

## Salt Industry of Bangladesh: A Study in the Cox's Bazar

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### Abstract

*This study focuses on revealing the problems, sources of problems and identifying the probable solutions to mitigate the problems. The study also focuses on to identify the role of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in salt industry. The study is conducted in Cox's Bazar where the units in it account for the manufacture of about 95% of the total production of the country. The study is descriptive in nature. Both primary and secondary data are used in the study. In the present stage, cultivation of salt is insufficient to meet the growing demand due to natural calamities, variation in rainfall, changes in the terms of land lease, lack of financing, high cost of financing, illegal infiltration of salt from Myanmar which reduces the market price of salt, rising cost of indigenous equipment, lack of profitability etc. To alleviate the crisis, buffer stock can only be kept through salt project financed by the Government and providing financial help to the salt cultivators from financial institutions so that cultivation process is not hampered. Besides, new projects can be set up to resolve the problems of salt industry.*

**Keywords:** *Natural calamities, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Buffer stock, Salt production*

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**Introduction:**

Salt industry plays a very important role in the development of the economy of Bangladesh in terms of output, employment generation and industrialization. Salt is perhaps the only industrial mineral that is used by virtually every human being. It can also be found in every country and is produced commercially in some 120 countries of the world. Salt industry is the largest labor oriented cottage industry in Bangladesh. The growth of this sector is closely related with industrial development of the country. The attainment of self-sufficiency in salt saves a huge amount of foreign currency which would be required for importing salt. This sector also generates large number of employment. About 5 million people are directly or indirectly engaged in this sector. Also about 25 million people's socio-economic life style mostly depends upon these 5 million people. This sector contributes about Tk.300 to Tk.350 cores each year in national economy that stands for Tk.1200 to Tk.1500 cores will be processed. Therefore, the importance of the crude salt production and the salt producers needs no further exaggeration.

Many authorities have undertaken the responsibility of developing this sector. At present BSCIC through its extension works in the field level have been providing promotion & extension services to the salt growers through dissemination of technical knowledge, providing market information etc.

The salt industry in Bangladesh can be divided into two categories, namely the salt mill and saltpan. The salt mill, which refines crude salt, is considered a mobile industry, since their location is dependent on the decisions made by the salt mill owner.

On the contrary, the saltpans, which are found only on the beaches of Cox's Bazar, can be considered an immobile industry because their location is dependent on the availability of seawater. Small-scale industry in the rural areas of Bangladesh plays a very important role in the development of the rural economy.

In Bangladesh salt is produced from sea water by solar and lixiviation process in the coastal areas of the districts of Chittagong, Cox's bazaar, Noakhali, Barishal and Khulna and the adjoining off-shore islands. Lixiviation processes are being practiced in Noakhali, Barishal and Khulna districts. But the units in Cox's bazaar account for the manufacture of about 95% of the total production of the country. This profile is prepared on the basis of the solar process.

Salt farming is overwhelmingly concentrated in Cox's Bazar district where 15% of total rural households of the district are salt farmers. They meet bulk of the demand for raw salt in the country. As of June 2003, 38,328 salt farmers operated on 23,735 ha of land in Cox's Bazar. Moheshkhali upazila has the highest concentration of salt farmers. They operate on 1/3rd of the total land area under salt farming in Cox's bazaar. More importantly climate conditions make the place suitable for expansion of modern salt industry based on solar evaporation process and the vast tract of khas land permits establishment of salt farms of desirable size (Hossain, AIT, Thailand).

The ideal weather condition for salt production is when there is low rainfall and high evaporation rates. In the case of Bangladesh, such weather condition prevails between the months of late November and early May of the following year. Salt farmers are mostly poor and operate on a small scale. Most of them temporarily lease the land for 1 year from landowners or through middlemen. Very few farmers have their own land. The farmers sell their raw salt directly to the traders or sometimes through the middlemen at the farm gate or in the local hat (market). Then these raw salts are sold to the salt processing mills. There are about 60 salt processing mills in Cox's bazaar district, where washing, crushing, iodine mixing, drying and packing of these raw salts are done. During processing about 25% of the raw salt become wastage, while the remaining 75% are crushed and packed as iodide salt and distributed throughout the country mainly for human consumption. About 5 million people are directly or indirectly engaged in salt production and trading in Bangladesh. More than 95% of these men are engaged in production, washing & trading, whereas about 5% are women who are engaged in packing. The farm gate price varies between Tk.80-120 per 40kg of salt depending on the quality. Compared to the mud mixed salt, this salt is considered as good quality. After washing, crushing and packing the market varies between Tk.8-10 per kg.

