

Concept Note

Cold Chain Investment Conference 2024

Context

Bangladesh, with its rapidly growing economy and massive population, stands at a crucial juncture where the demand for efficient and reliable cold chain logistics has become imperative. USDA Bangladesh Trade Facilitation project (BTF) works to develop the cold chain or temperature-controlled logistics (TCL) industry in Bangladesh as a key intervention to reduce post-harvest loss (PHL) of agricultural produce and boost trade of high-value food. As the apex investment promotion agency of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) also recognizes the critical role that TCL play in preserving the quality and safety of perishable goods, especially in the context of the country's highly potential export-oriented sectors such as agribusiness. Investments in TCL can maximize the potential of the Agribusiness sectors by ensuring that perishable produce reach markets in optimal condition and by maintaining product efficacy and safety, among many other benefits. By attracting investments in TCL, Bangladesh can create a more resilient and efficient supply chain, attracting businesses and investors in the process. This not only strengthens the country's economic foundation but also generates employment opportunities across various stages of the cold chain, from storage facilities to transportation and distribution networks. In this context, the Cold Chain Investment Conference 2024 is being organized to enable knowledge transfer and networking between policy makers, investors and finance providers.

Objective

BIDA and USDA Bangladesh Trade Facilitation (BTF) Project will host the conference to:

- Facilitate and encourage both domestic and foreign investments in temperature-controlled cold chain logistics (TCL) to align with the national economic agenda
- Understand the importance of cold chain logistics development in driving national macroeconomic benefits.
- Highlight the Government of Bangladesh interventions to facilitate investment in Cold Storage and TCL
- Discuss role of financial sector in promoting financing solutions for cold chain projects
- Present successful investment models.

Outcome

By disseminating the key findings of keynote report 'Role of Cold Chain in Ensuring High Quality, Safe Food, and an Expanded Export Basket' by USDA Bangladesh Trade Facilitation (BTF) Project, the conference will discuss and identify potential areas of strategic TCL investment as well as policy interventions needed for a resilient and efficient cold chain infrastructure in Bangladesh.

Program

28th February 2024 (Wednesday)

BIDA Multi-purpose Hall (Level-1), Biniyog Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

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| 10:00 | Guest Registration |
| 10:30 | Guests take seats |
| 11:00 | Opening Ceremony |
| 11:01-11:10 | Opening Speech: Mr. Michael J Parr, Project Director, BTF |
| 11:11-11:30 | Keynote Speech: Mr. William Fellows, MD, Lixia Capsia Gestionis, US Importance of TCL: Role of Cold Chain in Ensuring High Quality, Safe Food, and an Expanded Export Basket |

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| 11:31–11:40 | Discussion on Keynote: Dr. M Masrur Reaz, CEO, Policy Exchange |
| 11:41–11:50 | Speech by Special Guest: Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) |
| 11:51–12:00 | Speech by Special Guest: Commercial Counsellor, US Embassy in Bangladesh |
| 12:01–12:10 | Speech by Special Guest: Mr. Md Selim Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock |
| 12:10–12:30 | Speech by Chief Guest: Mr. Salman Fazlur Rahman MP, Hon'ble Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser |
| 12:31–12:40 | Closing Remarks by Session Chair: Mr. Lokman Hossain Miah, Executive Chairman (Senior Secretary), BIDA |
| 13:01–14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:01–15:15 | Panel Discussion: Ensuring Access to Finance and Conducive Policies to attract TCL Investment in Bangladesh Chaired by Mr. Md. Mostafa Kamal, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Shipping Moderated by Mr. Mashrur Arefin, MD and CEO, The City Bank Ltd |
| 15:16–15:25 | Q&A |
| 15:25–15:40 | Remarks by Session Chair: Mr. Md. Mostafa Kamal, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Shipping |
| 15:41–16:00 | Refreshment |