

INTRODUCING BYETS



About Swisscontact

Swisscontact is an independent, non-profit development organisation founded in 1959 by representatives from the Swiss private sector and civil society. It promotes sustainable development and shared prosperity in developing and emerging economies by unlocking the potential of private sector initiatives. Swisscontact's efforts in Bangladesh reflect its broader mission to foster inclusive economic development through innovative, scalable, and sustainable solutions.

History of Swisscontact

1959

The Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation, founded in Zurich, enabled the Swiss private sector to contribute to economic development in developing countries

1979

Swisscontact supports the establishment of Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Center (BITAC)

2002-2008

Katalyst Phase 1 initiated, driving enterprise development and agricultural productivity in rural areas

2000

Officially launches operations in Bangladesh with Business Development Services Programme (BDSP)

2009- 2014

Establishes its Bangladesh Country Office, expanding into skills development, healthcare, and Readymade Garments (RMG)

2015-2025

Expanded work in new areas, such as financial inclusion, trade facilitation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation with support from new and existing donors



40+ Countries



130+ Projects



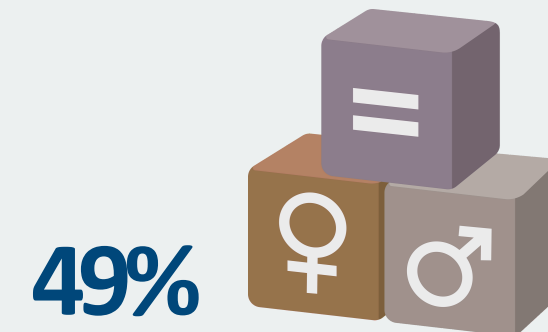
583,000

People completed skills development training (from 2020-2024)



173,000

Found a job or started their own business (from 2020-2024)



49%

Participants were women in training programmes (from 2020-2024)

Swisscontact's work focuses on private sector-led, sustainable economic development and improved quality of life for all in developing and emerging countries.

A key focus is to strengthen the skills of individuals and foster the competitiveness of businesses, spanning across sectors including:



Skills Development



Health



Climate Action & Resilience



Sustainable Agriculture



Trade Facilitation & Promotion



Enterprise Development



Financial Inclusion

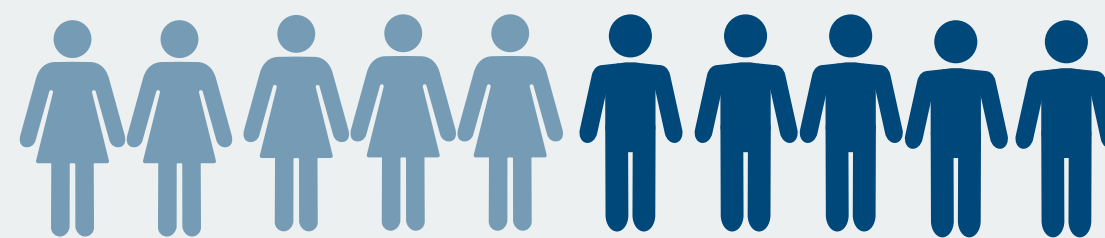
About BYETS

The **Building Youth Employability Through Skills (BYETS)** project is implemented by Swisscontact and supported by The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The project aims to empower youth by enhancing their skills and creating opportunities for decent employment, self-employment, and career growth across three key sectors: Readymade Garments (RMG), Agro-Processing (AP), and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The initiative addresses existing challenges in youth skill development and focuses on establishing a systematic, market-driven training approach.



