

## DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

### A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has supported a range of investments in Bangladesh, including integrated water resources management, which includes irrigation components. Since the early 1980s, the World Bank, the Netherlands, the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have provided support for projects in Bangladesh in water resources management and irrigation.

2. The World Bank has been a major player in water resources management in Bangladesh, supporting sector reform and policy issues through the System Rehabilitation Project and Water Management Improvement Project, which encompassed both investment and sector reform issues, which are mutually beneficial to ADB.

3. Through a new project, entitled Blue-Gold, the Government of the Netherlands has identified new areas to further support the Government of Bangladesh in irrigation, agriculture, and value chain processes. There may be linkage established in future with the proposed project. JICA already supported irrigation projects and is planning to support water management in the northeastern area of Bangladesh.

4. IFAD is also supporting the government to help improve irrigation and the agriculture sector. At the moment it is cofinancing the third phase of ADB's participatory small-scale project and is willing to further support the irrigation subsector.

### Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Netherlands	Early Implementation Phase I, II, III, IV	1985–1997	33.31
	Char Development and Settlement I, II, III, IV	1995–2013	120.00
	System Rehabilitation Project	1992–1998	20.00
	Small-Scale Water Resources Development, I, II	1996–2010	31.30
ADB	Command Area Development Project	1995–2003	36.00
	Small-Scale Water Resources Development, I, II, III	1995–2013	120.00
	Jamuna-Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project	2003–2011	40.00
	South West Area Integrated Water Resources Management Project	2006–2014	20.00
JICA	Rehabilitation of Pumping Station Facilities of GK Irrigation Project	2005–2009	25.00
		1995–2013	42.00
IFAD	Small-Scale Water Resources Development, I & III		
International Development Association (World Bank)	System Rehabilitation Project	1992–1998	53.90
	Water Management Improvement Project	2007–2013	136.70

ADB = Asian Development Bank, IFAD = International Fund for Agriculture Development, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Source. Local Consultative Group, Bangladesh.

### B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

5. In Bangladesh, there exists a local consultative water management subgroup, commonly known as the LCG (WM), comprising the active development partners. It is chaired by the Netherlands and cochaired by the Bangladesh Water Development Board. In the early 1990s, it started as an information-sharing forum and gradually evolved into a collaborative forum.

Usually meetings are held every 2 months and there is also a website (<http://www.lcgbangladesh.org>). The meeting agenda mostly covers reform issues in the sector, presentations on pipeline projects and programs, and exploration of opportunities for cofinancing.

6. ADB regularly attends LCG (WM) meetings and liaises closely with the chair. Under the proposed project, close contact will be maintained with this forum and information shared as required. Cofinancing options with other development partners will also be explored through this forum.

### **C. Achievements and Issues**

7. During preparation of the project, ADB met with the chair of the LCG (WM) group who was briefed on the salient features of the project. The Netherlands showed interest in the project and was willing to explore possible linkage to its Blue-Gold project.

### **D. Summary and Recommendations**

8. The Government of Bangladesh is committed to improving the performance of irrigation schemes through irrigation management improvement. This will replace the old rehabilitation–degradation–rehabilitation cycle, and will ensure sustainability of the project through participatory irrigation management. All the development partners active in the sector support the project.