



Building Public-Private Partnerships to Boost Agricultural Trade in Bangladesh

PPP CoP



Date: 30 January 2025



Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (Bangkok Time)



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Proceedings of the 1st Meeting: Launch of PPP CoP – A Platform for Public-Private Partnerships in AgriTrade

Date: 30th January 2025

Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (Bangkok Time)

Platform: Zoom

1. Background and Welcome (2:00 PM – 2:05 PM)

- **Speaker:** Darshika Senadheera (Communication Officer, APAARI)

- **Welcome Remarks:** Homaira Sonom (Technical Officer, APAARI)
 - Officially opened the session, provided an overview of the newly initiated Community of Practice (CoP) aimed at fostering collaboration between public and private stakeholders in agricultural trade.

2. Launch of the CoP (2:05 PM – 2:20 PM)

- **Speakers:**
 - **Ravi Khetarpal** (Executive Director, APAARI): Highlighted the CoP's objective to create a regular platform for dialogue, stressing the private sector's untapped potential in policy discussions.

"The private sector plays a crucial role in agriculture, driving innovation, investment, and market expansion. Through this Community of Practice (CoP), we aim to establish a regular platform for meaningful collaboration between public and private stakeholders to strengthen agricultural trade."

- **Md. Saiful Alam** (Director General, DAE): Underscored the necessity of PPPs for sustainable agricultural progress and Bangladesh's commitment to collaboration.

"Public-private partnerships (PPP) are crucial for driving meaningful change and achieving sustainable progress. We are working closely with international organizations, private sectors, and other stakeholders to support key initiatives. My team and I are dedicated to ensuring strong collaboration and providing full support to all our partners for the success of PPP."

- **Md. Asadullah** (Ex-Director General, DAE): Emphasized the need for synergy between technical expertise and policy frameworks to boost trade.

3. Panel Discussion: Role of PPP in AgriTrade (2:20 PM – 2:42 PM)

Moderator: KS Varaprasad (Adviser – Biosecurity and Bioresources, APAARI)

Panelist Contributions:

Ibrahim Khalil (Deputy General Manager, Ispahani Agro Limited):

"To develop effective biopesticides, collaboration with research institutes, universities, and the private sector is crucial. We need funding, capacity-building initiatives, and tax incentives to encourage private sector investment. Additionally, public awareness campaigns and promoting eco-labeling are vital to inform farmers and consumers about the long-term benefits of biopesticides." Key issues he mentioned-

Key Issues Raised:

1. Soil degradation due to chemical fertilizers.

2. Lack of policy and regulatory frameworks for microbial pesticides.
3. Need for faster regulatory approval for biopesticides.
4. Lack of export policy for biopesticides.

Monjurul Islam (Advisor, BFVAPEA):

"Bangladesh is still, we are back behind about the compliance issue and TBT issue. If we want to move forward in trade, we have to improve our capacity building of phytosanitary measures and policy issues. Vietnam is exporting 40 to 50 billion, but Bangladesh is still at 1.2 to 1.3 billion. There is a lot of opportunity to boost up our agricultural trade to 15 to 20 billion very easily. We need to go forward to the farmer level. Otherwise, this PPP will not work. The exporters are always saying they want to invest, but we need to ensure quality products from the field level."

Prof. Mohammad Shaef Ullah (BAU):

"Successful public-private partnerships require cooperation among educational institutions, industry, and government. Academia provides the intellectual resources, scientific evidence, and regulatory frameworks needed for advancing technologies like biopesticides."

Ahsan Ullah (APAARI):

Shared Bangladesh's SPS-related challenges and opportunities, urging regional cooperation to align policies and investments.

5. Open Discussion (2:47 PM – 3:10 PM)

Key Contributions:

Dr. Rafiqul Amin, Managing Director, Hortex Foundation

expressed optimism about the new APARI PPP CoP, stating that it will benefit public and the private sector in expanding export volumes in Bangladesh. He emphasized that all stakeholders should actively participate and contribute to this initiative.

Dr. Rehana (Pakistan)

- Shared Pakistan's journey in fostering PPPs.

"Public-private partnerships, especially in agriculture, should not only focus on national levels but also create a regional mechanism to enhance trade within neighboring countries instead of chasing international markets." "Countries in the region should strengthen each other and boost investment within their own borders for mutual benefit."

Jalal Shirazi (Biocontrol Res. Dept., IRIPP, Tehran, Iran)

"Iran has a well-established model for involving the private sector in biological control. I can share insights from our experience in integrating public-private efforts in agricultural activities."

Dr. Swapan K. Ghosh (India)

Emphasized the need for a **biopesticide residue database** in Bangladesh to support global trade, as such data is currently lacking. He stressed the importance of **intensive awareness and capacity-building programs** for farmers, exporters, and agribusiness stakeholders. Additionally, he proposed a **reward system for MRL-compliant farmers** to encourage biopesticide adoption. He highlighted the potential of **biofertilizers** to improve soil health, drawing parallels with India's experience. Lastly, he pointed out **post-harvest opportunities** as a crucial area for strengthening Bangladesh's role in global agricultural trade.

