Agriculture

Importance of Agricultural sector in Bangladesh

- Agriculture not only considered as a source of food and nutrition for people but also considered one of the most important source of employment for rural.
- In Fiscal Year(FY) 2020-21 agricultural sector contributes to 13.47% of GDP & 40.6% of labor force are engaged in agricultural activities.
- Government of Bangladesh so far has achieved success in agricultural sector despite the impact of COVID-19 by proper utilization of short, medium and long term action plans.

- The total production target of food grains in FY-2020-21 was 465 lakh metric tones which was 466 lakh metric tones in FY-2020-21.
- Main Agricultural products of our country are rice,wheat,maize,potato,pulses,oil,jute,vegetables and spices.
- Bangladesh has moved to third place in the world in rice production.

Budget Allocation & Import of food grains

- In the FY-2020-21 revised budget for public food grains procurement has been set at 19.50 lakh MT.
- In FY-2021-22 revised budget for government food grain import was 15.68 lakh MT.
- As of February 2022, the country has imported 10.59 lakh MT of food grains under government management..
- Food grains are distributed through monetized channel including subsidized distribution program such as open market sale , essential priority of food friendly program.

Government efforts for improving Agricultural sector

- Vision 2041.
- 8th five year plan.
- National Agriculture policy 2018.
- National Agricultural extension policy 2020.
- National Agricultural mechanization policy 2020.
- Master plan for Agricultural Development in South.

- Sustainable Development Goals.
- Delta plan 2100.
- Development of improved and adversity tolerant varieties.
- Subsidies and incentives for small & marginal farmers.
- Improved irrigation system & integrated pest management system.

- Project implementation in haor areas to increase cropping intensity.
- Project implementation on irrigation and conservation of rain water in the Barind region in order to increase crop production.
- Increasing awareness among farmers for proper utilization of arable land.
- Establishment of Bangladesh institute research and training on Applied Nutrition to reduce of nutritional problems.

- Implementing projects on firm mechanization technology to increase crop production and minimize the labor crisis.
- Promotion of agriculture and agriculture based services through mobile operators.
- Using solar energy for irrigation to save oil and electricity.
- Promoting participation of women in agricultural sector to alleviate poverty and create employment opportunities.

Food Security and Safety

- “Food Safety Act-2013” has been established by Bangladesh Food Safety Authority with a view to ensure safe food for the people of country.
- 2nd February in each year has been declared as National Food Safety Day.
- Bangladesh food safety authority monitors various food establishments by conducting tests and given gradings (A+,A,B,C,D).
- Several awareness programs like roadshows,seminars ,workshops are conducted by BFSA to celebrate “MUJIB YEAR”

- Bangladesh Agricultural Development Committee (BADC) provides quality seed production and operate distribution of those among farmers across the country.
- Quality Seed & fertilizer of various agricultural products such as rice, wheat, maize, potato, pulses,oil,jute,vegetables,spices are distributed.

Irrigation facilities

- More importance has given by government on reducing irrigation cost and maintaining environmental harmony by increased use of surface water and reduced use of underground water.
- Data monitoring and analysis of underground water is being made possible by preparing digital data bank.
- In FY 2020-21 ,18 irrigation projects and 10 irrigation programs are being implemented.

Agricultural Credit facilities

- With a view to improve the socio-economic condition of the country agricultural credit program is being implemented through all scheduled banks.
- In FY 2020-21 Tk 16180.82 crore has been distributed as agricultural and rural credit through all scheduled banks.

