



Memo No: 26.00.0000.066.07.030.21- ৪৯৫

Date: 28/06/2021

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING FIRM)**

Name of the Service: **Consultancy/Research firm for conducting 04 studies suggested by Project Steering Committee (PSC) in FY 2021-22 (National).**

Name of the Project: Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1, Ministry of Commerce

Credit No.: 60020; Project ID No.: 154580

Reference number: BRCP1/MOC/SD-02

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1(BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. The second component of this umbrella project is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce as a separate technical assistance project.

The project will conduct the following four studies in 2021-22 fiscal year that are critical for export promotion and trade facilitation:

Study 1: Review of various existing Bilateral Agreements with the important trading countries related to trade, transit and transport ( USA, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil, Russia ); Study 2: A compiled policy and regulatory guidelines/standard operating procedures ( SOP ) for Cross Border Land Port Management with respect to international trade and transport formalities, procedures, documentation and related matters; Study 3: Simplification of Trade Procedures, Custom Modernization ease of doing business for export promotion of Bangladesh to ensure policy coherence between national development priorities and international obligations on Trade facilitation Agreements; Study 4 : Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary ( SPS ) and Technical Barrier on Trade ( TBT ) co-ordination and notification, certification process and infrastructure for promoting trade.

The Project Implementation Unit BRCP-1-MOC on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, general qualifications, description of similar assignments, general experience in similar conditions, financial capability, number of key staff and **so forth as per TOR**. Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. Details of the qualification requirements and responsibilities are available in TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the World Bank Group's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality Based Selection (QBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available in the office of the undersigned and also at [www.mincom.gov.bd](http://www.mincom.gov.bd) and <http://brcp-1.gov.bd/>. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (i.e. 09.00 to 17.00 hours). Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form 2 (two) copies (One original and one copy) in sealed envelope to the address below (in person) **by 03.00 PM on July 29, 2021.**

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

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**Md. Mijanur Rahman**  
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## Terms of Reference

### Consultancy/Research firm for conducting 04 studies suggested by Project Steering Committee (PSC) in FY 2021-22.

#### Background

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) - a member of the World Bank Group - for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project I (BRCP-I), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. The second component of this umbrella project is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce as a separate technical assistance project. The overall objective of this technical assistance project is to strengthen trade related institutional capacity in order to ensure active and sustainable cooperation between multiple trade-related stakeholders and economic empowerment of women traders.

This technical assistance project consists of following three (3) components:

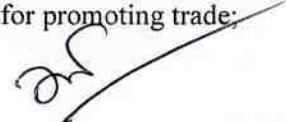
- Component A: Develop (pilot) programs to support female traders and entrepreneurs. This component will pilot activities to help address barriers to women becoming more integrated into regional and global supply chains and trading opportunities.
- Component B: Capacity Development Support for the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee. The inter-ministerial National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee (NTTFC) has been set up to coordinate all trade and transport-related policies and activities in Bangladesh, and will also serve as the Advisory Committee for the Project.
- Component C: Improvements to Bangladesh Trade Portal and to set up a National Enquiry Point for Trade. The Bangladesh Trade Portal (BTP) was launched in March 2016. This component will support further up gradation of the BTP to expand its functionality to include information of relevance to potential Bangladesh exporters and to ensure that content is kept up to date. This component will also set up the National Enquiry Point for Trade, which will help Bangladesh to meet a key requirement of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The Ministry of Commerce intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring consultancy services from qualified research/consultancy firms or institutions/individuals to conduct three studies selected from the list of studies identified under NTTFC activities of the project (Component B). These studies aim to develop in-depth understanding about three relevant areas of trade facilitation and are directly linked with the activities of three implementing agencies of the BRCP-1 umbrella project.

#### 2. Scope of Consultancy Services:

The project will conduct the following four studies in 2020-21/2021-22 fiscal year that are critical for export promotion and trade facilitation:

- Study 1: Review of various existing Bilateral Agreements with the important trading countries related to trade, transit and transport (USA, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil, Russia);
- Study 2: A compiled policy and regulatory guidelines/standard operating procedures (SOP) for Cross Border Land Port Management with respect to international trade and transport formalities, procedures, documentation and related matters;
- Study 3: Simplification of Trade Procedures, Custom Modernization ease of doing business for export promotion of Bangladesh to ensure policy coherence between national development priorities and international obligations on Trade facilitation Agreements
- Study 4: Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barrier on Trade (TBT) co-ordination and notification, certification process and infrastructure for promoting trade;



The detail scope of the proposed studies is given below:

- **Study 1: Review of various existing Bilateral Agreements with the important trading countries related to trade , transit and transport ( USA, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil, Russia );**

Bangladesh is a rapidly growing economy and has set a Vision to become Middle-income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. Bangladesh has also been implementing SDGs. Currently, Bangladesh, as an LDC, has been enjoying duty-free & quota-free (DFQF) market access in many developed and developing countries. However, Bangladesh is going to graduate from the LDC status soon – the process of graduation will start this year by fulfilling UN criteria for graduation. After graduation, Bangladesh will not be entitled to enjoy LDC-specific facilities, like DFQF market access.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to trade as an engine of growth. Importance of trade in its economy is progressively increasing and trade has been directly contributing to over-all development of the country. Trade is not only increasing business activities, it is also :

- generating employment opportunities for millions
- attracting foreign investment
- creating opportunities for international exposures of our businessmen and entrepreneurs

Bilateral trade agreements give preference to certain countries in commercial relationships, **facilitating trade and investment** between the home country and the foreign country by reducing or eliminating tariffs, import quotas, export restraints and other trade barriers. The reasons for bilateral trade relationship are to reduce trade barriers

- Tariff
- Non-tariff
- Para tariff
- Enhance Economic cooperation and integration
- Enhance productivity and competitiveness
- Attract investment and create job opportunities
- Consumer welfare (liberalization vs protection)
- Address other issues, such as intellectual property, e-commerce and government procurement.

