Overview of the challenges to achieve sustainable development goals in Bangladesh

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Abstract: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2015 are a universal consensus to end poverty, eradicate inequality, protect the globe, tackle the climate change and make sure that all people of the planet enjoy peace and prosperity. Most of the goals are present in Bangladesh. This paper’s aim is to overview the challenges having faced by Bangladesh to acquire the recent phenomenon sustainable development goals. The National Preliminary Report, FAO analysis, the sustainable Development Goals Report 2016, various articles, and newspaper writings have been scrutinized and secondary data have been used to complete the present study. The study finds that the goals are interconnected with one another. Eradicating all challenges will be daunting task for government alone. Sincere and fruitful policy agenda’ taken and implementation can be supportive and successful way to this idealistic wishes and utopian dreams. The policy makers, politicians, philanthropists, Financial Institutions etc can find it easy to solve SDGs related problems. Further analysis can be done on each and separate target and goal of SDGs in the context of the country.

Key words: Sustainable Development Goals, FAO analysis, World Food Programmes, Idealistic Wishes and Utopian Dreams.

Introduction

We have kept our foot into the age of sustainable development goals with the aim to make development inclusive. Containing 17 goals with 169 targets, the SDGs maintain a wide range of sustainable development issues to be achieved by adopting a motto title ‘transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development’. These goals cover poverty and hunger eradication, health and education improvement, more sustainable cities formation, oceans and forests protection, climate change adaptation, provision of all human rights, implementing gender equality implementation and women empowerment herald in all levels etc. The SDG agenda is an action plan for the planet, public and conglomerated thriving by chasing down to invigorate universal peace and freedom, and ending poverty from everywhere. Therefore, all of the goals generally, have been realized by pertaining both as ambitions and as challenges to all countries. Moreover, all goals and targets bear crucial messages and challenges not only for developed countries but also for developing one alike. The manifold goals and targets will however, represent various dimensions of challenge and highlight ambition for multifarious countries relying on their present situation of development as well as other national circumstances. So, when implementation comes to various countries, there will need to focus different categories of attention and ensure serious efforts to the different goals and targets, depending on relation to their different capabilities and differentiated responsibilities and resources. Social, economic and political effort needed to keep balance will be different in different countries based on objectives. Although all goals have important transformational change in developing countries like us, the need to acquire more durable economies and growth pathways and ensure the goal of greater equality. And focus the goals to achieve better protection of the oceans and of terrestrial ecosystems. Both developed and developing countries have the problems of poverty, health, education and gender issues (though to differing degrees) in the context of Social & economic are covered by the SDGs. Being a developing country Bangladesh is facing an acute challenge in all level of targets and goals of SDGs. Bangladesh has already announced its Mission and Vision 2021 targets of which are closely aligned to some of the SDGs goals. The fundamental vision of this country is to reach Middle Income Country by 2021. To implement this vision Bangladesh has already made a perspective plan from 2010 to 2021. In perspective plan there is a target of annual real GDP growth rate to rise 8 percent by 2015 and further 10 percent by 2021that will have significant impact on living standard of the population by reducing unemployment and poverty. Besides, substantial higher output and export growth will be achieved while maintaining macroeconomic stability. The projected per capita annual income to rise can be approximately USD 2000 by 2021 that will advocate the country to cross the long cherished middle income threshold. Gross national savings and gross domestic investment will reach 39 percent and 38 percent of GDP respectively if the country wants to achieve and sustain the high rate of growth with headcount poverty dropping by 13.5 percent. All these targets of perspective plan is consistent with the post MDGs phenomenon SDGs. Although
Bangladesh is having a huge shortage in all types of investment, the gross successful achievement has been made by the country through Millennium Developments Goals. So Bangladesh can make another enriched successful story by employing target based efforts to implement about all targets and goals of SDGs. The challenges to achieve these SDGs goals and targets by Bangladesh are the fundamental aim of this study.

