



**TOGETHER**  
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## OCCASION

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# Highlights of Achievements



**BEST Project-Better Fisheries Quality  
Department of Fisheries & UNIDO**





## MESSAGE



**Minister**

Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka.

Bangladesh has been running many programmes to promote fishery products exports to global market particularly the EU. In this endeavor, the government has set up the comprehensive food safety systems across the shrimp value chain with the overall aim to boost trade of fish and fishery products as a trigger for growth and sustainable development.

The program on "Bangladesh-EU partnership : Better Access of Bangladesh Fishery Products to Global Market" and publication of this booklet showcase the achievements made in the last three years by BEST project through the joint efforts of Department of Fisheries and UNIDO, funded jointly by EU and Government of Bangladesh. This is an excellent example of Bangladesh's interventions aimed at fostering access to the global market. This provides the stakeholders in Bangladesh and abroad with the updated information on the developmental activities on the quality infrastructures activities being undertaken in Bangladesh.

I wish the BEST project and the Department of Fisheries a great success in continuing their efforts in developing sustainable fisheries sector for better access in global market.

joy Bangla, joy Bangabandhu,  
May Bangladesh stay forever.

Md. Abdul Latif Biswas, MP



## Message from EU Ambassador



The seafood industry contributes a significant amount of foreign exchange earnings to Bangladesh's economy, and employs millions of people in industries such as the fishing, aquaculture, seafood processing, wholesale, marketing and retail sectors.

In recognition of the importance of fishery resources to the national economy, the European Union has earmarked significant funding for the overall sustainable development of the sector. As part of this effort, the ongoing BEST- Better Fisheries Quality has been playing a significant role towards better compliance of the fisheries sector.

This publication - developed by Better Work and Standards Programme - Better Fisheries Quality (BEST-BFQ) - highlights the improvements made in food safety which will strengthen confidence in seafood produced in Bangladesh, both among consumers here and abroad. Thanks to better compliance, Bangladesh is now well positioned for the sustainable development of the sector.

I would like to thank United Nations Industrial Development Organization for successfully implementing the project, and the Department of Fisheries of Government of Bangladesh for their support to implement the activities.

I wish every success to the "Bangladesh-EU Partnership: Better Market Access of Bangladesh Fishery Products to Global Market" programme, and hope that good partnership between the EU and Bangladesh in such activity will continue for many years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Hanna'.

**William Hanna**  
Ambassador  
European Union Delegation, Bangladesh



## MESSAGE



**Secretary**

Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka.

I am very much delighted to know that the BEST Project-Better Fisheries Quality, Department of Fisheries and UNIDO is going to publish **Highlights of Achievements** on activities made in the last three years.

It is always good to have compilations of good works, areas of interventions, achievements, lessons learnt, challenges and recommendations under one cover to communicate to the stakeholders, project partners and donors not only to remember but also to use as milestone in the path of sector development.

I express my deep heartfelt thanks to the Project Personnel, Experts, Field Officials, Industry Stakeholders and Farmers for their tireless efforts to make these achievements possible. I also express my warm regards to the European Union - our major development partner for their constant support to the people of Bangladesh in the way to achieve a better life and prosperity.

**Ujjwal Bikash Dutta**  
Secretary





## PREFACE



Better Work & Standards Programme- Better Fisheries Quality (BEST-BFQ) is entering third year of its implementation. In this occasion, we are organizing a program on "Bangladesh-EU: Better Access of Bangladesh of Fishery Products to Global Market" and bring out this publication on highlights of achievements, covering the activities carried out jointly by UNIDO and Department of Fisheries in strengthening capacity of Bangladesh for better market access of Bangladesh fishery products to global market.

The achievements listed in this publication would not have been possible without the overwhelming support of Department of Fisheries and other stakeholders across the supply chain. Thanks are due to all those who worked hard in the field and the laboratories in implementing the project objectives. These achievements will no doubt strengthen the consumer confidence in seafood produced or traded commercially both within Bangladesh and abroad. With these achievements of compliance, we are now uniquely positioned to carry this momentum forward for the sustainable development of the sector.