Target Group:
Youth: 18 - 35 years

Empowering 25000



**Minimum 50% of the
trainees must be women**



Project Duration:
October 1, 2022- June 30, 2026

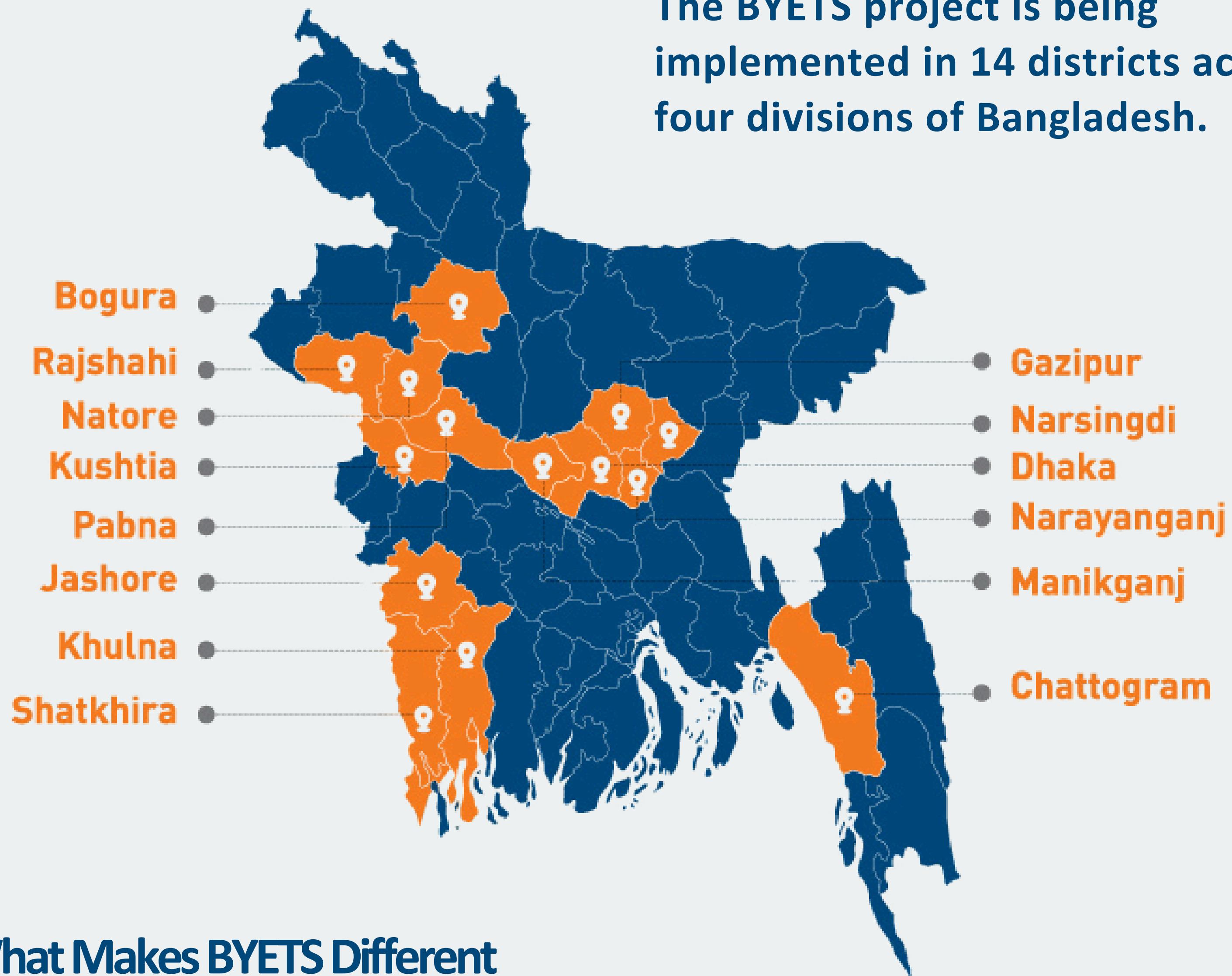
Working Approach of BYETS

- Building the capacity of Training Service Providers (TSPs) to design and implement quality training and job placement support services
- Collaborating with factories in improving existing workplace-based training (WBT) systems or setting up new ones to upskill and reskill workers



BYETS Intervention Location

The BYETS project is being implemented in 14 districts across four divisions of Bangladesh.