**Sustainable Development Goals:** Let us now revisit the Sustainable Development Goals (UNGA, 2015):

01. Ending all category of poverty everywhere;
02. Ending hunger, ensuring food security and nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture;
03. Ensuring healthy and sound lives and promote wellbeing promotion of all at all ages;
04. Ensuring quality education inclusively and equitably and creating learning opportunities for round the life;
05. Empowering all women and girls and achieving gender equality;
06. Available and sustainable water and sanitation management to be ensured for all;
07. Affordable, sustainable, reliable, and modern energy to be ensured for all;
08. Ensuring inclusive, sustained, and reliable economic growth, full and inclusive employment provide decent work for all;
09. Building resilient infrastructure, foster innovation and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization;
10. Minimizing income inequality within and among countries;
11. Cities and human settlement to be made inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable;
12. Ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns;
13. Combat with climate change adaptation and its impacts;
14. Conserve the seas, oceans and marine resources for sustainable development;
15. Restore, protect, and ensure terrestrial ecosystems with sustainability, combat desertification, manage forests, and reverse land degradation and loss of biodiversity;
16. Promotion of inclusive and peaceful societies for attaining sustainable development, accessibility of justice by all, and building accountable, inclusive and effective institutions at all levels;
17. Strengthening implementation means and revitalizing the global partnership to ensure sustainable development.

**Challenges faced by Bangladesh:**

The goal-1 includes 5 specific targets that are eradicating extreme poverty (the people who are earning their lives by less than $ 1.25 in a day) within 2030 and reducing, at least, half the proportion of people who are living below the poverty line, implementing proper social protection systems domestically, make sure that everybody has equal rights to economic resources and boost the resilience of the vulnerable poor. The extreme poor, who are dependent, old, disabled or chronically sick, suffer most due to poverty. The stunted or malnourished children of extreme poor are vulnerable to face harassment and even most of the cases they have limited or no access of education. The families who are poor and non-poor are vulnerable to confront shocks (For example, health problems, and natural disasters) that can take them instantly into extreme poverty. So eradicating extreme poverty which currently stands at 17.6 percent and abating the current poverty rate of 31.5 to 16 percent by 2030 would be big challenge for Bangladesh. Besides, extreme poverty reduction may not be maintained due to the following:

- Recessive nature of global economy with domestic factors;
- Rising up population density is likely to down the poorest people to live in the most unsecured and vulnerable areas;
- Deteriorating condition can enter into the vulnerability of the poor people to environmental shocks together with the predicted change in extreme climate events; and
- Social and demographic changes may again increase sufferings, vulnerability and social exclusion.

The goal-2 includes 5 specific targets such as eradicating hunger and accessibility to safe and ensuring nutritious food for all and all forms of malnutrition to end; small-scale food producers’ income and agricultural productivity to make double; promoting the sustainability of food production systems and ensuring the resilience agricultural practices; and preserving the genetic multiplicity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed animals. Although there is a huge progress in poverty reduction and human development by accelerating indicators such as literacy and life expectancy, the rates of income and consumption inequalities have proliferated (UNDP 2005). About 43 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line where most of them are women and children. Yet, the prevalence of child (under 5) malnutrition is 41 percent which covers highest in the world. Besides, many rural men and women cannot make ends meet on their land having forced them to be migrated to cities for engulfing opportunities. So it is time to reconsider how to grow, share and intake food. However, if it becomes right agriculture, forestry and fisheries could supply nutritious food for all categories of people and bring about decent incomes by advocating rural development and protecting the environment. So understanding the first and second targets would be big challenges for Bangladesh in the absence of a still inadequate social protection system for the vulnerable and poverty laden population. The ministries of agriculture, food land fisheries and livestock are relevant for implementing these targets.

The real scenario of hunger in Bangladesh has been focused by World Food Programme (WFP) that can raise awareness include having more than USD one billion every year under-nutrition costs in lost productivity and even more in healthcare costs; approximately seven million children are chronically undernourished under the age of five; about 26 percent children under the age of five are stunted even who are living in the wealthiest households and 12 percent caries very low weight-for-height; a third of the children from six months to
just under five years of age become anemic; about 16 percent of the children under the age of five in Bangladesh are wasted; at least 40 percent of school-aged children are iron deficient; maximum 25 percent of children’s diets intake satisfactory dietary variety where a minimum of four food groups out of seven intake on a daily basis; 24 percent of women are under weight and 13 percent are short in stature that indicates the likelihood of having infected the children stunted; although the wages has been increased over the first five years, price hikes of various foods place balance diets beyond the capacity of millions, particularly the urban poor and rural landless are suffering most. So these are real scenario in hunger stage of a country like Bangladesh that will be so tough to mitigate the challenges by Bangladesh.

