



BRIEF PROFILE

At present 795 million people of the world do not have enough food to eat and a huge portion among them (278 million) live in the South Asia Region by FAO report, 2016. These figures, however, underestimate the true extent of food insecurity, which includes hidden hunger, micronutrient deficiencies, food wastage and unsafe food. The challenge of hunger and malnutrition in Asia is complex and multi-faceted that requires a multi-pronged approach. In South Asia, Bangladesh has astonishing success in several areas of the MDGs and food production. Despite some remarkable achievements in practice and policy level, still 24.5 % (in context of calorie intake standard) of the total populations are hungry and undernourished in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is far behind of formulating or implementing any law or bill concerning right to food. Moreover, the multifaceted environmental and climatic challenges make it difficult for the small holder producers to maintain their life and livelihood. Considering these diversified challenges, civil society organizations was organized in 2014 and started campaign on Right to Food and relevant issues. As its continual effort, South Asia Right to Food-SARF Conference 2015 was held in Dhaka on May 30-June 1, 2015 where Right to Food Bangladesh-RTF BD has been evolved as umbrella network. Alongside the regional issues related to food and nutritional security, establishing a legal framework regarding right to food and nutritional security in Bangladesh was one of the major aim of this conference. The conference was inaugurated by Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh **Sheikh Hasina**. More than 2000 participants including 50 delegates from 15 different countries took part in the conference. The conference came up with The Dhaka Declaration and RtF BD Charter as way forward of right to food movement.

RtF BD emerged as canopy network on 'Right to food and nutrition security' comprising of civil society, NGOs, networks, social movements, peasants' organization, women organizations, youth, indigenous people and their organizations, small holders, trade unionists, academia and researchers. RtF BD is conducting 'Right to Food Campaign' and undertaking multifaceted activities at national and local level to accelerate the 'Legal Framework on Right to Food' and other relevant issues by engaging different entities with its perspectives and strategies. Besides, RtF BD is addressing issues on social security program, safe food, sustainable agriculture, water, bio-fuel, food habit and food crisis under its campaign. At present, a 56 members National Committee chaired by eminent economist Dr. Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad is leading the network along active engagement of 58 full-fledged District and Convening Committees at field level. Almost 1000 local, national and international NGOs/networks and significant number of civil society members, are engaged with RtF BD to carry forward its spirit to establish Right to Food in Bangladesh.

VISION

A Hunger and Poverty Free Just Society

MISSION

Ensured Right to Food and Nutritional security for citizens and especially for the poor, marginalized, women and children and it will decline the underlying causes of hunger and poverty.

OBJECTIVES

- J To strengthen Right to Food Bangladesh network at local and national level and deepening south asia region and international process for participation, non-discrimination and empowerment of citizens for solidarity and communicative action.
- J To develop and formulate a legal framework and regulatory provisions as right to food law and related national policies for ensuring right to adequate food and nutritional security for all.
- J To monitor the social protection program based on NSSS, Seventh Five year plan and SDGs for improved implementation towards achieving the Right to Food.
- J To safeguard and ensure the sovereign rights of small holder agriculture, local food producers and communities to the biodiversity, right to work and employment, access to safe and renewable seed and market for sustainable agriculture.
- J To monitor and measure the adequacy in a rights-based perspective of land ownership and tenure rights, food safety, food wastage, water rights and consumer protection agencies' legal, regulatory and institutional structures and the mandates of relevant institutions.

RtF BD is raising voice on the following strategic issues

-) Commitment to End Hunger in Bangladesh by 2030.
-) Support to GoB in achieving the goals of eradicating hunger and poverty by 2030.
-) Commitment to ensure food and nutritional security, food sovereignty of all the people across the country.
-) Establishing and implementing a legal framework regarding the issue of food and nutritional security in ensuring sufficient food for all.
-) Establishing sustainable food production procedure through ensuring the development of agriculture sector and prioritizing small holder.
-) Facilitating and act together with all social movements and learn from existing experience to ensure provisioning of legal framework and proper implementation of right to adequate food and nutritional security.
-) Ensuring elimination of all sorts of violation, discrimination and oppression against smallholder farmers and producers of this country based on their gender, class, caste, ethnicity and religion and other grounds.
-) Pressurize relevant national government institutions, policy makers, political societies and pertinent stakeholders accountable to adapt appropriate measures for right to food, potable water rights, agriculture and food systems which must respond to the crises and nutritional security issue and relevant policy reforms at national level.
-) Promoting social protection systems considering rights of urban and rural poor, subnational special poverty zones, indigenous people, and people with disabilities, elderly, women and children.
-) Supporting and facilitating the farmers led participatory process to establish seed banks for preserving agrological bio-diversity, and support farmers with free flow of seeds across the country in farmers' necessity.
-) Ensuring unadulterated and organic food.

