food security. Preparedness involves maintaining adequate food stock and building of institutional capacity for rapid provision of relief in the event of disasters. Similarly, creation of hazard maps for drought and flood-prone areas and information on the frequency of disaster events can help with disaster preparedness and targeting. Such spatial information when combined with household-level data on income levels, demographic compositions and nutritional vulnerability could be a powerful tool for a more precise targeting of safety-nets through better use of ICT-based disaster impact monitoring, risk management and response. In addition, this approach to targeting supports the implementation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) through the inclusion of food and nutrition security information in a single national registry.

Mitigation helps avoid the severity of disasters and acute food insecurity. Mitigation approaches may be structural or non-structural. The structural approach includes development of supplemental irrigation to avoid severe yield reduction in drought periods, construction of embankment for flood control, and construction of shelters. The non-structural approach includes the development and distribution of stress (drought, submergence, salinity) tolerant crop varieties, training and public awareness, and legislation.

The following initiatives are considered under this strategy:

- i. Increase resilience of agriculture systems through various mechanisms, including production of stress tolerant nutritious crops, fish and animal source food, and implementation of climate-smart crop, livestock and fisheries technologies for resilience (linked with Objective 1)
- ii. Support home-based farming, such as “one house one farm”, to enhance resilience and protect livestock and poultry resources during disaster periods

- iii. Facilitate rapid responses through timely and strategic storage of public food stock, rapid distribution to disaster affected people, and effective resource mobilization to ensure rapid access to markets
- iv. Ensure operation of emergency shelters with appropriate provisioning of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for disaster-affected people, especially for women, elderly and children
- v. Support NSSS to develop a targeting system that focuses on nutritionally vulnerable people

Strategy 4.3. Strengthen social protection for poor and vulnerable groups, including disabled and displaced

This strategy will ensure access by all to food and nutrition by providing social protection throughout the lifecycle. Social protection and safety nets interventions are aligned to the lifecycle because vulnerability can differ during various phases of life due to changing physiological and biological needs (e.g., during pregnancy or children’s growth or elderly), and due to changing social and economic entitlements that affect access to food and nutrition.

Economic growth, rural and agricultural transformation, and changing inequalities can leave many people food and nutrition insecure. Predictable and reliable social protection and safety nets can support structural changes through inclusion of socially weak and disadvantaged people, such as older people, the chronically ill or people with disabilities.

Proper targeting is an important aspect of any public distribution schemes. Targeting could be based on several dimensions: geographic (remote, poor areas), temporal (lean or pre-harvest season) and severity and frequency of disasters. These dimensions may be overlapping to some degree. Targeting efficiency may be enhanced through better use of ICT based identification of beneficiaries and monitor delivery effectiveness. Expansion and effective implementation of social safety nets are similarly needed to target the ultra-poor and underprivileged population.

This strategy will ensure that social protection coverage and targeting are improved to include all vulnerable and marginal groups; and that the design and operations of programs combine cash and in-kind transfers with complementary features that are nutrition sensitive. Such programs should also explore mechanisms to support the beneficiaries to graduate out of poverty and vulnerability within a predetermined time frame. The kind, size and nature of support should also ensure such graduation potentials. The cost of delivery and net benefits from support should be evaluated and borne by the programs depending on remoteness and transportation infrastructure. In terms of social insurance, this strategy will ensure that the design and implementation will prioritize nutritionally vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The following initiatives will be supported.

- i. Strengthen social protection programs supporting vulnerable and marginal groups such as those living in disadvantaged, remote areas and for poor, displaced and disabled people across the life cycle
- ii. Develop and implement nutrition-sensitive social protection programs, including food fortification, nutrition education, and behavior change communications targeted especially to nutritionally vulnerable and marginal people
- iii. Ensure access to adequate food through effective safety nets for the poorest and nutritionally vulnerable section of population during periods of seasonal crises and food shortages
- iv. Integrate social protection schemes with agricultural development, income generation, and micro-business and micro-entrepreneurship development

Objective 5: To strengthen cross-sectoral food and nutrition security governance, coordination, capacity building and partnership for effective policy implementation.