In order to create more trade opportunities for achieving various development goals set nationally and internationally, and also to face the post-LDC situation, currently, Bangladesh has been considering to expand bilateral trade with a number of countries, such as

- USA
- Turkey
- Malaysia,
- Brazil
- Russia

The review of various existing bilateral agreements with the important trading countries activities of different competing countries will provide policy feedback to the government for advancing the concept of cooperation in trade, transport and transit facilitation of Bangladesh. These will also promote policy advocacy for issues related to traders, and facilitate policy coherence between national development priorities and bilateral trade expansion. Given the scenario this study has the following objectives to understand the current status of the bilateral trade scenario of Bangladesh with the USA, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil and Russia as well as finding from the different country perspectives and good practices , ways to create an enabling environment, particularly focus is needed on harmonizing export, import and customs related policies with different potential trade partners and standards and guidelines developed at the global levels . These review will analyze the followings :

1. What is the current status of the Bangladesh Bilateral Trade development with the USA, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil and Russia ;
2. What are the international good practices utilized by the different countries to facilitate better trade policy instruments with a view to expand trade and development ; Good practices should reflect applicable comprehensive policy guidelines for the promotion of trade ;
3. Comparative analysis of trade policies of Bangladesh and USA, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil and Russia;
4. What agency is authorized for trade negotiations and under which ministry/authority;
5. Identify the NTBs and other factors for new potential Partners of Brazil and Russia including the RMG focused analysis
6. Is there any possibilities for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ( CEPA ) with these countries including the potential service sector can be identified
7. Review the list of trade diversification prospects of at least 10 diversified product and product wise strategy in these country's as potential export destination
8. Overall suggestions what kind of reform or changes can be made in the bilateral trade agreements with a view to expand trade between these countries;

**Study 2: A Compiled policy and regulatory guidelines /standard operating procedures ( SOP ) for Cross Border Land Port Management with respect to International Trade and transport formalities, procedures, documentations and related matters**

In Bangladesh Land Ports are governed and managed by the "Bangladesh Land port authority" ( BLPA ). This Authority was established in accordance with the Bangladesh Land Port Authority Act, 2001 in order to facilitate better exportation and importation between Bangladesh and its neighbouring countries. BLPA has been active in seeking the improvement of Land routes in Bangladesh ,especially looking at infrastructure development initiatives, increase the efficiency of cargo handling , improving storage facilities and fostering public-private partnership for effective and responsive service delivery at the border. Its activities began under the regulation of the Ministry of Shipping. So far, 23 Land Customs Stations have been declared as Land Ports of which 22 are with India and only one is with Myanmar. These ports are managed by the BLPA as well as private port operators on a build-operate-transfer basis. With the goal of supporting regional connectivity, the BLPA is also active in the South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC ) meeting and other Land Port working group meetings, sharing information on Bangladesh's ongoing projects and experiences and retaining the knowledge needed to remain at the forefront of work that advances regional connectivity.

The Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA) does not make any clear compiled policy and regulatory guidelines or Standard Operating Procedures ( SOP ) regarding Cross Border Land Port Management and *modus operandi* of international trade, transport formalities, procedures and documentations. Accordingly, given the fact that land port management as part of the country's overall trade economic advancement now need to adopts a broad, comprehensive approach relevant to international good practice In order to achieve the goal of trade facilitation there is a need to make trade across borders (imports and exports) faster, and cheaper and more predictable, whilst ensuring its safety and security. In terms of focus, it is about simplifying and harmonizing formalities, procedures, and the related exchange of information and documents between the various partners in the supply chain. There are great potential gains from trade facilitation for both governments and the business community. . Traders across the border will gain in terms of higher predictability and speed of operations and lower transaction costs, resulting in more competitive exports on global markets. For countries as a whole, reducing unnecessary delays and costs attracts investments, and supports growth and job creation.

In order to facilitate effective border operations, there is a need to have an enabling environment that involves different types of interventions and activities addressing the various dimensions of the

government. This includes modernization of border management procedure aiming at a clear, concise, transparent framework. However, it requires an in depth analysis of present land port management and international standards and best practices that are critical for border operations. This study has therefore aimed to conduct a study to do an elaborate analysis of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Cross Boarder Land Port Management that will explore the answers and guide the government through preparing recommendations in the following areas of a compiled policy and regulatory guidelines of border operations:

1. What are the current status of the Bangladesh Land Port Management , which includes speedy international trade procedure, transport formalities, documentations and related issues ;
2. Major institutional weakness for Trade Facilitation and Cross-Border management in Bangladesh including Implementation Gaps and Procedural Hindrances Identified ;
3. Identify the current co-ordination mechanism at the border point and one stop service for the Land Port Management and SOP should be cover both export and import point of view and as the mode of operation varies from the one Land port to other , so there should be categorization need to be incorporated in the SOP;
4. What are the international standards , best practices and technologies elsewhere in terms operation of the Land Port to facilitate better management at the borders;;
5. Requirements of Legislative, Administrative and Policy Reforms Identified
6. What adjustments or modifications are required for making the Bangladesh Land Port management efficient, effective and harmonized for trade facilitation?

### **Study 3 : Simplification of Trade Procedures, Custom modernization, ease of doing business for export promotion of Bangladesh to ensure policy coherence between national development priorities and international obligations on trade facilitation agreements**

Trade facilitation covers all steps that can be taken in view of smoothing the flow of trade. The term is widely used to cover all sorts of non-tariff barriers. In WTO concept, trade facilitation is limited to “the simplification and harmonization of international trade procedures, covering the activities, practices and formalities involved in collecting, presenting, communicating and processing data required for the movement of goods in international trade”. Trade facilitation aims at developing a consistent, transparent, coherent, non-discriminatory and predictable environment for international trade transactions based on internationally accepted norms and practices resulting from simplification of formalities and procedures, standardization and improvement of physical infrastructure and facilities, harmonization of applicable laws and regulations. The main goal of trade facilitation is to reduce the transaction costs and complexity of international trade for businesses and improve the trading environment in a country, while maintaining efficient and effective levels of government control.