The goal-3 includes 9 specific targets that the reduction of maternal mortality proportion to below 70 per 100 thousand live births as well as the deaths of newborns babies to make preventable and below 5 children to at the minimum 12 and 25 per 1000 live births; the eradication of all types of AIDS, malaria epidemics, tuberculosis; non-communicable diseases related mortality rate to be reduced by one-third; the number of deaths and injuries by road accidents to be reduced at the minimum 50 percent; and universal health coverage to be ensured. Serious efforts can be taken to improve people’s health condition. Besides, Poor nutrition indicates vital health complexities. Anaemia is extremely high among women of childbearing age and Diarrhoeal diseases represent a major killer yet, although treatment is known and curable. Though poverty-related and Communicable diseases are preventable, they are continuing to remain among the top ten causes of mortality. Women of productive age face pregnancy and childbirth complications that are a leading cause of death and disability of them. Since more than 70 percent of deliveries happen at home, fewer than 20% of women receive post-natal care. So the lack of trained health care providers is a root challenge to overcome. The doctor-population ratio in Bangladesh is 1:4000 and there are about 45,000 registered doctors to provide treatment that is absolutely inadequate for the healthcare demands of the population. Besides, most of the doctors like to stay in the main cities not practicing in the rural areas. Neglecting public health care facilities by the government (It is purely observable in Public hospitals such as CMC, DMC etc.) and expansion of private centralized hospitals’ exploitation are the extreme challenges of the country. Bangladesh will tackle serious challenge in bringing down the maternal mortality ratio from the current 176 per 100 thousand live births to 70, and under-1 infant mortality rate from the current 30 to 12 per thousand live births. Eradicating AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria epidemics will also be a big challenge under the existing circumstances. However, to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different continued and emerging health issues, many more efforts are essential to implement. The Ministry of health and Family Welfare as well as the private and NGO sectors are responsible for realizing these targets. The private sector should work with public health sectors to develop cheaper and more appropriate services, especially for maternal and child health.

The goal-4 includes 7 specific targets that are ensuring primary and secondary education to be completed for all boys and girls as well as access to pre-primary education and early childhood development; equal participation by the boys and girls to affordable and provide quality vocational, technical, and tertiary education; and ensuring literacy for all youths and adults. Although rapid improvement in education sector is observing, the first two targets will be difficult to implement as the literacy rate still hovers around 60 percent and significant progress has not been done towards pre-primary education as well as early childhood development. In these targets we can include some more challenges to primary, secondary, and tertiary education such as inclusiveness and access to be ensured as primary education duration has been extended from the present class I to VIII; the up gradation of new curricula to be adaptive with 21st century global education system for enhancing quality education in sensitive manners related to gender. All students, on one hand, to be enable to acquire human qualities and some basic skills on the other; there must be decentralization system in all category of administration and management to develop a well mechanism for the supervision and monitoring by the inclusion of local citizens along with official processes; a unique system of education at least up to class XII to be ensured; there must be reformation in the examination system in order to assess knowledge, creativity and problem solving skills of students rather than memorization; science, information technology mathematics and humanitarian education to be emphasized to improve the relevance of secondary curriculum especially for better livelihood by the citizens; curricula, facilities, and methods of skill training to be improved for secondary school programs such as the SSC (vocational) and HSC (vocational); the Integration of ICT to be ensured in the curriculum irrespective of the stream along with encouraged computer based learning at the secondary and higher secondary level by formulating and implementing a coherent and comprehensive policy framework emphasizing national priorities in the education and minimizing rural-urban gaps; session jam and politicization to be eliminated in higher educational institutions as well as an Accreditation Council to be established for ranking the quality of higher education in all public and private universities. At present, huge disparities exist in access to good quality education. The Global Education Report-2016 underscores supremacy of how education plays a vital role for each category of dimension of sustainable development. It is universal that education works as a heart of sustainable development as well as sustainable development goals. But it makes clear that in the context of Bangladesh how far away from achieving the SDGs. Problems related to economic, social, technological, and even ethical can be eradicated by using a great tool education to take on the SDGs and teach us how to achieve them. Some quantitative analysis views how education works as having longer-term intergenerational effects and projects how educational achievement by 2030 will affect the fundamental development targets such as adult life expectancy, infant and
child mortality, poverty rates and disaster-related deaths and economic growth by 2050. The education ministries as well as primary and mass education are relevant for implementation of these targets.