Effective design and implementation of policy and programs to enhance food and nutrition security requires multi-sectoral planning, collaboration and coordination to maximize synergies. An overarching governance mechanism is needed to ensure that strategies and programs are mutually consistent, implementation is timely and effective, and mitigating strategies are properly developed. Several cross-cutting issues include capacity strengthening of institutions at national and local levels, ensuring that gender dimension in all aspects of food production, processing, preparation and consumption is incorporated in program planning, ensuring that losses and wastes are minimized, operational standards and procedures to assure that food is free of contamination from various sources such as chemicals, trace elements, heavy metals and bacteria are in place, and establishing regulatory frameworks, including surveillance for compliance and enforcement. NFNSP will deploy various strategies to achieve this objective.

Strategy 5.1. Improve food safety, quality control, and awareness of food safety and hygiene

Food safety is a growing concern at the present time. Operational standards and procedures are needed to assure that food is free of contamination from various sources such as chemicals, trace elements, heavy metals and bacteria. NFNSP will establish required regulatory frameworks, including surveillance for compliance and enforcement. Quality control is very important in both domestic and international trades. Bangladesh is a signatory to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Technical Barrier to Trade (TBD) Agreements and also a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission – bodies to ensure supply of safe food. Priority will be given to assessment and prevention of risks involved in the distribution of safe food along the entire channel from production to consumption.

The following initiatives will be implemented under this strategy.

- i. Ensure conformity and compliance of food safety standards through accreditation from certification agencies, inspection, and surveillance
- ii. Establish an expanded network of duly accredited laboratories for food safety
- iii. Assess dietary contamination risk exposure and intake of heavy metals and contaminants in food, including mycotoxins
- iv. Introduce and promote Good Agricultural Practices, Good Aquaculture Practices and Good Husbandry Practices that ensure food safety and quality (primary producers)
- v. Introduce and scale up Good Manufacturing Practices, Good Hygienic Practices, including adherence to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points compliance (secondary and tertiary producers)
- vi. Support improvement in quality assurance and traceability for crops, livestock and fisheries products (linked with Objective 2)
- vii. Develop and enforce an appropriate regulatory mechanism to control health hazards arising from indiscriminate use of harmful additives, preservatives, and toxic chemicals used in the production and food marketing chains
- viii. Enhance food safety education and consumer awareness of food safety

Strategy 5.2. Reduce food losses and waste

Food loss includes losses in nutritional and economic value. Food loss can also indirectly affect food safety. Considerable amount of food is lost during harvesting, processing, transporting and marketing. Additional losses occur at the household level during short periods of storage prior to food preparation. Food waste refers to table waste at home, in hotels and restaurants and in catering. Reduction of these losses that can occur at all stages of the value chain need to be addressed through different approaches and strategies depending on their causes.

The following initiatives will be carried out:

- i. Minimize food losses at farm level through better timing of harvest, choice of harvesting technologies, and appropriate farm-level storages
- ii. Strengthen skills and practices in the generation and application of appropriate loss-reducing technologies, notably post-harvest processing, preserving, transporting, packaging, storing, marketing and recycling of food waste
- iii. Promote knowledge, education and awareness to prevent/control waste and losses using national and international best practices

Strategy 5.3. Improve data, information and analysis for evidence-based planning, monitoring, evaluation, and update of policies and programs through wider partnerships

Evidence-based analysis is crucial for designing strategic and prioritized interventions for FNS. Research findings, data, and statistics are needed to support implementation and course correction of policies and programs. Reliable and timely information also allows policy makers to better understand key policy issues, develop informed policy analysis, identify appropriate policy directions, and review the effectiveness of interventions. The principles and values of the process includes evidence-based planning, policy efficiency, dialogue, review, and accountability (as expressed by the Government of Bangladesh policy planning authorities, such as General economic Division (GED) and Cabinet). Despite growing commitment to evidence-based analysis as a central pillar in policy making, the practice of evidence-based policy making is still limited.

