



Not for Quotation: Work-in-Progress

Title: Sector Assistance Program Evaluation for the Agriculture and Natural Resources in Nepal

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Operations Evaluation Department (OED) of the Asia Development Bank (ADB) is conducting a sector assistance program evaluation (SAPE) for the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)¹ in Nepal for the first time. The sector ranks high in ADB's portfolio—it received highest amount of total assistance provided to Nepal during the proposed evaluation period from 1997 to 2007.² This evaluation period includes ADB's assistance to the sector provided under three Country Partnership Strategies (CPSs) for Nepal, namely, 1993–1998, 1999–2003, and current 2005–2009.³ The main purposes of this SAPE are to assess the links between ADB's development assistance and socioeconomic performance of the country, and to identify opportunities for further improving the program performance. The study has been timed to provide sector-specific feedback in the design of the next phase of CPS planned early next year. The SAPE will also provide input to the ongoing country assistance program evaluation (CAPE) of OED.

2. The proposed evaluation approach paper has been prepared based on various information sources including those obtained during the fact finding mission.⁴ They include officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, National Agricultural Research Council, Executing Agencies (EAs) of various ADB projects and technical assistance (TA), staff of the Nepal Resident Mission, representatives of development partners—Department for International Development, International Fund for Agriculture Development, the World Bank, and other stakeholders. Consultations with key players at the inception stage of this study facilitated proper identification of main issues on the sector performance and incorporation of those issues in the study design. This is expected to enhance the relevance of SAPE for formulation of future assistance programs and potential for adoption of findings.

¹ ANR is specified as a sector in ADB. However, for Nepal, ADB's CPS does not refer to the ANR sector as such, instead, the term agriculture and rural development (ARD) is used. ADB's sector program assistance is mainly for the agricultural development. The national documents use ARD to refer to the sector. Hence, to avoid confusion from here onwards, the ANR acronym is not be used and will be referred to as 'the sector'.

² A comprehensive agriculture sector development plan—a 20-year Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP) was implemented for the first time in Nepal in 1997.

³ The CPS is introduced as part of the reform to enhance Country Strategy and Program (CSP) formulation in August 2006. In 2001, the CSP integrated the country operational strategy study and country assistance plan processes and documents. ADB. 2006. *Country Partnership Strategy*. Manila (Available: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/CSPs/default.asp>).

⁴ The fact finding mission was conducted from 9–25 March 2008. A draft approach paper for the SAPE was prepared, and circulated to Nepal Resident Mission and OED staff including the directors for general comments prior to undertaking the mission.

II. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPEMNT IN NEPAL

3. The economy of Nepal is based mainly on agricultural production although the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) has decreased from approximately 40% in mid-1990s to 33.1% in 2007.⁵ The recent sector development studies indicate that growth in the sector is crucial to reducing poverty and fostering inclusive development. Hence, the sector performance continues to be one of the key determining factors for the overall growth of the economy.⁶ For example, the real GDP growth in 2007 was lower at 2.5%,⁷ as compared to the achievement in the previous year due largely to a lower growth rate (0.7%) in the agricultural sector.⁸ Agriculture is also an important source of export earnings.

4. GDP per capita is \$386, and approximately 24% of population (6.2 million of the total 26 million) lives on less than \$1 per day.⁹ The incidence of poverty is higher in rural areas (35%) than in urban areas (10%).¹⁰ The incidence of poverty in rural area is directly correlated with access to land, where 40% of the households have less than 0.5 hectares (ha). Millions are at risk of food insecurity with 42 out of 75 districts being deficit in food (footnote 9). Chronic food insecurity is a significant problem, particularly for people in mid-and far-west regions.

5. Traditionally, farm households have engaged in crop production, livestock management, and use of natural resources (i.e., forestry)¹¹ to meet their livelihood needs. Subsistence-oriented traditional farming systems dominate despite some transitions toward commercialized and diversified systems in recent years. Staple food crops dominate agricultural production. Approximately, 80% of the total cultivated (2.8 million ha) area is planted to—rice, maize, wheat, millet, and barley. Together, they account for nearly three-fourths of the total calorie intake.¹² The growth rate of cereal production has remained low and below the growth rate of population. The yield of cereals is low among countries in the region.

