



Regional: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility

Project Name	Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility																
Project Number	51322-001																
Country / Economy	Regional Bangladesh Bhutan Nepal Sri Lanka																
Project Status	Active																
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance																
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"><tr><td>TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td>US\$ 500,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility (Supplementary)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td>US\$ 1.00 million</td></tr><tr><td>TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Water Financing Partnership Facility-NET TF</td><td>US\$ 500,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility (Supplementary)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td>US\$ 1.00 million</td></tr></table>	TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 500,000.00	TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility (Supplementary)		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.00 million	TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility		Water Financing Partnership Facility-NET TF	US\$ 500,000.00	TA 9443-REG: Strengthening Capacity to Design and Implement Water and Rural Infrastructure Facility (Supplementary)		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.00 million
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.00 million																
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth																
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships																
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development / Agricultural production - Irrigation - Rural flood protection - Rural market infrastructure - Water-based natural resources management Transport / Road transport (non-urban) Water and other urban infrastructure and services / Urban sanitation																
Gender	Some gender elements																
Description	<p>The transaction technical assistance (TA) facility provides project preparation support and capacity building, strengthens due diligence, and increases project readiness to a series of ensuing projects identified in the country operations business plans for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The TA supports (i) BAN: Climate and Disaster Resilient Small-Scale Water Resources Management Project; (ii) BAN: Climate Resilient Livelihood Improvement and Watershed Management in Chattogram Hill Tracts Sector Project; (iii) BAN: Crop Commercialization and Productivity Improvement Project (CCPIP); (iv) BAN: Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program Tranche 2; (v) BAN: Irrigation Management Improvement Project Additional Financing; (vi) BAN: Rural Connectivity Improvement Project Second Additional Financing; (vii) BAN: Rural Connectivity Improvement Project and Additional Financing; (viii) BAN: Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project Additional Financing; (ix) BHU: Bhutan Integrated Irrigated Agriculture Development Project; (x) BHU: Phuentsholing Township Development Project Additional Financing; (xi) NEP: Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project Additional Financing; (xii) NEP: Climate Resilient Community-Managed Irrigation Project; (xiii) NEP: Climate Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods; (xiv) NEP: Food Safety and Agriculture Commercialization Program; (xv) NEP: Mechanized Irrigation Innovation Project; (xvi) NEP: Nagmati Dam Development Project; (xvii) NEP: Nuts and Fruits in Hilly Areas Project; (xviii) NEP: Priority River Basins Flood Risk Management Project; (xix) NEP: Rural Connectivity Improvement Project; (xx) NEP: Rural Connectivity Improvement Project Additional Financing Program Tranche 3; (xxi) SRI: Integrated Water Productivity Improvement Project; (xxii) SRI: Mahaweli Water Security Investment; (xxiii) SRI: Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program Tranche 2. These projects are all in the rural sector and require similar due diligences. The TA reduces transaction costs through minimizing the need for stand-alone transaction TAs. The TA also provides capacity building support to ongoing projects. On 20 October 2022, ADB approved a minor change in the scope of the TA facility to include knowledge and support activities for up to 30% of the TA facility amount. This allows mobilization of consultants to support with research, policy advice, knowledge sharing, pipeline development, and inputs to project concept preparation.</p>																
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	South Asia's rural agriculture and natural resources portfolio performance needs to be improved, with challenges throughout the project cycle leading to underperforming projects. Lack of project readiness to meet ADB requirements governing procurement, selection of consultants, safeguards including resettlement and land acquisition, and other thematic areas (governance and gender) has led to significant implementation delays. Furthermore, weak project implementation and management capacity of executing and implementing agencies has been a continuous challenge for improved portfolio performance. The TA is in-line with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) midterm review (MTR) of Strategy 2020 which emphasizes the need for strengthening the capacity of executing and implementing agencies for effective project implementation to achieve inclusive and sustainable development as well as ensuring ADB delivers value for money. The TA will bridge capability gaps and enable the application of best practices to ADB-funded projects.																
Impact																	
Project Outcome																	
Description of Outcome																	
Progress Toward Outcome																	
Implementation Progress																	
Description of Project Outputs																	
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)																	

Safeguard Categories	
Environment	C
Involuntary Resettlement	C
Indigenous Peoples	C

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	Consultants are recruited using individual consultant selection method based on the requirements of each project and deployed based on each projects needs. The TA mainly requires expertise in agriculture, agribusiness, climate change, economics, environment, financial management, gender, irrigation and water resources, procurement, rural infrastructure, safeguards, social development.

Responsible ADB Officer	Gore, Lance W.
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	<u>Asian Development Bank</u>

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	01 Dec 2017
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	06 Dec 2022

TA 9443-REG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
01 Dec 2017	-	01 Dec 2017	30 Jun 2020	30 Nov 2024	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
2,500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000,000.00	05 Dec 2022	1,999,170.52

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/51322-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51322-001
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