

REPORT ON LEARNING HUB EVENT FOR REPORTING THE FINDINGS OF THE ZERO- HUNGER ZERO-EMISSIONS PROJECT



Venue: NEC-1 Committee Room, Planning Commission Campus, Sher-e-Bangla
Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Date: September 13, 2018

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International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

At Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Rd

Bashundhara R/A

Ph: 88-02-840-1645-53 Ext. 3311

Fax: 88-02-840-1991

Web: <http://www.icccad.net>, <http://www.gobeshona.net>, <http://www.iub.edu.bd>

LHE Title:	<i>Zero Hunger – Zero Emissions Project findings</i>
Date	<i>September 13, 2018 (Thursday)</i>
Organizers:	<i>Environmental Change Institute (ECI) at the University of Oxford, UK; Oxfam UK; Oxfam Bangladesh; and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)</i>
Hosted by:	<i>Programming Division, Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh</i>
Venue:	<i>NEC-1 Committee Room, Planning Commission Campus, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207</i>
Chair:	<i>Md. Ziaul Islam, Member,</i> <i>Programming Division and Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning</i>
Presentation:	<i>Dr. Monika Zurek.</i> <i>Senior Researcher, ECI, University of Oxford</i>
Rapporteurs:	<i>Shababa Haque, ICCCAD</i>
Photographer:	<i>Tasfiq Mahmood, ICCCAD</i>

Executive Summary

As part of the Zero Hunger Zero Emission project, a learning hub event was organized jointly by ICCCAD, Oxfam and ECI at the Planning Commission of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) on September 13, 2018. The event was hosted by the Programming Division of the Planning Commission. The main objective of the project is to explore plausible scenarios towards building a hunger free and climate resilient low carbon future for Bangladesh. The key purpose of the learning hub event was to share outputs of the scenario building exercise conducted as part of the project activities with the officials of the Programming Division.

Several key officials of the Programming Division including Member, Programming Division and Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, and the Chief of the Programming Division were present at the event. Among others Mr. Badi Akhter, Programme Director, Oxfam-Bangladesh, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD, and Dr. Monika Zurek, PI of the project also attended the event. The speakers highlighted the importance of the topic in the context of achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). They also noted that food security is a priority for Bangladesh while reducing emission is not in the current context. Thus, discussions around reducing emissions from the food and agriculture sector is contested and therefore would have to be customized in the local context. They also added that in addition to technology, leadership and political commitment would also be needed to facilitate and advance the discussion.

During the event the participants engaged in groupwork and discussion focusing on identifying different drivers and policy actions that may enable or facilitate conditions towards driving Bangladesh to the four different plausible scenarios developed as part of the project. For example: the participants reported that towards achieving a green-road- the most desired scenario of the four scenarios developed, the country needs to ensure good governance and human rights, ensure women empowerment, provide access to improved farming technology to farmers, and capitalize potential benefits of digital technology.

It was highlighted that the event was an opportunity for the Programming Division officials to become aware of the scenario building tool to use in the future. The meeting ended with a note of thanks to the organizers, host and the participants for their active engagement.

Introductory Session

The session began with the moderator introducing the *Zero Hunger Zero Emissions* project and its partners to the table, following which the participants introduced themselves.

Mr. Md. Syeedul Haque, Chief Programming Division, Planning Commission, took the floor and expressed his gratitude to the organizers for hosting the event. He then went on to talk about the role of government in trying to achieve middle income status using the limited resources available to Bangladesh. He emphasized on the necessity of good policies in order to succeed in achieving the goals the country has set for itself.



This talk was followed by **Dr. Saleemul Huq**, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), who took the floor to talk about ICCCAD's relationship with the Planning Commission and the role of Learning Hub Events (LHEs) in disseminating information to policy makers. Dr. Huq also spoke about the *Zero Hunger Zero Emissions* project in more detail and explained its key goals and the possible implications it could have on the country. The Planning commission, in his opinion, is in charge of the country's plans and policies and the governments is going well beyond plans and setting visions for the country. Thus scenario building is very important at the moment since it is not always about what is possible in the present time but also about what we want to see for the future.