6. The remaining approximately 20% of the cultivated area is planted with cash crops (i.e., potato, sugarcane, jute, and tobacco) and high-value crops (i.e., citrus, apple, mango, vegetables, tea, and cardamom). The area cultivated for these crops has increased at the rate of 3% per year. Livestock rearing contributes to about 15% of the farm household income. More than half of the farm households are engaged in livestock production such as raising cattle, goat, buffalo, and poultry. Rising demands for meat, milk, and eggs have led to growth in the livestock subsector. According to the Nepal Living Standard Survey, farm households have become more diversified in all three production zones with the importance of cash cropping and livestock management increasing over time.

⁵ NPC. 2007. *Three Year Interim Plan: 2007–2009*. Government of Nepal. Kathmandu.

⁶ SAARC and FAO. 2008. *Country Position Paper Nepal, Special Programme on Regional Food Security (SPFP/RAS/6702)*. National Technical Working Group. Kathmandu.

⁷ The GDP growth rate in 2006 was 2.8%, achieved with higher growth rate in agriculture sector of 1.1% for that year.

⁸ The adverse weather conditions both drought/floods during the growing season and excessive winter precipitation was the main cause of the low production of main staple crops. ADB. 2007. *Asian Development Outlook*. Manila.

⁹ ADB. 2007. *Nepal: Quarterly Economic Update*. Manila. page 1. Available: http://www.adb.org/Documents/Economic_Updates/NEP/economic-update-aug07.pdf

¹⁰ Approximately, 31% of the population lives below the poverty line (CBS 2005).

¹¹ Crop and livestock production is complemented by forestry which provides organic matter for compost and green manure; animal feed and bedding; fuel, wood, and timber; and medicinal plants. These resources are particularly important at times of economic hardship. Resource-poor households generally rely to a greater extent on these natural resources. This form of farming is practiced in all three distinct agro-ecological zones.

¹² Their production, productivity, and availability, by and large, define the food security situation in the country.

III. THE NATIONAL PLANS FOR THE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

7. The Ninth Five-Year Development Plan (the Ninth Development Plan, 1997–2001) clearly specified poverty reduction as its sole developmental goal and launched a comprehensive agriculture sector development plan—a 20 year Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP, implemented in 1997) to achieve this goal.¹³ The APP was designed to contribute to poverty reduction and enhancement of food security through accelerated agricultural growth. The pathways for achieving the objectives were mainly through (i) accelerate agricultural growth by increasing total factor productivity; (ii) reduce poverty and improve people's standard of living, particularly in rural areas; and (iii) transform the subsistence-oriented agriculture into a commercial one by diversifying and increasing interregional trade within the country.

8. The Tenth Five Year Development Plan, (the Tenth Development Plan, 2002–2007), reflects the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is aimed at reducing poverty through sustained high and broad-based economic growth "...focusing particularly on the rural economy."¹⁴ The strategy laid out in APP continued to be the basis for policies for agricultural development. APP was updated in 2004 to reflect the need to increase rural employment and income generation, increased commercialization of the sector, and poverty reduction.¹⁵ To facilitate diversification and commercialization, the Tenth Plan outlined the following pathways: (i) mobilization of private and non-governmental service providers in partnership; (ii) promotion of cooperative and contractual farming; (iii) devolution of agricultural programs to local bodies; (iv) strengthening agriculture stations as resource centers to ensure the supply of quality seeds, saplings, and breeds for subsequent multiplication for local needs; and (v) provision of technical backstopping.

9. The achievements of both the development plans were limited due to the decade-long conflict and political instability resulting from the Maoist insurgency. Particularly, the period from 2002 was marred with frequent blockades and strikes that disrupted the delivery of basic services to the rural poor, restricted the movement of people and goods, and slowed the implementation of development activities.