Combating against the effects of Covid in agricultural sector

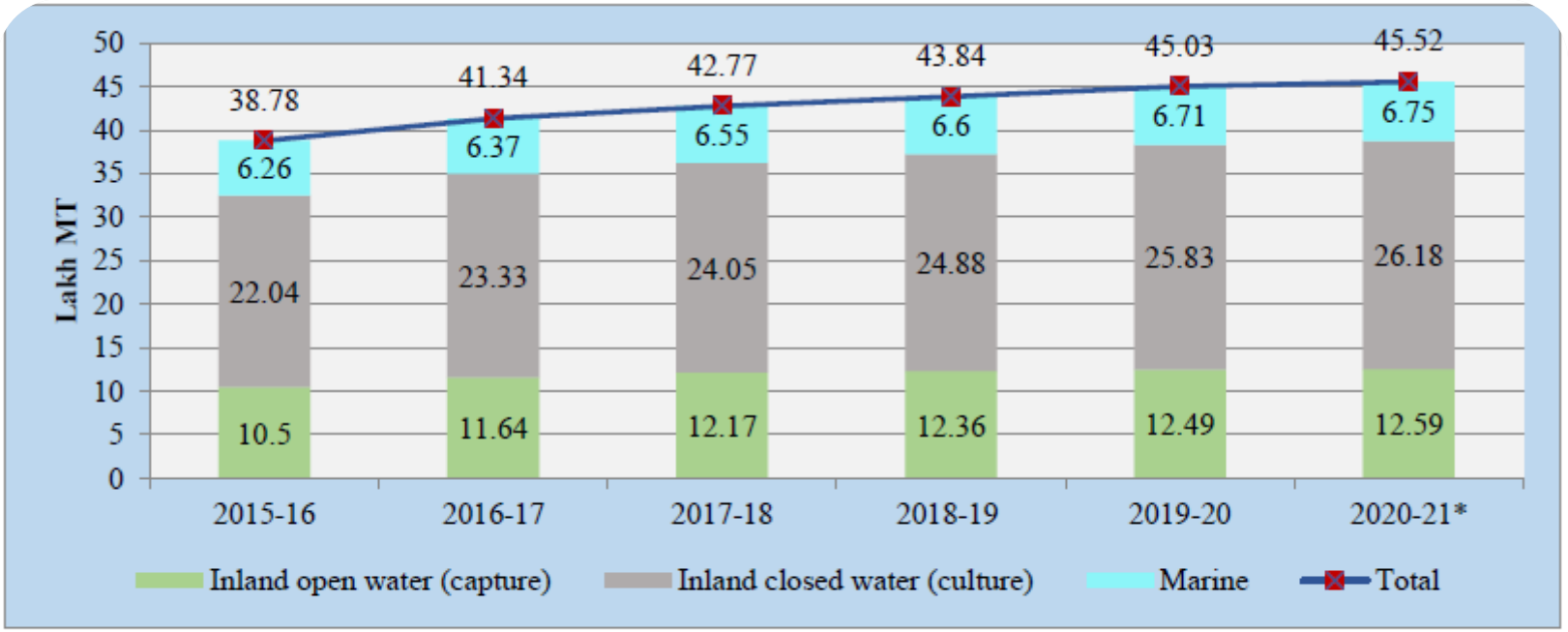
- Subsidies and incentives support card for fertilizer ,seeds and other agricultural inputs.
- Reduction in irrigation prices.
- Transportation of agricultural commodities at reduced fares.
- Support for agricultural rehabilitation by offering special agricultural credit at low interest.

Fisheries

- The contribution of the fisheries sector to the socio-economic progress, prosperity and above all poverty alleviation of Bangladesh is very important and undeniable.
- Fisheries sector contributes 3.57 percent to the national GDP and 26.50 percent to the total agricultural GDP of the country.
- According to FAO report ‘The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020’, Bangladesh ranked 3rd in inland open water capture production and 5th in world aquaculture production.

- In the last 10 years, Bangladesh has risen to the second position in terms of growth rate of fish production in inland water bodies.
- Bangladesh ranked 1st among 11 of Hilsa producing countries in the world.
- Fish production has increased more than six times in 37 years.
- Implementation of fisheries-friendly activities of the government and the provision of demand-based and appropriate technical services at the farmer and entrepreneurial level, fish production has increased to 45.03 lakh MT in FY 2019-20 .

Fish production trends in different resources



*Projected

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2021

Government activities to improve fishery sector

- To overcome inbreeding problem in hatcheries Department of Fisheries has continued its efforts to ensure the quality of fry by producing quality brood in hatchery through collecting fry from natural sources.
- At present there are 143 government fish farm and 1,068 private farms throughout the country.

- Hilsa of Bangladesh is appreciated in the world market with its own identity after obtaining the Geographical Registration Certificate (GI Certificate) titled Bangladesh Hilsa.
- The government has adopted following steps for the protection and conservation of Hilsha fishes:
- Implementation of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) program to prevent fishermen from starvation during jatka conservation period of November to June.
- Distribution of alternative income generating resources to the extreme poor fishermen who are abstained from *Jatka fishing.*
- 'The Jatka Protection Act' is strictly implemented from November to June.

- Establishment of a total of 6 hilsa sanctuaries in the upper and lower basins of Padma, Meghna, Kalabadar, Andharamanik and other coastal rivers including Tentulia and strengthening of partnership management.

- To destroy Illegal fishing net ‘Special Combing Operation’ has been operating every year.

Management of marine fisheries and export of fishery products

- Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock has already taken different Pragmatic initiatives like framing short term, mid-term and long term ‘Action Plans’ to ensure conservation, sustainable development and harnessing the potentials of the marine resources.
- Initiatives has been taken to prepare National Marine Fisheries Policy (NMFP) and Marine Fisheries Management Plan (MFMP) in order to income generation, employment and expedition of blue economy.
- With the help of Eco fish project, 3,188 sq km area adjacent to Nijhum dweep under Hatia Upazila has been declared as Marine Protected Area (MPA).

- The government has undertaken a pilot project to extract Tuna and similar pelagic fish in the deep sea.
- In addition, seaweed and oyster culture is being piloted in coastal areas that will unveil the new horizon of blue economy.
- Bangladeshi fish and fishery products are exported to more than 50 countries including European Union (EU), USA, Japan, Russia, China etc.

- At present, a total of 105 fish processing plants are licensed of which 73 are approved for exporting their products to the EU countries.
- In FY 2020-21 Bangladesh earned Tk.2,555.04 crore by exporting 46,393.52 MT fish and fishery products.