



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 51039-001
Transaction Technical Assistance (TRTA)
September 2017

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Preparing the Horticulture Value Chain Development Sector Project

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 30 August 2017)

Currency unit	–	Afghani (AF)
AF1.00	=	\$0.0146
\$1.00	=	AF68.4755

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
ADF	–	Asian Development Fund
EARF	–	environmental assessment and review framework
IEE	–	initial environmental examination
IFS	–	investment feasibility study
MAIL	–	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MOF	–	Ministry of Finance
PPP	–	public-private partnership
TA	–	technical assistance
TASF	–	Technical Assistance Special Fund

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars

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TRANSACTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 51039-001	
Project Name	Horticulture Value Chain Development Sector Project	Department /Division	CWRD/CWER
Nature of Activity	Project Preparation	Executing Agency	Ministry of Finance
Modality	Regular		
Country	Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of		
2. Sector	Subsector(s)	ADB Financing (\$ million)	
✓ Agriculture, natural resources and rural development	Agricultural production		0.30
	Agro-industry, marketing, and trade		0.30
		Total	0.60
3. Strategic Agenda	Subcomponents	Climate Change Information	
Inclusive economic growth (IEG)	Pillar 2: Access to economic opportunities, including jobs, made more inclusive	Climate Change impact on the Project	Low
Environmentally sustainable growth (ESG)	Natural resources conservation		
4. Drivers of Change	Components	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	
Knowledge solutions (KNS)	Knowledge sharing activities	No gender elements (NGE)	✓
Partnerships (PAR)	Implementation		
Private sector development (PSD)	Private Sector Promotion of private sector investment		
5. Poverty and SDG Targeting		Location Impact	
Geographic Targeting	No	Rural	High
Household Targeting	No		
SDG Targeting	Yes		
SDG Goals	SDG2, SDG9		
6. Risk Categorization	Low		
7. Safeguard Categorization	Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply		
8. Financing			
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)	
ADB		0.60	
Transaction technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		0.60	
Cofinancing		0.00	
None		0.00	
Counterpart		0.00	
None		0.00	
Total		0.60	

I. THE ENSUING PROJECT

1. The proposed Horticulture Value Chain Development Sector Project (the Project) will help enhance the horticulture value chain in key high-value production zones in Afghanistan. Using the sector modality, items eligible for financing under the Project will include, but not limited to, (i) establishment and/or rehabilitation of horticulture processing and packing facilities, (ii) on-farm and community storages for potatoes and onions, (iii) greenhouses with drip fertigation systems, and (iv) intensive orchard development. The Project will also assist the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) in preparing and implementing (i) the national marketing and branding strategies; and (ii) strategic crop diversification strategies considering both export promotion and import substitution to increase export of horticulture products to more export destination other than India and Pakistan, and to reduce imports of processed horticulture products.

2. The Project will have two outputs: (i) horticulture value chain infrastructures improved, and (ii) national horticulture marketing and branding strategies established. These outputs will result in the following outcome: production and marketing of horticultural products increased. The Project will be aligned with the following impact: balanced economic growth through agriculture, resulting in stability and economic empowerment of women and men.¹ The Project is estimated to cost \$85 million. ADB will finance \$75 million from its Special Funds resources (Asian Development Fund grant) and the beneficiaries \$10 million. The transaction technical assistance (TA) and the ensuing loan were included in ADB's country operations business plan, 2017–2019.²

II. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Justification

3. The TA will help the Government of Afghanistan (the Government) to prepare the Project. Particularly, the TA will help with (i) conducting the project investment feasibility study (IFS), and (ii) assisting project processing and implementation startup for the ensuing grant to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the Project.³

B. Outputs and Activities

4. The TA has two outputs: (i) Output 1 – the project IFS conducted. The IFS will include the design of the Project and all required due diligence aspects, and (ii) Output 2 – project processing and implementation startup expedited.