6. Key Takeaways & Closing (4:10 PM – 4:20 PM)

KS Varaprasad (APAARI):

Major Takeaways:

- 1. Strengthen farmer-level engagement for quality assurance.**
- 2. Streamline biopesticide regulations and incentivize private investment.**
- 3. Prioritize regional collaboration over international dependencies.**
- **The meeting was officially adjourned at 4:20 PM.**

4. Actionable Next Steps (2:42 PM – 2:47 PM)

- **Homaira Sonom (APAARI):**
 - Announced modalities for future CoP meetings, including structured agendas and thematic focuses.
 - Announced the next CoP meeting would focus on **EUDR compliance and regional policy alignment**, scheduled for March 2025.
- 1. Homaira to organize the next CoP meeting on February 15, 2025 with the topic "Streamlining market access and export competitiveness 2. Participants to email Homaira if interested in presenting at the next CoP meeting 3. APARI to help connect biopesticide companies in Bangladesh with the best biopesticide companies in the Asia Pacific region 4. Bangladesh stakeholders to work on establishing a clear policy and regulatory framework for native microbial pesticide registration and commercialization 5. Bangladesh government to consider reducing the registration timeline for biopesticides to promote their use 6. Bangladesh stakeholders to develop an export policy for biopesticides 7. Bangladesh government to consider providing subsidies and tax incentives to encourage private sector investment in biopesticides 8. Stakeholders to collaborate on developing a national biopesticide residue database to support global trade 9. Stakeholders to organize intensive awareness and capacity building programs for farmers, exporters, and agribusinesses involved in exports 10. Bangladesh to explore opportunities for promoting biofertilizers to

improve soil health 11. APARI to involve Dr. Sopan Ghosh in future activities related to biopesticide development in Bangladesh

6. Key Takeaways & Closing (3:10 PM – 3:20 PM)

- **KS Varaprasad:**
 - Summarized critical points:
 1. Strengthen farmer-level engagement for quality assurance.
 2. Streamline biopesticide regulations and incentivize private investment.
 3. Prioritize regional collaboration over international dependencies.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Opinion from Chat box-

Samitha Haldar- Can we have some mapping done for Bangladesh to have the ongoing efforts in PPP interms of interventions, Govt schemes, Private players interventions. All the COP stakeholders can contribute

Thisadee (DALaM-Laos)- How can public and private sector stakeholders collaborate effectively to create a sustainable regional framework for agricultural trade, ensuring policy alignment, investment opportunities, and knowledge-sharing across Asia-Pacific?

What are the key strategies and mechanisms that APAARI members can adopt to strengthen future cooperation, enhance knowledge-sharing, and promote sustainable agricultural trade across the region?

Dr H D Kulkarni- As APAARI wish to extend CoP to regional platform, I wish to share my concern on EUDR compliance for export of agri and wood products which comes in to effect from 30-12-2025, Pl make a program to create awareness in this regard and assist agroforestry farmers in meeting the compliance. I am sharing my views on behalf of Indian Wood Based Industries. At present cocoa, coffee, soya, palmoil, wood rubber etc are covered in [EUDR.Best](#)

Jewel Rana-DAFF- This is perfect to establish a concrete PPP roadmap in the Agriculture Sector. Bangladesh importer and exporters are in serious trouble. A recent supplementary duties make the situation tougher for them. Is Govt ready to listen them, stand beside them. a platform is inevitable now.

Prepared by: Homaira Jahan Sonom/Technical Officer

Approved by: Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director, APAARI

Video conference interface showing multiple participants in a grid layout. The interface includes a top banner with flags and logos, and a main grid of video feeds with participant names below them.

Top Banner: A row of various national flags and logos, including the APAARI logo.

Participants (Grid Layout):

- Row 1:**
 - Ravi Khetarpal
 - Homaira Sonom
 - Darshika
 - Dipika_AIT Bangkok
 - Paul Taylor
- Row 2:**
 - Manish Rai
 - APAARI Secretariat
 - Md. Asadullah,
 - Ramesh Singh
 - Prodip kumar P...
- Row 3:**
 - Md. Ahsan Ullah
 - michael hennessey
 - Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Executiv...
 - Managing Director, Hortex Found...
 - Dr KSV
- Row 4:**
 - Md Monjurul Islam
 - AFTAB HOSSAIN, CSO, BAEC
 - Homaira's AI Notetaker
 - Baiq Nunung_ID
 - Mohammad Shaef Ullah, BAU, Bangl...
- Row 5:**
 - LUTFAR, BINA
 - Kbd. Ahmed Ali Chowdhury Iqbal, ...
 - Dr. Md. Harunor Rashid CSO OFR...
 - Ziaul Islam, Bangladesh
 - Dr. Safiqul Akhtar