Special thanks are extended to the EU, NORAD and Government of Bangladesh who provided the financial support.

Thanking you

**Saleh Ahmed**  
National Project Director  
BEST Project (DoF)

**Karl Schebesta**  
Project Manager  
UNIDO



## PROJECT INITIATIVES AT A GLANCE

# Better Work & Standards Programme- Better Fisheries Quality (BEST-BFQ) and Strengthening of Fishery and Aquaculture Food Safety and Quality Management System in Bangladesh (BEST Project), Department of Fisheries



A Project with  
Farm to Fork Approach



## SECTORAL BACKGROUND

- Shrimp export industry is the second largest export industry in Bangladesh, supporting the livelihoods of over 600,000 people and providing 2.5% of the world supply of shrimps. EU is the most important market, accounting for over 60% of exports.
- In July 1997, the European Commission (EC) imposed a ban on export of fishery product from Bangladesh due to inadequate infrastructure, sanitation, Hygiene, Inspection and testing facilities.
- Exports to EU were resumed as a result of actions taken by GOB, but problems in certain areas still needed urgent attention.
- In order to meet international standard & market requirements from farm to final product the GOB has taken up BEST-BFQ as follow-up project after BQSP with the financial & technical assistance of European Union and NORAD.

## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- BEST program is to a large degree a follow up of BQSP (Bangladesh Quality Support Program) which ended in June 2010.
- BEST financing agreement (FA) drafted in early 2008 after having fruitful consultations between EU and ERD along with other line ministries.
- BEST program activities and outputs were formulated based on FA & EU midterm evaluation done in mid 2008.
- During BQSP, the national testing capabilities and inspection system of the shrimp industry at all stages of the value chain were substantially improved.
- To make this system sustainable and to further strengthen the fish inspection and control operations at all stages of shrimp supply chain and improve the competitiveness of the sector in global market, the BEST project was taken up.

## PROJECT DETAILS

Funded by	EU, NORAD and Government of Bangladesh
Implemented by	UNIDO and Department of Fisheries
Counterpart	Department of Fisheries (Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock)
Project duration	July 2010 to Dec 2014

<http://www.best-bfq.org/program-details.html>

## PROJECT TIMING

Project Phase	Period
Contribution Agreement between EU and UNIDO signed	February 2010
Inception Phase	July 2010 - December 2010
Implementation Phase	January 2011 - June 2014
Consolidation	July 2014 - December 2014

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the program is to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction by supporting Bangladesh to take advantage of global market opportunities.

The specific purposes of this component are to strengthen the national fishery products quality infrastructure for fish and fishery products to meet safety and quality requirements in export markets particularly the EU, improve competitiveness and take advantage of global market opportunities.

<http://www.best-bfq.org/program-objectives.html>

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## PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this program are: the Competent Authority, Department of Fisheries, actors along shrimp value chain, large numbers of farmers of fish and shrimp, private entrepreneurs and food business operators involved in distribution, marketing, processing and exporting and the large number of people directly or indirectly involved in fishery activity throughout Bangladesh.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Regulatory framework for controls along supply chain are improved
- Official controls by the competent authorities are strengthened
- The reliability and validity of testing for official controls increased
- Initiatives supported by simplifying the supply chain
- Fishery business operators supported throughout the supply chain to strengthen internal control systems- GAP, hygiene, environmental management, traceability and record keeping
- Socio-economic conditions of target groups are supported through the implementation and enforcement of labor law

*<http://www.best-bfq.org/team.html>*

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Regulatory Framework for controls along the supply chain harmonized

New FIQC Rule, 2010 drafted through extensive discussion and submitted to Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock for promulgation

Fish Feed Act, 2010, Fish Feed Rule, 2011, Fish Hatchery Act, 2010 and Fish Hatchery Rule, 2011 translated into English.



