

## Round Table : Future of Bangladesh Agriculture

6 May 2024 @ Omnia Theatre, WUR, the Netherlands

### 2:00 - 3:00 PM – Welcome, Introduction

- **Welcome** by [REDACTED], Member, Supervisory Board, Wageningen University and Research [4 minutes]
- **Address** by H E Mr Md. Abdus Shahid, Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Bangladesh) [4 minutes]
- **Remarks** Dr. Baljit Singh, Vice-President (Research), University of Saskatchewan [4 minutes]
- **Introduction to the Roundtable (objectives, themes):**
  - H E M. Riaz Hamidullah, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Netherlands [4 minutes]
- **Presentation on scope for holistic transformation of Bangladesh agriculture through the food systems approach**
  - Mr. Kalyan Guntoboyina, Account Manager (Asia), Wageningen University and Research [15 minutes]

### 3:00 - 4:45 PM - Panel Discussion

- **What are the over-arching challenges and opportunities in enhancing productivity of key crops for reducing import dependence in Bangladesh?**
    - Principal presentation: Dr. Steve Webb, Executive Director, Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS), USASK [12 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: Dr. Abed Chowdhury, Canberra [4 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: [REDACTED], Gates Foundation (South Asia) [3 minutes]
  - **Which strategies could improve supply chain (especially cold chain infrastructure) and improve farmers' profitability in Bangladesh?**
    - Principal presentation: Ms. Heske Verburg, Managing Director, Solidaridad [12 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: Mr. Khaled, Director, Khaled Group/Nourish (Bangladesh) [3 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: [REDACTED], WUR [3 minutes]
- Open discussion (topics 1 and 2) [30 minutes]*
- **In addressing the challenges, how can farm mechanisation contribute?**
    - Principal presentation:....., FAO HQs / [REDACTED] KUBOTA [10 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: Prof. Giasuddin Miah, Vice-Chancellor, Bangabandhu Agriculture University [3 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: [REDACTED] WUR [3 minutes]
  - **How to rapidly bridge the key need gaps through training, skill development and capacity building?**
    - Principal presentation: Dr S M Bakhtiar, Executive Chairman, BARC [10 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn, Dean, College of Agriculture and Bio-resources, USask [3 minutes]
    - Expert Remarks: Mr. Jean Saint-Geours, Team Lead (Partners Development), World Bank HQs [3 minutes]

*Open discussion (topics 3 and 4) [30 minutes]*

### 4:45 - 5:10 PM - Closing

- Reflections by Mr. Anping Ye, Director (South South & Triangular Coopn.), FAO HQs [4 minutes]
- Summary of key insights and takeaways from the discussions [8 minutes]
- Reflections by Ms. Wahida Akhter, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Bangladesh) [4 minutes]
- Next steps: initiatives for collaboration [7 minutes]

### 5:10 PM - Networking

- participants – speakers – delegates engage in informal discussions and exchange of ideas, over bites and drinks.