C. Cost and Financing

5. The TA is estimated to cost \$0.7 million, of which \$0.6 million will be financed (on a grant basis) by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF–6). The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 1. The Government will provide counterpart support in the form of office space for TA consultants, counterpart staff, data and information access, facilitation of liaisons with stakeholders, and other in-kind contributions during the feasibility study. The Government was informed that approval of the TA does not commit ADB to finance any ensuing project.

¹ Government of Afghanistan, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock. 2016. *National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program 2016–2020*. Kabul.

² ADB. 2016. *Country Operations Business Plan: Afghanistan, 2017x2019*. Manila.

³ The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 18 August 2017.

D. Implementation Arrangements

6. ADB will administer the TA. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) will be the executing agency for the TA and MAIL will be the implementing agency. The Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division (CWER) of ADB's Central and West Asia Department, will act as the focal point and coordinator of consulting inputs and activities. The proposed TA will be implemented over 24 months, from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2019. The disbursements will be made in accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (May 2010, as amended from time to time). The implementation schedule is in Table 1.

Table 1: Implementation Arrangements

Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	1 October 2017 – 30 September 2019		
Executing agency	Ministry of Finance		
Implementing agencies	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division of Central and West Asia Department		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB:		
	QCBS (90:10; STP)	40 person-months (12 international person-months; and 28 national person-months).	\$450,000
	ICS	10 person-months (4 international person-months; and 6 national person-months).	\$100,000
Procurement	None		
Advance contracting and retroactive financing	None		
Disbursement	The TA resources will be disbursed following ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2010, as amended from time to time).		
Asset turnover or disposal arrangement upon TA completion	None		

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ICS = individual consultant selection, QCBS = quality- and cost-based selection, STP = simplified technical proposal, TA = technical assistance.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

7. **Consulting Services.** The TA will require two packages of consulting services (i) Package 1 – An international consulting firm to conduct the IFS (Output 1) using the quality- and cost-based selection (QCBS) method, with 90:10 quality-cost ratio and simplified technical proposals; (ii) Package 2 – Two (2) individual consultants (one international and one national) to assist project processing and implementation startup (Output 2). Package 1 will be lump-sum while Package 2 will be time-based.

8. It is important to note that the consulting inputs for implementation startup in Package 2 will not be mobilized until after the grant negotiation and that these inputs will last until the implementation support consultancy is mobilized. Therefore, it is not appropriate to include these two individual consultants in Package 1. ADB will engage the consulting firm and individual consultants in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the associated Project Administration Instructions/TA Staff Instructions.⁴ The schedule of consulting services requirement is in Table 2.

⁴ The terms of reference for consultants by consulting service package (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

Table 2: Schedule of Consulting Services Requirement

Positions	International (person-months)	National (person-months)
1. Output 1 - The Project Investment Feasibility Study Conducted		
Team Leader/Agriculture Value Chain Specialist	4.0	0.0
Deputy Team Leader/Structural Engineer	0.0	4.0
Agronomist/Horticulturist	1.5	4.0
Horticulture Post-Harvest Specialist	1.5	3.0
Agricultural Economist and Financial Specialist	1.0	3.0
Financial Management Specialist	1.0	2.0
Procurement Specialist	1.0	3.0
Environmental Specialist	1.0	3.0
Social Safeguards/Resettlement Specialist	1.0	3.0
Social Development and Gender Specialist	0.0	3.0
Subtotal 1	12.0	28.0
2. Output 2 - Project Processing and Implementation Startup Expedited		
Project Design and Startup Specialist	4.0	6.0
Subtotal 2	4.0	6.0

Source: Asian Development Bank.