-) Ensuring education, health and employment for all people in order to ensure food and nutritional security.
-) Enliven South Asian Food Bank and South Asian Seed Bank.
-) Formulating and implementing agrarian reform in a participatory and transparent manner for smallholder producer considering the national food security realities.
-) Adapting to climate change in small scale farming and small-scale production systems to take practicable pathways for farm households and others dependent on such systems to build greater resilience through adaptation and diversification strategies that also improve their livelihoods and, therefore, contribute to ending hunger and poverty.

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

-) ALLIANCE BUILDING (RIGHT TO FOOD BANGLADESH) TO CREATE PUBLIC OPINION AND PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT TO PASS RIGHT TO FOOD LEGISLATION IN BANGLADESH.
-) RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE GATHERING FROM SEVERAL NATIONAL PROGRAM INTERVENTIONS ON FOOD SECURITY WILL BE USED TO INFLUENCE STAKEHOLDERS ON THE BASIS OF BEST PRACTICE.
-) ADVOCATING TO GOVERNMENTS TO CREATE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS AROUND FOOD SECURITY AND THE REDUCTION OF HUNGER THROUGH LOBBYING, ALLIANCE BUILDING AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION
-) MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NSSS AND RIGHT TO FOOD LEGISLATION AS PART OF A CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION. THE STRATEGY INCLUDES DISAGGREGATED BUDGET TRACKING AND AUDITING BY GENDER, ETHNIC GROUPS, ADIVASI, DISADVANTAGED AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS AND MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES TO HIGHLIGHT GAPS AS A BASIS FOR ADVOCATING FOR APPROPRIATE CHANGES FOR INCREASING ALLOCATIONS.
-) RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS, USING HIGH AND LOW PROFILE CHAMPIONS, WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS AND IN DIFFERENT MEDIA, OF THE VITAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN SECURING FOOD FOR THE FAMILY AND NATION.

-) INFLUENCING GOVERNMENTS, BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO LEND MORE INSTITUTIONAL CREDIT AND PROVIDE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT LIKE EXTENSION SERVICES CROP INSURANCE IRRIGATION ACCESS TO OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL AND AGRO ECOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR WOMEN FARMERS, PRODUCERS, FISHER FOLK AND OTHER MARGINALIZED PEOPLE PART OF 'RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT'.
-) STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT AND INFLUENTIAL INSTITUTIONS (LAW AND FOOD MINISTRY/PLANNING COMMISSIONS, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS, FAO AND THINK TANKS ETC.) TO FACILITATE THE LAW AND POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS IN BANGLADESH.

EXPECTED RESULTS

-) Right to Food Bangladesh is established as an umbrella Network with the participation of civil society organizations & networks, farmers' organizations, Trade Unions, Consumer rights associations, CBOs, academia, researchers, individuals and relevant stakeholders.
-) Improved implementation of Social Safety Net Program in compliance with NSSS
-) Gaps relating to food and relevant policies identified and shared
-) Implementation status and progress of NSSS, 7th Five Year Plan and SDG shared and recommendations provided
-) Social protection measures are significantly helping poor women and girls to be food secure
-) Countrywide voice raised in favor of Right to Food and Nutrition Security Act
-) Consensus among the stakeholders, GoB officials and Policy makers built regarding Right to Food Act
-) Draft Right to Food Act developed that addresses fundamental causes of hunger and food insecurity of poor and marginalized people and submitted to relevant ministries

-) Initiatives undertaken by the concerned ministry for enactment of Right to Food Act.
-) Larger proportion of women, especially from marginalized communities, has greater access to institutional financing and other productive resources and
-) South Asian civil society network on right to food established
-) Views of small holding producers, especially from marginalized communities, are influencing national and international Right to Food policy discussions
-) Various joint actions by the South Asian civil society initiated and status of SAARC Food Bank and Seed Bank promoted

WAY FORWARD

As a major part of the activities, the platform will be continuing its campaign and facilitating the process for involvement of pertinent stakeholders to spread the issues of right to food and nutritional security and to enacting Right to Food Act. In this connection, *Right to Food Campaign's demand will focus on influencing government to undertake specific steps by this year to enact Right to Food Act in near future.* Besides, critical observations on policies or acts which are discriminatory or violating people's right to food and nutritional security are also imperative to pursue review proposition to the government. RtF BD will learn from in country situation and regional experiences in formulating a persuasive research document in a form of legal framework for ensuring the food and nutritional rights of the people of Bangladesh.

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