The salt farmers work under adverse condition. They are in close proximity to the open sea and often face all the hazards coming from the sea. Sometimes the whole output is washed away by heavy rain and shore surge because of lack of storage facility. Also, they don't get the right price. Sometimes the middlemen / traders create artificial crisis of money shortage and stop buying. But the farmers need to sell the salts even at a lower price to maintain their daily common demands. Besides these, financing is the main problems of salt farmers in producing salt. Also salt factories are in dire straits for financial crunch. According to Shihidul Islam, the general secretary of the khulna salt industry owners association, among 38 salt factories in Khulna, only 8 factories are running properly and among the mills which have been operational since 1983, about 24 factories have already been closed due to the financial crunch and 3500 workers & laborers have already become jobless (Khan, 1995). This bad effect could fall on the country's other salt production zones. The industry faces a number of problems, including difficulties in introducing modern technology, lack of adequate bank finance, poor storage facilities & the conflicts between the producers & the middlemen in salt industry.

The salt farmers bear 97.7 percent of production costs to get only 54 percent of the sale proceed, while land owners and brokers pocket the rest, revealed a report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Sachetan Nagorik Committee (Sanak) in a survey report in 2008. Around 44,500 families are engaged in salt cultivation in 75,000 acres of land that produced around 1.7 million tonnes of salt against the target of 1.34 million tonnes in 2009-10. The farmers have long been deprived as the Government did not have any salt policy (The Daily Star, 18-04-2011).

Salt exports from Rakhine State to Bangladesh has resumed for the first time since 2005. Myanmar accepted its northwestern neighbors' offer to purchase 10,000 tones of salt. A total of 3,000 tones of salt are being exported free on board from Sittwe jetty. The export move was initiated through the Bangladesh consulate and with the supervision of Rakhine State authorities in the second week of September, priced at 60 kyats per viss (1 tonne equals 660 viss). After exporting 3,000 tones of salt, the price of the remaining 7,000 tones of salt will be negotiated ([www.elevenmyanmar.com](http://www.elevenmyanmar.com)).

The price of different brands of packed iodized salt increased by over 43 per cent a kilogram over a year in the retail markets of the city. According to the latest data of TCB—the state trading corporation—the price of packed iodized salt had increased by Tk 4 to Tk 10 a kg in the city markets in comparison to the same period of the last year and was retailing for Tk 16 to Tk 30, depending on their quality. The year-to-year price increase rate is 43.75 per cent. One kg of packed iodized salt was retailing for Tk 12 to Tk 20 a year ago. Salt price increased in at least four phases in the last one year (The New Age, 07/05/2012).

### **Literature Review:**

Salt industry is not a new introduction in Bangladesh. From the Mughal period to the present, many authorities have undertaken the responsibility of developing this sector in order to attain self-sufficiency in producing salt. During the Mughal period, the salt industry was some sort of Government monopoly. The management was in the hands of Zamiders, who worked in collaboration with local merchants and advanced money for salt production. Between 1757 and 1765, many Englishmen entered the salt business either directly or indirectly through the Banians (Ben K., Kyoto University).

During the Pakistan period (1947 to 1971), salt was a growing industry. The formal organization in charge of development of salt industry was the Directorate of Industries and the Small Industries Corporation. The latter conducted a census of salt producing units in 1964 and found a total of 16541 such units that used 11769 acres of land and employed 50854 laborers. The production volume was about 0.3 million tons valued at Tk.20 million. After liberation of Bangladesh in 1971, the BSCIC took up the task of developing this industry. It launched at Tk.13 million the project supplemented by a subsequent UNICEF assisted Tk.22.6 million program to attain self-sufficiency in salt production in the country (Hossain, 2001). The UNICEF has supplied iodine to BSCIC and the BSCIC supplied it to the mill owners for a token price to make iodide salt. All the concerned departments, organization & association are positively committed to the national govt. to never supply the salt in the market without iodine mixing.