IV. ADB'S DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY AND ASSISTANCE

A. ADB's Partnership Strategies

10. During the evaluation period, ADB developed three strategies (footnote 3) for country partnerships: Country Operational Strategies¹⁶ 1993–1998 and 1999–2003, and Country Strategy and Program (CSP) 2005–2009. ADB's programs in Nepal were aimed at reducing poverty and promoting broad-based economic growth. A common theme among these plans is the emphasis on the development of agricultural sector as the main determinant of the country's economic growth and poverty reduction. In addition, ADB is engaged in the development of knowledge products and services, and policy advocacy as part and parcel of its operation.

¹³ ADB provided advisory TA projects for the preparation of APP, and subsequently provided a series of TA projects for strengthening the planning process, institutional reforms, and the development of statistical systems for supporting the sector development.

¹⁴ NPC. 2003. *The Tenth Plan: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2002–2007*. Government of Nepal. Kathmandu. para. 94. Available: http://poverty2.forumone.com/files/Nepal_PRSP.pdf

¹⁵ The National Agriculture Policy introduced in 2004, is based on the APP strategy and implemented jointly. One of the main goals of the National Agriculture Plan is to identify feasible area for high value agricultural products so that suitable interventions can be provided.

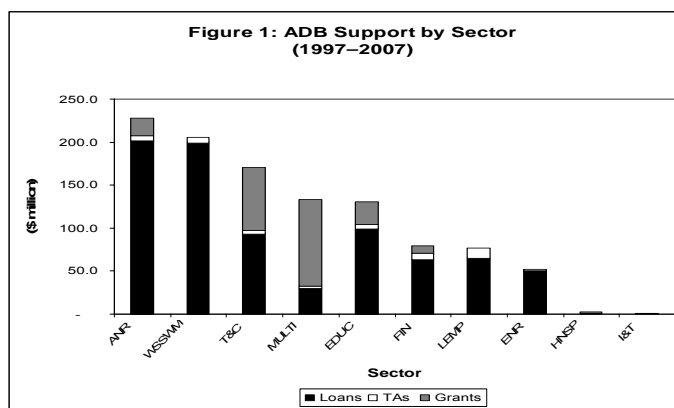
¹⁶ The CPSs are guided by medium-term Country Operational Strategies that are formulated every 3–5 years or more frequently when required to address changing country circumstances.

11. The current ADB's strategy is closely aligned to the Government's Tenth Development Plan. This strategy adopted a medium to long-term perspective to help reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The insurgency was in full force at the time of preparation (in 2004) of CPS and it factored in the implications of the conflict on development and poverty reduction. The CPS stated that the lack of opportunities for advancement in rural areas contributed to conflict and endemic poverty. Increasing agricultural productivity and food security, and diversifying economic opportunities are considered in the CPS as the key to rural development.

12. The current CPS for Nepal is also the first of ADB's result-based CPS. Expected intermediate outcomes of ADB's assistance specific to agriculture and rural development are: (i) higher agricultural productivity, (ii) increased agricultural income and employment opportunities of rural poor, and (iii) increased commercialization of agriculture. To produce these outcomes, ADB's strategies are: (i) strengthening infrastructure and connectivity within rural areas; (ii) providing holistic support for sustainable and market-oriented agriculture; (iii) delivering assistance that can generate visible benefits to the lives of the rural population; and (iv) mainstreaming participation, gender, and ethnic-equality considerations in all projects.

B. ADB's Program Assistance for the Sector Development

13. ADB is one of the major development partners in Nepal.¹⁷ ADB provided over \$1 billion (\$1, 078.1 million) to Nepal since 1997 (1997–2007). The sector received 21.1% (\$227.9 million) of this total assistance provided to Nepal—the highest amount compared to other sectors (Figure 1). The assistance in the sector included one program and seven investment project (\$201 million), two grant projects (\$19 million), and 15 TA projects (\$7.8 million).¹⁸ Appendix 1 provides the list of projects, grants and TAs supported and some basic information on those projects.

