

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET**  
**CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: ISDSC15566

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 03-June-2016

**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

<b>Country:</b>	Gambia, The	<b>Project ID:</b>	P157775
<b>Project Name:</b>	Building Capacity for Evidence-Based Agricultural Development		
<b>Task Team Leader:</b>	Kadir Osman Gyasi, Ademola Braimoh		
<b>Estimated Approval Date:</b>	September 30, 2016		
<b>Managing Unit:</b>	GFA01		
<b>Sector(s):</b>	General Extension and Research (38%), Crops (20%), Irrigation and drainage (29%), General Agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (13%)		
<b>Theme(s):</b>	Rural markets (15%), Rural policies and institutions (24%), Rural services and infrastructure (61%)		
<b>Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?</b>			No
<b>Financing (in USD Million)</b>			
Total Project Cost:	2.00	Total Bank (PHRD) Financing:	1.85
Financing Gap:	0.15		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.15
Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) – Trust Fund			1.85
Total			2.00
<b>Environmental Category</b>	C – Not Required		
<b>Is this a Repeater project?</b>	No		
<b>Is this a Transferred project?</b>	No		

**B. Project Objectives**

1. The objectives of this grant support are to build technical and institutional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity and enhance farmers' access to agricultural advisory services in the Gambia.

**C. Project Description**

2. The project will achieve these objectives by strengthening capacity for data collection, monitoring

and evaluation (M&E) and analysis for ensuring the availability of quality data and information for evidence based policy making, and also leveraging on ICT and the prolific use of mobile telephony to enhance agricultural advisory services delivery in The Gambia. In doing that the grant will support the implementation of two key strategies of the Ministry of Agriculture: the agricultural sector strategy for the development of statistics and the national agricultural extension strategy. It will support the Planning Services Unit of the Department of Agriculture to build technical and institutional capacity for ensuring the availability of quality data and information for evidence-based agricultural and rural development. It will also support the Agricultural Extension Services Unit of the Department of Agriculture to pilot an E-Extension System as a means of improving its capacity to deliver agricultural advisory services, using ICT to ameliorate the human and technical constraints of the Department while enhancing producers' access to technical and market information to accelerate technology adoption and increase productivity.

3. The project will be organized around two main components: (i) strengthening sectoral capacity for agricultural statistics; and (ii) enhancing agricultural advisory services delivery through ICT.

4. Component 1: Strengthening Sectoral capacity for collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization of agricultural statistics (US\$900,000): This component will focus on helping to enhance the agricultural statistical capacity including the underlying statistical framework to ensure the production of quality statistics. It will have two subcomponents: (i) enhancing the capacity of Statistical Department of Planning Services Unit, and (ii) improving the agricultural statistical framework.

5. Subcomponent 1.1: Enhancing the capacity of Statistical Unit of Planning Service: The objective of this subcomponent is to support the development of a robust agricultural information system that can contribute significantly to better informed policy and decision making. It would strengthen the capacity of the agricultural sector in The Gambia to (i) track and report on activities, outputs and results; and (ii) use monitoring and evaluation information to improve policy, program and project management.

6. Subcomponent 1.2: Agricultural data production and dissemination: This subcomponent will support the improvement of data collection, compilation, validation, management, analysis and dissemination of data in order to improve the quality, timeliness and use of agricultural data. It will focus on both enhancing existing statistics and improving the capacity to collect and how these are communicated and disseminated to users. It will help to improve the agricultural sector statistical system to ensure effective operation of agricultural sector statistical structures. It will put in place data flow channels between the center, regions and districts.

7. The Component will train and equip the M&E and Agricultural Statistics staff at the national, regional, district levels and other stakeholders in agricultural data collection generation, analysis, dissemination and use of agricultural statistics; by developing training modules for training of all key stakeholders, by developing tool kits and M&E/MIS guides; by building a robust MIS and through procurement of requisite M&E/MIS hardware and software.

8. Component 2: Enhancing agricultural advisory services delivery through ICT (US\$750,000): The component will strengthen the capacities of rural development workers, farmers, farmer organizations and rural communities. The component will support two key activities. The first will be development of an e-knowledge management website where content will be created and updated by the scientific community, agricultural experts and published on the portal for users like field extension officers, farmer based organizations, NGOs, policy makers, etc. And second, support the transmission of the content from the knowledge management portal to end users - farmers, enabled extension officers in the field - via voice and SMS.

9. Sub-component 2.1: E-Extension Portal and Field Information Management System (Electronic Information and Extension Service Delivery): The subcomponent will introduce and pilot electronic information and extension delivery system (e-extension system) to offer real time, data and extension delivery capabilities to the agricultural sector in terms of wider farmer coverage, vast information storage, fast communication channels and links between different media.