Strong capacity of independent research institutions to conduct policy analysis should be nurtured in a way that public sector may access think-tank or research-hub as an additional source of evidence-based analytical and result monitoring activities. NFNSP will support efforts to further strengthen the analytical capacity of concerned public, private and academic institutions to overcome the capacity constraint.

The following initiatives will be implemented under this strategy:

- i. Produce reliable and timely FNS information, data and advisory through an improved system of information collection, analysis, coordination, validation, exchange, and dissemination
- ii. Use “big data” analytics and technology for forecasting food production and supply
- iii. Strengthen reliable monitoring and reporting of policy progress, nutrition outcomes and impacts
- iv. Integrate key programme design and implementation modalities for coherent and synergistic nutrition-sensitive food systems
- v. Improve linkage among food systems programmes and wider social and economic sector interventions (civil society, private sector organizations, research institutions, etc.)
- vi. Integrate FNS in national socio-economic development agenda

Strategy 5.4 Strengthen regulatory management, climate resilience and gender roles

Regulations are needed to ensure the supply of safe and quality food, and improvements in market conduct and performance. To be effective, compliance programs are needed to ensure that such regulations are effective. NFNSP will support updating of existing regulations and developing new ones where needed.

Climate resiliency means the ability to withstand and recover from climate-related shocks. Resilience is improved through the development and dissemination of stress-tolerant (drought, submergence, heat/cold) crop varieties and management practices (linked with Objective 1). As a result of climate change, comparative advantages of producing various crops and livestock may shift spatially and this will require farmers to adjust their agricultural activities. Financial support to affected producers becomes essential to improve their resilience. NFNSP will improve the climate resilience through the

provision of improved technologies, information on differential impacts of climate change on various production activities and likely spatial shifts in comparative advantages, farm insurance, financial support for disaster recovery, and/or microfinancing, in order to improve climate resilience and capacity building of farming communities.

Gender-mainstreaming is a cross-cutting component that runs through all aspects of food systems and value chains as women play critical roles in production, processing, marketing and preparation of nutritious meals. However, gender-based inequality disempowers women, limits their productive contributions and impacts them negatively. Capacity building of women, financing arrangements that are inclusive and gender sensitive, and institutional reforms to tackle gender-based inequalities and discrimination are needed for gender mainstreaming. NFNSP will promote gender mainstreaming in all aspects of food systems and value chains.

The strategy includes the following initiatives:

- i. Develop effective regulatory instruments and guidelines for such areas as food safety, market-place management, marketing control (including on-line marketing and retailing), NCD control, environmental conservation and biosafety, anti-trust and anti-monopoly, breast milk substitution, complementary food, and the right to adequate food
- ii. Strengthen gender roles in FNS by improving gender-based knowledge, data, information, and by empowering women through improved access to technologies, finance and markets
- iii. Develop and promote climate-resilient food systems

Strategy 5.5. Strengthen FNS governance, policy coherence, capacity strengthening and leadership across stakeholders.

It is crucial to strengthen the capacity of the government to execute commitments made in NFNSP and other national strategies related to food and nutrition security through all relevant public agencies by ensuring that policy priorities are aligned with the policy planning and investment monitoring-related workplans of line ministries. It is also important to ensure effective operation of monitoring and evaluation systems to review the effectiveness and impacts of policy changes. All NFNSP implementing ministries/agencies of the Government of Bangladesh will take appropriate steps to bridge the implementation capacity gaps. Limited institutional capacity may pose the greatest constraint to FNS policy alignment, result monitoring, and desirable correction of operational plans and investment programs.

The current FNS governance structure consists of the top level “Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC)” which is chaired by the Minister for Food and comprised of 19 members including the ministers and Secretaries of the FNS-related ministries. The mandate of the committee includes advising the government to take up necessary measures for ensuring food and nutrition security and food safety. The committee is responsible for providing an overall leadership and oversight in planning, coordination and monitoring in all aspects of food and nutrition security. NFNSP will promote active participation of local governments, civil society, and the private sector at sub-national levels (grass roots, sub-district and district) to improve monitoring and coordination at the local level.

