Annexure I. The brief of all the five-year plans of Bangladesh with a specific focus on Agriculture.

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| **Five-year plan** | **The key focus of the plan** | **Remarks** |
| 1st FYP (1973-78) | Focus: Increase food production to feed the people of Bangladesh.  Strategy: Policies focused on adopting high-yielding crop varieties, improving irrigation, and providing access to credit for smallholder farmers. This led to a substantial increase in rice and wheat production, reducing the country's dependence on food aid.  Impact: Improved food security, increased agricultural productivity, and reduced poverty, but also raised environmental concerns due to excessive chemical use (Islam, 1974). | The First Plan's target for foodgrain production was not met due to natural calamities and the slow adoption of modern agricultural technology. |
| Two-year plan  (1978-80) | Because of the shortage of funds, the program was carried over to the Two-Year Plan, 1978-80 (Kamiśana, 1978, pp. 1978–80)). | |
| 2nd FYP (1980-85) | Focus: Reduce poverty through the participation of the rural poor in an expanded development program.  Strategy: Continue focusing on the adoption of high-yielding crop varieties and improving irrigation.  Impact: There was a modest increase in food grain production but not the targeted amount. Frequent floods and droughts, inadequate irrigation facilities, and deficiencies in fertilizer distribution were significant issues. The area under irrigation did not reach the target of 7.21 million acres, and the performance of cash crops was also unsatisfactory. | During the Second Plan, the target for food production was 17.5 million mt. Foodgrain production reached 15.8 million mt, a modest increase from 13.5 million mt in 1979/80. The area under irrigation only reached 6.12 million acres, falling short of the 7.21 million acres target |
| 3rd FYP (1985-90) | Focus: Emphasize agriculture as the primary driver for developing domestic resources. This focus aimed to address key economic and social challenges, particularly in rural areas (Planning Commission, 1980)..  Strategy: Allocate about 30 percent of the Plan outlay to the agriculture sector, focusing on water resources and rural institutions development. This included agricultural development, basic infrastructure creation, employment, and production programs for the rural poor, and meeting essential social service needs, aiming to empower rural communities and enhance their well-being.  Impact: Despite these challenges, the sector still experienced moderate growth in food grain production (Planning Commission, 1985). | The Third Plan prioritized agriculture for domestic resource development. Despite severe floods in 1987 and 1988, which prevented achieving the target of 20.6 million metric tons, foodgrain production reached 18.75 million metric tons, exceeding the 15.8 million metric ton benchmark. This indicates that, despite setbacks, the plan positively impacted agricultural production, contributing to economic development and poverty reduction. |
| 4th FYP (1990-95) | Focus: Attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains and increase the production of other nutritional crops.  Strategy: Privatize input distribution, withdraw subsidies, liberalize imports, and increase private investment in agriculture. The strategy focused on improving yield per acre rather than expanding crop acreage.  Impact: Increased foodgrain production, primarily from the Aman crop due to expanded HYV acreage. However, the actual growth rate in the agriculture sector during the Fourth Plan fell short of the 3.60% target, averaging only 0.98% annually, with notable setbacks in 1993/94 and 1994/95. Challenges included issues with high-quality seeds, slow minor irrigation expansion, and environmental concerns like land erosion, water depletion, soil degradation, and imbalanced fertilizer use (Planning Commission, 1990). | The Fourth Plan set a foodgrain production target of 21.98 million metric tons, surpassing the 1989/90 benchmark of 18.85 million metric tons. The crop diversification program (CDP) implemented from 1990-95 in 125 thanas showed promising results in yields of maize, pulses, oilseeds, potatoes, and vegetables. |
| Two Year Plan Holiday (1995-97) | Continued emphasis on foodgrain self-sufficiency and crop diversification from the Fourth Plan persisted. In 1995/96, foodgrain production improved compared to the previous two years but remained below the 1992/93 peak of 19.6 million metric tons. The Aus crop, affected by inadequate rainfall, produced 1.68 million metric tons, 0.11 million metric tons less than the final year of the Fourth Plan (Planning Commission, 1995). | |