1. Output 1 – The Project Investment Feasibility Study Conducted

9. **Scope of work.** The IFS shall include, but not limited to, the following aspects: (i) detailed sector assessments covering, among others, sector performance and potentials, market and value chain analysis, demand analysis (from the project and main commodity perspectives), identification of high-value horticulture production zones in target provinces, and lessons learnt from and synergies with past and ongoing government- and donor-funded projects and/or programs; (ii) a set of eligibility criteria for subproject selection and a list of pre-screening candidate investments/subprojects eligible for project financing with indicative budget for each; (iii) an outline of the requirements to establish national horticulture marketing and branding strategies to be financed by the Project; (iv) grant financing and delivery mechanisms for eligible investments/subprojects using the private sector small- and medium-sized enterprises active in horticulture agribusiness as the key conduits; (v) technical designs of at least two (2) representative investments and/or subprojects and associated bills of quantities and other specifications ready for bid invitations; (vi) project sustainability plan; (vii) risk assessment (including business and market risks); (viii) economic and financial analysis; (ix) financial management assessment of the implementing agency; (x) procurement capacity assessment, procurement plan, and work flow from subproject feasibility study to commissioning; (xi) social development and gender analysis; (xii) one (1) resettlement framework to guide the overall project investments and two (2) resettlement plans for representative subprojects (or a due diligence report on land acquisition and resettlement in case there are no resettlement impacts); and (xiii) environmental assessment and review framework to guide the overall project investments and initial environmental examinations for two (2) representative subprojects. It is required that close consultations, discussions, and surveys of potential users and/or stakeholders be conducted to ensure the project scope, design, and implementation arrangements are practical; and the operation is sustainable. ADB will provide the winning firm with the IFS report outline reflecting the scope of work, prior to the contract negotiation. The expected date of service commencement is November or December 2017.

10. **Deliverables.** The firm shall submit the following reports: (i) inception report; (ii) interim

IFS report (following the outline of the draft final IFS report) (iii) draft final IFS report; and (iv) final IFS report after incorporating all comments and/or recommendations of ADB and the Government. All the reports shall be in English.

11. **Maximum Budget and Payment Schedule.** The maximum budget for the IFS assignment is \$450,000. The payment schedule is as follows: (i) 15% after signing the contract (mobilization); (ii) 10% upon approval of the inception report; (iii) 15% upon approval of the interim IFS report; (iv) 40% upon approval of the draft final IFS report; and (v) 20% upon approval of the final IFS report.

12. **Consultant's Qualifications.** The minimum requirements for the firm are (i) extensive and proven experience in conducting investment feasibility studies for agriculture (horticulture) sector projects financed by ADB, the World Bank, and the European Union in various countries – recent past and ongoing IFS work experience in Afghanistan relevant to the scope of work is highly preferred; and (ii) at least 12 years of sector work experience for the team leader and 10 years of experience for other key staff in similar agriculture (horticulture) value chain infrastructure development projects relevant to (a) post-harvest processing and packing for horticulture, (b) establishment of both modern and traditional storage facilities, and (c) development of intensive orchards and greenhouses using drip fertigation and modern production technologies. It is preferred that the firm associates with (an)other firm(s) (domestic and/or international) which have recent and solid experience in preparing ADB-financed projects related to agriculture (horticulture) development, and agriculture value chain infrastructure in Afghanistan. The schedule of consulting services requirement is in Table 2 (section 1).

2. Output 2 – Project Processing and Implementation Startup Expedited

13. Two (2) individual project design and startup specialists, one (1) international (4 person-months) and one (1) national (6 person-months) will be engaged on an intermittent basis to undertake the following: (i) provide implementation startup support, and (ii) address critical technical gaps during the project processing stage. These activities are to ensure that (i) proper ADB Board documents are prepared and technical revisions made during the loan processing, and (ii) disbursement is expedited.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Total Cost
Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants ^b	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	370.0
ii. National consultants	100.0
b. International and local travel	60.0
c. Reports and communications	5.0
2. Training, seminars, and conferences ^{b c}	15.0
3. Miscellaneous administration and support costs ^d	20.0
4. Contingencies	30.0
Total	600.0

Note: The TA is estimated to cost \$0.7 million, of which contributions from ADB are presented in the table above. The Government will provide counterpart support in the form of office space for TA consultants, counterpart staff, data and information access, facilitation of liaisons with stakeholders, and other in-kind contributions during the feasibility study. The value of the government contribution is estimated to account for 14.3% of the total TA cost.

^a Financed by ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-6).