**NRCF policy guidelines** (Revision 2012) prepared, approved by DG, printed and distributed; all the officers of 40 shrimp producing UZs trained on NRCF implementation and follow-up non-compliances.



### VMP control programs

Inter-ministerial coordination meetings held, series of national field visits carried out to study manufacture, distribution, authorization and retailing in the country and the report submitted.



Prepared National Policy Guideline for the control of VMPs in aquaculture



## Official controls by Competent Authorities Strengthened of throughout the entire supply chain



Strengthened risk-based monitoring along shrimp/fish value chain through developing compliance manuals

- o Compliance Manual on Quality Assurance Programs (QAP)
- o Compliance Manual on Feed Safety based on Feed Rule 2011

Pool of 25 Trainers on Quality Assurance Programs (QAP) developed through Training of Trainers (TOT)



Pool of 20 Trainers on HACCP developed through Training of Trainers (TOT)

Pool of 25 Trainers on Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP) developed through Training of Trainers (TOT)



Seminars organized at Khulna and Chittagong on the need for risk-based seafood control systems for effective food safety assurance (45 participants)



## Strengthened FIQC laboratories for better validity and reliability of sampling and analysis through implementing good laboratory practices towards accreditation

A joint Quality System Development Team (QSDT) consisting of members from FIQC and BEST-BFQ was formed at both regions

Quality Manuals based on ISO 17025 were prepared for the laboratories at Khulna and Chittagong and further revised by visiting experts

SOPs, System Related Forms and Document control procedures were prepared and endorsed by QSDT: they are in the process of implementation



ELISA test methods are validated for Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline, AMOZ, AOZ, SEM, AHD, Stilbene, DES and Steroids and ready for testing commercial samples

AAS test methods are validated for heavy metals such as Arsenic, Cadmium and Mercury completed





Laboratories successfully participated in proficiency tests for microbiological parameters and heavy metals.

Quality management Systems are being implemented by the laboratory analysts through the help of international experts.



LIMS installed and configured, user guideline prepared and lab personnel trained.

Two LC MS machines procured and installed



FVO audit of FIQC laboratories confirmed that the testing competence substantially improved



Honorable Minister for Fisheries & Livestock laid the foundation stone for the new state-of-the-art laboratory being built by DOF

## Fishery business operators supported along the supply chain to strengthen internal control systems regarding GAP, hygiene, traceability and record keeping

Institutionalized the Training programs

- \* TOT Training manuals prepared in consultation
- \* ToT Manual printed
- \* Training protocols prepared



HACCP trainers assisted reviewing and updating HACCP manuals of 72 factories (26 from Chittagong and 46 from Khulna)



### Training on GAP



>20 GAP training programs for farmers in 17 upazilla conducted (>500 participants)

BFQ Lead Farmers identified (>110)



Post-training impact assessment made with lead farmers



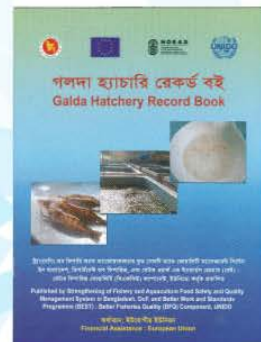
Further post-training assistance provided to lead farmers

Fin fish farm registration in 52 selected pilot upazillas carried out (over 10,000 farmers)



Feasibility study on computer based e-traceability in few selected supply chains conducted through group of international experts

10,000 Shrimp Pond record books and 500 Hatcheries Record books printed and distributed through DOF



Paper based traceability training is being continued (190,000 shrimp farmers registered under BQSP)



## Initiatives on simplification of supply chain to enhance the potential for the successful uptake of internal control systems by private sector



FGDs (focus group dialogues) and meetings held in Khulna, Chittagong and Satkhira region

Exhaustive survey of shrimp supply chain conducted to study its structure and behaviour



Stakeholders discussed through national level workshop



Draft framework on simplification of shrimp supply chain prepared

The framework will be piloted in some upazillas

## Target groups supported for socio-economic improvement through implementation and enforcement of labour law

Training Manual on Labor Law 2006 developed for Shrimp processing factory workers



Pool of 78 trainers created through Training of Trainers on Labor Laws including officials from MOL&E, DOF and Industry

Ten follow up factory based training programs at KLN and CTG organized and 217 mid-level officials from 51 shrimp industries trained







Assessment of labor law compliance conducted for 25 shrimp processing factories (15 from Khulna region + 10 from Chittagong region)



Awareness meetings for industry management are held regionally

Factory based training on Labor Laws is continued.