As a signatory of WTO's *Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)* the Ministry of Commerce has played a key role in mobilizing various government agencies to determine the path forward for the implementation of Bangladesh's TFA commitments. To coordinate all trade-and transport-related policies and activities in Bangladesh, and to manage all activities and initiatives related to the TFA, *the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee (NTTFC)* has been established.

It may be emphasized in the findings and recommendations that proper implementation of the TFA will promote the simplification, modernization and harmonization of trade processes to reduce cost and time, boost trade flows and increase the world GDP growth. For effective implementation of the TFA and for better cooperation, coordination and management among the relevant public and private sector agencies, the whole activities of the land ports is needed to bring under a single authority, particularly under the Bangladesh *land Port Authority (BLPA)*. Building of modern warehouses equipped with all modern loading and unloading facilities containers and other goods, providing sufficient testing facilities, constructing

spacious connected roads and introducing of automated system would contribute facilitating and augmenting the capacity of the land ports thereby enhancing the cross-border trade between Bangladesh and India and other regional countries. Efficiency of the performance of the ports would also elevate with the engagement of adequate trained manpower on port operation and management in the land ports (LPs), land Customs Stations (LCS) particularly at the sanitary and phyto-sanitary and, immigration offices etc. Simplification and integration of various documents related to import and exports and making these compatible for electronic transaction is essential to save time, cost and burden of the traders as well as the officials of all concerned . In this regard the objectives and scope of the study is to identify the following :

1. Current status of Bangladesh in Implementation of simplified trade procedures, custom modernization for ease of doing business for export promotion;
2. The policy Gaps between the obligation of the Trade facilitation agreement and present situation in implementation of the TFA in Bangladesh;
3. Identify the Policy/ Act/ Rules to support simplification of Trade Procedure , documentation , automation and Paperless Trade according to the international standards
4. Institutional weakness and procedural hindrance;
5. Best practice of the regional countries in implementation of TFA ;

#### **Study 4 : Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary ( SPS) and Technical Barrier on Trade ( TBT ), Coordination and notification , certification process and infrastructure for promoting trade**

The main objective of this research initiative is to conduct a National Diagnostic Study (NDS) in Bangladesh to reach a better understanding of the SPS and TBT situation in Bangladesh, its cost of trade implications, and to address the required capacity building action, both locally and regionally. This study intends to serve the broader objectives to promote trade and resulting economic development in the sub-region, fraught with negligible intra-regional trade. Generally speaking, SPS and TBT measures are considered as so called 'Technical Measures', meant for the governments' legitimate objectives to protect human, animal, and plant health and environment, and to ensure product and consumer safety. Hence, these measures imposed by governments are there to stay and be enforced. This has implications for trade. The study intends to focus on the trade implications of these SPS/TBT measures, and attempts to find capacity building measures for better compliance and less distortion for trade flows, as per the pre-approved methodology. SPS/TBT Diagnostics Study comprises the following phases:

1. Review the current scenario of SPS/TBT measures in Bangladesh and its institutional framework, infrastructure facilities and legal structure ;
2. Identify the coordination at National, Regional and international level to ensure SPS/TBT notification compliances ;
3. Gaps comparing current national SPS legislation, local practices, and international best practices;
4. Building a robust understanding of the specific needs of the country through national diagnostic studies (NDS);
5. Based on the national diagnostic studies, identifying common issues and challenges faced by the countries in a regional diagnostic study (RDS) to facilitate development of coordinated regional responses and required capacity building actions;
6. Identify the specific items which have the potential for exports from the country and subject to SPS/TBT measures of the importing countries;
7. Conducting a gap analysis that examines and compares current national legislation, local practices, and international best practice;
8. Carrying out practical field studies in identification of standards or regulations in the SASEC countries that are impeding trade on the above identified items;
9. Identifying the reforms in Institutional ,infrastructure, legal capacity, and presenting prioritized recommendations for necessary future investments; and

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10. How to strengthening the notification procedures of the SPS/TBT measures to WTO;

### 9. Timeframe of the Services:

The duration of the assignment is anticipated to run for a period of six months commencing on the date of signing the agreement. The Consulting Firm shall report to the Project Director or his assigned official for any clarification with regard to the assigned responsibilities or any issues that need to be mitigated.

Sl.No.	Report/ Deliverables	Expected date of Delivery
01	Inception Report	Within 02 Week from contract signing
02	Literature review ,data collection and Draft Report preparation	From Week 03-20 from contract signing
03	Presentation of the draft report findings in a Validation Workshop	Within 21 weeks from contract signing. All cost of the workshop will be borne by the Consultant.
04	Submission of the Final Reports	Within 24 weeks of contract signing

### 10. Expected deliverables from the firms/institutions:

The consultancy firm will at least submit the following reports for each of the studies to the project authority:

- a) Inception Report
- b) Draft Report
- c) Final Report

The Inception Report (IR) will contain scopes, methodologies and work plan for each of the studies separately and in detail. The IR must have an elaboration of study questions and objectives. This elaboration should follow the detail of research methodologies to be applied for each of the studies. The detail plan of quantitative and qualitative analysis and methods for data analysis will also have to be included in the inception report. The methodologies should include justification for choosing a particular method of data collection, sampling design and indicators, data sources, detail of data collection methods and a set of data collection instruments to be used in each of the studies, detail of field survey or study and limitations in study. The inception report should also contain the detail of key persons engaged in the study and their specific responsibilities. It should also contain the plan for monitoring and evaluation of study progress by the research firm and the client's representatives. The work plan also needs to be detail so that the client understands how the studies will reach to final stage of report writing. The Inception Report will be evaluated by the technical committee of the project and fit recommendations of the technical committee will have to be reflected in the reports before finalization of the same.

Draft Final Report (DFR) will contain detailed findings, qualitative and quantitative analysis on findings. The structure of DFR should at least contain executive summary of the study, introduction, literature survey, methodology of the study, findings of the study, discussion and analysis, recommendations and conclusions, references and annexures. This study will have four separate DFRs. Report should be delivered in English version. The Draft Final report will be finalized after a validation workshop.