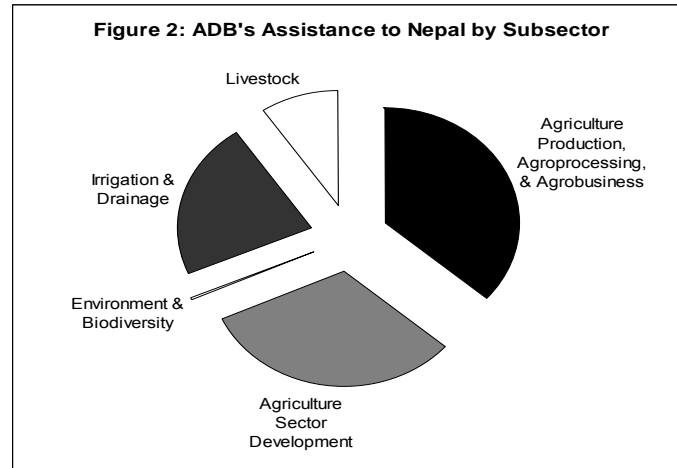


ANR = Agriculture and Natural Resources; EDUC = Education; ENR = Energy; FIN = Finance; HNRP = Health, Nutrition, and Social Protection; I&T = Industry and Trade, LEMP = Law, Economic Management and Public Policy; MULTI = Multisector; T&C = Transportation and Communications, WSSWM = Water Supply, Sanitation, and Waste Management. Source: 2008 ADB Project Database.

¹⁷ ADB provided \$733.1 million (loan of \$692.4 million and Grant of \$40.7 million) to Nepal from 1996 to 2000. It represented 42% of total external funds for the period. ADB. 2004. *Country Assistance Program Evaluation for Nepal*. Manila. Available: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/CAPES/NEP/cap-nep-2004.asp>

¹⁸ These TA projects consisted of eight preparatory for \$4.1 million and 7 advisory for \$3.8 million.

14. Over 90% of the total assistance were allocated to three subsectors:¹⁹ (i) agricultural production, agroprocessing, and agribusiness (36%, or \$82.7 million); (ii) agricultural sector development (32% or \$73.7 million); and (iii) irrigation and drainage (22% or \$50.6 million). The remaining 10% was allocated to the Livestock subsector (9%, or \$21.4 million) and to the protection of environment and biodiversity (.3%, or \$600 thousand).



Source: 2008 ADB Project Database.

C. Review of the Past Development Assistances

15. A review of the post-evaluation reports prepared by OED in 2001 indicated that less than half of the ANR projects were rated “successful” (i.e., 48% rated “generally successful,” 29% “partly successful,” and 24% “unsuccessful”).²⁰ However, CAPE (conducted in 2004) rated the ANR sector with high scores for almost all factors evaluated.²¹ This indicates that the performance of the sector improved since the findings of 2000. Generally the ANR projects were stated to have a good record of proactive design relevance and also effective implementation. The study concluded that the sector assistance has contributed in the country’s development as a whole, and has helped advance gender equity, and environmental sustainability.

V. OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

16. The SAPE will cover ADB’s operations in the sector for the last 11 years, from 1997 to 2007. The start year marks the launching of the first comprehensive plan for the sector development—the Agricultural Perspective Plan which continues to be the basis for agricultural development programs in Nepal. The main purpose of the SAPE is to assess how ADB’s development assistance to the sector is linked to the sector’s socioeconomic performance, and identify opportunities for improving the future program performance.

17. In addition to assessment of the assistance provided to the sector, the SAPE will also assess linkages to (i) the support provided to rural infrastructure for access to market, (ii) support provided to ANR research through regional technical assistance, and (iii) support from other development partners in the sector. This will permit an assessment of how ADB’s

¹⁹ ANR sector at ADB is classified into eight subsectors as follows: Agriculture production, agroprocessing and agribusiness, Agriculture sector development, Irrigation and Drainage, Water resource management, Forest, Environment and biodiversity, Livestock and Fishery. Memo of the President on Consolidated Staff Instruction on Project Classification dated 7 Dec 2004.