^b The sum of Items 1 and 2 is \$550,000, which includes (i) \$450,000 to engage an international consulting firm to prepare the project investment feasibility study as outlined in Output 1; and (ii) \$100,000 is for the individual consulting services as outlined in Output 2.

^c Including at least two (2) consultation workshops.

^d Including translation expenses if needed.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=51039-001-TARreport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

A. Output 1 – The Project Investment Feasibility Study Conducted

1. **Scope of work.** An international consulting firm will be engaged to conduct the project investment feasibility study (IFS) using quality- and cost-based selection (QCBS) method with 90:10 quality-cost ratio and simplified technical proposals. The contract with the firm will be lumpsum. The IFS shall include, but not limited to, the following aspects: (i) detailed sector assessments covering, among others, sector performance and potentials, market and value chain analysis, demand analysis (from the project and main commodity perspectives), identification of high-value horticulture production zones in target provinces, and lessons learnt from and synergies with past and ongoing government- and donor-funded projects and/or programs; (ii) a set of eligibility criteria for subproject selection and a list of pre-screening candidate investments and/or subprojects eligible for project financing with indicative budget for each; (iii) an outline of the requirements to establish national horticulture marketing and branding strategies to be financed by the Project; (iv) grant financing and delivery mechanisms for eligible investments and/or subprojects using the private sector small- and medium-sized enterprises active in horticulture agribusiness as the key conduits; (v) technical designs of at least two (2) representative investments and/or subprojects and associated bills of quantities and other specifications ready for bid invitations; (vi) project sustainability plan; (vii) risk assessment (including business and market risks); (viii) economic and financial analysis; (ix) financial management assessment of the implementing agency; (x) procurement capacity assessment, procurement plan, and work flow from subproject feasibility study to commissioning; (xi) social development and gender analysis; (xii) one (1) resettlement framework to guide the overall project investments and two (2) resettlement plans for representative subprojects (or a due diligence report on land acquisition and resettlement in case there are no resettlement impacts); and (xiii) environmental assessment and review framework (EARF) to guide the overall project investments and initial environmental examinations (IEEs) for 2 representative subprojects. It is required that close consultations, discussions, and surveys of potential users and/or stakeholders be conducted to ensure the project scope, design, and implementation arrangements are practical and the operation is sustainable. ADB will provide the winning firm with the IFS report outline reflecting the scope of work, prior to the contract negotiation. The expected date of service commencement is November or December 2017.

2. **Deliverables.** The firm shall submit the following reports: (i) inception report, (ii) interim IFS report (following the outline of the draft final IFS report), (iii) draft final IFS report, and (iv) final IFS report after incorporating all comments and/or recommendations of ADB and the government. All the reports are expected to be in English.

3. **Maximum Budget and Payment Schedule.** The maximum budget for the IFS assignment is \$450,000. The payment schedule is as follows: (i) 15% after signing the contract (mobilization), (ii) 10% upon approval of the inception report, (iii) 15% upon approval of the interim IFS report, (iv) 40% upon approval of the draft final IFS report, and (v) 20% upon approval of the final IFS report.

4. **Consultant's Qualifications.** The minimum requirements for the firm are (i) extensive and proven experience in conducting investment feasibility studies for agriculture (horticulture) sector projects financed by ADB, the World Bank, and the European Union in various countries – recent past and ongoing IFS work experience in Afghanistan relevant to the scope of work is highly preferred; and (ii) at least 12 years of sector work experience for the team leader and 10 years of experience for other key staff in similar agriculture (horticulture) value chain infrastructure

development projects relevant to (a) post-harvest processing and packing for horticulture, (b) establishment of both modern and traditional storage facilities, and (c) development of intensive orchards and greenhouses using drip fertigation and modern production technologies. It is preferred that the firm associates with (an) other firm(s) (domestic and/or international) which have recent and solid experience in preparing ADB-financed projects related to agriculture (horticulture) development and agriculture value chain infrastructure in Afghanistan. The schedule of consulting services requirement is in Table 1 (below).