The Final Report (FR) of the study should be submitted to PIU on agreed formats before the end of the contract period. The report should at least contain executive summary introduction, literature survey, methodology, findings, discussions and analysis, lesson learned, recommendations/suggestions, conclusions, references and database in the annexure. The FR should also have a discussion about the observations of the stakeholders including clients and their answers. This study will have four separate FRs. Report should be delivered in English version.

The consultant will arrange for proof reading, if required to maintain the quality. All field notes and the data set should be submitted as annexure with the final report. Follow up meetings will be held time-to-time between the contracted agency/consultant and BRCP MOC. Ten (10) printed copies of each of the final reports should be submitted along with soft copies. During the implementation, any other information that is important may be added deleted during discussion periods, which may become an integral part of the TOR.

## **11. Methodology of Study**

**Sampling:** Depending on sub-components and components, the sampling unit will be decided in consultation with the implementing agency(s). A sample frame including number participants in different data collection methods will be developed using standard sampling framework for each study topic according to agreed catchment area(s)/ principles and discussion with the implementing agencies. Identification of potential FTA Partners would require Modeling outputs and quantitative analysis. Qualitative analysis of different treaties may be included.

**Document Review:** The studies will have a large number of document reviews to do analysis and comparison among regulatory regimes.

**Questionnaire:** The survey questions will be developed and agreed with the related implementing agency(ies). Testing of the questions will be required.

### **Key Informants Interviews:**

To verify data collected from beneficiaries, group or individual interviews with informants will need to be organized. Approach to selecting KII and guide is to be elaborated by the firm.

### **Focus Group Discussion:**

The survey team can use the FGDs tool. The FGDs will complement the data generated from the survey questions and through other methods. The FGDs will be carried out in mix separate male/female groups as appropriate and will be carried out based on an elaborated guide approved beforehand by the related implementing agency(ies). Detailed documentation of the proceedings of the FGDs will be maintained.





## Public Consultations

These studies will also include public consultations at selected locations with the relevant stakeholders in discussion with the implementing agency (ies).

## Data Analysis and reporting

The data will be processed in SPSS or similar data processing software. The qualitative data will be analyzed by using NVIVO or other similar software. Privacy of the survey data will be strictly maintained by the consultant/firm.

## 12. Consulting Firms qualification and experiences

The interested consulting firm should provide evidence of the following in their applications:

The Consulting firm shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract;

- The firm should have at least 10 years of general experience in providing consulting services out of which at least 03 years of experience in national and international trade related research or studies for public and private sector;
- The firm should have successfully completed at least two service contract related to national and international trade within last 07 years;
- Experience in study/research on trade policy/SPS & TBT issues/bilateral trade agreements between Bangladesh and other countries/ multi-lateral trade agreements where Bangladesh is a member/ cross-border trade and transport management/international business will be given advantage.
- The firm should have experience in working with development partner's funded projects
- The required average annual turnover of the consulting firm shall be at least Tk. 60 (Sixty) Lac in last three years;
- A capacity statement on available training facilities, IT equipment, logistics support, transport and office space;
- Undertaking that the firm has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Government Organization or by IDA;
- List of key professional staff including proposed core team for the assignment, showing qualification and experience including the projects/assignment on which they have worked, their role in the assignment/project and duration of their engagement with the assignment/project.
- **Required Documents:** The company must submit the following documents:
  - a) Company Registration, Up to date Tax payment certification and VAT registration certificate;
  - b) Audited Financial statement (last 03 Years);
  - c) Company Brochure.

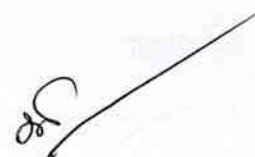
81

### 13. Team Composition and their Qualifications

The proposed services under this Terms of Reference shall be carried out by using a firm (Consultant) with adequate experience in designing and delivering the expected output of the study. The firm should propose the structure and composition of its team members. It should list the main disciplines of the assignment, the key experts, technical and support staff. An indicative team structure may be as follows:

- A. Team Leader-1.
- B. Senior Trade Expert-2;
- C : Legal Expert-1
- C. Junior Trade Expert: 1

Position	Duration (man months)	Qualification, Experience and Responsibility
Team Leader-01 No.	06	<p>Team Leader (TL) must have a minimum of 15 years of general experience out of which at least 10 years' relevant prior experience with the trade related issues. He must have relevant Master's degree from a recognized university preferably in International Trade, Trade Law, Business Administration or other Trade &amp; Economics related areas. She/he must have experience in working with trade regulating agencies and familiarity with trade environment and related international agreements. Must have experience of working with complex, multi-system environments in public sector. Experience in study/research on trade policy/SPS &amp; TBT issues/ custom procedures/trade regulatory measures will be added advantage.</p> <p>The Team Leader will take the overall responsibility for the execution of the assignment in accordance with the TOR and also for the coordination of all professional inputs. She/he will be responsible to the Employer and maintain close contact with Project Director (Employer's representative) to ensure that the contract is implemented in accordance with the World Bank guidelines. The Team Leader will act as the Consultant's authorized representative for both the design and implementation supervision phase and make decisions on all matters pertaining to the consulting services.</p>



Senior Trade Expert-02 No.	08	The incumbent must have a minimum of 15 years of general experience out of which at least 05 years' relevant experience in international trade areas. She/he must have relevant Master's degree from a recognized university preferably in International Trade, Trade Law, Business Administration, Public Policy or other Trade & Economics related areas. Deep understanding and expertise on WTO TFA implementation procedures/ SPS/TBT measures/ standards/ cross border trading process is mandatory. Experience in trade policy related projects in the Government offices and good understanding of international, regional and bilateral trade agreements and business procedures in Bangladesh will be a strong advantage. She/he should have strong written and verbal skills in English knowledge and understanding of business practices of trade regulating agencies and proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, power point and Microsoft Projects.
Junior Trade Expert (01 no)	06	The incumbent must have a minimum of 07 years of general experience out of which at least 02 years' relevant experience in international trade related areas. She/he must have relevant Master's degree from a recognized university preferably in International Trade, Trade Law, Business Administration/Economics and other trade related fields. She/he should have familiarity with trade policy and bilateral & regional trade agreement issues in South Asia, South east Asia and other important countries. Experience in the field of trade laws and policy/ SPS/TBT measures and standards/ non-tariff barriers/ cross border trading process will be added advantage. She/he should have strong written and verbal skills in English knowledge.
Legal Expert- 01 No.	03	The incumbent must have a minimum of 10 years of general experience out of which at least 05 years' relevant experience in trade related laws. Preference will be given at experience of working with trade regulatory agencies. She/he must have relevant Master's degree from a recognized university preferably in Law or Trade Law or International Trade or other related areas. She/he should have strong analytical skills and understanding of trade regulating rules and regulations of Bangladesh.

