



**Joint Statement  
of the First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture  
12 July 2019, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

*"Farming for Prosperity through Sustainable Agriculture, Building Resilience for  
Food Security and Nutrition"*

The First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12 July 2019. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The Meeting was attended by delegations from all Member States. The list of Ministers and Heads of Delegation is at **Annex I**. The Secretary General of BIMSTEC, Ambassador M Shahidul Islam also attended the Meeting.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation agreed to the following Joint Statement:

1. We strongly felt that agricultural cooperation among BIMSTEC Member States can contribute to food and nutritional security, farmers' prosperity, job creation, poverty alleviation and enhanced agricultural trade and investment. We noted in this regard the directives of our Leaders during the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 30-31 August 2018 emphasizing to intensify cooperation to attain food and nutritional security, to preserve and promote knowledge on traditional farming and to reduce costs, enhance income and mitigate risks for farming communities.
2. We were pleased with the progress made by the Expert Group Meetings on Agricultural Cooperation (EGMAC) for successful implementation of three identified common projects out of the agreed Common Projects. These are:
  - (a) Workshops on Developing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Phase I and Phase II held in Thailand on 10-14 September 2012 and 26-28 April 2016, respectively
  - (b) First Workshop on Promotion of Agricultural Trade and Investment among BIMSTEC Member States held in Bhutan on 29-30 November 2017
  - (c) First Workshop on Strengthening Regional Value Chain in Marketing of Pork Meat held in Nepal on 13-14 June 2018 and First Regional Workshop on Public-Private Partnership to Develop Agricultural Value Chains held in Myanmar on 30-31 July 2018.

3. We reiterated the importance of human resource development in agriculture for achieving food and nutritional security and our commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. We appreciated the proposal of the Government of India to provide fully-funded BIMSTEC Scholarships, five (5) slots for Masters and five (5) slots for Ph.D programme in Agriculture.
5. We tasked the Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation (EGMAC) for speeding up the implementation of common projects that have been identified and to develop new proposals for beneficial projects in line with current issues in local, regional and global contexts.
6. Recalled the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration by our Leaders to explore the possibility of establishing BIMSTEC Development Fund at an appropriate time with the voluntary contributions from Member States for Research and Planning of BIMSTEC and financing of projects, programmes and other activities of BIMSTEC Centres and Entities as agreed upon by the Member States, we hoped that BIMSTEC Development Fund would be established soon for expediting implementation of identified common projects under Agriculture Sector.
7. We noted with satisfaction that Member States are increasingly taking up the responsibility of financing their respective identified common projects, which should be further intensified till the establishment of the BIMSTEC Development Fund.
8. We called upon Senior Officials' Meeting on Agriculture (SOM-A) and Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation (EGMAC) for deepening cooperation in the agricultural and allied sector for increasing productivity and profitability of farmers through sustainable and climate resilient agriculture to attain food and nutritional security.
9. We agreed to convene the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture once in two years. The Secretariat will coordinate with the Member States to finalize date and venue of the Second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture.
10. We conveyed our deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for hosting the First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements throughout the Meeting.
11. We thanked the Secretary General of BIMSTEC and his team for extending necessary support for the successful holding of the Meeting.

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**SECRETARIAT  
BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL  
TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
DHAKA**

**First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (1<sup>st</sup> BAMM)  
12 July 2019  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

**List of Ministers/ Heads of Delegation**

- i. His Excellency Dr. Md. Abdur Rouf  
Additional Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Government of the People's Republic of **Bangladesh**
- ii. His Excellency Mr. Ugyen Penjore  
Director General  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Royal Government of **Bhutan**
- iii. His Excellency Mr. Parshottam Rupala  
Hon'ble Minister of State  
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare  
Government of **India**
- iv. His Excellency Dr. Aung Thu  
Hon'ble Union Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation  
Government of the Republic of the Union of **Myanmar**
- v. His Excellency Mr. Bhim Udas  
Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar  
Government of **Nepal**
- vi. His Excellency Mr. E.M.M. Nandimithra Ekanayake  
Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar  
Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of **Sri Lanka**
- vii. His Excellency Mr. Anut Visetrojana  
Inspector General  
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  
Royal **Thai** Government

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