²⁰ ADB. 2000. *Country Synthesis of Evaluation Findings in Nepal*. Manila. Available: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/PERs/CS-NEP99.pdf>

²¹ ADB. 2004. *Nepal Country Assistance Program Evaluation*. Manila. Available: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/CAPES/NEP/cap-nep-2004.asp>

support is interlinked and how the synergy among various linked sectors has been developed and utilized. The linkage with rural infrastructure is particularly important for the sector as one of the key constraints to transition from subsistence-based production to commercial agriculture is inadequate access to rural infrastructure such as roads and markets. The second type of linkage that will be assessed is the linkage with the support provided through regional technical assistance (RETA)²² for ANR research. The technology products resulting from such research directly contribute to the performance of the sector. The SAPE will also include an assessment of linkages among ADB programs and between programs supported by ADB and other development partners. The contributions and roles of partnerships and collaborations between ADB and development partners in the sector will be reviewed.

18. Specific outputs of the SAPE are as follows:

- (i) assess the overall performance of ADB's assistance to the sector;
- (ii) assess ADB's strategic position on provision of development assistance;
- (iii) assess the linkages and synergy among programs of support to the sector—rural infrastructure, ANR research policy, and the linkage of ADB operations with those of other development partners in the sector; and
- (iv) identify lessons and recommendations for ADB's future operations in the sector.

19. To produce these outputs, the SAPE will seek to answer the following questions:

- (i) Was investment in the sector based on a coherent strategy that incorporated lessons based on good analysis (including a sound understanding of the roles of the government and the private sector) and clearly stated expected outcomes and impacts?
- (ii) How well were the ANR strategy, expected outcomes and impacts incorporated into operational programs?
- (iii) How have the subsectors and the institutions supported by ADB operations performed and in what ways did ADB operations (and other ADB activities such as policy dialogue, etc.) contribute to this?
- (iv) What are the implications for ADB operations in involving EAs from multiple ministries in the sector assistance?
- (v) How ADB support in the sector has performed in terms of standard evaluation criteria and how the performance has contributed towards progress in producing development results?
- (vi) Was there an effective synergy among ADB-supported operations directly related to the sector?
- (vii) Was there an effective synergy/partnership between ADB's support to the ANR sector and other sectors supported by major development partners/donors in country?
- (viii) How efficiently did ADB monitor its operations and the sector performance and how well did it use such information to manage its programs for results?
- (ix) How effectively did ADB respond to conflict-situation in positioning itself as a development partner and in implementation of assistance?

²² Nepal is also a beneficiary of seven regional technical assistance (RETA) projects provided to support the ANR research (Appendix 6). The funds for such research were provided to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers to the amount of \$7.1 million.

VI. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

20. The OED's evaluation framework prepared for CAPE will be used with appropriate modifications for sector evaluation for the study.²³ A key component of the methodology is to combine a retrospective assessment of actions and accomplishments with anticipated outcomes from present operations. The overall performance assessment and ratings will be based on a combination of the top-down and bottom-up approaches.

21. The top-down assessment refers to a broader review of ADB's assistance. This involves performance ratings based on (i) ADB's strategic positioning of development assistance, (ii) overall contribution of assistance to sector development results, and (iii) quality and responsiveness of ADB's services. The top-down assessment will link up with the expected intermediate outcome gauged against the indicators listed in ADB's strategic focus relevant to the SAPE as stated in the CPS 2005–2009.²⁴ In addition to outcome indicators, an assessment of the impact of development assistance in total in the sector will be conducted based on aggregate data such as growth rates in production, agricultural GDP, incomes, and improvements in food security. The contribution of ADB within this overall impact will also be assessed where feasible. It is recognized that there are attribution difficulties as the final impact is determined by several other factors external to specific investment projects.

22. The sector's linkages at three levels/programs (i.e., ANR RETA projects, rural road, see Chapter V, Section C) will be assessed as part of the top-down assessment. The performance of these projects will not be part of the rating to determine the overall performance of the sector as these projects are not classified under the assistance to the sector.

