

## Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector

### Pilot Demonstration Activity

<b>VIE: Development of Pro-poor Rural Water Interventions in Collaboration with an NGO</b>	
<b>Proposer (Name, Div/Dept):</b> MKAE	
<b>Request Date:</b> July 2003	
<b>Region:</b> Mekong Department	<b>Country:</b> Viet Nam
<b>Activity Start Date:</b> September 2003	<b>Activity End Date:</b> June 2004
<b>Cost Estimate:</b> \$45,000	
<b>Implementing Organization Contact:</b> CPO, MARD, Hanoi	
<b>Consultant Identified?</b> Not yet	<b>If so, Consultant(s) Contact:</b>

#### **Short Description:**

- 1. Background and Rational:** During the Third World Water Forum in March 2003, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam and the ADB President signed a Letter of Intent to operationalize the Rural Water and Poverty Initiative in Viet Nam—now called the **Partnership for Pro-poor Water Actions**. Subsequently, in May 2003 ADB held follow-up discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Hanoi-based representatives of INGOs and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies on modalities to catalyze this Partnership. The INGOs and donor representatives showed strong interest in the Partnership. Based on these discussions, it is now envisaged that the Partnership will be operationalized at the central and regional levels—especially for the Central Region; the regional focus of ADB's operations—and at the project level. The latter will be accomplished through pipeline projects including the Central Region Water Resources Sector Project (CRWRSP; PPTA4001-VIE)<sup>1</sup> that aims at improving water resources infrastructure in six provinces. The proposed PDA will assist in operationalizing the Partnership at the project level.
- 2. Objectives:** The objective of the PDA will be to establish a partnership with an NGO to develop pro-poor rural water interventions ensuring better access to water for health and livelihoods that will complement but be fully integrated in the main CRWRSP thereby sharpening its poverty focus. It is envisaged that these activities will be implemented within the framework of the CRWRSP with the involvement and assistance of NGOs.
- 3. Scope of Work/Description of Activities:** Through the PDA, an NGO will be engaged to assist in the development and design of pro-poor rural water actions to be integrated into the design of the CRWRSP.
- 4. Implementation Schedule, Institutional Management Arrangements, and Proponent Qualifications:** The PDA will be implemented in conjunction with the preparation of the CRWRSP through PPTA 4001. The consultants to be engaged under this PPTA will identify and engage a suitable NGO through a separate contract that will be financed through the PDA. The NGO to be engaged will have proven capabilities to develop, design and implement water sector related programs through a participatory approach, preferably in the provinces to be covered under the CRWRSP.
- 5. Expected Results (outputs/outcomes/impacts):** Well designed pro-poor rural water interventions that are fully integrated in the design of the CRWRSP (see column 10 below for more details).

<sup>1</sup> TA4001-VIE: *Central Region Water Resources Sector Project*, for \$1.4 million, approved in November 2002. The consultant was mobilized on 20 August 2003.

6. **Measurable Performance Indicators:**

- active participation of an NGO in the overall design of the CRWRSP,
- inclusion of pro-poor rural water interventions in the CRWRSP,
- Government endorsement for pro-poor rural water intervention in the CRWRSP, and
- Government endorsement of NGO involvement in the implementation of the CRWRSP demonstrated by earmarking funds for NGO involvement/participation.

7. **Stakeholder Participation:** The PDA will facilitate and assist in the involvement of the target stakeholders (poor, women and other disadvantaged groups) in the design of the pro-poor rural water activities.

8. **Scope for Replication/Use in Other DMCs:** The proposed PDA will be relevant for other pipeline projects in Viet Nam including the *Forest for Livelihood Improvement Project, Livelihood Development and Rural Infrastructure Project*, and the *Livelihood Improvement in Central Coastal Provinces*.

9. **Cost Estimate:** \$45,000 to finance the services of the NGO.

10. **Justification for PDA:** One obvious question may be raised that why the PDA activities are not already being undertaken by the TA4001-VIE. And two, even if they were not conceived before, why they cannot be added to TA4001-VIE at this stage. It may be noted that TA4001-VIE was approved in November 2002 and it indeed included resources to carry out a detailed social assessment for the proposed subprojects (see para 9 and 10 of Appendix 2, p. 10). However, the social analysis planned under the TA is specific to nature of subprojects that tend to be for irrigation, flood protection etc. More specific pro-poor water interventions may not get as much attention as they may deserve; especially, the types of interventions—i.e., *water security* though rural water supply—that have now been agreed to in the MARD-ADB LOI of 21 March 2003 (LOI attached). More importantly, the Government has now agreed, through the LOI, to allow "...civil society, funders, and advocacy and knowledge partners [read NGOs]" to take active part in the preparation and implementation of water investment partnerships. This is for the first time that the Government of Viet Nam has agreed to allow NGOs to expand their roles in project implementation. So, if the NGOs are going to be involved in the implementation of the projects they might as well get involved at the preparation stage. Since the TA4001-VIE predates the new initiatives conceived and agreed to in the LOI, it did not provide for funds for NGO's involvement for project preparation. Therefore, if an NGOs is to be involved in the project preparation, additional funds have to be provided for its operations. This particular PDA provides a unique opportunity to involve NGOs in project preparation and implementation for the first time. Hopefully, NGOs' involvement from the project preparatory stage will help further sharpen the project's pro-poor focus and ensure that "disproportionately" greater project benefits accrue to poor households.