10. The grant will support to build an electronic extension portal and knowledge platform to enhance the capacity of extension officers, and improve their access to information and new knowledge on improved technologies and good agricultural practices. The purpose of the platform is to serve as a knowledge management system that integrates research/content from the various stakeholders for end user support. It will allow for exchange of information among agricultural stakeholders as well as generation of reports, analysis of data for strategy review and response to field enquiries and queries. It will also improve reporting on field events, and timely statistical data recording and reporting. There would also be e-labs that would help develop extension officers and farmer's e-learning skills.

11. Linked to Component 1, the sub-component will support an extension field data capturing system, a digital photography and GPS assisted smartphone application, to improve field data capture and delivery reporting using smartphone application.

12. Subcomponent 2.2: Local content access (Audio farmer library) and Call Center: The subcomponent will support the transmission of content from the knowledge management portal to end users - the farmers, enabled extension officers - in the field via voice and SMS. The sub-component will support the establishment of a multilingual Interactive Voice Response (IVR) service and audio component to provide an opportunity for time sensitive, critical valuable content to be delivered at any time to the farmer. The objective is to reduce constraints to technology dissemination and adoption by using mobile phone interventions designed to increase uptake of technologies, change farming practices and increase farmers access to services. The subcomponent will support the transcription of all best practices in agriculture in the portal for easy access by farmers in their local languages. With the use of standard mobile phone, farmers and other agricultural stakeholders can call an IVR system for content on best farm practices in their local languages.

13. A Multi lingual call center would also be established to which the farmer has the option to call for further expert support. This would involve the establishment of a call center to handle farmer queries beyond the IVR and offer effective response within the shortest possible time. The call center links farmers directly through a standard phone call to Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) and in virtual meetings to solve large outreach constrains resulting from the high farmer - extension ratio. Under the program Field officers in the regions and districts would have the opportunity to access information from the established system with the use of Smart Mobile Phones to service the farmers instantly at their various locations upon dialing-in with a specified number.

14. Component 3: Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$200,000): The project will be managed by the Central Projects Coordination Unit (CPCU) of the Ministry of Agriculture, which also coordinates the implementation of the World Bank-financed Commercial Agriculture and Value Chain Management Project (GCAV). The CPCU will oversee the coordination, M&E and fiduciary management of the project. Project activities will be executed through delegated mandate to technical department in the Ministry of Agriculture and its relevant service units. A results-based memorandum of understanding will be signed between CPCU and participating directorates to ascertain their roles. In coordination with the technical directorates, the CPCU of GCAV will manage procurement of goods and consultancy services. Financial management activities will also be handled by the CPCU.

15. The Grant support and GCAV will have the same Steering Committee. Key resource persons with good knowledge with grant support activities may be invited to the Steering Committee sessions to improve governance in project implementation.

16. Similarly, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project will be undertaken by the IDA-financed GCAV. Specifically, the proposed grant support project will benefit from the capacity built by the GCAV in project for data collection, processing and dissemination. Indeed, GCAV already has in place an M&E team comprising M&E specialists at the Central Projects Coordination Unit (PCU) and at the Planning Services Unit (which is also a key beneficiary of the grant). The project will also recruit a consultant to support the preparation of a light baseline study in the targeted zones, so as to establish the basis against which project results will be measured. The consultant will also undertake the impact evaluation study at the end of project. The project will provide opportunities for students to participate in the M&E teams and benefit from hands-on training, and field research for Masters and engineer degrees will be prepared based on project's activities.

17. The experience from piloting the e-extension will be closely monitored, and lessons learned shared within the wider development community, for potential scaling up under the Government and donor financed programs and projects. A project completion report will be prepared and widely distributed among project stakeholders, and also made available online via GCAV's website for wider dissemination.

**D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)**

The proposed project will be implemented in The Greater Banjul area of the Gambia.

**E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies**

The institutional capacity for safeguards is moderate but further support in environmental and social safeguards monitoring will be provided by the National Environment Agency (NEA).

**F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team**

Anita Bimunka Takura Tingbani (GEN01 )  
Fatou Fall (GSU01)

**II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

<b>Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	No	The project will not fund the construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure or engage in activities that directly affect the physical environment. Thus no significant adverse environmental or social impacts are anticipated.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	The project is not expected to impact on natural habitats.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The project is not related to forestry not

		expected to impact on forests.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project will provide information on good agricultural practices, including IPM, but will not directly support agricultural production and use of production inputs (including pesticides)
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	The project is not expected to impact on physical cultural resources.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no indigenous peoples in the project area.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	It will not lead to land acquisition or deprive people of access to their usual means of livelihood. Thus no significant adverse social impacts are anticipated.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	Dams will not be constructed, nor will the project rely on dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project is a capacity building intervention and areas does not involve use of water.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in a disputed area.

### III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

**A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS:**

30-July-2016

**B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS.**

July - August 2016

### IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Kadir Osman Gyasi	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Maman-Sani Issa	Date: June 21, 2016
Practice Manager/Manager:	Name: Simeon Ehui	Date: June 23, 2016

<sup>1</sup> Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.