



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## BANGLADESH COUNTRY DIAGNOSTIC CASE STUDY

Bangladesh is a low-lying deltaic country in South Asia bordered by India, Myanmar, and the Bay of Bengal. It is part of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin, with 79% of its land being alluvial floodplains. Agriculture contributes 13% to GDP but employs 45% of the workforce. The country's economy is gradually transitioning from agriculture to industry and services, with a registered GDP growth of about 6% increase annually.

The Climate Resilient Food System (CRFS) Alliance launched country diagnostics in 2022, with the first batch of countries comprising Ethiopia, Fiji, Belize, and The Gambia. These reports aim to facilitate resource mobilization and the exchange of best practices amongst countries. These case studies consider the country's Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, Food System Pathways, and other relevant national strategies relating to food and climate change.

Bangladesh Country Diagnostic Report 2023 examines the country's food systems by tracing each step from production, through distribution, to consumption. It sheds light on the country's national circumstances, food systems, climate risks, and agricultural policies in Bangladesh as of June 2023. Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in food production; however, challenges like population growth, urbanization, and climate change still cripple the country's food system. Rice is the staple crop, but other key crops include wheat, maize, oilseeds, vegetables, and fruits. Livestock and fisheries also play a significant role. Gradually, the consumption patterns are shifting toward more nutritious foods, though rice remains dominant.

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries globally. This is due to the country's unique geographical setting with low elevation and dominance of floodplains.

Photo- Food Tank

The country is facing risks like cyclones, floods, droughts, sea-level rise, and salinity intrusion. Climate change poses a significant threat to food security, with projections indicating a 33% decline in rice production within the next two decades. Rising sea level increases the salinity intrusion in the coastal areas, resulting in a hostile environment for plants, reducing crop productivity, reducing sources of fresh drinking water, and ultimately reducing land availability for farming.

This country's Diagnostic Report has established that other non-climatic factors, such as high population density, along with low economic, infrastructural, and technological capacity which increase its vulnerability. Bangladesh ranks 8th as the most populous country in the world, where 1,265 people live per square kilometre. This massive population creates pressure on the limited land. Maintaining and preserving significant amounts of agricultural land is crucial to ensure food security, economic growth, and the livelihood of the people. Rapid urbanization affects the agricultural land cover and land use as more people are moving to urban areas, and cultivated lands are being converted and used for non-agricultural purposes. Other challenges include limited access to technology, credit, and insurance for small farmers and weak coordination among stakeholders and insufficient private sector involvement.

The government of Bangladesh is working diligently to make efforts for the overall development of the agriculture sector. The government has adopted several policies, strategies, and short, medium, and long-term action plans to meet the future needs of the growing population. The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) 2021-2030 aims to ensure the country's food and nutrition security aligns with the SDGs and other national and international commitments.

The country has adopted several policies to address food security and climate resilience, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050, which focuses on climate-resilient agriculture, fisheries, and livestock. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2021, which aims to reduce GHG emissions and promote sustainable agriculture.

Bangladesh's food system priorities center on promoting climate-smart agriculture and fisheries, strengthening early warning systems and disaster risk reduction, innovation, advancing research, and capacity building, and supporting smallholder farmers while ensuring gender inclusion. The country has placed particular emphasis on projects that address climate risk management, agriculture, water resource management, and capacity development. Notable examples include the Bangladesh Weather and Climate Services Regional Project (BWCSR), which enhances early warning systems; the Blue Gold Program, which improves water infrastructure in coastal areas; and the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Water Development Project, which promotes efficient water use and climate-resilient farming practices.

Bangladesh is committed to achieving food security and climate resilience despite challenges. Collaboration with international organizations, the private sector, and local stakeholders is essential to building a sustainable and resilient food system. The proposed entry points for the CRFS Alliance include strengthening institutional coordination and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure coherent food system governance. Public-private partnerships should be promoted, alongside increased investments in climate-smart technologies, to accelerate innovation and resilience.

Efforts must also focus on enhancing early warning systems and improving data management to better anticipate and manage risks. Targeted support for smallholder farmers through training, financial aid, and improved market access will be essential for boosting productivity and livelihoods. Finally, addressing gender-based inequalities and promoting women's leadership in agriculture should remain central to advancing an inclusive and equitable food system transformation.