23. The bottom-up approach involves an assessment of the assistance provided to the sector in terms of its intended contributions as well as its achievements (or likely achievements). In particular, it focuses on the outcome of assistance to the sector that has been agreed by the government and ADB. At this level, evaluation is based on the outputs, outcomes, and impact of the investment project/program, TA projects and other grants. The bottom-up assessment evaluates and ranks performance according to the five core criteria: (i) relevance, (ii) effectiveness, (iii) efficiency, (iv) sustainability, and (v) impact. For SAPE, the bottom-up evaluation criteria will focus on ten factors identified as critical success factors in OED's *2006 Annual Evaluation Review*.²⁵ These factors are identified as (i) strong ownership by the government and EAs, (ii) quality of project at entry, (iii) ability to learn lessons and incorporate in the design of subsequent projects, (iv) participatory approaches utilized with involvement of beneficiary/stakeholder, (v) strong project management units, (vi) ADB and EA diagnose problems and appropriately address them during implementation, (vii) continuity with follow-on assistance in similar topics/issues, (viii) incorporation of institutional strengthening activities, (ix) flexibility by ADB allowing appropriate design changes and (x) performance of contractors and consultants. Most of these factors were cited as reasons for under achievement in Nepal. The first four factors are of particular relevance in assessing ongoing projects in their early phases of implementation.

²³ ADB. 2006. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Assistance Program Evaluation Reports*. Manila. Available: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Guidelines/Country-Assistance-Program/default.asp>

²⁴ This is the first CSP at ADB with Country Strategy and Program Results Framework. The indicators relevant to the sector are as follows: (i) improved access to key inputs, outputs, and markets. (ii) increased rural road density, (iii) increased access to irrigation, especially shallow tubewells, (iv) increased production of cash crops ratio and livestock production, and (v) increased agricultural rural credit availability.

²⁵ ADB. 2006. *Annual Evaluation Review*. Manila. Available: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/PERs/2006-AER.pdf>. The 10 critical success factors were identified based on the multi-sector and multi-country OED studies that include the ANR sector and projects in Nepal. Those studies focus on the following issues in each of the sector evaluated: (i) characteristics of successful projects, (ii) quality at entry, (iii) quality during implementation, (iv) performance of EA, (v) ADB's contribution to project success, (vi) exogenous factors, and (vii) cross cutting themes.

24. An evaluation matrix that illustrates the issues explored within the three evaluation criteria of the top-down and five criteria for the bottom-up approach is presented in Appendix 2. The evaluation matrix also includes (i) indicators for assessment, (ii) information requirements and sources, and (iii) methods for assessment. Based on the findings on the issues presented in the matrix, appropriate weights for each of the evaluation criteria for the three top-down and five bottom-up approaches will be assigned and overall sector rating will be derived. However, while this structured approach will help ensure a balanced assessment, it needs to be stressed that this is not about a mechanical numerical assessment. Evaluator judgment based on a range of qualitative and quantitative evidence will be an important part of the assessment process. In addition to the usual indicators, it is important to consider the potential for high impact on the poor in assessing agricultural and rural development projects.

25. Broader trends in growth and changes in the sector over the past 11 years will be first analyzed by focusing closely on the issues identified in the evaluation matrix. This analysis will provide an overview of the progress made in the sector. A detailed analysis of performance of program and project loans will be subsequently conducted to keep the evaluation relevant in the current context. Close coordination will be maintained with the CAPE team to ensure consistency of findings. To get a broader view on the impact of development assistance, a dialogue will be established with the World Bank which is also conducting their country assistance evaluation. The SAPE will identify key determinants of success, the extent to which previously identified lessons were incorporated in the subsequent operations, and draw useful lessons for future operations. The assessment will also identify the challenges, constraints and opportunities.

A. Study Organization and Data Collection

26. The evaluation will be conducted in three phases: (i) inception phase; (ii) data collection and analysis; and (iii) report drafting, consultation, and finalization phase. The inception phase will include the finalization of the Approach Paper.

27. The second phase is the data collection, analysis, and report drafting. 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 are as follows: (i) documentation review, (ii) trend analysis, (iii) key informant interview, (iv) focus group discussions, and (v) field visits/observation. A detailed discussion of these tools and techniques is included in Appendix 3.

