

INFORMATION SOURCES AND DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

1. ADB's knowledge products such as policy dialogues, sector reviews and assessments and other sector specific knowledge products will be important sources of information. Qualitative and quantitative data will be collected and a mix of complementary tools will be used to triangulate information derived from literature reviews, data analysis and stakeholders' perceptions. Case studies and rapid rural appraisals will be used for in-depth analyses of subsectors or thematic issues. The tools and techniques to be used for data and information gathering and analysis will include the followings:

- (i) **Documentation Review.** A general literature review on the role of agriculture in economic development and poverty reduction will be conducted to contextualize the sector assistance program evaluation (SAPE). A thorough documentation review will be conducted to synthesize the government policies and strategies for the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) sector. A desk review of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) support to ANR sector will include published and unpublished reports and articles, research papers, manuscripts, and interim reports. A general review of the major development partners' policies and strategies, and their support to the sector in Nepal will also be conducted.
- (ii) **Trend Analysis.** To get a broad perspective on the performance of the sector and to validate stakeholder perceptions, a quantitative assessment will be undertaken using secondary data. The main data sources would be ADB published documents, the government official statistics, and authoritative statistics from other international organizations.
- (iii) **Key Informant Interview.** Senior government officials from the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant government agencies, ADB's ANR sector specialists and operational staff, representatives of international development partners/donors who have first-hand knowledge of the ADB's work in Nepal will be the target of key informant interviews. Semi-structured open-ended investigative questions will be used for interviews. Similar discussions will be held with journalists, local nongovernmental organizations and other civil society organizations, and private sector representatives. Perspectives gained from the key informant interviews will help in more meaningful interpretations of the quantitative primary and secondary data collected, and prioritization of issues and concerns of the key players in the field.
- (iv) **Focus Group Discussions.** This technique will be used to generate qualitative data from homogeneous groups of target beneficiaries, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and line agencies, national project implementing staff, ADB ANR sector specialists and others from the national and international agencies. Separate focus group discussions with concerned officials involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of each of the project/program selected for evaluation will be conducted. Rapid-appraisal techniques will be utilized to collect data in a cost effective manner from groups (ideally between 8–12 people) and to identify issues that are of individual or of general concerns. A semi-structured open ended questionnaire will be used in group discussions lasting between 1 to 2 hours.

- (v) **Field Visits/Observation.** The evaluation team will visit selected project sites to validate development results. The field visit will enable interactions with people directly influenced by the intervention. Participatory rapid rural appraisal methods will be used to generate data/information. The selection of field visits will correspond to the key thrusts of the support program.