



BANGLADESH FOOD SECURITY INVESTMENT FORUM 2010

26–27 May 2010 • Pan Pacific Sonargaon • Dhaka

Food Security Investment Forum 2010

Remarks by

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Hon'ble Chief Guest, the Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Hon'ble Chair, the Minister of Food and Disaster Management; Hon'ble Special Guests; Hon'ble Guests of Honor; Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute; Hon'ble Ministers; Excellencies; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning to you all. It is a great honor and privilege for me to speak a few words and extend a very hearty welcome to you all to the Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum organized by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with technical support from the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and the International Food Policy Research Institute, and financial support from the USAID and other development partners.

Ensuring national food security remains a vital concern of Bangladesh. Until the early 1990s, Bangladesh's aim was to achieve food security by following a policy of food self-sufficiency. The policy was subsequently changed into a policy of self reliance in later years. The policy worked well till the global food crisis of 2007-08. The experience of 2007-08 has brought into focus the need for changed strategies for food security taking into account the evolving global scenarios. This is extremely important for Bangladesh since development has little significance if a large group of people has limited or little access to food. The kind presence of the Hon'ble Chief

Guest today bears testimony to the importance that the government attaches to food security in Bangladesh.

This Food Security Investment Forum has been organized to identify the priority areas for investment covering all major aspects of food security including availability, access, and utilization. Six thematic papers have been prepared jointly by the concerned ministries and researchers from BIDS and IFPRI. The papers cover important issues directly related to food security as well as indirect ones that have important bearing on food security in Bangladesh.

For reaching a broad consensus on priority areas of investment, these were discussed in a seminar in early-May. A road map for a country investment plan has also been prepared indicating the priority areas for investment. It is expected that the Forum will come up with specific plan of actions for investments in the identified areas to ensure comprehensive food security in Bangladesh.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for kindly agreeing to be present amongst us this morning and inaugurate this important event.

Thank you, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.