



**Joint Statement**  
**of the Second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture**  
10 November 2022, New Delhi, India

**We**, the Ministers responsible for Agriculture/Representatives of the Member States of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), namely, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; the Kingdom of Bhutan; the Republic of India; the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Nepal; the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and the Kingdom of Thailand met virtually in New Delhi, India on 10 November 2022; and

**Recalling** the directives of the Leaders at the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit 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;

**Also Recalling** the directives of the Leaders at the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit to strengthen the collective resilience to ensure food security through partnership and joint actions, in parallel to the implementation toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**Further Recalling** the directives of the Leaders at the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit to develop Plans of Action for the reconstituted Sectors and Sub-sectors to guide their activities and to establish necessary institutional mechanisms to carry out their respective mandates;

**Emphasizing** that simple and effective institutional mechanism is crucial for the Sector and Sub-Sectors with provision to adapt to its requirements;

**Recognizing** the importance of stronger agricultural cooperation to contribute to rural employment, poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, sustainable consumption and higher profitability to farmers and enhanced agricultural trade and investment, especially in the context of the post-COVID 19 recovery;

**Underlining** the importance of human resource development in agriculture for achieving food and nutritional security and our commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

**Commending** the work of Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation on the implementation of the identified common projects under Agriculture Sub-sector;

**Noting with satisfaction** that Member States are increasingly taking up the responsibility of financing their respective identified common projects;

**Hereby decided to:**

1. **Encourage** the Member States to expedite the remaining identified common projects under Agriculture Sub-sector;
2. **Look forward to** the early establishment of the BIMSTEC Development Fund to expedite implementation of projects under Agriculture Sub-sector;
3. **Appreciate** the Government of India for providing fully-funded BIMSTEC Scholarships, six (6) slots for Masters and six (6) slots for Ph.D. programme in Agriculture;
4. **Adopt** the Plan of Action on Strengthening BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation (2023-2027);
5. **Urge** Senior Officials' Meeting on Agriculture (SOM-A) and Expert Group Meeting on Agricultural Cooperation (EGMAC) for deepening cooperation in the agricultural R&D for increasing productivity and profitability of farmers through sustainable and climate resilient agriculture to attain food security and nutrition;
6. **Reiterate** our decision to convene the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture once in two years;
7. **Considered and approved** the Report of the Second BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting held on 9 November 2022 virtually in New Delhi, India.;
8. **Appreciate signing** of the Memorandum of Understanding between International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and BIMSTEC;
9. **Express** our deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of India for hosting the Second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture;
10. **Express** thanks to the Secretary General of BIMSTEC and his team for extending necessary support for the successful holding of the Meeting.

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