

INITIAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Country: Project Title:

Lending/Financing Modality: Department/Division:

I. POVERTY IMPACT AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

The government has been shifting the emphasis from a growth-oriented focus toward a broader and more inclusive rural and sustainable development. The project is in line with the Third Plenum Decision of the 18th Chinese Communist Party Congress which aims to promote integrated urban and rural development and to accelerate the building of new forms of agricultural operations systems that jointly develops household operations, collective operations, cooperative operations, and enterprise operations. It conforms to the Asian Development Bank's Water Operational Plan, 2011–2020 to increase irrigation efficiency and to promote integrated water resources management. It is also in line with the sector outcome of irrigation efficiency improved as stated in the country partnership strategy.

The project will improve and increase irrigated area of about 22,080 hectares in three irrigation districts of Jiamusi Municipality. The project will also provide support to strengthen cooperative arrangements between farmers, thus strengthening households with lower social and human capital, and capacity building in modern agricultural technology.

B. Targeting Classification

General Intervention Individual or Household (TI-H) Geographic (TI-G) Non-Income MDGs (TI-M1, M2, etc.)

The proposed project activities will be situated in the peri-urban agricultural areas around Jiamusi Municipality. The municipality has, for the People's Republic of China (PRC), a comparatively low level of rural poverty and a higher average level of agricultural land per capita (1 hectare, compared to 0.1 hectare in most provinces). The project will ensure that irrigation improvement benefits poor and vulnerable households engaged in agriculture, and that capacity building and support to cooperatives will extend to the same beneficiaries.

C. Poverty and Social Analysis

1. Key issues and potential beneficiaries.

The main beneficiaries of the projects are the users of the irrigation schemes in the project areas. A total of about 6,000–7,000 farmer households will directly benefit from improved irrigation services. Other beneficiaries will be the residents in areas along the drainage canals who will benefit from improved flood protection. Key issues for the main beneficiaries will be access to and affordability of improved irrigation and drainage services. Other issues will be sustainable operation and maintenance, and technical support in water-reducing technologies to reduce agricultural input while increasing yields.

2. Impact channels and expected systemic changes.

The project will improve irrigation schemes, some of which are over 50 years old. The project will allow beneficiaries to gain access to stable, secure irrigation services, thus improving their agriculture-based livelihood. Through improved community and civil society organization's (CSO) participation by increasing the roles of cooperatives and associations, the users will be more involved in operation and maintenance of the schemes, and have better access to marketing and value-chain development, resulting in higher and more stable incomes for poor and less affluent farmers.

3. Focus of (and resources allocated in) the PPTA or due diligence.

Although the project area is not classified as a poverty area by the government, and the average income and land holdings are comparatively high by the PRC standards, the project design will have to ensure that poor and vulnerable households will benefit from the project. To ensure local elites do not capture project benefits during the project preparatory technical assistance (PPTA), all beneficiaries will have to be consulted and their participation sought. Agreed measures will be included in the social action plan.

4. Specific analysis for policy-based lending.

n/a

II. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the key gender issues in the sector/subsector that are likely to be relevant to this project or program?

Women in rural areas are increasingly participating in agricultural activities due to the migration of men and younger women

to non-farm employment. At the same time, they remain responsible for non-paid activities such as caring for the left-behind elderly and young children not migrating with their parents. In the meantime, the overall participation of women in the general workforce continues to diminish in the PRC. Women participate in farmer associations and cooperatives, but mostly not in management roles.

2. Does the proposed project or program have the potential to make a contribution to the promotion of gender equity and/or empowerment of women by providing women's access to and use of opportunities, services, resources, assets, and participation in decision making?

Yes No

The project will assess the situation of gender issues in the project areas. A gender action plan (GAP) containing the design features will be prepared to ensure the project contributes to increasing gender equity. The GAP will include the women's participation quota for employment, capacity development, and participation in water users association (WUA), farmer association, and cooperatives, particularly in management roles.

3. Could the proposed project have an adverse impact on women and/or girls or widen gender inequality?

Yes No

The project will have no adverse impact on women. The project will include features to take proactive action to reduce inequality between genders.

A GAP will be prepared during PPTA, and gender indicators prepared to be included in the project design and monitoring framework.

