



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. DELEGATION VISITS FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

DHAKA, AUGUST 31 -- The U.S. Assistant to the Administrator in the Bureau for Food Security Paul Weisenfeld, and Denise Rollins, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia Bureau of USAID, the U.S. Government's premier development agency, visited project sites in southern Bangladesh, funded under President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative. The objectives of these projects, located in Khulna Division, are to promote agricultural development, economic growth and improved maternal and child nutrition.

On the third day of their six day visit, the delegation observed the benefits of more efficient fertilizer use through the placement of urea pellets directly near the roots of rice plants. Delegation members also met with private sector partners and farmers of high value aquaculture and horticulture crops. Starting the day at the Accelerating Agriculture Productivity Improvement (AAPI) project implemented by IFDC, the delegation viewed rice fields cultivated with fertilizer deep placement techniques and met with producers of urea briquettes, observing the machines in action. Through promotion of this technology, the U.S. has helped nearly 1.6 million rice farmers increase yields by about 15%.

The group then visited the Poverty Reduction by Increasing the Competitiveness of Enterprises (PRICE) project, viewing high value horticulture and aquaculture production and meeting with farmers. The delegation observed integrated fish and vegetable cultivation and interacted with farmers. The United States of America, through its premier development agency, USAID has helped train more than 40,000 farmers in improved horticulture and/or aquaculture practices, linking them to markets and quality inputs such as seed, fertilizer and feed. With increased productivity and reduced harvest losses, the project helped to increase sales of fish and vegetables by almost \$50 million.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, has provided over \$5.8 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In 2011 alone, USAID provided more than \$180 million to improve the lives of people in Bangladesh. USAID supports programs in Bangladesh that: promote democratic institutions and practices, expand food security and economic opportunity, improve health

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and education services, and increase resiliency to climate change through adaptation and low carbon development.

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