The Consulting firm will also propose program support staff as per their work plan.

#### 14. Selection Method:

The Consulting firm will be selected by Quality-Based Selection (QBS) method following World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers - January 2011 (Modified in April 2015) ("Consultant Guidelines") available in the website:

<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/615761468322433244/pdf/578440PUB0REPL0ngl ish0Final0Jan2011.pdf> and PPA 2006 and PPR 2008.

### **15. Payment**

Payments shall be made in line with agreed-on outputs according to the following schedule:

- Inception Report: Twenty (20%) per cent lump-sum of contract price shall be paid upon submission of the Inception Report duly accepted by the Client.
- Draft Final Report: Forty (40%) per cent lump-sum of contract price shall be paid after submission the draft report duly accepted by the Client and
- Final Report: Forty (40%) per cent lump-sum of contract Price shall be paid after submission the final report duly accepted by the Client.
- All relevant taxes and VAT shall be deducted at source at the applicable rates by the Government of Bangladesh.

### **16. Miscellaneous**

The firm (consultant) will facilitate monitoring of studies by the employer, and World Bank officials. The project will provide to the Consulting firm all key program documents & reports such as:

- Relevant extract of Technical Assistance Project proposal (TAPP), if required;
- Sharing relevant up to date project information for a better understanding of the project;
- Providing timely feedback to the consulting firm on inception report, questionnaire, sampling, training module, draft reports etc.;
- Any logistic support such as transportation as well as office space will not be provided by the client.

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## ANNEX-1: BACKGROUND OF FOUR STUDIES

### Study 1: Review of various existing Bilateral Agreements with the important trading countries related to trade , transit and transport ( USA, Turkey, Malaysia, Brazil, Russia )

#### USA

- ❖ Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreements ( TICFA ) between USA and Bangladesh was signed on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at the aim to monitor trade and investment relations between the Parties and identify opportunities for expanding trade and investment. Consider specific trade and investment matters of interest to the Parties and identify and work to remove impediments to trade and investment between the Parties. Gist of the TICFA Agreement are :
- ❖ Fostering an open and predictable environment for trade and investment
- ❖ Reducing trade distorting investment measures
- ❖ Role of private investment in furthering growth, creating jobs, expanding trade, improving technology and enhancing economic development
- ❖ Importance of trade in services between these two economies
- ❖ Desirability of reducing non-tariff trade barriers in order to facilitate increased trade
- ❖ Protecting and preserving the environment in accordance with each party's environmental laws, and desiring to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive in the furtherance of sustainable development

Bangladesh main export item to the USA was RMG, the contribution of which was worth US\$ 5204.01 million and share of which in Bangladesh export to the USA was 89.34%. Other major exportable to the USA were Shrimps, Fish, Tobacco, Leather & Hides, Footwear, Ceramic ware, Jute & Jute goods, Pharmaceuticals etc. But the contribution of these items to our export earning from the USA is very negligible. So we have a tremendous opportunity to increase our export to the USA. Major imports from the USA into Bangladesh are Vegetable products, Prepared Food- Stuffs, Animal or Vegetable fats and oils, Mineral products, Chemical products, Plastic and Rubber articles, Articles of wood, Pulp of wood, Textile & Textile articles, Cotton, Footwear, Articles of stone, Base metals, Vehicles, Machinery and Mechanical appliances, Optical, Arms and Ammunition and Works of art etc.

*The balance of trade position between the two countries is as follows:  
The Value in Million US\$*

FY	Export	Import	Balance
2009-2010	3950.47	469.49	(+) 3480.98
2010-2011	5107.52	676.70	(+) 4430.82
2011-2012	5100.91	710.40	(+) 4390.51
2012-2013	5419.60	537.80	(+) 4881.80
2013-2014	5583.62	801.10	(+) 4782.52
2014-2015	5783.43	761.20	(+) 5022.23
2015-2016	6220.65	1006.10	(+) 5214.55
2016-2017	5846.64	1126.20	(+) 4720.44
2017-2018	5983.31	1703.66	(+)4279.65
2018-19	6876.29	1777.00	(+)5099.29
2019-20	5832.39	2126.10	(+) 3706.29

With regards to structure of export to the US, five categories of products: woven and knit apparel, home textiles, Cap and Fish account for 97 percent of Bangladesh's export to the US. Thus, Bangladesh's export to the US is highly concentrated to a very few products, which makes the Bangladesh's export to the US highly vulnerable. It is noteworthy to mention that woven and knit apparels which constitute around 90 percent of Bangladesh's export to the US face 16.6 and 17.1 percent duty respectively in the US.

Bangladesh, despite being an LDC, has been facing highest duty among other trading partners of the US. This is a significant trade barrier imposed on the Bangladeshi products. Following the Rana plaza collapse, US Government Suspended the GSP facilities provided earlier to Bangladesh. Since then Bangladesh Government has taken various steps including legal reforms to comply with the 'Bangladesh Action Plan' put forward by the US as a precondition for reinstatement of GSP for Bangladesh's products. *Although* most of the LDC countries have been provided with GSP market access to the US market, Bangladesh has been kept outside of that preview.

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Bangladesh considers USA as one of the potential destinations for exporting various services. Bangladesh has a large pool of young population, which is capable of providing various services to the rest of the world.

