

SPECIFIC COORDINATION DETAILS WITH THE LOCAL EMBASSY OF JAPAN (EOJ) AND JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)

I. Consultations with Development Partners and Stakeholders

1. During project preparation, comprehensive consultations were held with national government ministries, state level departments, development partners, civil society organizations, nongovernment organizations, EOJ in Mongolia, JICA, and potential project beneficiaries in the four project *aimags*. At all levels, project stakeholders were invited and encouraged to provide suggestions on the project design, scope, implementing arrangements, opportunities for collaboration and partnerships, and lessons learned from other disaster risk management and community-based development projects in Mongolia. Views of stakeholders consulted, including women, men, and youth have been incorporated into project design and implementation arrangements.

II. Consultation with EOJ in Mongolia and JICA – Project Processing

2. Two productive consultative meetings on the project design, scope, and implementation arrangements were held with EOJ in Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar) during early stages of design. The meeting was held with Mr. Fukasawa Hiroshi, First Secretary, EOJ in Mongolia in 2016. The embassy was briefed on the project description as well as on findings from the reconnaissance and special consultation missions. The project team was requested to: (i) ensure that criteria for project locations prioritize poor areas and remoteness sites; and (ii) coordinate with various government departments and other development partners to ensure adequate coordination, create possible synergies, and avoid overlap. All suggestions have been integrated into the project design. The project team has updated EOJ in Mongolia on project design and processing status over e-mail.

3. The project has maintained close contact with the JICA team in Ulaanbaatar, in particular with Mr. Arai Junichi who is the focal point for agriculture and agribusiness at JICA. The meetings with JICA focused on lessons learnt from past JICA projects in agriculture and agribusiness. JICA put the project team in touch with Mr. Hayashi, Program Manager for two ongoing JICA funded projects—Improve and Promote Storage Technology for a Stable Farm Product Supply Project and Increase of Farmers' Income by Development of Agricultural Produce Marketing and Soil Improvement. These two projects are being implemented in Bornun *soum* of Tuv *aimag*, which the subject Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) project will also be. The projects will closely cooperate together and continuously finds area of potential collaboration while ensuring there is no duplication of efforts. JICA is supporting the project team to find the most appropriate person to serve as a resource person for the project within the areas of improved seeds and food processing.

4. A copy of the fact-finding mission memorandum of understanding and draft grant assistance report was shared with EOJ (Mr. Fukasawa) and JICA (Mr. Junichi).

5. Opportunities to collaborate with development partners that promote livelihood improvement and support smallholder farming and increased links to markets in Mongolia were also identified during project preparation. Lessons learned from previous JFPR projects in Mongolia, including from Poverty Reduction Through Community-Based Natural Resource

Management, Establishment of Climate-Resilient Rural Livelihoods, and Agriculture and Rural Development Project,¹ were identified and will be applied during grant implementation.

6. Local ownership and mutual responsibility for the success of various programs will be assured through community participation in project planning and review processes. Productive working relationships between development partners and beneficiaries will be continually reviewed and improved during participatory planning and evaluation over the life of the project. The executing agency-based project management unit and field-based project implementation staff will actively encourage continuous dialogue between all stakeholders, including EOJ and JICA, and facilitate adaptive management practices as required.

III. Coordination with EOJ and JICA – Upon Approval of the Proposal

7. Once the grant proposal is approved by the Asian Development Bank and Government of Japan, the project officer will inform EOJ and JICA about the approval. The project team will stage a signing ceremony or launching ceremony for the JFPR grant, with the attendance of EOJ officials.

8. In coordination with Mongolia Resident Mission (MNRM), the project team will inform EOJ as well as Office of Cofinancing Operations (OCO), which will alert the Japanese authorities in Tokyo, at least 10 working days in advance of the signing ceremony. The project team will also draft news release in consultation with the Department of External Relations and coordinate arrangements for MNRM to invite the local and international press to these ceremonies.

IV. Coordination with EOJ AND JICA – During Project Implementation and Upon Project Completion

9. From time to time, EOJ and JICA will be informed about the grant progress and milestones especially if major changes in scope and objectives are required. Throughout all phases of the project, from concept to completion, the project team will be available to answer inquiries from EOJ and JICA regarding the project and discuss where necessary. EOJ and JICA officials will be invited to join progress and completion review missions to see project results and to interact first-hand with project recipients.

10. The project team will share information on the outcomes and lessons from the grant with EOJ and JICA in the field to enable both sides to explore and seek potential collaboration.

V. Role of ADB's Resident Mission in Mongolia and OCO

11. Communications with EOJ and JICA will continue to be done with copy to MNRM and OCO. MNRM's assistance will be sought to arrange the meeting with EOJ and JICA, when needed.

12. MNRM will also play a key role in arranging the grant agreement signing event and in overall coordination/relationship management with EOJ and JICA. The grant deputy team leader is based at MNRM and is in occasional contact with the EOJ and JICA, and will support and closely coordinate communication, updates, and events such as grant agreement signing.

¹ ADB. 2008. *Proposed Grant Assistance to Mongolia for the Poverty Reduction through Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Manila; ADB. 2008. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Asian Development Bank Fund Grant and Technical Assistance Grant to Mongolia for the Agriculture and Rural Development Project*. Manila. 2010; and ADB. 2012. *Proposed Grant Assistance to Mongolia for the Establishment of Climate-Resilient Rural Livelihoods*. Manila.