

Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation, Connectivity & Inclusive Development in South & South-West Asia

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Regional Cooperation Agenda for Food Security: Operationalisation of SAARC Food Bank

Presentation by

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***** This presentation has been prepared on the basis of a CPD study undertaken
in cooperation with SAWTEE led by Professor Mustafizur Rahman***



Outline

- ❑ Background
- ❑ Present State of SAARC Food Bank (SFB)
- ❑ Issues for the Operationalisation of SFB
- ❑ Recommendations for the Operationalisation of SFB

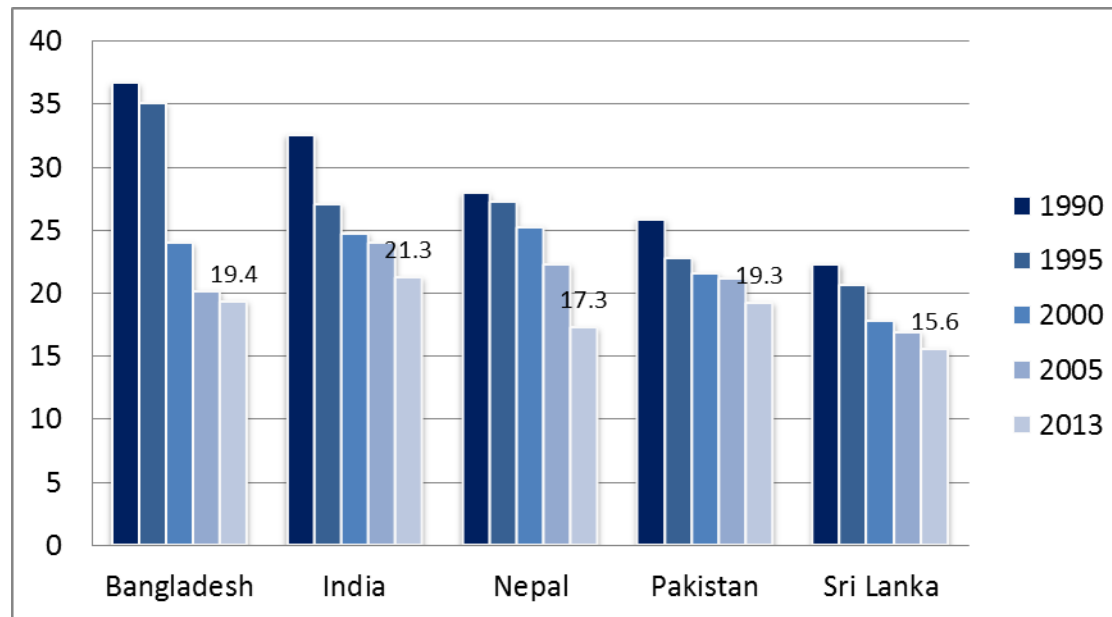


Background

Global Hunger Index (GHI) Score for SAARC Countries

- In 2013, Sri Lanka has the highest rank (43) followed by Nepal (49), Pakistan (57), Bangladesh (58), & India (63)

