



China, People's Republic of: Accelerating Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Agriculture and Rural Transformation with Digital Technologies in the PRC and Its Implications for Developing Asia

Project Name	Accelerating Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Agriculture and Rural Transformation with Digital Technologies in the PRC and Its Implications for Developing Asia				
Project Number	56050-001				
Country / Economy	China, People's Republic of				
Project Status	Approved				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA 6993-PRC: Accelerating Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture and Rural Transformation with Digital Technologies in the PRC and Its Implications to Developing Asia</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 300,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	TA 6993-PRC: Accelerating Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture and Rural Transformation with Digital Technologies in the PRC and Its Implications to Developing Asia		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 300,000.00
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 300,000.00				
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth				
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships				
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development / Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development - Agriculture research and application Information and communication technology / ICT industries and ICT-enabled services - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements				
Description	<p>The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will contribute to research identifying the major pathways and drivers for the use of digital technologies to facilitate rapid, inclusive, and green agricultural and rural transformation in the People's Republic of China (PRC), which could lead to recommendations, based on scientific evidence, regarding innovative institutions, policies, and investments. The TA will also (i) examine factors that enable and constrain the use of digital technologies to facilitate green and resilient agricultural and rural transformation; and (ii) propose appropriate models that could be scaled up and transferred to other areas and the regions in the PRC with the corresponding institutions and incentive mechanisms in the near future, in order to promote green, low-carbon agricultural and rural development and enhance climate change adaptation capacity in the PRC. The TA will further enhance the capacity of the government, the private sector, farmers, and other stakeholders in developing member countries (DMC) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to recognize, adopt, and transform digital technologies to facilitate agricultural and rural transformation via ADB knowledge sharing and developing country cooperation platforms such as the ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative.</p> <p>The TA will be implemented under ADB's country partnership strategy, 20212025 for the PRC; and aligned with key operational priorities of Strategy 2030, especially in the area of promoting digital development and innovative technologies. The TA will also promote private sector solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including climate-smart agriculture, and tackling inequality of income and opportunity through policy actions to reduce interregional and ruralurban environmental, social, and economic disparities.</p>				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan (20212025) which prioritizes agriculture, rural development, and rural revitalization was endorsed by the PRC government in March 2021. The government of the PRC also issued various policy documents, including the outline of the Strategic Plan for Digital Rural Development, and the Development Plan for Digital Agriculture and Rural Areas (20192025), with the goal of contributing to its national priorities by promoting the application of digital technology in agriculture and rural areas through deep integration of digital technology, agriculture, and the rural economy. However, these initiatives do not identify the appropriate institutions, policies, and investments that could enable digital technologies to facilitate a more rapid, green, and inclusive and resilient agricultural and rural transformation. This has prompted the PRC government to seek major pathways and drivers to advance the policy and bring about the positive results it envisions.</p> <p>Agriculture and rural development in the PRC face three major challenges: (i) income disparity between rural and urban areas, across regions and genders, and among farmers within the same region; (ii) rising feed and food imports and concerns with regard to national food security; and (iii) resource and environmental degradation.</p> <p>Digital technology has the potential to address these challenges if appropriate institutions are established, policies implemented, and investments made. However, an effective model with appropriate institutional arrangements and incentives has yet to be explored. There is a lack of knowledge regarding pathways, major drivers, impacts, and major enabling and constraining factors with respect to the use of digital technologies to facilitate inclusive and green agricultural and rural transformation. Without a clear understanding of these issues, it is difficult to adopt innovative approaches to institutions, policies, and investments with the goal of reducing the risk of applying digital technology in agricultural and rural development for rapid, inclusive, and green agricultural and rural transformation.</p> <p>Other ADB DMCs share similar constraints and challenges in incorporating digital technologies in the agriculture sector and in overall rural development. Although promising tools are widely available, DMCs have not identified the appropriate policy and institutional environment as well as the required investments to reduce the digital divide in less-developed rural areas, and to use digital technologies to support environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and food supply chains.</p>				
Impact	Rapid, inclusive, and greener agricultural and rural transformation in the PRC and DMCs promoted (Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan (20212025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035)a				
Project Outcome					

Description of Outcome	Policies on rural revitalization and greener agriculture development of the PRC improved
Progress Toward Outcome	
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	Baseline situation of the digital technology application in agriculture in the PRC and other advanced economies assessed Policy advice and recommendations on digital technology application in the agriculture and rural transformation for the PRC finalized Cross country knowledge and south-south cooperation for digital technology application in agriculture and rural transformation enhanced
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	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	
Responsible ADB Officer	Yanoma, Yukitsugu
Responsible ADB Department	East Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, EARD
Executing Agencies	Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of the International Cooperation Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	12 Sep 2022
Fact Finding	15 Sep 2022 to 15 Sep 2022
MRM	-
Approval	16 Nov 2022
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	17 Nov 2022

TA 6993-PRC

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
300,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/56050-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=56050-001
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