While the current institutional structure for FNS policy and program implementation and result monitoring provides a strong foundation for evidence-based analysis through the FPMU, the limited human resource with inadequate analytical capacity leads to incomplete situation analysis and may result in ad-hoc decision making. Involving the private sector and other non-state sectors in FNS program planning and monitoring may be crucial. Yet, the multi-stakeholder partnership process is still in its embryonic stage in FPMU-led multi-agency coordination mechanism. Strengthening the capacity to effectively participate and collaborate in the implementation of NFNSP is another formidable challenge which needs to be dealt-with by formulating an appropriate coordination strategy. Policy coherence is key to multi-sectoral program development and implementation to

tackle food and nutrition insecurity. NFNSP will develop a framework for ensuring policy coherence across sectors.

The following initiatives will be implemented under this strategy.

- i. Improve information flow, share results of FNS status, dynamics and options, and promote synergistic engagements across all actors and institutions
- ii. Strengthen policy uptake, nutrition leadership and institutional capacity of relevant secretariats and public institutions
- iii. Ensure policy coherence across sectors through improved inter-ministerial coordination
- iv. Improve coordination among local government authorities, field administration, non-state actors (civil society and private sector organizations) and consumer associations
- v. Strengthen private sector capacity by facilitating the transfer of public sector technologies and knowledge
- vi. Support establishment and operationalization of a private umbrella that can bring together multitude of actors or groups into cohesive entities
- vii. Build the capacity of the private sector and civil society to:
 - a. carry out effective participation and engagement with the policy coordination and implementation entities; and
 - b. develop an informed policy position based on the perspectives of constituents and effectively communicate to policy makers.
- viii. Establish framework(s) for FNS stakeholder partnerships, including PPP, and ensure mutual accountability in private-private and public-private partnerships, transparency and value for money

E. Institutional mechanism for Implementation of Policy Plan

The Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) is currently the top-level national policy body with the mandate of providing overall leadership and oversight in planning, coordination and monitoring in all aspects of food and nutrition security. Member ministries of FPMC will take responsibilities for ensuring that development programs under each of the ministries follow the policy priorities and strategies indicated in NFNSP. For cross-sectoral programs, implementation will be based on cross-ministerial bodies with active participation of local governments, civil society, and the private sector. The implementation of NFNSP will broadly follow this governance structure.

The current composition of FPMC includes ten ministries (Ministry of Food; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Ministry of Commerce; Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; Ministry of Planning; and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs). These represent all important ministries mostly related to the food and agricultural sector. As nutrition is the central component of NFNSP, membership of FPMC may be expanded to include Ministry of Chittagong Hill-tract Affairs; Ministry of Social Welfare; Ministry of Industries; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) to ensure adequate representation of nutrition, food safety and social protection considerations in FPMC deliberations.

F. Conclusion

A key distinguishing feature of this new policy is the central focus given to nutrition. The policy views all programs and interventions through the 'nutrition lens' and promotes multi-sectoral programs as nutritional outcomes naturally straddle many sectors. It is expected that Bangladeshis will be able to achieve their desired food and nutrition security through effective implementation of NFNSP. Other food and nutrition-enhancing policies and strategies will be aligned with NFNSP.

References:

- FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2019. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019. Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns*. Rome, FAO. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
- BDHS 2019. Preliminary findings of Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey.
- UNICEF. The state of world's children 1998. 1998 [cited 2019 11 November]. Available from: <http://www.unicef.org/sowc98/silent4.htm> .