Figure 2: GHI for Selected SAARC Countries



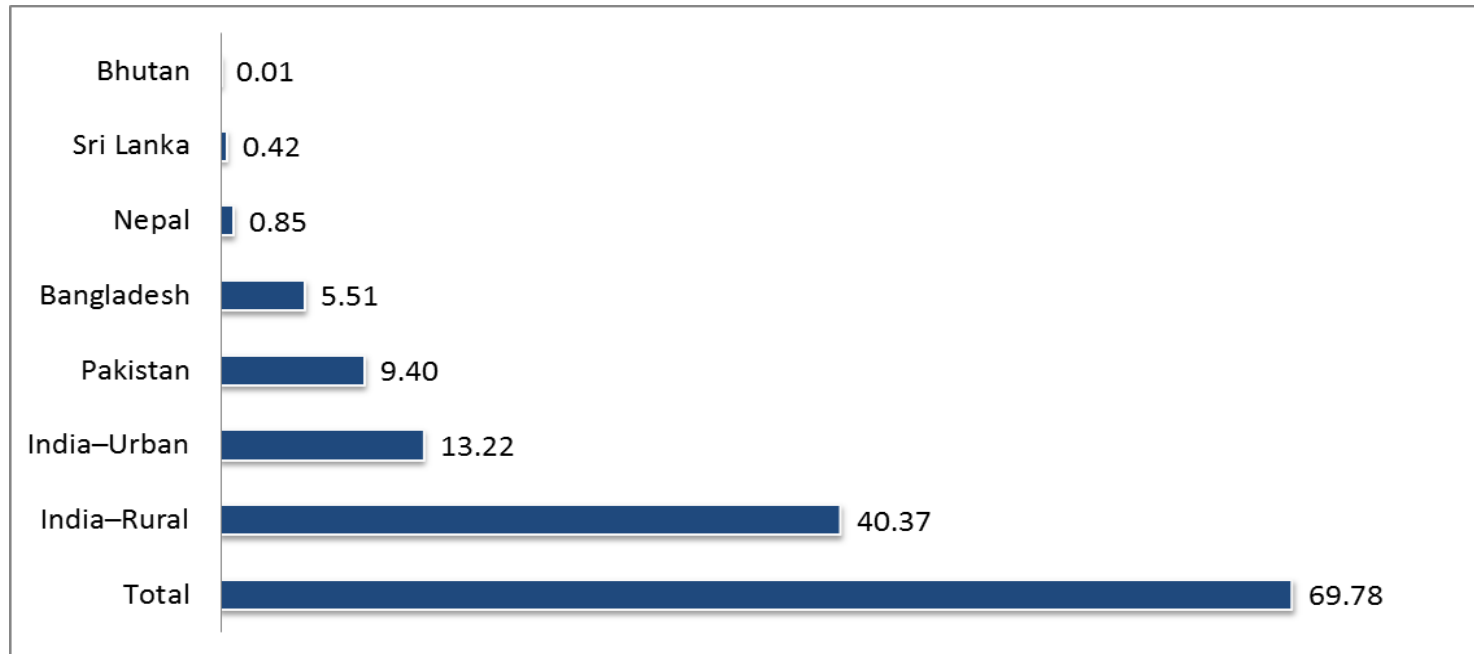
Source: IFPRI, 2013



Background

Impact of Food Price on Poverty in South Asia

Figure 3: Number of Poor People due to Food Price (Million)



Source: ADB, 2013

*** these people would have been able to escape poverty if food prices remained unchanged*



Background

Inception of SAARC Food Bank (SFB)

- SAARC Food Security Reserve was established in 1988
 - Due to structural flaws & procedural problems, the reserve could not be operationalised
- The possible adverse impact of **climate change** & the need for **legally binding commitment** to ensure adequate amount of food at affordable price
 - SAARC Food Bank idea started a new journey at the time of ***14th SAARC Summit***, in ***2007***



Background

Inception of SAARC Food Bank

Goal

To serve as a source of emergency supply of food from a resource of collective national reserves

Provisions

- ✓ Specific amount of contributions from the members
- ✓ Specific withdrawal guidelines based on humanitarian considerations
- ✓ Availability of food at a discount price
- ✓ Explicit reasons for support from the bank
- ✓ Instruction for storage
- ✓ Detailed guidelines on quality standards



Present State of SFB

- Initially SFB had a total dedicated stock of *241.58 thousand metric ton (tmt)* of foodgrains of which
 - ✓ *India* contributed *153.20* tmt
 - ✓ *Bangladesh & Pakistan 40.00* tmt *each*
 - ✓ *Nepal & Sri Lanka 4.00* tmt *each*
 - ✓ *Afghanistan 1.42* tmt
 - ✓ *Maldives 0.20* tmt &
 - ✓ *Bhutan 0.18* tmt

The share of the members was determined on the basis of comparative data on production capacity, per capita consumption & availability



Present State of SFB

- In **2009**, SAARC Food Bank Board decided to **double the reserves** to **486 tmt** on the ground of
 - ✓ growing population
 - ✓ overall production
 - ✓ growing demand &
 - ✓ increased vulnerability due to disaster & climate

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_6081

