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PRESS RELEASE

BANGLADESH TO RECEIVE \$51.3 MILLION IN FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT IN FY2011

DHAKA, MAY 19 -- The U.S. Government through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be providing \$51.3 million in food assistance to Bangladesh in fiscal year 2011. The awards, which include transportation and freight costs, will be implemented under the Food for Progress and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition programs.

In Bangladesh, Food for Progress (FFP) will provide benefits valued at \$21.8 million to 424,800 people in partnership with the Small Enterprise Assistance Funds (SEAF) and Winrock International. The McGovern-Dole award will provide benefits valued at \$30 million to 350,000 children through the World Food Program (WFP).

Announcing the awards, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "These two international food assistance programs support global food security and sustainable agriculture production in food-insecure nations, contributing significantly to the President's Feed the Future Initiative. But our efforts to support global food security are not just important to the many people around the world who do not have access to nutritious and safe food; they are also critically important to the sustainable economic growth of these nations, and the economic prosperity and national security of our own country."

Food for Progress projects are chosen based on their agricultural focus, program impact, proposal quality, commodity management, the implementing organization's capability and experience, and program alignment with host government and U.S. government country strategy plans.

McGovern-Dole participants either use or sell the donated U.S. commodities in recipient countries to help support education, child development, and food security in low-income, food deficit countries that are committed to universal education. For example, in Bangladesh, 350,000 children in more than 1,800 schools are being fed by the World Food Program with help from the McGovern-Dole Program.

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service administers both the Food for Progress and McGovern-Dole programs. More information can be found at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/food-aid.asp>.

USDA's food aid programs contribute to the goals of President Obama's global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future. Feed the Future is part of a multilateral effort launched at the L'Aquila World Summit on Food Security in 2009 to accelerate progress toward the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015. More information on Feed the Future can be found at: <http://www.feedthefuture.gov>.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)