The goal-5 has 5 targets that include all types of gender discrimination, violence against women and harmful practices like early, forced or child marriage to be eliminated permanently; recognizing the value of domestic and household without paid care and work; and ensuring equal participation of women in leadership positions. Meeting these targets will be an uphill task in Bangladesh because of the social realities, citizens’ outlook and value systems in society. Yet child marriage is a dire state in Bangladesh. Bangladesh ranks six positions with 52 percent and Cameroon the lowest with 38 percent. However, in terms of the absolute number of children married, Bangladesh seems to rank second among top 20 with 3.9 million married off every year under age 18. When children are married at the age of early, child brides face a lot of challenges in their whole way of life. So it will be daunting task for the government eradicating all forms of discrimination towards women. Women empowerment in all places is a rough and tough job to implement. Most of women yet confined with domestic chores not contributing income to the family as like as male donor. Besides women in the working place is the worst sufferer by their male colleagues. Often time they are harassed in schools, colleges, and universities even in the families. The related ministries of women and children affairs, labor, home affairs, and social welfare and employment are relevant for realizing these targets.

The goal-6 has 6 targets that include free access to safe drinking water equitably and universally, providing equitable and adequate sanitation and hygiene, enhancing the quality of water, increasing efficiency of water-use, having water resources management integration and conserve water-related eco-systems. Of these targets, the first target is likely to be achieved as access to safe drinking water already stands at 98.3 percent in Bangladesh. Although we have made a successful story comparatively better position than India in sanitation, the achievement of sanitation target will be difficult as the current rate is only 63.8 percent. The same goes for other targets, as there seems to be inadequate professionalism as well as distortions by vested quarters in the management of water-resources sector. Bangladesh is a riverine country having huge water in rivers though we have lost most of our fundamental rivers. Making efficiency of the water resources is the prime challenges to attain sustainable development. To achieve the universal coverage, maintenance, and monitoring, strong efforts are needed to the water supply services. We should make strong the only water supplying authority WASA to be richer in employment and management activities and make sure the cent percent pure drinking water for all. The ministries of local government and rural development, as well as water resources are relevant for achieving these targets.

The goal-7 has 3 targets that include providing global access to reliable, affordable and modern energy services along with increasing the share of renewable energy substantially in the energy mix and ensuring to make double the rate of enhancement in energy efficiency. Having lags in fuel resources, Bangladesh will face huge difficulties in achieving these targets. And there have been complete failure of transmission cum distribution systems as well as renewable energy programmes to deliver the expected outcomes. Besides, the per capita average consumption of energy in Bangladesh is fundamentally lower than those of Asia even in South Asian countries. Having low level of consumption, a serious energy crisis persists everywhere. As a result there is a sluggish growth in energy provisions although the demand for energy has been growing rapidly that hinders to achieve higher economic growth. The present government has taken some crucial steps to increase the electricity generation volume up to 20,000 MW by 2021 and in the same year electricity for all vision will be implemented. But some more challenges will be faced by Bangladesh in energy sector that include to match growing demand and shortage supply of electricity; to ensure energy security for all; to finalize and implement coal extraction plan; to promote the renewable energy especially solar and nuclear energy; Energy mix for electricity generation; and reduction of system loss from all levels. Implementing Rampal power plant is a great challenge for the government. So reaching middle income status by 2021 will be so difficult if these challenges cannot be met. It will be daunting task by the government to keep energy supply in line with the rapidly increasing demand. There must have the construction of power plants to be proceeded and contract negotiations must be transparent and accountable. The exploration of Nuclear energy must be ensured. Moreover, regional cooperation must be improved for the sustained import of electricity and substantial approach has to be taken for the exploration, production and utilization of natural gas along with ensuring the implementation of short, medium and long term programmes. As solar energy appears to have an unlimited supply, research and experimentation including wind power, should be encouraged. The Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministries are most relevant for realizing and implementing these targets.