What Makes BYETS Different

- ✓ Focus on strengthening local stakeholders
- ✓ Developing local ecosystem for service providers
- ✓ Ensure private sector investment
- ✓ Facilitating sustainable business model

BYETS: What we do



BYETS Approach in: Readymade Garment Industry

From the very beginning, the BYETS project adopted a holistic approach while working with the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector. The aim was not just to provide skills training but to strengthen the entire ecosystem by developing the capacities of workers, service providers, and factories alike. BYETS recognised early on that training becomes truly effective only when it is demand-driven and properly delivered.

To ensure this, BYETS conducted a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in close collaboration with partner factories. Based on their input, customisable training modules were developed to meet specific factory needs. The approach was not only to create relevant and responsive training content but also to build a cadre of skilled local service providers who could deliver high-quality training independently. A key part of this strategy involved building strong relationships with factories and buyers, enabling their feedback to be integrated into the modules and allowing flexibility for adjustments when required.

Over the last three years, BYETS has worked with nine local service providers, helping them build their capacity to deliver quality technical training to factories and expand their business and service offerings. To ensure sustainability, pools of in-house trainers were created within the factories so they can continue the training independently beyond the project lifecycle.

In addition to technical upskilling, BYETS introduced a supervisory training module to create career advancement pathways for workers. The project also engaged mid-level management personnel, enhancing their understanding of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) issues, legal rights, and decent working conditions.

Importantly, instead of taking the driver's seat itself, BYETS handed more control to the factories and service providers, encouraging greater ownership and ensuring that the training remained relevant, responsive, and beneficial to the workers.

BYETS firmly believes that workforce development cannot happen in isolation. A truly conducive environment can only be created through an integrated approach—one that brings together all ecosystem actors on a common platform, enabling collaboration and shared accountability for stronger, more sustainable impact.



BYETS Training Partners in RMG Sector

EQMS

TRIANGULUM



INNOCISION

GroYo



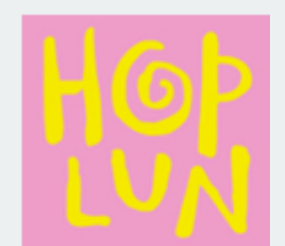
SGS



BYETS Industry Partners in RMG Sector



KiDO BD Co., Ltd.



