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Letter of Agreement (LoA) between Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for sharing of information.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is implementing the project “Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) “in Bangladesh. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation based in Seattle. USA is supporting this project. In implementing the activities of the project, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) through the project would like to collaborate with Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for sharing and dissemination of information under the following terms and conditions.

1. Project description

The overall objective of the project is to increase the availability of the quantity and quality of time-series meso- and micro-data for informed decision – makings on rural development issues to reduce impoverishment in Bangladesh.

The specific objectives of the project are following:

- I. Enhance the availability of reliable household-, individual -, and field – specific high frequency time series data in 12 villages in Bangladesh;
- II. Increase the availability of long term time series meso-level (e.g. District/Region/National-level) agricultural and socioeconomic data in Bangladesh; and
- III. Nurture policy analysis and strengthen capacity building to fully exploit the data collected and assembled in objectives 1 and 2.

Micro-data are collected from 12 villages, which cover major agro-ecologies and typify rural economy and livelihoods. Relatively few villages are selected to minimize cost, to collect comprehensive data at high frequency, and to ensure quality of the data without compromising the national representation. Total sample size is 480 households with 40 randomly selected households per village.

Meso-data collection and assembly at the district level focuses on core variables including crop area and production, land use, adoption of improved agricultural technologies, irrigation, agricultural wages, livestock numbers and products and mechanization. The database will be further strengthened with additional variables that will include population, family size, infant mortality, employment, GDP, poverty ratio, income and expenditure, farm landholding, agricultural credit disbursements, soft infrastructure variables related to health, education and gender meso- level (i.e, District/Region/National - level) long – term time series database for the core variables will be built from 1971 to 2010.

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The Parties

VDSA Project managed through IRRI – Bangladesh Office and BBS will be the parties collaborating under this agreement. Dr. Humnath Bhandari, VDSA Project coordinator will act as a focal person on behalf of IRRI for implementing this LoA.

Roles and responsibilities

IRRI Will:

- Contribute to the capacity building of BBS by involving its staff in trainings and workshops.
- Help BBS in the analysis of data and publication of results through collaborative work.
- Provide nominal financial support to cover the cost of data assembly and honorarium for staff involved in assembling the data required for VDSA Project
- Invite BBS staff to visit IRRI - Bangladesh Office and learn about IRRI's research activities.
- Strengthen linkages and collaborative works between BBS and IRRI.
- Provide opportunity to involve BBS staff in research activities of IRRI in the future.
- Not distribute unpublished raw data to the third parties without permission of BBS.
- Will use data for research purposes only.

BBS will:

- Designate an officer as a focal person for implementing this LoA.
- Provide secondary long-term time-series data at District/Region/National level on agriculture and socioeconomic conditions in hard or soft copy for VDSA Project.
- Allow the staff to assemble and integrate data for VDSA Project when needed.
- Allow staff to participate in trainings and workshops organized by the VDSA Project.

3. Resources allocation:

- VDSA will provide a total of US\$ 5,000 for 1st year and US\$ 2,000 for 2nd year to BBS to support the cost of compiling different data need for VDSA Project.
- In the 1st year, half amount of fund will be transferred upon signing the contract and rest half amount will be given at the end of the year. For the 2nd year, the funds will be transferred towards middle of the year to the Director General of BBS through a bank account.
- The budget will cover as honorarium of concerned officers and staff, stationeries, toner and other miscellaneous expenditure for the job.

4. Reporting:

- The focal persons from IRRI and BBS will jointly prepare an annual report containing financial statement and technical activities of the year. This report will be due on last week of December each year.

5. Intellectual Property Rights and Publications:

- a) Results of the collaborative research will be jointly published in the public interest as mutually agreed upon.
- b) It is also agreed that all outcomes of the joint research activities. Including all intellectual property rights (IPR), shall be jointly owned by contributing collaborators. As such, they shall remain publicly accessible and shall be available to the partners of collaborating institutions and to end-users.

6. Duration and Modification:

The duration of this agreement shall be from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013 subject to availability of funds and satisfactory performance. The period for this LoA may be further extended through mutual consultation subject to satisfactory performance and availability of the project funds.

The parties may, by mutual consent in writing modify any provisions of this agreement. Any dispute between IRRI and BBS arising out of the interpretation or execution of this agreement shall be settled by mutual agreement.

<p>CONFORME:</p>  <p>Ms Corinta Quijano-Guerta Head, Office of External Relations and Donor Relations and Project Coordination International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)</p> <p>Date signed: ... 13 February 2012</p>	<p>CONFORME:</p>  <p>Md. Shahjahan Ali Mollah (Additional Secretary) Director General Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)</p> <p>Date signed: 29 March 2012</p>
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