The goal-8 has 10 basic targets that include sustaining economic growth at 7 percent; promoting development-based policies and achieving higher levels of economic productivity that support productive activities by improving resource efficiency in consumption and production; achieving productive employment for all; substantially reducing youth unemployment; eradicating forced labor; stopping human trafficking as well as heinous forms of child labor; promoting the rights of labor and ensuring safe working environment; implementing policies to promote tourism with sustainability and to invigorate the capacities of financial institutions for expanding access to financial services. The socio-political stability as well as strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the government is the great challenge to implement these targets and government can achieve these targets through sweeping reforms in administrative and financial governance. In the perspective plan the present government has taken some fundamental policies to boost growth 7 to 8 percent by 2015
and average 8 percent by 2021 to reach the threshold of middle income country. It will be very difficult for the government to have 8 percent growth not having increased all types of investment. The private, public and foreign direct investment is not up to the mark in the recent years. Having very slow nature in employment, the newly graduated are pressuring on labor force. The ministries of finance, planning, labor and employment, industries, civil aviation and tourism are relevant for realizing these targets.

The goal-9 has 5 specific targets that include developing quality, reliability, sustainability and resilience infrastructure to be developed, promoting inclusive as well as sustainable industrialization, increasing the small-scale of enterprise to financial services, and enhancing scientific research cum technological capabilities. Massive investments would require both from the private and public sector in infrastructures and industries as well as transnational collaborators. Some more challenges will be faced by Bangladesh in transportation and communication sector that also include fulfilling the transport demand originating from the higher growth rate of GDP; the introduction of modern technics for building capacity and quality and productivity enhancement to ensured; linking effective railway to be established between the country’s east and west zones and developing two sea ports to ensure smooth transaction; Ensuring good attempts be made to participate in a body and initiatives to be taken to connect global and regional transport systems that can assist between South Asia and East Asia through Bangladesh to build the land route links; Ensure greater participation by the private sector to the provision of required incentive packages for transport services and infrastructure development; Transport network and service development will be ensured so that these do not cause the environmental pollution and affect ecological balance; The upgradation of commuter train services is needed to ensure better urban transport facilities to the daily passengers around Dhaka, Chittagong, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Parbatipur, sylhet etc. Moreover, the implementation of projects are needed for enhancing the services of the traditional country boat sector and ensure the enforcement of safety regulations to reduce the number of accidents. So updating all communication system will be difficult task solely by the government. The ministries of industries, jute and textiles, communication, science and technology, posts, telecommunication and information technology are relevant for achieving these targets.

The Goal-10 has 7 specific targets that include progressively sustaining income increment of the lowest 40 percent of population at an increasing rate than public average, empowering and promoting political and socio-economic inclusion of all, ensuring same facilities and opportunities and minimize inequalities by eradicating discriminatory policies, laws and practices and implementing advocate policies, laws and actions; adopting and social protection policies, fiscal, wage policies for achieving sustainable equality; improving the laws, monitoring and enforcement of world monetary institutions; and facilitating safe, orderly, not irregular and accountable transit and mobile of the people. All these would require an overhaul of the domestic and international legal cum regulatory regimes. Another great challenge to be introduced is the income discrimination prevalence in society that present to be increased dramatically. From the findings it is observed that the income distribution is not fair and equal compared to consumption distribution. The gini coefficient of income inequality for the distribution of income has been increased significantly between 1990 and 2000. The current statistics shows again growth in the income Gini coefficient in 2005 but insignificantly increase during 2008 to 2012 and further the gap is widening day by day. Addressing income inequality problem to be resolve is a must by creating good access to yield high category of productivity, high income levels employment; boosting productivity and incomes of farm; ensuring to be focused on equity based public spending on family planning, education, water supply, health, and nutrition; minimizing the regional gap of growth; accelerating the entrance of the poor class people to production means (such as seeds, water, fertilizer, electricity and Infrastructural development). So the ministries of finance, law, justice and parliamentary affairs, expatriate welfare and overseas employment are relevant for implementing these targets.

