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Digitized: July 24, 2014

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A credit of $27 million from the INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), an affiliate of the WORLD BANK, will help to finance a project to provide reliable irrigation to some 140,000 acres of land near the city of Barisal in South Western Bangladesh.

At full development in 1985, the project will help to increase rice production by 202,000 tons a year from the present level of 143,000 tons per year. This in turn will enable Bangladesh to save $15 million in foreign exchange each year. About 110,000 farm families (over 600,000 persons) will benefit from the project. It will also generate increased employment opportunities.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) joined IDA in preparing the project under the Bank/FAO Cooperative Program.

Among those present at the signing of the credit documents on April 29, 1975, were, seated from left to right: Mr. M. Matiul Islam, Alternate Executive Director of IDA for Bangladesh; Mr. S.R. Sen, Executive Director of IDA for Bangladesh; His Excellency M. Hossain Ali, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States; and Mr. Mervyn L. Weiner, Vice President, South Asia Region, IDA.

Photo: G. Franchini for IDA.