## **TURKEY**

Trade Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Republic of Turkey was signed on 27.07.1976. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, being desirous of developing, expanding and strengthening the economic and trade relations between the two countries .

The two Governments shall facilitate import and export to each other's territories in accordance with their respective laws, rules and regulations. In accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of the respective countries, goods exported by one country to the other shall, when entering the country of the other, be accompanied by a certificate of origin issued by the competent authorities of the exporting country.

Payments for goods and services exchanged between the two countries shall be made in convertible currencies accepted by the respective Central Bank and subject to foreign exchange laws, rules and regulations of the country concerned.

The two Governments agreed to accord each other, subject to their respective laws, rules and regulations, facilities for participating in International Trade Fairs and exhibitions held in their territories and to encourage visits of businessmen and trade delegations to each other's country.

For the purpose of promoting the aims of this Agreement Joint Committee to be designated by the respective Government shall be established.

The Committee thus established shall meet upon the request of either party alternately in Bangladesh and Turkey at a mutually agreed date.

### **Bilateral Economic and Trade Relations Between Bangladesh And Turkey**

#### **Figures of export, import, trade volume (million \$)**

Year	Export	Import	Volume	Balance
2015	200	996	1.196	-796
2016	264	881	1.145	-617
2017	294	737	1.032	-443
2018	373	484	857	-111
2019	427,1	508,6	935,8	-81,5
2020/3 months	96,6	173,2	269,6	-76,6

**Main commodities exported to Bangladesh :** Iron and steel construction material, cotton, milk and milk products, machines and their components, textile machinery, spices, generators.

**Main commodities imported from Bangladesh:** Jute yarns & twine, Jute manufacturers knitwear, woven garments, leather, ceramics.

#### **Bilateral Cooperation Mechanisms:**

- **Joint Economic Commission Meeting (JEC):** The last JEC meeting between the two countries (5th period) was held in Ankara on 19-20 November 2019.

- **Business Council:** The Council was established in 2011.

#### **Agreements on the agenda:**

The signing of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Bangladesh and Turkey is on Agenda.

## Malaysia

Trade Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of Malaysia was signed on 01.12.1977. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and The Government of the Malaysia (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties"); desiring to strengthen and further develop the commercial relations existing between Bangladesh and Malaysia have resolved to conclude an agreement on the basis of equality and mutual benefit for the purpose of facilitating and extending the commercial relations between the two countries .

- Malaysia with a population of 28.5 million in an area of some 3,30,000 sq. km having a GDP of US \$ 337.0 billion is an important trading partner of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the third largest trading partner of Malaysia among the South Asian nations after India and Pakistan
- According to the Statistics the two-way trade between two countries was US \$ 2.22 billion in the FY 2014-15 having a huge trade imbalance. In the FY 2014-15 , Bangladesh imports from Malaysia stood at \$ 2084.0 million and exports accounted for \$ 135.64 million.
- Bangladesh's major export items to Malaysia are woven and knit garment followed by items like vegetable, roots, tubers and processed foods. On the other hand main import from Malaysia are Mineral Fuel and oil, Animal and vegetable fats, dry food, electronic equipment e.t.c.
- Malaysia is the largest ASEAN investor in Bangladesh in Telecommunications, Textiles and Financial Sector amounting about \$1.6 billion
- Starting negotiation for FTA between Bangladesh and Malaysia was discussed with her counterpart during Bangladesh's Hon'ble Prime Minister visit to Malaysia in December 2014.
- The Trade and Industry Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister at her official resident Ganabhaban on 13 Jauary2015 and also with the Hon'ble Commerce Minister .
- Malaysia's major imports are from China, Japan, Singapore, USA , Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea , Indonesia , Hong Kong etc. and all these countries are getting benefits of FTAs and other bilateral agreements
- The economy size of Malaysia is larger than Bangladesh but GDP growth rate of Bangladesh is much higher
- No preferential arrangement is present between the two countries. FDI scenario shows that Bangladesh has no FDI in Malaysia but Malaysia has significant investment in Bangladesh. Malaysia has demand for overseas workers.
- Malaysia is more efficient than Bangladesh in forming FTA. Bangladesh has a shallow export basket, exporters of Bangladesh may widen their product portfolio to tap the benefit from FTA. Bangladesh is examining the possibilities
- Cost of production in Malaysia is increasing day by day. FTA between two countries may provoke Malaysia to relocate their SMEs in Bangladesh as 77.2% of the total business establishment are SMEs. A suitable FTA may divert Malaysia's import from other countries .
- Malaysia already posses a good market share in Bangladesh with a high level of tariff. Bilateral FTA may decrease the revenue. Therefore , negotiation should focus aimed at seeking opportunities under different modes and sector of services
- So, in the service sector, Malaysia may be the potential export destination of Bangladesh. FTA may simplify and facilitate the movement of human resources between two countries
- Since Malaysia generally does not apply discriminatory trade measures between domestic and imported goods and services, there is an opportunity for Bangladesh products to compete with Malaysian local products.
- Malaysia is the heart of ASEAN countries. A possible bilateral FTA/ PTA will contribute to elevating the competitiveness of manufacturing industries of the two countries by improving market access.
- Besides, Malaysia has signed Trans-Pacific Partnership ( TPP ) with other 11 countries which is a mega trade block and Malaysia is also trying to form a FTA with EU. So signing any preferential arrangement/ FTA with Malaysia may develop an avenue to increase export, investment or diplomatic tie.

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Financial Year	Export	Import	Balance
2009-10	61.98	1232.08	(1170.10)
2010-11	43.87	1759.60	(1715.73)
2011-12	56.12	1406.70	(1350.58)
2012-13	100.11	1903.10	(1802.99)
2013-14	135.65	2084.10	(1948.45)
2015-16	191.05	956.70	(765.65)
2016-17	211.52	1056.34	(844.82)
2017-18	232.42	1410.10	(1177.68)
2018-19	277.23	1496.00	(1218.77)
2019-20	236.37	1671.30	(1434.93)

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### Brazil

Trade agreement between the Government People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil was signed on 13.02. 1976. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and The Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties, being desirous of strengthening the friendship traditionally existing between them, and of promoting close economic and commercial relation between their countries.