The goal-11 has 7 targets that include ensuring adequate, safe and affordable housing for all, providing accessibility to affordable, safe, and sustainable transportation systems and ensuring road safety; improving panoramic and sustainable urbanization and having capacity for participatory and combined planning as well as management of human settlements; protecting and shielding the world’s natural and cultural heritages; significantly reducing the losses caused by disasters; reducing the adverse environmental impact of cities and providing entrance to safe, inclusive, accessible and green public spaces. There is huge shortage of residents although the incumbent government has initiated huge schemes to solve the housing problem. So implementation of these targets would be very difficult in Bangladesh because of rapid and unplanned urbanization, over population, and excessively high population density especially in urban areas, as well as resource constraints. The ministries of communication, housing and public works, environment and forests, cultural affairs, and disaster management are relevant for achieving these targets.

The goal-12 has 8 specific targets that cover the implementation of a ten year adapted schedules on sustainable production and consumption patterns, acquiring sustainable management and sufficient consumption of natural resources, lessening per capita food waste at a minimum 50% in consumer level and decreasing food losses in production chains; ensuring atmospheric sound chemicals and wastes management; encouraging companies to ensure sustainable practices. Maximum targets of Goal 12 don’t give that question’s answer directly and are so unlikely to have an important effect on national and public policies. Therefore all these would require massive efforts by the government as well as the private and non-government entities. The ministries of agriculture, jute and textiles, industries, food, planning
environment and forests are relevant to achieve these targets.

The goal-13 has very specific targets that include strengthening resilience and adaptive capability to face climate-bound hazards and natural calamities; incorporating the measures of climate change into national policies, plans and strategies; and creating awareness, upgrading education, having institutional capacity on climate change adaptability, mitigation, and impact reduction. The adverse global climate change is responsible for creating acute environmental risks impacting on human as well as on natural systems. Another covering area of human networks are river including other water bodies, forestry and agriculture along with marine systems and coastal zones include human settlements, financial services including insurance, energy with industry, and human health. Heavy Rainfall, atolls and coral reefs, glaciers, polar and alpine ecosystems, boreal and tropical forests, mangroves, and remnant native grasslands, prairie wetlands are included in natural systems. Due to human encroachment, the downfall of the environment in Bangladesh happens that impacts on climate change even more severe and acute. A permanent inundation may be occurred in the coastal areas due to rising sea levels that can displace huge numbers of people and salinity can be expanded into deeper and wider sense. Besides, frequent natural disasters damage crops, livestock, infrastructure, and hamper economic activities in rural economy including the coastal areas. There is a direct linkage between pauperism and intensifying climate change. Thus, the people of Bangladesh are likely to confront the increasing risks due to climate change by losing the security in terms of food, energy, water, livelihood, health, and habitat. So, colossal efforts would require especially by relevant government organizations like environment and forests ministry, environment department, ministry of planning, ministry of disaster management and relief, and disaster management department.

The goal-14 has 7 targets include prevention and reduction of marine pollution; sustainable management and production of marine and coastal eco-systems; minimizing and addressing the influences over the acidification of ocean; regulating the reaping and preventing too many fishes to catch and not legal cum unchecked fishing; conserving at least 10 percent of marine areas; banning certain fisheries subsidies that contribute to over-capacity and over-fishing; and sustainable use of marine resources help to add growth and economic benefits to least developed countries. Implementation of these targets would require closer coordination, efficient cum effective management of marine resources by relevant public entities like the ministries of fisheries and livestock, shipping and water resources, the department of fisheries as well as defense organizations like the Navy and Coast Guards. The Bay of Bengal is the great source of fisheries by which we can meet the huge demand of increasing population of the country. There is high income elasticity of demand of fisheries products and there is a projection of National Agriculture Commission that demand for fish will increase at approximately 4.1 percent between 2010 and 2020. However, having low level of investment in fishing in the flood plains, under captured fisheries production has been stagnated. There has been a steadily reduction of fish habitat in rivers, canals, and creeks by having siltation and drying nature of the perennial water bodies. The below given table can clarify the real situation and projection of fisheries production.