Coastal natural resources in the Cox's Bazar coast of Bangladesh have been used for multiple purposes including salt production and have strongly influenced socio-economic development. Participatory rapid appraisal was utilized to elucidate the major sources of livelihood for coastal communities associated with the different land uses; these included sea salt production and trading, agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, fish drying (Hossain, 2007).

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**Objectives of the study:**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To identify the problems of salt industry in Bangladesh.
- To analysis the role of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in salt industry.
- To understand the present scenario of salt industry in Bangladesh.
- To find out the prospect of salt industry in Bangladesh.
- To put probable suggestions to overcome the problems of salt industry.

**Methodology of the study:**

The study is conducted in Cox's Bazar. To facilitate the study the required data have been collected through primary sources as well as secondary sources. Primary data are collected through conversation and face to face discussion with the concerned departmental officers in the salt industry by using convenience sampling procedure. But the major source of information for the study is the secondary data. For collecting secondary data, primarily internet and also research articles, published materials of BSCIC, and newspapers are studied. This study is descriptive and qualitative in nature.

**Limitations of the study:**

There were a number of constraints faced in preparing the study.

- The collection of secondary information was difficult, as the access to a concerned person was not always easy.
- We faced lack of sufficient data about financial activities of the salt producers.

**Data analysis and findings:****The role of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in salt industry:**

Bangladesh small and cottage industries corporation (BSCIC), as the relevant promotional body will remain responsible for overseeing and extending support to the salt producers. The bulk of the BSCIC activities are not directly related to the financing activities of the salt producers, but rather

- To promote and develop the salt industry through demonstration of improved method for augmentation of production of salt and improvement of quality of salt.
- Dissemination of technology know-how to develop and utilization of product of salt.
- Ensure fair price of the salt to the growers.
- Under research and development (R&D) effort for improvement of better quality salt.
- Motivate the salt producers for continuation of salt production and monitor demand, supply, and cost.
- Help to attain self-sufficiency in the production of salt.

Moreover, BSCIC facilitates the financing to the salt producers through nationalized banks such as Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Agrani Bank, Sonali bank. Since long BSCIC has been looking after the production and monitoring of salt. Regular monitoring of production, demand and supply of salt should be maintained, so that appropriate measures can be taken before any probable crisis arises. To increase per acre yield, BSCIC undertakes new experimental programs in Cox's Bazar district and disseminate the result of the programs among the cultivators, so that they can adopt the process.

Research and development in the field of production of salt, particularly the production of the white salt for increasing productivity as well as motivation of cultivators to use the research result in the practical field is a continuous process. With this end in view, development of the Salt industries project began its functions from 1961. And later on it is being implemented phase by phase under the umbrella project of special development and production program. As the project is being implemented properly and smoothly phase by phase including the project from 1990- 2000 to maintain self- sufficiency in salt - this improves quality of salt and creates employment and generates income for the poor farmers. The project was for the period of 1990-2000 at a cost Tk.559.42 lakh. Besides, at the terminal year of the project, the project activity was evaluated by an inter-ministerial evaluation committee. Based on the evaluation committee either the project activity would continue for further extended period or the project would be transferred to the revenue budget. The following output benefits were derived through the implementation of the project.

During the implementation period the project undertook research and development works for improving the quality as well as to increase the per acre yield. Through imparting the R&D activity the project have been able to produce the mud-less salt as well as has increased the per acre yield by 30%.

In view of the above, the project was revised for a period of another five years covering the period from July 1990 to June 2005 based on evaluation report of the project conducted by an inter ministerial committee headed by Joint Chief, Ministry of the Industries taking other representatives from Planning Commission. The project was submitted to Ministry of Industry (MOI) the original cost of which was estimated at tk1369.00 lakh of which GOB contribution as grant was tk989.00 lakh and project's own fund contribution was tk380.00 lakh. As per letter of the MOI on 3-9-2000 BSCIC further revised the project in accordance with the recommendation of the evaluation report. The revised cost of the Project had been estimated at tk1189.00 lakh out of which GOB contribution as grant was tk. 859.00 lakh and Projects own fund contribution was tk. 330.00 lakh.