Table 1: Schedule of Consulting Services Requirement for Conducting the IFS

Positions	International (person-months)	National (person-months)
Output 1 - The Project Feasibility Study Conducted		
Team Leader/Agriculture Value Chain Specialist	4.0	0.0
Deputy Team Leader/Structural Engineer	0.0	4.0
Agronomist/Horticulturist	1.5	4.0
Horticulture Post-Harvest Specialist	1.5	3.0
Agricultural Economist and Financial Specialist	1.0	3.0
Financial Management Specialist	1.0	2.0
Procurement Specialist	1.0	3.0
Environmental Specialist	1.0	3.0
Social Safeguards/Resettlement Specialist	1.0	3.0
Social Development and Gender Specialist	0.0	3.0
Subtotal	12.0	28.0

Source: Asian Development Bank.

5. **Team Leader/Agriculture Value Chain Specialist** (international: 4 person-months). The specialist must have at least a Master's Degree in agriculture economics, trade and commerce, business administration, project management, or a related field; with at least 12 years of continuous experience in designing and implementing agriculture value chain development projects. Familiarity with current agricultural trade situation and horticulture value chain of Afghanistan is required. Knowledge of and experience in horticulture value chain development, horticulture export promotion, business development service for private sector firms, and public-private partnerships in market infrastructure financing and/or operation are highly preferred. The specialist will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following: (i) leading and coordinating the project design process based on the scope of work; (ii) liaising frequently and working closely with government ministries, agencies, sector research institutes, and other relevant stakeholders including the private sector firms to ensure the proposed project design is practical and has a high likelihood of sustainability; (iii) leading the preparation of the detailed sector assessment as a solid background for the proposed project design; and (iv) preparing the IFS report based on ADB IFS report outline by providing his/her own inputs and consolidating relevant inputs provided by the team.

6. **Deputy Team Leader/Structural Engineer** (national: 4 person-months). The specialist must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering, spatial planning, architecture, or a related engineering field with 10 years working experience with detailed design of infrastructure projects. Past and/or ongoing experience in preparing and/or designing ADB-financed projects in the role of national (deputy) team leader is preferred. Knowledge of and experience relevant to setting up processing, packing, and storage facilities for horticulture is an advantage. The specialist must be capable of preparing and processing technical drawings with common graphic design software. The specialist will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following: (i) coordinating with and supporting the team leader in carrying out his tasks related to project design,

liaising with the Government and stakeholders, report writing and compilation in accordance with ADB's requirements; (ii) preparing technical drawings for representative subprojects based on parameters provided by relevant team members; (iii) preparing bills of quantities, interpretation of the technical drawings, and relevant inputs to the feasibility reports and invitations for bid for the two (2) representative subprojects; (iv) archiving, in an organized manner, the technical drawings and associated parameters to serve the purpose of the invitations for bid and implementation of the two (2) representative subprojects; and (v) undertaking other tasks assigned by the team leader.

7. **Agronomist/Horticulturist** (international: 1.5 person-months; national: 4 person-months). The international specialist shall have at least a Master's Degree in agronomy, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics with agronomy major, horticulture, or a related field; with 12 years working experience in agricultural and/or horticultural extension in several countries, including Afghanistan. The national specialist shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in agronomy, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics, horticulture, or related field. Familiarity with current agricultural practices and horticulture value chain of Afghanistan is highly preferred for both specialists. The specialists will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following: (i) assessing issues and options to enhance on-farm productivity for high value horticulture crops, including establishment of greenhouses and intensive orchards; (ii) elaborating types and specifications of productivity-enhancing investments including greenhouses and intensive orchards, which can be included on the list of candidate investments and/or subprojects; (iii) preparing crop and/or farm budgets including investment cost estimates, operation cost estimates, and projected revenue for representative investments and/or subprojects to be included in the project financing list as inputs into the economic and financial analysis; (iv) preparing investment cost estimates for all potential on-farm investments and/or subprojects as inputs into the project cost estimates; and (v) preparing a concise guide elaborating requirements for extension services and crop and/or farm management in greenhouses and intensive orchards, and terms of references for technical support in key areas of extension and crop and/or farm management.

