

IFAD plans \$41.7m project for charland regions

BSS, Dhaka

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialised agency of the United Nations, is contemplating funding a 41.7 million US dollar Market Infrastructure Development Project in charland

regions. IFAD sources said the project, which is now at the formulation stage, will cover districts in the lower Meghna estuary and nearby coastal areas in southern Bangladesh, including Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Lakkhipur and Noakhali. Infrastructure and

market access in this region -- which is characterised by land accretion -- are especially poorly developed.

Local Government and Engineering Department will implement the project which is expected to take off in July 2006. The project will include entrepreneurs engaged in

trade -- both within and outside formal markets -- and primary producers -- farmers and others.

Special efforts will be made to target women traders, sources said. The goal of the project will be to create employment and economic opportunities for poor people in disadvantaged areas by increasing commercial and trading activities around markets in estuarine and coastal chars, sources said.

Through the market infrastructure development component, the project will support the development of physical infrastructure for markets, market facilities and farm-to-market roads, and build up a capacity for market management.

The component will promote greater participation by market committees and traders in the development of market development plans and establish a fund for market maintenance.

The market enterprise development component will support market traders and other small trading enterprises in terms of technical and management training and access to credit.

The project will also provide support for farmers and access to credit. It will also provide support for farmers and others in producing and linking to markets, including the establishment

of enterprise development groups of market entrepreneurs.

The project will also promote opportunities for women traders through development of women's areas in growth centre markets and adding such areas to other markets.

Gender-orientation training will be provided to enable women to become active members of market committees.

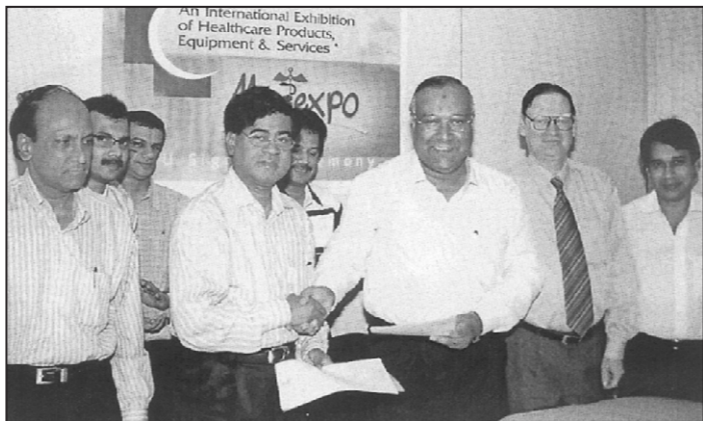
Through its support for primary producers component, the project will seek to promote the market-orientated production of crops, livestock, fish and non-farm products and provide credit and technical/social training to primary producer groups.

The marketing services component will support improved linkages with markets inside and outside the region. Market development centres will provide traders and producers with information on market chains and market opportunities.

The sources said discussions are going on with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka, possibly for co-financing in the amount of 4.8 million US dollar but this is not yet confirmed. 4.5 million US dollar will be provided by non-governmental organisations.



As prices of essentials have skyrocketed in the month of Ramadan, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh has arranged sale of various essentials such as pulse, gram and sugar at a fair price at different points in the city. This photograph was taken from near the National Press Club yesterday.



Medexpo-2005 Chairman Kazi Wahidul Alam and BPCDOA President Dr Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan exchange papers after signing the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations on October 3.

Medexpo-2005 begins December 9

Triune Exhibition and Event Management Services (Teems) and Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners Association (BPCDOA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on October 3, says a press release.

The BPCDOA became co-organiser of Medexpo-2005 after signing the MoU.

Medexpo-2005 Chairman Kazi Wahidul Alam and BPCDOA President Dr Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations. BPCDOA is the representative body for clinic and diagnostic establishments in Bangladesh.

Medexpo-2005, the third international Medical Equipment and Healthcare Services Exposition, will be held at the Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel from December 9-11.

Speaking on the occasion, Wahidul Alam expressed his gratitude to the BPCDOA for agreeing to become the co-organiser of the international level medical exhibition for the third consecutive time.

He hoped that the Medexpo-2005 would add more dynamism to the country's fast growing healthcare sector in the days ahead.

Dr Moniruzzaman thanked Teems for coming forward to hold Medexpo for the third time and pledged to extend all-out cooperation to make the exhibition successful.