Administrative authorities: (responsible for)

1. Sponsoring: Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
2. Execution operation and maintenance: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)

**Table 1: Investment cost of the project (TK. in lakh)**  
**Development of salt industries (Revised)**

Sl. No	Head of expenditure	Total Project Cost		Physical qnt. (nos.)	Cost incurred (90-2000)	Cost incurred (2000-2005)					Total (2000-2005)
		Original (1990-2000)	Revised (1990-2005)			2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
1.a)	Lease & development of land of 5 demonstration cum Training centre.	22.00	44.75	232 acre	22.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	3.75	22.75
b)	Embankment of new demonstration cum training centre	-	33.00	22.62 acre	-	-	33.00	-	-	-	33.00
2.	Lease & preparation of land of Shatkhira, Khulna&Bagerhat for experimental salt production	5.99	5.99	55 acre	5.99	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Civil Works	-	80.24	2 centre	-	-	80.24	-	-	-	80.24
4.	Transportation:										
	a) Speed boat	-	10.00	1	-	-	10.00	-	-	-	10.00
	b) Bi-cycle	0.60	0.60	12	0.60	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Furniture & office equipment	3.72	10.67	-	3.72	2.98	2.33	1.64	-	-	6.95
6.	Purchase of pump machine	11.00	24.46	24	12.46	3.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	-	12.00
7.	Repair & maintenance	13.52	47.55	-	10.54	5.00	10.00	10.00	7.00	5.01	37.01
8.	Establishment	453.98	865.34	79	462.71	72.02	75.43	80.36	85.0	89.82	402.63
9.	Evaluation	3.00	8.00	3	3.00	-	-	1.00	-	4.00	5.00
10.	Miscellaneous	10.00	15.00	-	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	5.00
11.	Cost escalation	7.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Research, Development & Publication	4.99	10.00	-	5.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.0	1.00	5.00
13.	Overhead cost	23.40	33.40	-	23.40	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00
14	Total : (Own fund) :	559.42 (130.00)	1189.00 (330.00)	-	559.42	91.00	224.00	106.00	102.00	106.58	629.58

Source: Project Pro forma (PP), Development of salt industries (revised), BSCIC, Cox's Bazar, March 2001

From the above discussion, it is clear that BSCIC has a long experience for implementation of development projects in salt industries at Cox's Bazar. The project has no direct effect on the balance of payment but have positive impact through raising income level of the poor salt farmer. BSCIC works in the field level have been providing promotion and extension service to the salt growers through dissemination of the technical knowledge, providing market information etc. also in 1999 the project was succeed to produce better quality salt through the polythene method. And the produced salt price is double than traditional method due to the expanding efforts of BSCIC, the country is growing to be self- sufficient in the salt through this project. But the financing activities of BSCIC in salt industries are limited.

#### **The Contemporary Problems Faced by the Salt Farmers are as Follows:**

##### **Short evaporation season & limited mechanization:**

Production process of salt starts from the middle of the month of November if there is no heavy rainfall & continues till mid-May in every year. Initial salt production activity starts within November in 25% area. The rest is brought under production activity within December. The peak period for salt is March and April. Total cycle for salt farming is

5 months, while the salt farmer can harvest salt only for 3 months. 3 workers are required per acre of land to produce salt. The workers are paid in cash, food & others amenities. Annual average salt production per unit area is 21.50 ton. Because of short evaporation season & limited mechanization the salt production is performed using different indigenous tools such as codal plough, roller, bucket, logs, rope etc. For this purpose, capital investment for salt production through solar process is not significant for equipment.

#### Low pace of production to meet increasing local demand:

The following table shows the salt related data in last 10 years:

**Table 2: Situation of salt production**

Salt season	Listed salt farmer	Acre of salt land	Demand of salt(million m.t)	Target(mil lion m.t)	Actual production (million m.t)	Salt imported (million m.t)
1996-97	34,170	46,350.00	7.98	8.00	8.98	-
1997-98	33,269	49,488.00	8.19	8.50	8.00	-
1998-99	35,112	51,075.00	8.53	8.75	11.79	-
1999-00	38,194	48,688.00	8.72	9.00	8.24	0.50
2000-01	37,293	51,541.00	8.91	9.00	9.90	-
2001-02	36,285	54,717.00	8.82	9.00	7.75	1.00
2002-03	38,328	58,650.00	9.00	9.20	8.10	1.00
2003-04	40,595	61,501.59	9.18	9.50	9.15	0.50
2004-05	42,000	63,652.59	11.44	11.50	9.35	0.50
2005-06	44,574	70,050.00	11.70	11.70	15.75	-
2006-07	45,000	70,754.00	12.20	13.00	10.54	-