### List of Exportable items from Bangladesh to Brazil

1. Raw Jute 2. Jute Manufactures including Jutex/Jutton 3. Paper and Newsprint 4. Paper board including Hard /Chip/Particle board 5. Silk and silk products 6. Fish processed & canned including shrimps 7. Handloom products 8. Tea 9. Molasses 10. Coir and coir products 11. Frog legs 12. Tobacco 13. Spices (all sorts) 14. Crude herbs and drugs 15. Oil cakes 16. Human and animal hair 17. Shellac/ Lac 18. Brooms & Brooms stick 19. Sharkfins and fish maws 20. Cotton waste & Linters 21. Animal casing 22. Alcoholic beverages 23. Pharmaceuticals 24. Wires & Cables 25. Chemicals (Glycerine) 26. Leather (Cow hides) and finished leather goods 27. Hurricane lanterns/ Kerosene cookers 28. Rayon Yarn 29. Cellophane paper 30. Safety matches 31. Melamine products 32. M.S. pipes 33. Carpets / mats 34. Fabric Flex 35. Crushed bones 36. Catechu

### List of Exportable Items from Brazil to Bangladesh

Coffee, green 2. Cotton Wool 3. Beans and seeds of oleaginous fruits 4. Vegetable oils 5. Fruits juice 6. Instant coffee 7. Rice 8. Products of chemical industries 9. Waxes 10. Textiles 11. Metallurgical minerals 12. Base metals and articles thereof 13. Sulphur Powder 14. Pumps, motor pumps, and turbo-pumps for liquid, air and vacuum 15. Refrigerating machines 16. Pulverizers or dusters for agriculture 17. Machines and apparatus for lifting, charging, discharging and moving. 18. Earth moving machines 19. Sewing machines 20. Machines for leather industry 21. Machines and apparatus for working wood and metals 22. Machines for working soil 23. Equipment for food industry 24. Electrical machinery and apparatus 25. Tools 26. Domestic appliances 27. Automobile vehicles and spare parts 28. Cement 29. Footwear 30. Locomotives.

In Million \$US





Financial Year	Export	Import	Balance
2015-16	135.60	952.30	(816.70)
2016-17	115.64	1181.28	(1065.64)
2017-18	176.90	1442.10	( 1265.20)
2018-19	175.44	1402.30	(1226.86)
2019-20	120.26	1428.70	(1308.44 )

## Russia

Bangladesh and Russia enjoy growing trade relations. There exists huge potential for further enhancement of bilateral trade. Vast potential market and advantage of growing demand of goods could develop into fruitful economic relations with Russia. The trade and economic relations between the two friendly countries initiated by signing a **General Trade Agreement (GTA)** signed on 31.03.1972 between Bangladesh and the former USSR.

### Bangladesh – Russia Balance of Trade

Value in Million US\$

FY	Export	Import	Balance
2010-11	96.95	153.00	-56.05
2011-12	133.25	337.90	-204.65
2012-13	208.29	335.30	-127.01
2013-14	283.35	286.40	-3.05
2014-15	294.57	221.50	73.07
2015-16	314.29	280.30	33.99
2016-17	464.62	465.64	(1.02)
2017-18	485.23	629.80	(144.57)
2018-19	548.26	652.80	( 104.54)
2019-20	487.29.	781.90	( 294.61)

- **Main export commodities of Bangladesh to Russia:** Shrimps, Knitwear, Woven garments, Jute, Jute yarn and twine, Home textile, Ceramic tableware, Leather, etc.
- **Main export commodities of Russia to Bangladesh:** Products of Chemical and allied industries, Fertilizers, Corns (wheat), Steel metal, Machinery & mechanical appliances, electrical equipment, Vehicles, Aircrafts, Vessels, Vegetables products, etc.

Russia is member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which is an international organization for regional economic integration. It has international legal personality and is established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union. The EAEU provides for free movement of goods, services, capital and labor, pursues coordinated, harmonized and single policy in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union. The Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union are the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation.

**Study 2: A Compiled policy and regulatory guidelines /standard operating procedures ( SOP ) for Cross Border Land Port Management with respect to International Trade and transport formalities, procedures, documentations and related matters**

The main areas of trade facilitation include:

- Infrastructure investment;
- Customs modernization and border crossing-environment;
- Streamlining of documentary requirements and information flows;
- Automation and Electronic Data Interchange EDI;
- Ports efficiency;
- Logistics and transport services: regulation and competitiveness;
- Transit and multimode transport; and
- Transport security.

Bangladesh has focused on creating a more favorable environment for trade over the last few decades with a growing realization that trade facilitation and promotion is instrumental for economic development. While initial trade reforms focused mostly on trade liberalization, the reduction of import duties, the rationalization of tariffs, the promotion of exports, and removal of visible trade barriers, it became clear that Bangladesh would have to take significant strides to carve a more pronounced place for itself in the global trade community. *Bangladesh became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 1 January 1995.* Prior to joining the WTO, Bangladesh had become a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1972 and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1978.

Bangladesh adopted a range of measures to facilitate trade, including (i) abolishing its import licensing system under the Ministry of Commerce in 1984, (ii) becoming a contracting party to the WCO's International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System in 1987, and (iii) introducing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in 1994.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, Bangladesh signed the letter of intent to implement the WCO's Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework). On 28 September 2012, Bangladesh acceded to the WCO's Revised Kyoto Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (RKC). Both events marked instrumental milestones toward improving trade facilitation.

Bangladesh ratified the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on 27 September 2016. Since then, the Ministry of Commerce has played a key role in mobilizing various government agencies to determine the path forward for the implementation of Bangladesh's TFA commitments. To coordinate all trade-and transport-related policies and activities in Bangladesh, and to manage all activities and initiatives related to the TFA, the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee (NTTFC) was established in January 2018 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Commerce.<sup>2</sup> The NTTFC-which comprises 31 members, including high-level officials and representatives of relevant ministries, departments, and trade bodies-also provides policy direction to the relevant agencies.