BYETS: What We Do



BYETS Approach in: Agro-Processing Industry

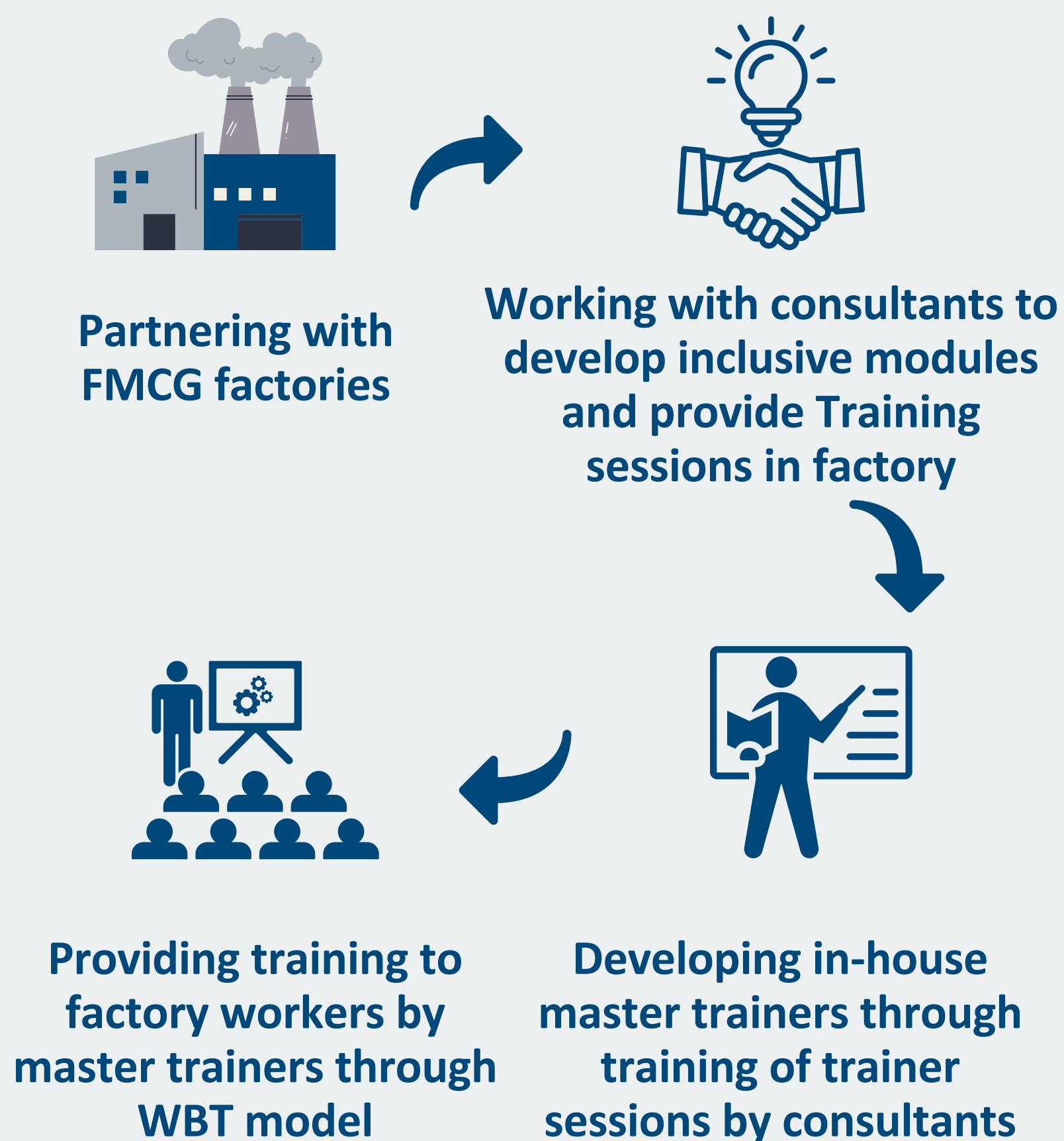
The BYETS project is actively engaged with Bangladesh's agro-processing sector to enhance workforce productivity and build capacity to meet global compliance standards for export. At the core of this effort is a robust Workplace-Based Training (WBT) model, which BYETS is pioneering in a sector that traditionally lacks structured or formal training systems.

As part of this innovative initiative, BYETS began with a comprehensive assessment to identify the needs and priorities of private sector actors. Based on these insights, and in collaboration with both international and national experts, the project developed a series of tailored training modules. Subsequently, BYETS and its implementation partners onboarded established FMCG factories—organisations with the infrastructure, resources, and commitment necessary to pilot and refine the WBT approach.

Following successful implementation in eight leading factories, the model was adapted and optimised based on field experience and feedback. Building on this foundation, BYETS is now extending its focus to support SMEs within the agro-processing sector. These enterprises often face significant constraints in terms of technical knowledge, skilled workforce, and export-readiness. The project aims to equip them with the capabilities required to access cross-border markets.

In addition to technical training, BYETS promotes inclusive and sustainable practices across the sector, including gender sensitivity, decent work principles, and environmental responsibility, thereby encouraging a more equitable and resilient workforce.

To ensure quality and consistency, BYETS has also developed a nationally endorsed Competency Standard (CS), formally adopted by the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA). The CS is publicly available on the NSDA website, enabling broader use by industry stakeholders and training providers.