8. **Horticulture Post-Harvest Specialist** (international: 1.5 person-months; national: 3.0 person-months). The international specialist shall have at least a Master's Degree in agricultural engineering, production control and management, agriculture and/or horticulture trade logistics, or a related field; with 12 years related working experience in several countries. The national specialist shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in agronomy, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics, horticulture, or a related field. Familiarity with current post-harvest and agriculture trade logistics and horticulture value chain of Afghanistan is highly preferred for both specialists. The specialists will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following: (i) assessing issues and options to enhance post-harvest handling for high-value horticulture crops, which includes improving processing, packing, and storage facilities; (ii) elaborating the financing and implementation arrangements which involves interested private sector small- and medium-sized agribusiness enterprises; (iii) recommending representative investments and/or subprojects for feasibility studies and providing relevant inputs into these studies; (iv) pre-screening other potential investments to be included in the list of candidate investments and/or subprojects; (v) preparing investment cost estimates, operation cost estimates, and projected revenue for representative investments and/or subprojects as inputs into the economic and financial analysis; (vi) preparing investment cost estimates for all potential post-harvest investments and/or subprojects as inputs into the project cost estimates; and (vii) drafting a sustainability plan including roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, and practical mechanisms for financing, management, and cost recovery; and (viii) preparing terms of references for (a) technical support in post-harvest handling, and (b) establishment of the national horticulture marketing and branding strategies.

9. **Agricultural Economist and Financial Specialist** (international: 1.0 person-month; national: 3.0 person-months). The international specialist shall have at least a Master's Degree in agricultural economics or project finance; with 12 years working experience in preparing economic and financial analyses and/or designing agriculture value chain projects in several countries. The national specialist shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in economics, project finance, or business administration, with 10 years working experience for agriculture development and/or trade projects. Familiarity with cost estimation software programs and financial and economic modelling is a must for both specialists. The specialists will be responsible for, but not limited to, the following: (i) assisting the team leader in preparing the detailed sector assessment as a solid background for the proposed project design; (ii) preparing the project cost estimates and financing plan based on ADB formats; (iii) preparing the economic and financial analyses for the whole project and two representative subprojects in compliance with ADB's relevant guidelines, particularly addressing at least the following aspects: country context analysis, sector analysis, rationale for public intervention, demand analysis, alternative and/or least cost analysis, cost-benefit analysis, financial sustainability analysis, sensitivity and risk analysis, and distribution analysis; and (iv) providing inputs to and working with the procurement specialist in preparing the project procurement plan.

10. **Financial Management Specialist** (international: 1.0 person-month; national: 2.0 person-months). The specialists shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in accounting, auditing, finance or economics with experience in financial management and governance regimes, and preferably possess a professional accountancy and/or finance qualification such as a Chartered Accountant, CPA, or equivalent. They will be responsible for the following: (i) conducting financial management assessments of the executing agency and other agencies related to the project financing in terms of financial management, governance, and integrity; (ii) analyzing key risks and recommending related mitigation measures to safeguard risk exposures of the executing agency and other agencies related to the project financing; and (iii) providing inputs into the risk assessment and risk management plan.

11. **Procurement Specialist** (international: 1.0 person-month; national: 3.0 person-months). The international specialist shall have at least a Master's Degree in economics, finance, project procurement, civil engineering, or a relevant field; with 12 years working experience in project management and procurement in developing countries and has prior on-budget project procurement experience in Afghanistan. The national specialist shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in economics, finance, project procurement, civil engineering, or a relevant field, with 10 years working experience in project management and procurement in Afghanistan. Both specialists are required to be familiar with procurement guidelines and related procedures of ADB and the government. They are responsible for the following: (i) conducting a procurement capacity assessment for the executing agency in accordance with ADB's guidelines; (ii) preparing a brief overview of supply market for the type of goods, works, and services required by the Project; (iii) preparing the project procurement plan in collaboration with the other relevant team members including the agricultural economist and financial specialist; and (iv) providing inputs into the risk assessment and risk management plan; and (v) preparing the draft request for proposal, including the terms of references for the implementation support consultancy package, and draft bid documents for the two (2) representative subprojects.

