

REVERSE LINKAGE

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

COTTON VARIETIES DEVELOPMENT



 **BANGLADESH (RECIPIENT)**
 **TURKEY (PROVIDER)**

INCREASING LOCAL
COTTON PRODUCTION
IN BANGLADESH



THE CHALLENGE

Cotton is one of the most important cash crops in Bangladesh and the main raw material of its textile industry, contributing significantly to the country's exports. However, local cotton production is far from meeting annual requirements of the textile industry, which is around one million tons. Therefore, 97% of cotton is imported from abroad and only 3% is locally produced.

The Government of Bangladesh is keen to increase cotton production without affecting the already limited agricultural land used to grow food crops. Therefore, the Government's policy is to utilize less productive agricultural land for cotton production, necessitating the development of new cotton varieties.

The Cotton Development Board (CDB), under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh, is mandated to lead the effort in increasing cotton production. The CDB has relatively good physical infrastructure and sufficient technical staff. However, its major challenge is the limited knowledge of advanced cotton research to generate new cotton varieties appropriate for Bangladesh's agro-ecological conditions.

THE SUPPLY

Turkey's Cotton Research Institute (CRI) is a specialized institute on cotton research under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey. It is mandated to conduct studies on producing new cotton varieties appropriate for agro-ecological conditions in Turkey, leading to increasing cotton productivity and yield. Since 1934, the CRI's achievements have contributed to Turkey ranking among the top countries in the world for lint cotton yield.

The CRI conducts training and advanced research in cotton breeding, cotton agronomy, genetics, biotechnology, plant health, and seed, as well as cotton fiber quality. Throughout its history, the CRI has developed and released 37 cotton varieties provided to the farmers in Turkey. These varieties have important characteristics such as early maturity and high yield.

The CRI's research and training activities benefit from adequate facilities including two laboratories for biotechnology and fiber quality, 22 warehouses, and 114 hectare of land area. Total number of CRI staff is 76, including 30 technical experts.



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THE MATCHMAKING

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) recognized the need for strengthening the capacity of public and private firms in Bangladesh, a priority area under its Member Country Partnership Strategy.

The IsDB and Turkey undertook a comprehensive “Resource Centers Mapping,” which identified the CRI as one of the best institutions in cotton research in Turkey. Furthermore, in June 2014, the IsDB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRI) for supporting capacity development in member countries.

Taking into consideration the needs of Bangladesh and capacities in Turkey, the IsDB connected the CDB and CRI, which are mandated to improve cotton varieties in Bangladesh and Turkey, respectively. The IsDB then coordinated and funded a peer-to-peer consultation process to undertake detailed diagnosis of the current capacities of CDB. This resulted in formulating a Reverse Linkage project to transfer relevant Turkish’s expertise to Bangladesh.

THE PROJECT

GOAL

The project aims to enhance the capacity of Bangladesh’s CDB in cotton varieties development for increasing cotton production on less productive agricultural land.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Providing long-term training on cotton research for 10 Bangladeshi researchers, covering 9 topics, in Turkish universities.
- Organizing short-term training on 13 cotton production practices for 65 CDB staff in CRI and the Izmir Institute of Technology.
- Providing 10 previously developed and patented cotton varieties by CRI to the CDB, free of charge.
- Conducting adaptation trials of the CRI’s varieties at 5 research centers of CDB under different agroecological zones of Bangladesh.
- Producing new desired varieties by crossing 10 CRI’s varieties with 4 local varieties.



- Conducting 12 training courses for 25 CDB staff through 'Joint Cotton Varieties Development' in Bangladesh.
- Enhancing the research and Information Technology environment within CDB, including procuring raised bed planter machines and desktop computers.

DURATION

Three years, from 2019 to 2022.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Two project coordinators from Bangladesh and Turkey will handle the day-to-day work of the project. A joint coordination committee, composed of representatives from all the project's partners will be established. It will meet every eight months throughout the project period to review and compare progress against the expected results and propose corrective actions, if needed.

THE WINS FOR ALL

In Bangladesh, the project will trigger a chain of positive changes. The project will help CDB to address its major challenge; the enhancement of staff capacity on advanced cotton research. This will lead to applying well-established research methodologies to develop improved cotton varieties. Increasing local cotton production, and hence reducing cotton imports, will enable the country to save foreign exchange reserves and increase farmers' incomes.