44 Training program in 25 factories covering 1350 workers (70% female)



Visit Our website  
[www.best-bfq.org](http://www.best-bfq.org)

## PUBLICATIONS



Manuals on Food safety & Quality assurance in shrimp value chain for field level officials (Bangla)



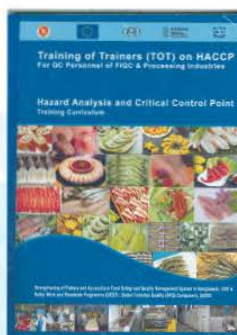
Manual on Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP) in Bangla



Policy Guideline on National Residue Control Plan (NRCP)- 2011 (Rev. 2012)



Manual on NRCP, Aquaculture and Post-harvest compliance (2012)



ToT Manual on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)



Manual on NRCP, Aquaculture and Post-harvest compliance (CD)



Training Manual on Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures



Training manual on Traceability, Hygiene & Sanitation for Depots and Ice Factories

## BEST-BFQ Visibility activities



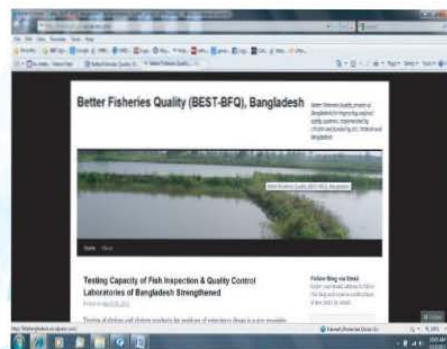
Project Folder and brochure are printed in English



Newsletters published on project achievements



Website [www.best-bfq.org](http://www.best-bfq.org) launched in Nov 2011



BEST-BFQ blog started <http://bfqbangladesh.wordpress.com/>

BEST-BFQ face book page started  
<http://www.facebook.com/BEST.BetterFisheries.Quality>



## Seminars and workshops held jointly by Department of Fisheries and BEST-BFQ



Seminar on "Emerging Food Safety Issues and Compliance in Fisheries Sector of Bangladesh"  
And  
Launching of BEST-BFQ website (27 Nov, 2011)

National Workshop on "Shorter Supply Chain for Healthy Shrimp Industry: A framework for the simplification of shrimp supply chain"  
08 December, 2012



## Study Tours and Training

High level officials of MOFL attended Boston Seafood Show and visited many fishery infrastructures and met FDA officials 11-16 March 2012 (4-member team)



Inter-Ministerial Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products participated in a study tour to Thailand and Vietnam 01-12 Oct 2012 (7-member team)

9-member team from DoF attended International Training Course on Food Safety of Aquaculture Products (2 - 16 Nov, 2012) in Philippines



## International Visitors to BFQ Project Activity Areas

EUROPEAID team headed by Simon Le Ponte visited in Nov-2011



Team of EU Parliamentarians visited in Mar 2012



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UNIDO Project manager visited project areas in Oct 2012



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# OUTCOME AND OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

**B**etter food safety compliance of Bangladesh shrimp sector from farm to fork

**I**mproved testing capacity of the country through establishment of laboratories towards accreditation

**S**uccessful audit of fisheries sector by Food & Veterinary Office of EU in 2011

**B**etter price for Bangladesh shrimp than neighboring countries due to improved food safety compliance

**20%** mandatory testing requirement by EU has been lifted in 2012 due to improved food safety compliance of Bangladesh shrimp

**B**etter reputation of Bangladesh seafood products abroad

**B**etter Social Compliance through implementation of labor laws



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