



Regional: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility

Project Name	Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility
Project Number	51322-001
Country	RegionalBangladeshBhutanNepalSri Lanka
Project Status	Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 500,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agricultural production - Irrigation - Rural flood protection - Rural market infrastructure - Water-based natural resources management Transport - Road transport (non-urban) Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban sanitation
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements
Description	The proposed transaction technical assistance (TA) facility will provide project preparation support and capacity building, strengthen due diligence, and increase project readiness to a series of ensuing projects identified in the country operations business plans, 2018 -2020 for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Initially, the TA will support (i) BAN: Ganges Kobadak Irrigation Modernization Project; (ii) BAN: Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Program; (iii) BAN: Market and Value Chain Infrastructure Development Project; (iv) BHU - Bhutan Integrated Irrigated Agriculture Development Project; (v) NEP: Mechanized Irrigation Innovation Project; (vi) NEP: Preparation of Priority River Basins Flood Risk Management Project; (vii) NEP: Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project Additional Financing; (viii) NEP: Nepal Rural Connectivity Improvement Project; and (ix) SRI: Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program. These projects are all in the rural sector and require similar due diligences. The TA facility approach is suitable as it will (i) enhance project preparation efficiency and improve readiness for projects that have limited processing resources; (ii) reap important synergies from working with the same team of consultants, including reducing lengthy tendering processes and improving knowledge transference; and (iii) strengthen coordination. Overall, this TA will reduce transaction costs through minimizing the need for stand-alone transaction TAs. The TA will also provide capacity building support to ongoing projects, initially supporting the Irrigation Management Improvement Project. The ongoing projects are suffering from weak project implementation capacity and require similar technical specialist support to ensure project sustainability. The TA will only support projects that are listed in the country operations business plans.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	South Asia's rural agriculture and natural resources portfolio performance needs to be improved, with challenges throughout the project cycle leading to underperforming projects. Lack of project readiness to meet ADB requirements governing procurement, selection of consultants, safeguards including resettlement and land acquisition, and other thematic areas (governance and gender) has led to significant implementation delays. Furthermore, weak project implementation and management capacity of executing and implementing agencies has been a continuous challenge for improved portfolio performance. The TA is in-line with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) midterm review (MTR) of Strategy 2020 which emphasizes the need for strengthening the capacity of executing and implementing agencies for effective project implementation to achieve inclusive and sustainable development as well as ensuring ADB delivers value for money. The TA will bridge capability gaps and enable the application of best practices to ADB-funded projects.
Impact	
Project Outcome	
Description of Outcome	
Progress Toward Outcome	

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location Bangladesh - Nation-wide; Bhutan - Nation-wide; Nepal - Nation-wide; Sri Lanka - Nation-wide

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services The TA facility will provide 24.5 person months of consulting services (13.5 international and 9.0 national) in the field of rural infrastructure (water resources and irrigation), procurement, economics, financial management, environment, safeguards, social development and project coordination. The consultants will be recruited using individual consultant selection method based on the requirements of each project and deployed based on each project's needs.

Procurement Not applicable.

Responsible ADB Officer Marsh, Suzanne

Responsible ADB Department South Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, SARD

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Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	01 Dec 2017
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	25 Sep 2018

TA 9443-REG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
01 Dec 2017	-	01 Dec 2017	30 Jun 2020	-	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500,000.00	01 Dec 2017	45,980.42

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