BYETS Partners in AP Sector

Industry partners-



Training service partners-





Glimpse of the production floor where employees are checking products at a BYETS partnered factory

BYETS: What we do

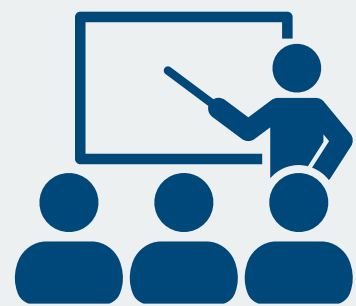
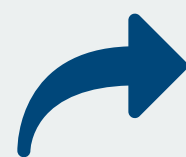


BYETS Approach in: Information and Communication Technology Industry

The BYETS project adopts a collaborative and inclusive approach to enhancing employability in the ICT sector. In partnership with training centres, BYETS delivers classroom-based courses in Digital Marketing, Graphic Design, and Web Development. After analysing market demand and high job placement and freelancing potential, the project has also introduced more specialised and niche training programs, such as Software Quality Assurance (SQA), MERN Stack Web Development, Cloud Accounting for Businesses, Professional Back-Office Services, and Professional Customer Service. These courses are followed by job placement support for successful graduates who pass the certification examination conducted by the NSDA. To ensure sustainability, the project also strengthens the institutional capacity of these training centres by equipping their management with effective promotional strategies to increase outreach and participation.

BYETS further facilitates entrepreneurship training by partnering with Business Development Service (BDS) providers to deliver tailored support to ICT trainees, enabling them to develop feasible and sustainable business ideas and establish their own ventures.

The project has developed a high-end ICT training module, approved by the NSDA, to maintain quality and relevance. Demonstrating its commitment to inclusivity, BYETS has launched a dedicated ICT programme with expert training providers experienced in training Persons with Disabilities, and has partnered with an INGO to empower marginalised youth from Santal communities to access ICT skills training. Through this multi-faceted approach, BYETS works towards creating both employment and self-employment opportunities in the growing digital economy.



Contracting Training centres to provide ICT training courses

Providing ICT training in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas across Bangladesh



Hiring consultants to enhance capacity of the training centres to build their competitiveness in the market



Working with industry experts to develop ICT training modules, approved by NSDA

Special interventions of BYETS in ICT industry



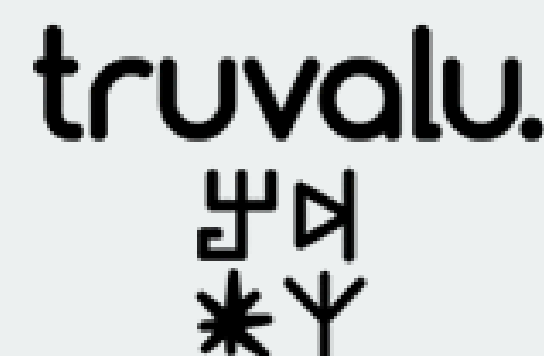
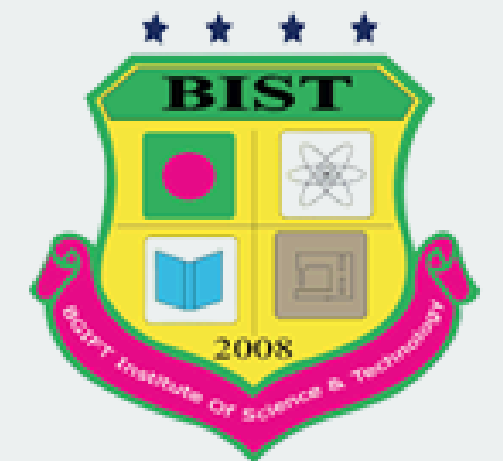
Collaborating with consultants to provide Entrepreneurship training to selected ICT graduates



Partnering with special training providers to provide residential ICT training to Persons with Disabilities

Engaging with INGO to include marginalised group from Santal community in ICT training programs

BYETS Training Partners in ICT sector





Snapshot of one of the BYETS ICT training at the partnered training centre



**Want to know more about BYETS?
Please scan the QR code**

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