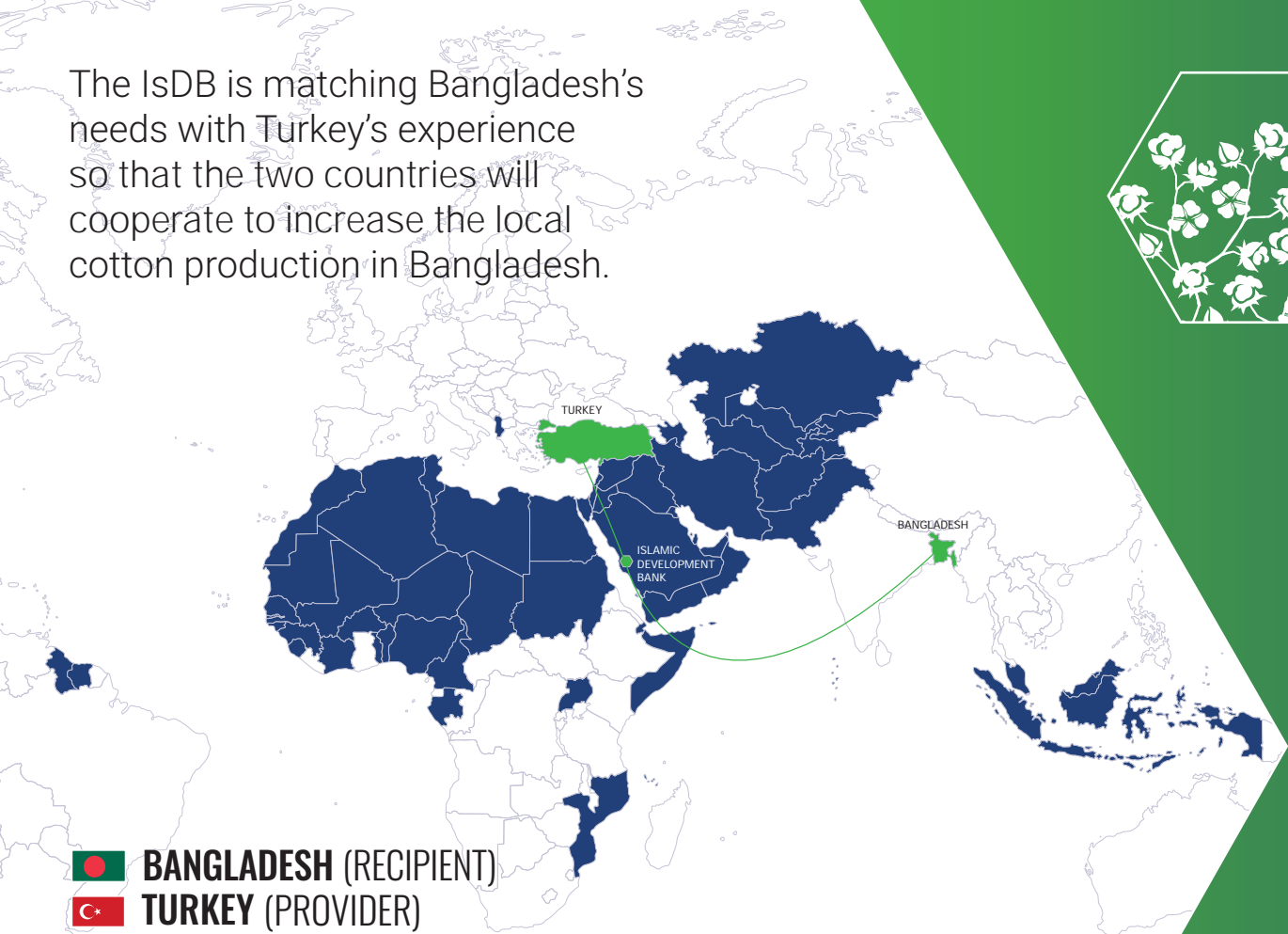
In addition, the project will showcase Turkish technical achievements in the cotton sector. The CRI will increase its international presence and strengthen its ties with Bangladesh's institutions, which will help in opening new business opportunities.

The IsDB 10-year Strategic Framework aims to develop the capacity of member countries and enhance cooperation between them. The project will effectively contribute to achieving these two objectives. Furthermore, the project has the potential to become a model that can be replicated in other IsDB member countries where cotton is a primary agricultural crop.



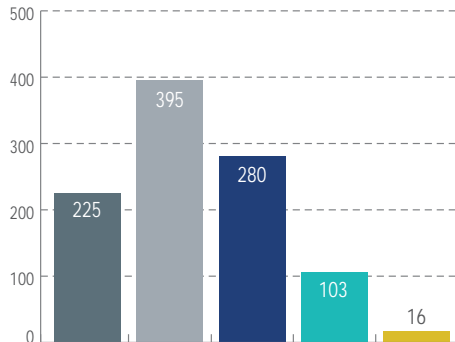
THE CRI DEVELOPED
AND RELEASED
37
COTTON VARIETIES THAT
HAVE BEEN PROVIDED
TO THE FARMERS
IN TURKEY

The IsDB is matching Bangladesh's needs with Turkey's experience so that the two countries will cooperate to increase the local cotton production in Bangladesh.



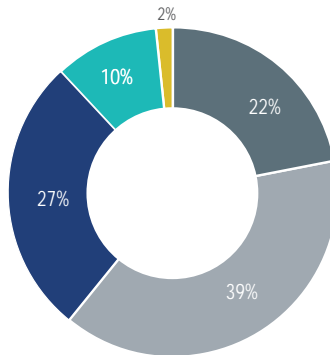
 **BANGLADESH (RECIPIENT)**
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CONTRIBUTION (US\$ THOUSANDS)



 GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH  GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY
 THE ISDB  SESRIC  OZALTIN LTD

PERCENTAGE (%)



THE PROJECT
 COMMENCED IN
2019
 AND RUNS UNTIL
2022

It is at the center of the IsDB's mandate to promote cooperation among its member countries.

In 1981, the Makkah Declaration of the Third Islamic Conference Summit called the OIC member countries to strengthen collaboration, to utilize and foster their talents, skills and technological capacities. The Bank responded and launched its Technical Cooperation Program in 1983. This has then been scaled up via what we call Reverse Linkage.

The structured skills swap under Reverse Linkage helps the recipient country diagnose and analyze a problem while the provider country shares its proven knowledge and expertise to find a solution.

The idea that all partners have something to gain from cooperation lies at the heart of Reverse Linkage.

The learning process is reciprocal, knowledge transfer is in both directions, and benefits are mutual.

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