28. The final phase is report drafting, consultation, and finalization of the evaluation study. Information derived from various techniques and sources will be consolidated through triangulation and analyzed to produce an overall evaluation status of progress, achievements, constraints and challenges ahead. As a part of the third mission, a workshop will be organized to share the findings of the draft report and to get feedback from stakeholders. The draft report will be sent for interdepartmental comments as per the established procedures for the reports of the OED. Comments will be suitably addressed and incorporated before finalization of the evaluation report.

B. ADB’s Assistance for the bottom Up Performance Assessment

29. Seven investment projects, eight advisory TA projects, and two grant projects were approved during the last 11 years (from 1997 to 2007). Three investment projects have been completed and the remaining five are expected to be closed in the next few years. Similarly, six advisory TA have been completed and two are ongoing, and both of the grants projects are ongoing. These assistances will be the core of the bottom-up assessment and will determine the ratings. A brief description of each of the projects is provided in Appendix 4. Several of these investment and TA projects have been evaluated in broader OED studies (Appendix 5).²⁶

C. Assessment of Linkages

30. The assessment of linkages includes (i) seven RETA projects provided to support for research and technology development in the sector (Appendix 6), and (ii) two rural road infrastructure projects with the goals of improving access to markets and information in the rural area.²⁷ A brief description of these projects is provided in Appendix 7. The districts covered by the sector and rural road infrastructure projects are provided in Appendix 8 for illustration of linkages. In addition, SAPE will examine the extent to which collaboration between different development partners has been synergistic and in compliance towards fulfillment of the aid effectiveness agenda of the Paris Declaration. A list of projects funded by different development partners is provided in Appendix 9.

D. Resource Requirements and Schedule

31. An Evaluation Specialist from OED will lead the evaluation study. Other OED staff involved in the study are (i) a Senior Evaluation Specialist, responsible mainly for bottom-up assessment, (ii) a National Evaluation Officer for analytical and logistic support, and (iii) Evaluation Assistant for administrative support and for the report preparation. In addition, complementary expertise will be sought through recruitment of 2 months of international and 9 months of domestic consultant inputs. The terms of reference for the proposed consultants are presented in Appendix 10.

32. The SAPE will plan to adhere to the following schedules and output milestone.²⁸

Activity/Milestones	Schedule
Finalization of the Approach Paper	II June
Operations Evaluation Mission	III June
Complete a first draft	I September
Operations Evaluation Mission	II September
Draft report for Peer OED Review	IV September
Draft report for Interdepartmental Review	II October
Draft report to Editor	IV November
Final report submission	III December ²⁹

²⁶ OED has evaluated several of the ANR projects/programs and TA projects during the last 11 years. Three projects/programs and five advisory TA projects have been evaluated individually, and several other projects/programs and TA projects have been evaluated in broader OED studies. Information from these evaluation studies will be reviewed. However, these programs/projects/TAs will not be selected for re-evaluation in this SAPE. The broader OED studies and a list of projects/programs and TA projects that were included in the broader OED studies is provided in Appendix 5.

²⁷ The proposed SAPE will be linked to two ongoing OED 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*.

²⁸ This proposed schedule may be revised as the evaluation progresses.

²⁹ The study is planned to be finalized around the time when the CAPE report will be completed.

- attachments:
- Appendix 1: ADB Assistance to Nepal in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Sector (1997–2007)
 - Appendix 2: Evaluation Design Matrix for the Top-Down and Bottom-Up Assessment
 - Appendix 3: Information Sources and Data Collection Tools and Techniques
 - Appendix 4: ADB's Assistance to Agriculture and Rural Development in Nepal
 - Appendix 5: Projects/Programs and Technical Assistance Projects Included in the Operations Evaluation Department's Broader Studies
 - Appendix 6: Regional Technical Assistance Grants to CGIAR Centers with Support to Nepal
 - Appendix 7: ADB's Support for ANR Research and Selected Rural Infrastructure Projects in Nepal,
 - Appendix 8: Districts Covered By ADB's Investment Projects
 - Appendix 9: Major External Assistance to Agriculture and Rural Development (1997–2007)
 - Appendix 10: Terms of Reference for Consultants