Following Dr. Huq, **Mr. Md Badi Akhter**, Programme Director, Oxfam Bangladesh, shared his opinion from a practitioner point of view. He said that the project *Zero Hunger Zero Emissions* (ZHZE) is about solving a puzzle. In Bangladesh at least 60% of the people are still dependent on agriculture and they are contributing to the agriculture sector for ensuring food security. His understanding of ZHZE is that there should be increased food production and an uninterrupted food supply chain. But the food and agriculture system can be more made efficient in terms of carbon emission and environmental quality. He believes that in addition to technology, political commitment and leadership will be crucial to achieve the dual goals of zero hunger and climate resilient low carbon futures.

The chief guest for the event **Md. Ziaul Islam**, Member, Programming Division and Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, gave a speech underlining the feasibility of emission reduction under the current scenario. He started off by discussing Bangladesh's emission levels in a global context; Bangladesh emits less than 1% of the total world emissions. Although both developed and developing countries are expected to reduce their emissions, Bangladesh will need better planning to achieve this. A new development pathway will be needed for a low-carbon sustainable future. He stressed that for Bangladesh reducing emissions from the

agriculture sector is a sensitive issue because food security is still one of the primary issues for the country. Rapid urbanization, population growth, shrinking agricultural land are the realities for the country. As Bangladesh progresses with a large number of young population and rapid economic advancements, the country needs better planning. He mentioned that the challenge of global warming is a global phenomenon but the goals of reducing emissions might need to be customized.

Presentation by Zero Hunger Zero Emissions Team

Dr. Monika Zurek, Senior Researcher, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, explained the project and shared the current project updates with the table. She explained what scenario building is in this instance. Dr. Zurek discussed the food system and how it interacts with multiple SDGs. Our choices today determine the scenario we are to live in the future and agriculture related emissions are high in Bangladesh. Globally the food sector is one of the biggest emitter and when planning for sustainable low carbon development in Bangladesh the emissions from the food sector need to be taken into account. Dr. Zurek said that in order to explore the future or the possible future scenario that can be taken by Bangladesh we have to understand how the policies today will make an impact tomorrow.

In addition to Dr. Zurek's presentation Dr. Saleemul Huq added that when working with scenarios it should be remembered that scenarios are plausible futures therefore related to vision and are not forecast or predictions. Dr. Fazle Rabbi, one of the participants, shared some of his views on the situation. He said that Bangladesh is on the way to becoming a middle income country and in order to achieve that goal, the country will require energy. Large scale agriculture causes emission which is the main source of methane emission in the country. However, he continued, it is important to note that the country has not achieved food security yet- it has only achieved food grain security. In his opinion, a hefty amount of money will be required to lower emissions and the country needs adequate technology and financing to achieve the zero emission goal.

Discussion Session

Following a brief discussion on the project and the plausible scenarios developed, the participants were divided into groups for an exercise to understand the role of existing and future policies and relevant drivers that may lead us to each scenario.

The group exercise:

The groups were asked to choose a particular scenario; Green Road, Middle Road, Divided Road, Rocky Road (details of the plausible scenarios can be found in Annex-3). They were then asked to write a letter from the year 2041 to a loved one to explain how they reached this particular scenario over the years (from 2018 to 2041).