12. **Environmental Specialist** (international: 1.0 person-month; national: 3.0 person-months). The international specialist shall have at least a Master's Degree in environmental management or environmental engineering, with 12 years working experience in environmental safeguards. Prior environmental due diligence experience in Afghanistan is an advantage. The national

specialist shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in environmental management or environmental engineering, with 10 years working experience as an environmental specialist, preferably in donor-financed projects. Both specialists are required to be familiar with ADB's environmental safeguard policies and procedures. The specialists will be responsible for the following: (i) providing data and information for finalization of environmental categorization and climate change screening; (ii) examining the locations of candidate subprojects, including the two (2) representative subprojects and assessing the environmental sensitivity, and climate change risks to the sites or caused by the project outputs; and (iii) preparing the environmental assessment and review framework (EARF) to guide the overall project investments/subprojects, and two (2) initial environmental examinations (IEEs) reports (one (1) for each representative investment and/or subproject).

13. Social Safeguards/Resettlement Specialist (international: 1.0 person-month; national: 3.0 person-months). The international specialist shall have at least a Master's Degree in social sciences, sociology, anthropology, or other disciplines relevant for the assignment; with 12 years working experience in human resettlement and safeguards in developing countries and has recent experience in Afghanistan. The national specialist shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in social sciences, sociology, anthropology, or other relevant disciplines for the assignment; with 10 years working experience in the field of land administration and human resettlement. Both specialists must be familiar with ADB's safeguards policies and procedures. Following the ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009), the specialists shall be responsible for the following: (i) providing data and information for the two (2) checklists (a) involuntary resettlement categorization, and (b) indigenous peoples impact categorization; (ii) preparing the resettlement framework to guide the overall project investments and/or subprojects; and (iii) for the two representative investments and/or subprojects, preparing (a) a resettlement plan for each representative investment and/or subproject in case there are land acquisition and resettlement impacts; or (b) a due diligence report on land acquisition and resettlement for each of the two (2) representative investments and/or subprojects in case there is no resettlement impact.

14. Social Development and Gender Specialist (national: 3 person-months). The specialist shall have at least a Bachelor's Degree in social sciences, sociology, anthropology, or other disciplines relevant for the assignment. (S)he shall have at least 10 years of experience in social development and/or gender development. Familiarity with ADB policies on social safeguards, gender development, and core labor standards is required. Working experience in agriculture and natural resource sector is highly preferred. The specialist will be responsible for the following: (i) conducting a social development and gender assessment – highlighting (a) men and women's roles and tasks; (b) their access to resources, technologies and services, and gender-based inequalities; (c) assessment on core labor standards, particularly on child labor and equal pay for equal work; (d) constraints faced by men and women involved in the horticulture value chain, and (e) recommendations to address these issues through the project's outputs or interventions; (ii) reviewing best practices in supporting women's participation in the agriculture sector in Afghanistan and carrying out field surveys and/or focus group discussions to inform the social development and gender assessment; (iii) collecting and ensuring the collection of sex-disaggregated data; (iv) preparing the project-specific gender action plan for implementation (if feasible), and the summary poverty reduction and social strategy based on ADB's template; and (v) providing inputs into other feasibility study sections in compliance with ADB's social safeguards and gender mainstreaming policies.

B. Output 2 – Project Processing and Implementation Startup Expedited

15. Project Design and Startup Specialist (international: 4 person-months, national: 6

person-months). The specialist will be engaged on an intermittent basis prior to the grant fact-finding mission to undertake the following: (i) addressing critical technical gaps including horticulture sector and market assessment, financial, business and market risk due diligence, financial and economic evaluation, among others during the project processing stage; and (ii) providing implementation startup support. These activities are to ensure that (i) proper ADB Board documents are prepared and technical revisions made during the loan processing; and (ii) disbursement is expedited.