### Table 1 Estimation of Fisheries Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cultivable Area (thousand ha)</th>
<th>(Production thousand tonnes in different years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FY2008</td>
<td>FY2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed water bodies</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>1,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland open water</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>1,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total production of Fish</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total demand of Fish</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,540</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010 to 2021

So meeting this huge demand is a great challenge by Bangladesh. Coordinated efforts taken by the government and private or public-private partnership can be relevant to achieve the targets.

The goal-15 has 9 targets that include ensuring preservation, protection and balanced application of earthbound and into the interior fresh water with complex ecosystem and their service; all kinds of forests’ sustainability management; combating desertification, restoring debased land and low quality soil; making sure conservation of mountain eco-systems; taking urgent action to reduce the degradation and bio-diversity, loss of natural habitats, promoting fair sharing of benefit arising from inborn assets and resources; for the protection of flora and fauna to poach and traffic, emergency action to be taken; introducing steps to hinder and diminish the impact of intrusive nonnative species; and integrating ecological as well as biodiversity values into local and national development plans and processes. Biodiversity conservation as well as ecological balance is in a die-hard state. Erosion, loss of soil fertility and over-exploitation are the most significant and known problems in Hill forests. Soil fertility Loss, erosion, over grazing, flooding, drought, and poor water are the fundamental environmental problems in the plantations. All these would require heightened surveillance and effective monitoring cum regulatory roles by government entities like the ministries of land, agriculture, fisheries and livestock, environment and forests, planning, Chittagong hill tracts affairs, and the departments of forests and fisheries.

The goal-16 has 10 basic targets that include significant reduction in all types of disorder and related deaths; eradicating exploitation, trafficking, abusing and agitating against youth; ensuring law and equal accessibility of justice for all; lessening illegal financial and ammunition flows, invigorating the recovery and back of squandered assets, and fighting with all types of systematized crimes; reducing and controlling corruption and bribery substantially; formulating
effective, responsible and lucent institutions; ensuring accountable, comprehensive, typical and Participatory decision-making in all crucial levels; widening developing countries’ attachment in global organization; providing legitimated sameness to all; and making sure public access to news and facts and preserving basic independence. Good governance and inclusive democratic practices as well as strengthening the watchdog role of constitutional bodies and democratic institutions would require flourishing of all these. The Cabinet Division, Prime, Minister’s Office, the ministries of public administration, home affairs, law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, anticorruption commission, Jatiya Sangsad, political parties and the civil society are the fundamental entities to realize and achieve these targets.

The goal-17 stipulates the ways of strengthening the establishment and revitalization of world contact for achieving sustainable development. It infers to financial technological aspects, capacity building especially in developing countries, promotional of global, command-based, disclose, discrimination less, balanced, and multidimensional trading system and also addresses like multi-stakeholder partnerships policy and institutional coherence along with data monitoring and accountability issues. The ministries of foreign affairs, finance, planning and commerce are liable to achieve this goal.

Concluding Remarks:

It is well recognized that SDGs are all interconnected within a system. We are to achieve all goals not to single one. However, all goals and targets’ interlink and relations are not simple to acquire. The interaction among some goals and targets are stronger than others. The reinforcement happens between each other by some targets. The confliction by others may occur with one another and some can be essential for achieving others. That’s why all government institutions have been given direction to incorporate SDG issues in their training and implementing curriculum. The sustainable development goals reflect our contemporary understanding that social, economic, and environmental issues cannot be clearly divided. The issues are intertwined at the global level as well as household level. Therefore, the implementation of SDGs, as argued by some, is not the responsibility of the government alone, but nations, which necessitates the participation of all relevant stakeholders. By the best trying to acquire the major goals and targets of SDGs, the country will not only achieve the crown of middle income economy by 2021, but also acquire the recognition of developed country by 2040. Most importantly, though we are at the second year of SDG implementation, Bangladesh needs to move fast not only to just compete with the rest of the contenders and but to lead in the area of innovative development solutions. Achieving all sustainable development goals cannot be an easy task. Coordinated approach and efforts, interconnected public-private schemes, combined role of private and public entrepreneurs, cooperative nature of all political parties, civil societies irrespective of all cast, creed, religions can bring the more successful story as like Millennium development goals to implement and achieve maximum goals and targets of SDGs by confronting all challenges and strategies in Bangladesh.

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