Group Activity

For this exercise there were 5 teams in total and different scenarios were represented by each group. The following are the points made by each group:

Group 1:

Scenario: A transition to Green Road

- Governance and human rights in the country are in top form
- The promise of digital Bangladesh is already happening and technology is likely to improve further
- Feminization of agriculture is already in process and it is likely to continue this way
- There is progress on the front of virtual reality data analytics
- Women in the country feel more secure
- Farmers in the country have access to better seeds
- Therefore, middle road has already been achieved and the country is now moving towards the green road scenario

Group 2:

Scenario: Rocky Road

- The country and its people made a lot of wrong decisions
- There was a case of poor governance
- The authority in place was weak and could not enforce laws and regulations
- The country lost track of the Sustainable Development Goals
- No initiative was taken for family planning and the population increase became unmanageable
- The country could not introduce mechanized technology for agriculture, as a result maximum output was not achieved
- Necessary policies to improve the situation were absent
- All the young people were addicted to substance

Group 3:

Scenario: Middle Road

- Good governance system was in place
- However, the power sector made decisions that provided the country with sufficient electricity but not in a low carbon manner
- Most of the power plants were coal based and fossil fuel usage increased significantly
- The country did not focus on environmental development as much as they did on economic development

Group 4:

Scenario: Divided Road

- Bangladesh became digitalized
- However, technology became so advanced that hackers could easily access national security systems and cause chaos
- Although there is food available for the country, most of the food produced is not hygienic and it is not produced in a healthy manner, only the short term benefits are considered in development planning. There are chemicals in the food items produced which could go on to affect the future generations.
- Majority of the GDP is from the service sector
- The technology used for the agriculture sector is backdated and the farmers are mostly illiterate
- Food produced cannot be exported because the quality cannot be matched
- Women are doing well in terms of education and women have most of the political power

Group 5:

Scenario: Rocky Road

- Climate change was a big issue in the year 2018, many natural disasters have occurred in the past years and the rate is only increasing
- The frequency and intensity of the natural disasters put strain on the country's food system and livestock was majorly affected
- The government could not save and protect the food. Salinity intrusion affected rice production
- Although there was a large number of young population there was a lot of social unrest.
- Inequity in the economy and the unemployment rate was high.
- There were no good policies in place
- Excess use of chemical fertilizers put strain on the food system
- Electricity was produced solely through coal based power plants
- The remittance rate from Bangladeshis working as foreign labors abroad was reduced and the government faced challenges in importing food
- But today, with all this knowledge and improved understanding of failures maybe actions could be taken to move towards a better life, maybe if there are enough changes are made the country can still move to a green road

Closing Sessions

Way Forward by Dr. Saleemul Huq

The group exercise and discussion was followed by **Dr. Saleemul Huq** sharing his thoughts on the overall seminar. He said that the product of the exercise is less important than the exercise itself; it is the process itself that proves to be the most useful. The main outcome from the exercise is understanding the process of scenario building in order to understand the possible future implications of policies and decisions made in the present.

He discussed how the solution for one sector can be a problem for another sector, because policies made in isolation can often fail to acknowledge the whole picture. Dr. Huq concluded with the message that in order to achieve sustainable development it is essential to think holistically and make cohesive plans, and scenario building can be a useful tool for this as it gives a full picture of what might happen in the future if certain decisions are taken.

Concluding Remarks

The final closing remarks were made by the chair of the event, **Md. Syeedul Haque**. In his final words for the session he shared that he was very impressed with the approach that was taken for this event. He shared his thoughts on the discussion session and said that this is a very good approach for building the capacity of the government officials.



