

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

#### **Chairperson's Summary of the Committee's Discussion on 27 October 2004 of the Special Evaluation Study on Small-Scale Freshwater Rural Aquaculture Development for Poverty Reduction**

1. The Development Effectiveness Committee (DEC) commended the innovative nature, purpose, and format of this special evaluation study. Proceeding beyond an evaluation of past efforts, the study took the learning process to its next step: how ADB's future aquaculture interventions could become more relevant for poverty reduction through the application of an analytical framework that recognized farmers' and operators' vulnerability and the importance of their access to various capital assets. Such farmers did not represent the destitute but those close enough to the poverty line that they who could easily slip below it as a result of, say, a natural disaster. In the context, the framework could be seen as a systematic design tool for reducing the risks in such future projects. The DEC agreed that the private sector, including nongovernment organizations and suppliers, had started to play a key complementary role in the development of the sector.
2. The DEC felt that the study could indeed become a valuable handbook for ADB staff, practitioners, and researchers alike and, as such, should be disseminated to a wide external audience. In this context, the committee appreciated OED's innovative use of photographs in the report and encouraged such practice in future reports, as another step towards greater transparency in evaluation reports. Public feedback on this will be much appreciated.
3. Some DEC members thought that for such a handbook to be comprehensive and more results oriented, suggested performance indicators for measuring the development effectiveness of small-scale freshwater aquaculture projects might be integrated into the analytical framework, including indicators linked to the millennium development goals being targeted by a country. Other DEC members suggested that for the twelve recommendations of the study to be actionable, these should not stop at general description of the problem areas and possible ways of addressing these, but also venture into prescriptive solutions or alternatives on which future interventions in the sector could focus. Of course, these would have to be considered on a contextual basis.
4. Given the conclusions of the study, the DEC would like to learn how Management sees aquaculture development fitting into ADB's overall poverty reduction strategy.

Ashok Saikia  
Chairperson  
Development Effectiveness Committee

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