| 5th FYP (1997-2002) | Focus: Increase the productivity and real income of farming families in rural areas sustainably, achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrain production, enhance the cultivation of other nutritional crops, and promote the export of agricultural commodities, especially vegetables and fruits, while meeting domestic production needs.  Strategy: Encourage advanced farming practices in diverse environments, including dry land, wetland, and coastal areas, to ensure sustained agricultural growth. Optimize the use of land, water, and other crucial resources, transition larger farms into commercial enterprises, and introduce diversified cropping systems to utilize upland areas for non-rice crops during winter.  Impact: Recognize the potential for crop diversification by using fallow land with advanced technology. Crop rotation and high-value crop production are seen as strategies to increase farmers' income and maintain soil fertility. Accelerate technological advancement through high-yielding varieties, diversified cropping systems, extensive extension services, improved drainage and water management, timely planting, soil fertility management, infrastructure development, postharvest processing, and marketing facilities. Address the main constraint to diversification, the lack of technological advancement, with these strategies (Planning Commission, 1997). | Financial outlay exclusively for Crop Diversification 8.87% (1900 million tk) (at 1996/97 prices) of agricultural budget. |
| 6th FYP (2011-2015)  “*Accelerating Growth and Reducing Poverty*” | Focus: Achieve self-sufficiency in rice and wheat production to avoid import dependency and emphasize inter-cropping to boost overall crop production and balanced nutrition.  Strategy: Adopt a system-based approach to achieve balanced nutrition through food production diversification, utilizing agroecological zoning for crop suitability and an area-based development approach.  Impact: Improved environmental sustainability and potential for higher-value exports, but challenges remain in scaling up sustainable practices. Increased access to agricultural information and better market linkages for smallholder farmers. Enhanced agricultural resilience to climate shocks, but widespread adoption of climate-smart practices still faces challenges (Planning Commission, 2011). | For crop intensification, the coastal zone, the Sylhet region, and the char areas received priority in crop sector development plans. Emphasis was placed on diversifying to high-value crops, leveraging a receptive market and a favorable policy environment as comparative advantages for certain traditional fruits and vegetables. |
| 7th FYP (2016-2020)  “*Accelerating Growth and Empowering Citizens”* | Focus: Transform agriculture from semi-subsistence farming to commercialization, emphasizing productivity gains, diversification, and value addition.  Strategy: Encourage the crop sub-sector through policy changes, new technologies, extension services, and credit provision for small farmers. Support the livestock sub-sector by developing dairy products, improving beef breeds, and enhancing poultry production for meat and eggs, including export market efforts. Promote the fisheries sub-sector through open water fisheries management, inland aquaculture, shrimp and coastal aquaculture, and marine fisheries development, focusing on increasing exports (Planning Commission, 2015). | The combination of continued emphasis on food productivity, and agricultural diversification. |
| 8th FYP (2020-25)  *“Promoting Prosperity and Fostering Inclusiveness”* | Focus: Promote labour-intensive and export-oriented manufacturing-led growth, agricultural diversification, support for CMSMEs, modernization of the services sector, and ICT-based entrepreneurship. Emphasize non-factor services and overseas employment opportunities.  Strategy: Increase agricultural diversification while maintaining food security through improvements in farm productivity, input supply, price policy support, water supply, farm credit, and marketing support. Promote agricultural exports to boost farm income and employment in non-crop activities, particularly fisheries, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products (Planning Commission, 2020). | 8FYP includes seven key themes: agricultural diversification, labor-intensive export-oriented manufacturing, dynamism in CMSMEs, strengthening the modern services sector, increasing exports of non-factor services, promoting ICT-based entrepreneurship, and strengthening overseas employment. |

*Source:* Government of Bangladesh various five-year plan documents.