Annex 1: Participants' List

	Name	Designation/Organization
1	Dr. Md. Mohsin Ali	ADD/Dept. of Food
2	Mr. Muhammad Anwar Uddin	Deputy Chief/ Prog. Division
3	Md. Ruhul Alam	Senior Asst. Chief/ Prog. Div
4	Mst. Umme Hasina	SAC/ Prog. Div
5	Mst. Sabina Rowshan	Senior Asst. Chief/ Prog. Div
6	Mst. Maryam Khatun	Asst. Chief/Prog. Div
7	Md. Abubakor Sarker	Asst. Chief/Prog. Div
8	Mr. Dinesh Sarker	Asst. Chief/Prog. Div
9	Mr. Mithun Paul Dip	Research Officer/ Prog. Div
10	Mst. Leuja-ul-Zannah	Senior Asst. Chief/ Prog. Div
11	Mr. Daniel Morchain	Oxfam
12	Md. Sk. Farid	Deputy Director, DAE
13	Mr. Saujib kumar Saha	Consultant, ZHZE Project
14	Dr. Saleemul Huq	Director, ICCCAD
15	Mr. MB Akhter	Oxfam/ Programme Director
16	Dhushar Prokriti Gain	GED, Planning Commission
17	Kristofer Johnson	Consultant/ FAO
18	Shahadat Hussein	Asst. Chief/Prog. Div
19	Shamsun Nahar Salam	WFP, Programming
20	Md. Mostafizur Rahman	Senior Asst. Chief/ Prog. Div
21	Dr. Md. Amzad Hossain	Joint Chief, Prog. Div
22	Dr. Monika Zurek	ECI, University of Oxford
23	Dr. Nurun Nahar	Deputy Chief/ Prog. Division GISN Coordinator/ NASA Globe Programme
24	Marufa Bhuiyan Mithila	Prog. Mannager/ Oxfam
25	Md. Khalid Hossain	Director/PKSF
26	Dr. Fazle Rabbi Ahmed	Asst. Chief
27	Mizanur Rahman	Direrctor/ DoE
28	Md. Ziaul Haque	Joint Chief, Prog. Div
29	Md. Sayduzzaman	Asst. Chief
30	Palash Kumar Debnath	Joint Chief, GED, Planning Commission
31	Khandker Ahsan Hossain	Chief, Planning Commission
32	Sk Md. Abdul Ahad	ICCCAD
33	Shababa Ishayat Haque	ICCCAD
34	Meraz Mostafa	ICCCAD
35	Naznin Nasir	ICCCAD
36	Dr. Mohammed Feisal Rahman	IUB, ICCCAD
37	Mahmuda Mity	ICCCAD

38	Hafiz ur Rahman	ICCCAD
39	Tasfiq Mahmood	ICCCAD
40	Noor-E-Elahi	ICCCAD
41	John Magrath	OXFAM
42	Maliha Muzammil	University of Oxford

Annex 2: Event Agenda

Time	Activities	Responsible Person
1pm – 2pm	Registration followed by lunch	ICCCAD Team
2pm – 2.15pm	Opening Remarks by Chair	Md. Syeedul Haque, Chief Programming Division, Planning Commission
2:15pm - 2.30pm	<i>Introductory Remarks and Setting the Tone</i>	Dr. Saleemul Huq Director, ICCCAD Senior Fellow, IIED & Md Badi Akhter Programme Director Oxfam Bangladesh
2.30pm – 2.45pm	Speech by the Chief Guest	Md. Ziaul Islam, Member, Programming Division and Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning
2.45pm - 3.00pm	Presentation The Zero Hunger, Zero Emissions Project: Project update and the scenarios work	Dr. Monika Zurek Senior Researcher, ECI, University of Oxford
3.00pm – 3.15pm	Presentation Implications of the scenarios for food security, low carbon development and the poor (Outcomes of the project workshops and community and youth consultations)	Dr Feisal Rahman (ICCCAD), S Kumar (Consultant)
3.15pm- 3.45pm	Discussion/Group work: The implications of the scenarios for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security and the Bangladeshi food system (SDG2) • Low carbon development and energy for Bangladesh (SDG13) • Trade-offs between food security and low carbon development • Inequality and gender issues. 	All Participants (in groups of 3)
3.45pm - 4.30pm	Discussion: Looking across the scenarios: Achieving food security for all in a low carbon	All Participants

	world? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for the Delta Plan to 2100 • The vision 2041 • The SDGs 2030 	
4.30pm - 4.45pm	Way Forward	Dr. Saleemul Huq
4.45pm – 5pm	Closing Remarks by Chair	Md. Syeedul Haque