**Bangladesh Institutions and Agencies Overseeing and Implementing Trade Facilitation-Ministry of Commerce.**

When the TFA entered into force on 22 February 2017, the Ministry of Commerce was entrusted with the role of being the nodal ministry for activities relating to the TFA. As such, the ministry involved relevant agencies to analyze the 36 measures of the TFA to determine the combination of Categories A, B, and C that Bangladesh would commit to as part of its accession. Other relevant agencies are listed below:

- National Board of Revenue
- Ministry of Shipping
- Ministry of Road transport and Bridges



- Ministry of Railways
- Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Industries
- Ministry of Shipping
- Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources;
- Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; and
- Bangladesh Bank (central bank).

These agencies are aligning their current laws, policies, and practices and procedures to the requirements of the new TFA. To do so, they have identified capacity-building and trade facilitation gaps, as well as the technical support required narrowing or closing these gaps. On 20 February 2018, Bangladesh notified the WTO of its category commitments under the TFA. The Ministry of Commerce, in coordination with the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee NTTFC, will engage relevant agencies for the implementation of specific measures and provisions under each of these categories.

Trade facilitation covers all steps that can be taken in view of smoothing the flow of trade. The term is widely used to cover all sorts of non-tariff barriers. Trade facilitation encompasses the simplification and harmonization of international trade procedures, covering the activities, practices and formalities involved in collecting, presenting communicating and processing data required for the movement of goods in international trade. Trade facilitation aims at developing a consistent, transparent, coherent, non-discriminatory and predictable environment for international trade transactions based on internationally accepted norms and practices resulting from simplification of formalities and procedures, standardization and improvement of physical infrastructure and facilities, harmonization of applicable laws and regulations. The main goal of trade facilitation is to reduce the transaction costs and complexity of international trade for businesses and improve the trading environment in a country, while maintaining efficient and effective levels of government control.

#### **Study 4 : Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary ( SPS) and Technical Barrier on Trade ( TBT ), Coordination and notification , certification process and infrastructure for promoting trade**

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures and Technical Barriers to Trade are two important Non-Tariff Measures prescribed by the WTO for the protection of human and animal health and also for the protection of plant health. The SPS Agreement is essential about health and international trade. International trade and travel have expanded significantly in the past 50 years. This has increased the movement of products that may pose health risks. The SPS Agreement recognizes the need for WTO members to protect themselves from the risks posed by the entry of pests and diseases, but also seeks to minimize any negative effects of SPS measures on trade. The health aspect of the SPS Agreement basically means that WTO members can protect human, animal or plant life or health by applying measures to manage the risks associated with imports. The measures usually take the form of quarantine or food safety requirements. The measures that WTO members apply can be classified as sanitary-relating to human or animal life or health or phyto-sanitary-relating plant life or health. The international trade aspect of the SPS Agreement basically means that, in seeking to protect health, WTO members must not use SPS measures that are: unnecessary, not science-based, arbitrary, or which constitute a disguised restriction on international trade. The SPS agreement includes a series of trade disciplines on how SPS measures will be established and used by countries when they establish, revise, or apply their domestic laws and regulations. Countries agree to base their SPS standards on science, and as guidance for their actions, the agreement encourages countries to use standards set by international standard setting organizations. The SPS agreement seeks to ensure that SPS measures will not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate against trade of certain other members nor be used to disguise trade restrictions. In the SPS agreement, countries maintain the sovereign right to provide the level of health protection they deem appropriate, but agree that this right will not be misused for protectionist purposes nor result in unnecessary trade barriers. As a signatory of the WTO's Agreement on Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary (SPS) measures, Bangladesh has SPS regime and institutional mechanism in place to administer SPS measures with the objective of protecting life and health of human, animals, and plants. • Bangladesh considers SPS measures from two points of view: • (i) import point of

view, and • (ii) export point of view, • These are administered on the basis of number of laws and related regulations.

Over 90% of Bangladeshi exporters are facing regulatory and procedural obstacles to trade. A survey of 1,000 companies in Bangladesh identified long waiting times, administrative hurdles and lack of accredited laboratories in the country to be the main causes of the reported difficulties when exporting or importing. The report recommends upgrading domestic infrastructure and streamlining procedures, enhancing enterprise competitiveness and sector development, and improving transparency in trade and trade facilitation. Survey results show that 91% of exporters in Bangladesh are affected by burdensome NTMs and other obstacles to trade. This is one of the highest rates observed from the ITC surveys, which have been implemented in 35 developing countries and the European Union (EU). In general, exporters were more affected (91%) than importers (53%). Shares of affected exporters in both the agri-food products sector (96%) and manufactured goods sector (90%) are very high.

Like other Developing Countries Bangladesh also lacks to comply with Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures and also faces trouble with maintaining standards for domestic and international requirements. Government of Bangladesh has taken the Vision 2021 to turn the country into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed one in 2041. It has also recognized trade as the main engine of growth in the 8th Five Year Plan. To develop trade capacity and product diversification supply side capacity producing quality and healthy products is the prime necessity of the economy. Few years ago the fishery export of Bangladesh faced ban for SPS issue. Recently, the European Union has warned Bangladesh about non-compliance fresh vegetables and fruits. Bangladesh has voluntarily imposed export ban on some vegetable items. To overcome these market access issues created by SPS trade barriers, Bangladesh requires its stakeholders to be well informed and follow good production process. The entrepreneurs need to follow the minimum standard set by the WTO.

Some countries now a days are imposing more stringent SPS and TBT measures in their country for import of food products. Some companies are also imposing private standards and voluntary standards which are also getting difficult for a country like Bangladesh to comply with.

This study will help the policy makers to better understand the socio-economic effects of SPS and TBT Measures both from theoretical and empirical perspectives. In particular, to understand the effects of maintaining minimum level standard set by the international organizations. Complying with international standards will certainly benefit us to export more, product diversification and market diversification. It may also help us to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade.