Source: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry

From the above table, it can easily be understood that the salt production fluctuated tremendously over the years. The cultivation of salt is insufficient to meet the growing demand. So the salt is imported in order to meet up the crisis. This deficit would encourage smuggling of salt from neighboring countries. In the fiscal year of 2006-2007, the required demand of salt was 12.20 million M.T. but actual net production was 10.54 million M.T. Different traders import average 100-150 thousand M.T. salt from Myanmar in every year illegally.

To attain self-sufficiency in the production of salt BSCIC delivers various types of extension and promotional services to the salt growers. Under the assistance of BSCIC two projects- one in Cox's Bazar, and the other in Khulna-Shatkhira region are being implemented. These two projects cover about 70 thousand acres of land. The following table shows the year wise salt production.

#### (Weight In M. Ton)

Sl	Year	Demand	Production Target	Total Production
1	2011-12	13.27	13.50	-
2	2010-11	13.70	13.90	09.64
3	2009-10	13.33	13.50	17.07
4	2008-09	12.98	13.20	13.72
5	2007-08	11.70	13.00	12.22

Source: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry (BSCIC).

Moreover BSCIC has provided 263 Salt Iodination Plant (SIP) to the industries for mixing iodine in the salt with the aim to eradicate goiter.



**Lack of profitability:**

Traders who are importing salt illegally from Myanmar also evading the Government import tax through connivance with Board of Investment (BOI) and it is causing enormous threat for our salt cultivation. Due to these unexpected market activities, salt price has gone down to taka 2 per kg at producers level whereas in case of retailing the traders have been taking as tk.16-18 / kg. That's why farmers are deprived from minimum profit and frustration is created on them which is a cause of leaving the salt cultivation by poor farmers for last the few years. But in the salt production, targeted achievement could not be made due to the unfavorable weather condition and non-availability of new land which is suitable for salt production.

**Low selling price of crude salt compared to high production cost:**

The gradual establishment of salt mills in Bangladesh in the mid 1980s brought about competition for low price crude salt. Because the crude salt smuggled from Myanmar infiltrated into the Bangladesh salt market. Teknaf is approximately 470 km southeast of Dhaka and it is along the sea coast of Teknaf where crude salt smuggling takes place. The local smuggler brings in Myanmar crude salt through the mouth of Megan River in order to carry out business transaction. Here, in a case where there is shortage of crude salt in the market and there is no sufficient crude salt importation by the Government for replacement, the shortage from local production is said to have been accounted for by such smuggling activities. Crude salt smuggling from Myanmar is an open secret known among the people in the salt industry. Today, smuggled crude salt is usually cheaper than the local production. Due to its lower price, some salt mills in Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, & Jhalokati have come to depend on the smuggled Myanmar crude salt for survival or even business expansion. Also over production sometimes forms another problem for the farmers, it can bring about price of crude salt to continue to drop for the whole year for which most of the salt mill owners are unable to recover their cost price even with the continual operation of mills because the selling price of crude salt in the market is too low. About 85% of salt farmer of salt production take salt area as lease from the land lord to produce salt. Under the govt. rules, although yearly lease price of 1 acre land is tk.500 but the salt farmer have to give tk.20,000-25,000 for one acre ( maximum 6 months ) in terms of production area to the land lord. For this, production cost of salt highly increases. By selling one mound of salt, the salt farmer could buy 5kg rice previous years. But in this current year it is not possible. Moreover, due to the higher price of other necessary things, the farmers are in depression. The production cost becomes higher due to increasing price of the components (polythene, woods, oil of fuel etc.) which are necessary components to produce salt. The salt land is not suitable for any other types of crop cultivation. So the farmers don't have another way without cultivating salt.

