

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division
UN-4 Section
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PRESS RELEASE

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) today 04 December 2025, signed a revised project document for "**Accelerating Economic and Social Inclusion of Smallholder Farmers through Strong Producers' Organisations (ACCESS)**". The Project Document (ProDoc) was signed by **Mr Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky**, Secretary, ERD, and **Dr Jiaoqun Shi**, FAO Representative in Bangladesh.

The ACCESS project will now receive an additional USD 1.49 million to support the already approved ACCESS project, which itself is scaling up the Missing Middle Initiative (MMI) approach funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) Producers' Organisation-Led Funding Window, bringing the total project value to USD 4.75 million.

Jointly implemented by FAO and the Sara Bangla Krishak Society (SBKS), the expanded project will now include 80 Producers' Organisations (POs), comprising 20 newly added POs in climate-vulnerable hotspots in northern drought-prone areas and the southern coastal belt.

The additional financing will enable POs to strengthen access to community-based finance through revolving loan funds, improve linkages with formal financial institutions, and support investments in climate-smart agriculture, improved market access, and diversified livelihood opportunities.

FAO will continue its efforts in line with the Government of Bangladesh's priority to advance agricultural transformation and build a resilient, market-oriented, and inclusive food system that benefits smallholder farmers and rural communities.

In this speech, Dr Jiaoqun Shi, FAO Representative in Bangladesh, emphasised that the key feature of this project is to organise smallholder farmers and connect their agricultural products with the market value chain. In his concluding remarks, the Secretary of ERD emphasised the importance of providing financial protection for smallholder farmers to cover their losses in crops or livestock during natural disasters. He also draws the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)'s attention to having a sustainable exit plan in place to maintain and scale the project's outcomes.

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Dr. Shah Abdul Saadi
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