

Bangladesh
On the way to Green Economy

**Presented by :
Faizul Islam**

**Deputy Chief, General Economics Division
Planning Commission**

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Background

“The state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests and wildlife for the present and future citizens.”

[The Article 18 A of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh]

Sustainable development is thus a constitutional obligation in Bangladesh.

Background (contd.)

- Bangladesh started preparing the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) in 2009.
- Later, it was decided to revise and update the NSDS in light of the Six Five Year Plan (SFYP), the Perspective Plan (2010-2021), and other recently plans, policies and strategies formulated by the government.
- In pursuant of the outline agreed in the Rio+20 declaration, the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2010-2021) has been finalized in 2013.

NSDS Framework

The basic idea

The green economy is not the end, but is a means of achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication through integrated economic, social and environmental development.

Strategic Priority Areas

1. Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth
2. Development of priority sectors (Agriculture and Rural Development, Industry, Energy, Human Resource Development etc.)
3. Urban Environment
4. Social Security and Protection
5. Environment and Natural Resources Management

Cross cutting areas

1. Good Governance
2. Gender

I. SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE, AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Objectives

- (1) Maintain sustained economic growth with macroeconomic stability and without compromising environmental sustainability; and
- (2) facilitate poverty reduction through enhancing social equity.

Key strategies

- Increase investment and savings rates
- Increase quality of human resources
- Increase factor productivity without hurting the environment
- Promote clean technologies which would allow efficient use of scarce natural resources.
- Encourage green investment by the private sector through economic incentives.

II. INCREASE IN PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN PRIORITY SECTORS

Objective

Ensure overall economic growth with environmental and ecological sustainability.

Priority sectors are:

- Development in agricultural sector including fisheries and livestock, rural nonfarm activities.
- Increase in the growth of industrial production without hurting the natural capital.
- Encourage generation of renewable energy (e.g. biomass, solar, wind, small hydro power etc.).
- Encourage railway and water transport system.

II. INCREASE IN PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN PRIORITY SECTORS (CONTD.)

- Improve population planning and family planning services (containment and management).
- Increase sanitation coverage.
- Increase access to safe drinking water.
- Promote waste management.
- Promote environmental education at the primary and the secondary level.
- Promote awareness for protecting environment and natural resources.

III. STOP DEGRADATION OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Issue: urban areas are densely populated and the rate of urbanization is extremely high.

Major strategies

- Urban housing: promote green building construction; preserve wetlands and natural eco-system; protect public spaces etc.
- Improve water supply and sanitation.
- Reduce industrial pollution (water and air); and manage solid waste.
- Promote circular waterways, over bridges, and subways.
- Reverse migration (urban to rural areas).

IV. SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROTECTION

- Social services: create provisions, increase access, and maintain quality of social services so that the citizens live in a better environment.
- Social safety-nets: provide social safety-nets for the citizens affected by environmental degradation and climate change, especially for women, children, and elderly; the disabled; and the ethnic population.

V. Environment and Natural Resources Management

Protection and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity of the wetland eco-system.

Special focus on:

- Land and soil management: prevent degradation and loss; restore fertility of soil; prevent saline intrusion etc.
- Water resource management: formulation of river management plan, increasing water use efficiency proper ground water management and water pollution management etc.

V. Environment and Natural Resources Management (contd.)

- Management of coastal and marine resources:
encourage environmentally sustainable shrimp farming.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES: GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR ADDRESSING GREEN ECONOMY

Key strategies

- Protect human rights
- Legal and judicial system reform
- Enforce environmental laws and orders
- Reform public service in addressing green economy issues
- Improve project implementation capacity
- Introduce Sustainable Development Audit
- Strengthen local governance
- Promote Public-Private Partnership
- Promote Government-NGO cooperation
- Make parliamentary process conducive

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES: GENDER ISSUES IN GREEN ECONOMY

Idea

Recognize that women are also agents of implementing green economy.

Key Strategies

- Develop policy and legal framework for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES UNDETAKEN BEFORE THE NSDS (2010-2021)

- National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP), 1995
- National Land Use Policy, 2002
- National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP), 2004
- Social Forestry Rule, 2004 (amended in 2010 & 2011)
- Dhaka Building Construction Rules, 2004
- Brick Burning (Control) Rules, 2004
- Coastal Zone Policy 2005

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES UNDETAKEN BEFORE THE NSDS (2010-2021) (contd.)

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, 2005
- Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2008
- Renewable Energy Policy, 2008
- Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2009
- Environment Courts (in all district) Act, 2010
- National Solid Waste Management Rules, 2010 (Draft)
- Sustainable Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) Act 2012 (passed in National Parliament)
- Draft Brick Production Act 2013

RECENT INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY WORK: HIGHLIGHTS...

- Inter-governmental side event on Green Economy at Rio+20 Conference in Brazil (co-organized by Bangladesh and Vietnam government)s
 - Bangladesh (MoEF) presentation featured UNDP-GEF (Global Environment Facility) supported GREEN Brick project as a win-win opportunity (reduce green house gas emissions & local environmental impacts+green jobs+focus on women)
- Green Economy Joint Programme (GEJP) Phase I with support from the Netherlands
 - Sub-regional Green Economy Action Plan development in Barisal and Faridpur, UNDP working with MO Environment (MoEF) and MO Local Government.

BANGLADESH DELTA PLAN 2100

- It is a long term plan for a period up to 100 years, like the Dutch Delta Plan.
- Major areas: management of water resource, land, agriculture, public health, environment, food security, economic growth, spatial development and ecological development.
- The Delta Plan will be prepared from July, 2013 to December, 2015 by the GED of the Bangladesh Planning Commission.
- The Delta Plan will be prepared with the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands.

Thank you very much