4. Indicate the intended gender mainstreaming category:

GEN (gender equity theme) EGM (effective gender mainstreaming)
 SGE (some gender elements) NGE (no gender elements)

III. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

1. Who are the main stakeholders of the project, including beneficiaries and negatively affected people? Identify how they will participate in the project design.

The main project stakeholders are the Jiamusi municipal government as borrower, agencies involved in project execution and implementation such as the executing and implementing agencies, the beneficiaries of the irrigation systems to be modernized, the private sector and cooperatives, agricultural enterprises, and the people affected by land acquisition. The executing and implementing agencies, as well as local governments and beneficiaries, will be consulted during PPTA. The affected households will be consulted during the preparation of a resettlement plan by the executing agency.

2. How can the project contribute (in a systemic way) to engaging and empowering stakeholders and beneficiaries, particularly, the poor, vulnerable and excluded groups? What issues in the project design require participation of the poor and excluded?

The PPTA will engage with less affluent agricultural actors to ensure they are involved and benefitted from the improved irrigation infrastructure, and identify their needs in terms of infrastructure, capacity building, and value chain improvement, such as through cooperatives, associations, and the private sector.

3. What are the key, active, and relevant civil society organizations in the project area? What is the level of civil society organization participation in the project design?

M Information generation and sharing **M** Consultation **H** Collaboration **N** Partnership

Key CSO relevant for the project will be cooperatives, farmer associations, WUAs, and the All China Women Federation.

4. Are there issues during project design for which participation of the poor and excluded is important? What are they and how shall they be addressed? Yes No

The PPTA will consult with the CSOs relevant for the project, such as cooperatives, farmer associations, and WUAs; and their participation in implementation of project activities will be ensured.

IV. SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

A. Involuntary Resettlement Category A B C FI

1. Does the project have the potential to involve involuntary land acquisition resulting in physical and economic displacement? Yes No

The project will require the acquisition of around 60 hectares of agricultural land, and temporary use of around 150 hectares. The project was categorized as category B as most structures to be constructed will be linear structures (canals, rural access roads etc.) with small impacts on both sides, the degree of loss per household will be rather low. No physical displacement is expected. The PPTA team will conduct assessment of land required for project purpose, and assist the borrower in preparing a resettlement plan to mitigate impacts.

2. What action plan is required to address involuntary resettlement as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?

- Resettlement plan Resettlement framework Social impact matrix
 Environmental and social management system arrangement None

B. Indigenous Peoples Category A B C FI

1. Does the proposed project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of indigenous peoples? Yes No

2. Does it affect the territories or natural and cultural resources indigenous peoples own, use, occupy, or claim, as their ancestral domain? Yes No

No indigenous communities exist in the project area.

3. Will the project require broad community support of affected indigenous communities? Yes No

No indigenous communities exist in the project area.

4. What action plan is required to address risks to indigenous peoples as part of the PPTA or due diligence process?

- Indigenous peoples plan Indigenous peoples planning framework Social impact matrix
 Environmental and social management system arrangement None

V. OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES AND RISKS

1. What other social issues and risks should be considered in the project design?

- Creating decent jobs and employment Adhering to core labor standards(L) Labor retrenchment
 Spread of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS Increase in human trafficking Affordability(M)
 Increase in unplanned migration Increase in vulnerability to natural disasters Creating political instability
 Creating internal social conflicts Others, please specify _____

2. How are these additional social issues and risks going to be addressed in the project design?

The project bidding documents will require all contractors to respect national and applicable international core labor standards. The project will not trigger any child labor.

The project will include features to ensure irrigation costs, should they increased, are covering costs, and remain affordable to all project beneficiaries. Measures will also be specified in the social action plan.

The project will reduce incidence of flooding in urban areas of Jiamusi Municipality.

VI. PPTA OR DUE DILIGENCE RESOURCE REQUIREMENT

1. Do the terms of reference for the PPTA (or other due diligence) contain key information needed to be gathered during PPTA or due diligence process to better analyze (i) poverty and social impact; (ii) gender impact, (iii) participation dimensions; (iv) social safeguards; and (vi) other social risks. Are the relevant specialists identified?

- Yes No

n/a

2. What resources (e.g., consultants, survey budget, and workshop) are allocated for conducting poverty, social and/or gender analysis, and participation plan during the PPTA or due diligence?

Social development specialists, resettlement specialists, budget for survey, and budget for workshops to be conducted by the PPTA team are included in the PPTA.