**Table 3: Comparable price of salt**

2006	2007	2008
Market price (m.t.)	Market price (m.t.)	Market price (m.t.)
Black : 2,412-4,020 /-	Black : 1,340-2,144/-	Black: 2,412-3,350 /-
White : 3,484-4,958/-	White : 1,608-2,278/-	White : 3,216-4,288/-
Polyethylene : 3,618-5,092/-	Polyethylene : 2,010-2,680/-	Polyethylene: 3,216-4,556/-

Source: BSCIC, Cox's Bazar.

From the above table, it is cleared that black salt has lower price compared with white & polyethylene salt and at present it has less demand. Due to the more production cost than selling price, producers of black salt suffer loss. But there is no arrangement for providing small loan in order to produce salt to a great extent by this polyethylene method. Because of the higher price of polyethylene, farmers are reluctant to produce salt by this method. Previous year's price of polyethylene was tk.85 per kg, but at present it is sold for tk.150 per kg. As a result production cost becomes higher than selling price. In this situation, to improve the salt industry from the present situation the following steps should be taken:

**Lack of financing from financial institutions and high cost of financing from informal sources:**

One of the important operational functions for any business is financing. All small business is needed some financial supports from outside sources. This outside fund may come from equity financing or debt financing. Generally the salt farmers take loan from the wealthy persons / middlemen on the condition of selling the salt at lower price. The indigenous moneylenders, relatives, friends etc. are the major sources of the funds to the salt producers. Although the interest rates charged by the moneylenders are so high, most farmers indicate some sort of reluctance to approach the banks. The reasons they mentioned are: demand for bribe, unnecessary delay in processing, non availability of loan in required time and lack of security collateral. The formal credit flow to the salt producers is very much limited in Bangladesh. Only the Agrani bank and Sonali bank has credit program to salt producers which are less than 1 percent of the bank's total credit portfolio. To increase salt production by providing credit to salt growers of the coastal areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar the program was undertaken by Agrani bank in 1977-78 up to June, 2007 tk.2.42 core has been distributed to 6131 borrowers. Since the first loan has not been repaid, a second bank loan becomes impossible. Yet, bank interest accumulates each day and this aggravates the financial difficulties faced by the salt mills owners. Also, at the beginning of the season, salt farmers don't get bank loans or financial facilities from the bank or other financial institution. As a result most of the farmers are unable to start operating activities due to the lack of capital. There is also another important and accessible source which is non-Governmental organization (NGO). But the interest rate is extremely high almost the double of bank interest rate. Therefore, it can be concluded that, the salt producers in Bangladesh remained significantly dependent on informal sources of credit. As a result, no efficient and modern salt production facility could be developed to make the country self-reliant in crude salt production.

**Recommendations:**

The following efforts should be taken to enhance the volume of production:

- To put condition on shrimp producers to produce salt at the time of land allotment.
- To demonstrate process of quality salt and formation of economic units.
- To create buffer stock through food department or through the appropriate agency.
- To conduct experimental in new areas for salt production.
- To conduct regular survey & study for collecting & compiling sufficient data base for further improvement.

The following measures can be taken to reduce the production cost of salt:

- Without security or collateral and low interest loans should be arranged for the salt cultivating farmers like agricultural loans.
- On the observation of district commission, the leased cost at private level should be reduced for reduction of primary cost of producing salt.
- The Government should take proper steps to import required raw materials for producing polythene only to be used for salt production without tax.

Apart from this the Government should facilitate the import of industrial salt for preparing chemical products. Farmers should be encouraged to produce white salt through BSCIC-invented polythene method. Government should impose tariff and non-tariff barriers to prevent import of salt for the sake of the local industry.

### **Conclusion:**

In Bangladesh nearly half a million people are engaged in the salt industry directly and indirectly. But, the salt industry is not robust enough due to the lack of proper regulations and framework in both rural and urban region. Financial crunch also encumber the growth of the industry. Unfortunately, very little and inefficient efforts have been taken from the Government to modernize this sector. For this reason, the country's salt market may become unstable in coming periods leading to price hike of other essential items. This sector produces an essential commodity and plays an important role in the national economy. The salt industry should thus get all help including financial facilities from the Government, and as well as, from the private sector, whereby it is able to perform a strong role in our industrial development.



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