ANNEX

POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND THEMATIC BACKGROUND PAPERS REVIEWED**National Policies and Strategies**

- 2018 National Agricultural Policy 2018
- 2018 National Social Security Strategy 2015 and its Plan of Action 2018
- 2018 Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2016-25
- 2018 Bangladesh Second Country Investment Plan - Nutrition Sensitive Food Systems
- 2018 Multisectoral Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2018-25
- 2017 National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017-30
- 2016 Seventh Five Year Plan 2016-20
- 2015 National Strategy on Prevention and Control of Micronutrient Deficiencies (2015-24)
- 2015 National Agricultural Extension Policy (draft)
- 2015 National Nutrition Policy 2015
- 2009 National Food Policy 2006 and its Plan of Action 2009
- 2009 Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009
- 2009 Consumer Right Protection Act 2009
- 2008 National Poultry Development Policy 2008
- 2007 National Livestock Development Policy 2007
- 2006 National Fisheries Strategy 2006
- 2005 National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change 2005
- 1998 National Fisheries Policy 1998
- 1998 National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation 1998

Background Papers of the CIP2

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|---------|---|
| 2017/18 | Postharvest transformation, value addition, and food supply in Bangladesh |
| 2017/18 | Increased dietary diversity, consumption and utilization |
| 2017/18 | Governance for food and nutrition security: a focus on promoting nutrition sensitive food systems |
| 2017/18 | Food safety, quality improvement, and reduction in food losses and food waster in Bangladesh |
| 2017/18 | Diversified and sustainable agriculture, fisheries and livestock for healthy diets |
| 2017/18 | Enhanced access to social protection, safety nets and increased resilience |

IFPRI Papers

- 2019 Women's empowerment and crop diversification in Bangladesh: A possible pathway to climate change adaptation and better nutrition

- 2019 Strengthening institutional capacity for disaster management and risk reduction through climate-resilient agriculture
- 2019 Drivers of the Bangladesh fish economy: Projections of future fish supply and demand
- 2019 Dairy contract farming in Bangladesh: Implications for welfare and food safety
- 2019 Per capita rice consumption in Bangladesh: Available estimates and IFPRI's validation survey results
- 2019 Public food grain storage facilities in Bangladesh: An assessment of functionality, repair needs, and alternative usage
- 2018 Economic activities of forcibly displaced populations: An analysis of enterprises in Southern Bangladesh
- 2018 Climbing up the ladder and watching out for the fall: Poverty dynamics in rural Bangladesh
- 2018 Can women's empowerment increase animal source food consumption in flood prone areas of Bangladesh?
- 2018 A review of best food safety practices: International experiences and lessons for Bangladesh
- 2018 Transfers, behavior change communication, and intimate partner violence: post program evidence from Bangladesh
- 2017 Nutrition behavior change communication causes sustained effects on IYCN knowledge in two cluster-randomized trials in Bangladesh
- 2017 Behavior change communication activities improve infant and young child nutrition knowledge and practices of neighboring non-participants in a cluster-randomized trial in rural Bangladesh
- 2016 What kinds of social safety net transfers work best for the rural ultra-poor in Bangladesh? operation and impacts of the transfer modality research initiative

Technical Consultations Notes {Insert information on recent consultations}

20 January 2019 at FPMU conference room; FPMU – IFPRI - MUCH

Brainstorming on the formulation of a Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security Policy

4 February 2019 at APSU conference room; APSU –GoB- IFPRI – MUCH

Meeting on Formulation of National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP)-2019

12 February 2019 at IPH conference room; BNNC-GoB-DP-NGO- MUCH

Consultation on the formulation of a Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security Policy with the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC)

27 February 2019 at Pan-Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; FPMU – DG Food – IFPRI - MUCH

Brainstorming on the formulation of a Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security Policy

25 March 2019 at GED Planning Commission building; GED - GoB- IFPRI – MUCH

Policy Consultation on the Formulation of a Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security Policy with the General Economics Division

1 April 2019 at BISS conference hall; BISS– GoB TWG - MUCH

First Meeting of the Technical Sub-Committees of the Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security BISS - FPMU

18-23 June 2019 at FPMU conference room; FPMU – GoB TWG - MUCH

Second Meeting of the Technical Sub-Committees of the Bangladesh Food and Nutrition Security Policy