

Statement of the Delegate of the Government of the peoples Republic of
Bangladesh

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

H. E. Mr. Minister for Agriculture Food and Livestock Government of the
Republic of Turkey

H. E. Mr. Governor of Islanbul

H. E. Agriculture Minister ,Government of Nigeria

H.E Minister of agriculture, Government of Indonesia

H. E. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi Secretary General D-8

H.E.Vedat Mirmahmutogollari, Under Secretary of Ministry of Food Agriculture
and Livestock, Republic of Turkey

Representatives of FAO, ICARDA,AARDO

Delegates of Member States

Officials of D-8 Secretariat Ladies and Gentlemen Assalamu alaikum
Warahmutullah and very Good Morning

On behalf of the government of Bangladesh specially on behalf of the Minister for
Agriculture Ms Matia Chowdury, I would like to extend thanks and gratitude to
the Government of the Republic of Turkey and D-8 Secretariat to organize this
Agricultural Ministerial Meeting on Food Security in this historic city of Istanbul . I
also convey my thanks to the Government of Turkey and D-8 secretariat for
extending warm hospitality and excellent arrangement made for the meeting.

I take this opportunity to apprise you that, Bangladesh with the seventh largest
population size in the World (158 million) and very high density (Appx 1000 per sq
Km) is basically an agrarian economy. Bangladesh ranks first in the world in terms
of arable land as a percentage(61.11%) of total land area. Despite major structural
changes in the economy, agriculture today contributes about 20 percent of GDP

and provides employment to 48 percent of the labour force, 70 percent of our rural population directly or indirectly depends on agriculture for their livelihood. It remains the main source of raw materials for the agro-based industry. From food security and nutrition point of view , this sector ranked second to none.

Excellencies,

I am happy to inform you that, Bangladesh has made significant stride in food production. A food deficit country is now recognized as food surplus in major staples. The country produced 36.2 million MT of food grains in 2013. We are in the process of exporting rice to Srilanka and potato to Russia. However, we have no room for complacency. Growth rates of crops, fisheries and livestock have been volatile as these sub-sectors are affected most by weather shocks and natural disasters. Moreover , Bangladesh Agriculture have been facing some constraints like: shrinking of arable land, Declining soil health, wide yield gap, inadequate marketing facilities and post harvest management, impact of climate change, inadequate availability of quality inputs, fragmentation of land and small farm size etc. I would also like to note the strengths of our agriculture sector which are: constant government policy and input support to farmers, significant extension systems for farm technology, available expert and scientists for R&D, water availability for irrigation, adaptation capacity of the farmers etc.

Excellencies,

Considering the achievement of self sufficiency in rice and vegetable production Government of Bangladesh has now taken initiative for safe and nutrition enrich food production and vertical extension of agriculture. As we know, all D-8 member countries have their own strengths and weaknesses in the agriculture sector, using this platform we the members states can easily overcome the weaknesses and I would like to thank the D-8 secretariat for rightly selecting the five issues most important for the development of agriculture sector in general and food security in particular of all D-8 countries.

Excellencies,

I would like to thank the delegates participated in the working group meeting and senior officials meeting. With their active participation we have been able to develop our future course of action-the Istanbul Initiative.

Excellencies ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to assure this forum, government of Bangladesh will do its best to carry forward the development agenda of D-8 and implement the Istanbul Initiative for the uplift of life and living of more than one billion people.

Thank you all once again.