# Mintoo for using solar-powered cold storages to cut post-harvest losses

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo today stressed the need for using solar-powered cold storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses and maintain the quality of fruits and vegetables.

He said integrating temperature-controlled transport with these cold storage units would allow farmers to bring a larger portion of their produce to market, thereby creating opportunities to increase their income.

Mintoo made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of a project held at a city hotel here.

He said agriculture plays a vital role in the nation’s economy, food security, and rural livelihoods.

Apart from the impacts of climate change, post-harvest storage remains a major challenge for farmers, he said.

Due to high temperatures, a lack of adequate cold storage facilities and irregular power supply, agricultural produce often spoils before it can even reach the market, the environment minister said.

Referring to a pilot cold storage unit established at an agricultural farm in Rajshahi, he said the facility was designed specifically with Bangladesh’s climate, farming practices, and power supply situation in mind.

The insights gained from this demonstration will help determine how solar power and thermal energy storage technologies can be utilised to make cold storage more

reliable in rural areas, he said.

Mintoo suggested that by leveraging the feasibility study and the experience from the Rajshahi pilot, it is possible to integrate several components– rapid cooling of fruits and vegetables, cold storage, temperature-controlled transport, and digital temperature monitoring – into a unified system.

This would not only enhance local technical expertise but also pave the way for developing a climate-resilient, low-carbon agricultural system, he said.

The project was implemented under the leadership of the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH), with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Financial assistance was provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

The solar-powered cold storage unit, established on a pilot basis in Rajshahi, utilises a Latent Heat Material (LHM) to maintain a stable, low-temperature environment inside.

The minister expressed gratitude to the UNEP, CTCN, KITECH, local partners, farmers, and experts involved in the project.

He also sought continued technical cooperation with South Korea and the CTCN to extend this technology to other agriculture-intensive regions of the country.

The event was attended by representatives from the ministry, the Department of Environment, research institutions, local project partners, NGOs and the agriculture and transport sectors.