**Press Release**

BUILD/05/2022/176 Date: 26 May 2022

Attn: News Editor/ Chief Reporter/ Assignment Editor /Business Page-in-Charge:

**Workshop on**

**Capacity building of women tenderers underscored at Public Procurement and the e-GP system Seminar of BUILD**

A seminar on” Public Procurement and the e-GP system” was held on 26th May with to aware the details of tender participation procedures for women entrepreneurs and how to be a successful tenderer with an intention to increasing participation women-owned businesses(WoB) in public procurement. Government procures a huge amount of goods, works, and services every year through public tenders but participation WoB in that respect is very insignificant.

A presentation on Public Procurement and e-GP system issues was made by Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain, Former Secretary and Procurement Policy Consultant, World Bank. He majorly covered public Procurement procedures, e-GP system, Tenderer Criteria, Tender Security and validity, Tender Submission, Brief on Standard Document requirements, responsive document preparation etc.

In Bangladesh, about 45% of the budget is spent on public procurement and the participation of MSMEs is very insignificant. BUILD is working closely with CPTU for bringing in some reforms in the Public Procurement Act and Rules so that the participation of women entrepreneurs increases in future. It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Industries is going to enact a Subcontracting Act 2022 which will ensure open tender and an earmarked amount from the CMSME.

In the open floor session, WEs raised several constraints they face to participate in public procurement and the e-GP system and Mr Hossain responded them. He referred SDG 12 on sustainable production and consumption, in which indicator 12.7 mentioned about sustainable public procurement and its implementation, so we would need to talk in this respect.

Mr. Shish Haider Chowdhury, Director (Joint Secretary), Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, appreciated the joint endeavour of BUILD for organizing such an important program and ensured future supports.

Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO of BUILD moderated the session and informed that in some countries they simplified PPR policies to increase participation of WE, citing example of Chile, she mentioned that women’s participation has been increased by 36.5% with the simplification of policies, she added WoB can be hired directly for procurement under $600, a similar threshold can also be announced in Bangladesh, she added. Referring SDG5, she mentioned that we need to adopt and strengthened sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

In total, 54 participants attended the seminar including representatives from concerned government officials such as MOI, MOWCA, CPTU, etc. along with women tenderers and representatives from regional women’s chambers. The participants shared their views and insights in regard to increasing the participation of WOB in public procurement.

Sincerely,

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