

**1<sup>st</sup> Draft**

**Terms of Reference**

**for**

**LCG Working Group on**

**Agriculture, Food Security and Rural**

**Development (LCG-AFSRD)**

**Objectives**

The overarching objective of the Working Group (WG) on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development is to:

- contribute towards effective and coordinated implementation of National Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes on and Agriculture, Food Security and Rural development in Bangladesh, with an emphasis on reaching the poorest citizens.

The specific objectives are to:

- **promote harmonisation and alignment of activities** to enhance aid effectiveness, avoid duplication and encourage complementarity in programming; provide feedback to the government, concerned agencies, and the main LCG;
- **exchange information with GoB** related to the progress and constraints in the achievement of goals set by GoB in the sector
- contribute to **ensuring accountability** amongst development partners for their engagement within the sector;
- **facilitate common understanding** and integration of policies, approaches and efforts of development partners in the sector; this would include an inventory of GoB and donor activities in the sector to be updated regularly;

- **coordinate with other relevant LCG working groups**, e.g. the LCG Working groups for Disaster Management and Preparedness and Environment;
- lead in **disseminating best practice** in operational approaches/practices with demonstrable, measurable and effective impact.

## **Membership**

Members of the Working group are representatives of the Government of Bangladesh, development partners and civil society involved in the sector. In addition to these regular members, resource persons will be invited from relevant organisations/agencies as appropriate.

## **Organisational set-up**

The attached LCG Working group Guidelines (<http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/pages/guidelines.htm>) will guide the overall functioning of the Working group in the context of the LCG mechanism. Two co-chairs will lead the Working group, of which one will represent the development partners and the other will represent GoB. The co-chair representing the development partners will be appointed by general consensus of the members of the Working Group for a recommended period of 2 years, following the LCG mechanism.

Either of the co-chairs may call for ad-hoc stakeholder- or thematic meetings as required.

The Working group's Terms of Reference will be reviewed and revised as appropriate and at least every second year.

## **Functioning of the LCG Working group on AFSRD**

The Working group will prepare and monitor a results-oriented annual work plan with clear responsibilities, calendar and output. The Working group will meet quarterly and more often if required.

Draft minutes will be circulated to all members after each meeting. The members that are not able to attend any or all of the meetings of the Working group will be kept informed of the proceedings of the meetings and their inputs and suggestions will be solicited as feasible.

The Working group will have an action-oriented character, and will utilize small thematic working groups to help achieve its objectives. These would be based on topics of relevance and may have short or long-term lives. The working groups may adopt member(s) from outside the full member agencies where expertise and technical input is needed. Joint field trips and informal activities to strengthen the functioning of the Working group might be

conducted. An annual plan with tentative agenda will be prepared and currently updated and an annual summary will be prepared at the end of the year.