

ADB'S SUPPORT FOR ANR RESEARCH AND SELECTED RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN NEPAL, 1997–2007

1. For assessing the linkages with other Asian Development Bank (ADB) operations, the sector assistance program evaluation (SAPE) will utilize information from the Operations Evaluation Department's two ongoing evaluations: (i) *Update Evaluation of the Special Evaluation Study on Policy Implementation and Impact of Agricultural and Natural Resources Research*, and (ii) *Specials Evaluation Study on the Rural Connectivity and Inclusive Development*.
2. Seven regional technical assistance (RETA) projects have provided support for research and technology development in the sector in Nepal.¹ The funds for such research were provided to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)² centers (and are the executing agencies) to the amount of \$7.1 million. The RETA-supported research is aimed at improving the productivity of staple crops—rice and wheat and legumes, managing water, and addressing food policy issues. Five of these RETA projects have been completed or requested to be completed, and two are ongoing. The RETA project No. 5812 is rated “successful” in the technical assistance completion report (TCR). The other completed projects do not yet have TCRs.
3. Individual CGIAR centers responsible for each of the project are identified below. A national counterpart in Nepal is the Nepal Agricultural Research Council for all projects except for one involving the Department of Forestry (RETA 5812). The following RETA projects will be considered for this evaluation:
 - (i) RETA Project 5812: *Development of Effective Water Management Institutions, Third Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at CGIAR Centers, (1998–2003)*. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI, previously IIMMI) is the EA. The project was completed in October 2004 and TCR rated it “successful.”
 - (ii) RETA Project 5866: *Conservation and Use of Native Tropical Fruit Species Biodiversity in Asia, Fourth Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at CGIAR Centers, 1999–2004*. The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) is the EA. The RETA was completed in June 2005 and TCR is not available.
 - (iii) RETA Project 5945: *Sustaining the Rice Wheat Production Systems of Asia, Fifth Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at CGIAR Centers (2000–2007)*. The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is the executive agency. Requested for closing and no schedule for TCR yet.
 - (iv) RETA Project 6067: *Poverty Reduction through Advisory Network, Policy Research and Capacity Strengthening in South Asia, Seventh Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at CGIAR Centers, (2002–2008)*. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is the executive agency. Expected

¹ The ANR research policy paper of 1995 articulated ADB's approach to supporting research in this area to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Asia and the Pacific region. The RETA modality has been used to operationalize the agenda through support, mostly to CGIAR.

² The CGIAR, established in 1971, is a strategic partnership of countries, international and regional organizations and private foundations supporting the work of 15 international centers. In collaboration with national agricultural research systems, civil society and the private sector, the CGIAR fosters sustainable agricultural growth through high-quality science aimed at benefiting the poor through stronger food security, better human nutrition and health, higher incomes and improved management of natural resources.

completion date 31 January 2008, requested for closing on 22 Feb 2008. No schedule for TCR yet.

- (v) RETA Project 6136: *Regional Workshops on Agriculture and Natural Resources Research in the Central and South Asian Regions*, Eighth Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at CGIAR Centers (2003–2007). The Agriculture Natural Resources and Social Sectors Division, Regional and Sustainable Development Department of ADB coordinated the workshop. RETA was completed on 31 December 2007, no schedule for TCR yet.
- (vi) RETA Project 6208: *Enhancing Farmers' Income and Livelihoods through Integrated Crop and Resource Management in the Rice-Wheat System in South Asia* Ninth Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at CGIAR Centers, (2004–2008). The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the EA. Expected completion date is 31 December 2008.
- (vii) RETA Project 6276: *Development and Dissemination of Water-Saving Rice Technologies in South Asia*, Tenth Agriculture and Natural Resources Research at CGIAR Centers (2005–2008). The IRRI is the EA. Expected completion date is 31 December 2008.

4. The following two rural road infrastructure projects with goals of improving market and other access to the rural area is directly relevant for the sector development will be included in the assessment on the extent of the linkages.

- (i) **Loan 1450-NEP: Rural Infrastructure Development, (1996–2003).**³ The project objective was to reduce poverty among rural population in the Hill region. The anticipated outcomes were better access to remote villages and a higher standard of living for local people in Banglung, Tanahun and Kabhre districts. The project supported (a) construction of rural roads and structures, (b) construction of village multipurpose buildings, and (c) awareness campaigns for rural infrastructure development. The project completion report rated this project “successful.”
- (ii) **Loan 1876-NEP: Road Network Development Project (2001–2007).** The objective of this project was to promote economic growth by improved transportation infrastructure. The project support was expected to improve access to social services and markets. The expected outputs of the project were to (a) maintain about 140 kilometers (km) of the East-West Highway, (b) improve approximately 165 km of roads to all-weather paved surface, (c) construct a district headquarters access road of about 96 km using environment-friendly and labor-based construction methods, (d) develop and implement performance-based maintenance on about 200–300 km of the network, and (e) improve about 10 km of a cross-border access road. The project was rated “satisfactory” in its recent PPR. Disbursement reached 68% within an elapsed period of 103%. Revised closing date of the project is 31 December 2008.

³ First disbursement took place in 30 January 1997.