

**Govt Builds Eight Silos under MFSFP**

# 5.43 lakh tonnes rice, wheat to be stored to meet post-disaster needs



**AHAMED ULLAH**

The government is developing eight steel-made silo complexes with a storage capacity for 5.43 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat under Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSFP) to make grain reserve available to households to meet their post-disaster needs and improve the efficiency of grain storage management.

Besides, the project will enable

domestic silos provide grain and seed to around 500,000 households in disaster-prone coastal areas to ensure household food security during and after natural disasters.

Md Gazi Ur Rahman, Project Director of Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSFP), said eight silos are being constructed in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Barisal, Mymensingh, Ashuganj, Maheshwarpasha and Madhupur areas.

"The land development and de-

sign and drawing works are going on simultaneously," he added.

He also said if the project is implemented, the preservation of around 352,498 tonnes of rice and 190,725 tonnes of wheat in flood-prone areas would be ensured.

Rahman also the joint secretary of the government said: "The way we preserve food grains at present can maintain quality for one year, whereas the modern steel silos will ensure quality for 10 to 12 years. But we have decided to allow grain preserved in bulk for up to two to three years in better conditions."

He also said: "We are building those silos to reduce losses of grain both in terms of quality and quantity and enhance nutritional value of the grain distributed."

The nutritional quality of the stored grain will be retained with computerised control of humidity and temperature. Operating costs of the silos will also be low, along with higher operational efficiency, he added. "Besides the steel silos, we will distribute 5 lakh household silos in 63 upazilas of 19 districts in coastal and disaster-prone areas," he added.

He also said the household silos will be built using poly propylene co polymer (PPCP), which is very high

quality plastic. These household-level silos, or grain storage bins, are specially designed as 60-litre capacity food-grade plastic bins with a water-tight lid that prevents water intrusion from surges and floods. The bins can hold about 55kg of paddy.

The PD also said: "We will also do rice fortification, the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice."

"Fortified rice delivers essential vitamins and minerals missing in many peoples' meals and can help them get the nutrition they need for an active and healthy life," he added.

"We will conduct rice fortification of 25 percent stock of rice," he added.

He also said, under the project a food policy research programme will be developed. Besides, project management support, supervision and technical assistance and training would be provided, he added.

"Under the project, we have planned to establish nationwide electronic monitoring system for food stocks to ensure leak-proof supply management," he further said.

The PD said after full implementation, the people of Bangladesh will be benefited from this project.