Cambodia: Northwest Irrigation Sector Project

**Project Name:** Northwest Irrigation Sector Project

**Project Number:** 34379-013

**Country:** Cambodia

**Project Status:** Closed

**Project Type / Modality of Assistance:** Loan

**Source of Funding / Amount:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</th>
<th>Source of Funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan: Northwest Irrigation Sector</td>
<td>Agence Francaise de Developement</td>
<td>US$ 3.74 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund</td>
<td>Loan 2035-CAM: Northwest Irrigation Sector</td>
<td>US$ 18.00 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Agendas:** Environmentally sustainable growth

**Drivers of Change:** Governance and capacity development

**Sector / Subsector:** Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development - Irrigation

**Gender Equity and Mainstreaming:** Effective gender mainstreaming

**Description:** The overall objective of the Project is to support government efforts to reduce poverty in rural areas of northwest Cambodia through increased agricultural production, thereby reducing food insecurity and improving farming household incomes. The immediate objective is better use of water resources and promotion of irrigated agriculture through: (i) a comprehensive policy and strategic framework to be applied in developing water resources; (ii) a better understanding, knowledge and application of the integrated water resource management approach in a river basin context; (iii) improved water resource management through rehabilitated/upgraded small to medium-scale irrigation schemes and other water control infrastructure; (iv) a strengthened capacity of communities and institutions to plan, implement, manage, and maintain such infrastructure; and (v) improved agricultural support services to the beneficiary water users.

The Project will have three components: (i) Institutional strengthening, (ii) Irrigation infrastructure development and management, and (iii) Support to agrirrigated agriculture development.

**Project Rationale and Country/Regional Strategy:**

The northwest region is one of the poorest and most isolated areas in Cambodia. Due to war and civil strife it has been left out of many development efforts during the past decades. Consequently, it suffers from inadequate investments in infrastructure, services, and institutional capacity building. Agriculture is the predominant economic activity and the major crop grown is rice, the staple food. Agricultural productivity is low and most rural areas in the northwest are exposed to food deficit (in some areas up to 6 months a year) even though Cambodia is, in average to good years, considered self-sufficient in rice. Lack of water control and management and low levels of agriculture technology constrain yields. Overall availability of water in northwest Cambodia is limited and resources need to be managed prudently. There is, however, a significant potential to raise agricultural production and rural incomes, and consequently reduce poverty in areas, where an enhanced supply of water is managed properly and where irrigated agriculture is protected from flooding. Scope exists in the project provinces to provide enhanced small to medium-scale irrigation schemes and other water control infrastructure, thus reducing risks of crop failure, and to encourage farmers to invest in higher levels of technology and adopt improved irrigated agriculture. Improved irrigation schemes will (i) reduce farmers' vulnerability to variability in crop yields and therefore to food insecurity, especially in the more remote, disadvantaged, and poorer areas; and (ii) raise agricultural production and rural incomes in more advantaged areas where food shortage is less of a problem and where crop diversification and commercially oriented agriculture can be promoted. The project is linked to the Rectangular Strategy of the Government of Cambodia.

**Impact:** To support Government's effort to reduce poverty in selected northwest rural areas through enhanced agricultural production thereby alleviating food insecurity and improving farming household incomes.

**Project Outcome:** To establish rehabilitated and sustainably operational small to medium scale irrigation schemes and other water control infrastructure within studied priority river basins.

**Description of Outcome:** Twelve FWUCs were established and operational by project completion, and MOWRAM capacity to adopt IWRM was mainly delivered through Apex water committees. For the developing and managing irrigation infrastructure component, all planned river basin studies were completed, and 12 subprojects were rehabilitated by project completion although the gross command area of these was only 10,761 ha, compared to the original target of 16,000ha (plus recession areas of 19,000 ha). IMT agreements between the FWUCs and MOWRAM were in place by completion, and the FWUCs had prepared operational plans and budgets, although only one of them had successfully applied for the O&M subsidy from MOWRAM. Regarding the development of irrigated agriculture, provincial and district staff members had been trained in improved rice and livestock activities and over 10,000 farmers training days had been delivered. While there was evidence of significantly improved rice yields from the demonstration plots at completion, the FWUCs themselves were not institutionally established as vehicles for farmer lead extension by 2012, and the extent of diversification and intensified agricultural activities on farmers' plots was uncertain (and likely modest).

**Implementation Progress:** Draft PCR has been sent for the EA's review and comments.

**Description of Project Outputs:**

- Component 1: Water Sector Institutional Strengthening
- Component 2: Irrigation Infrastructure Development and Management
- Component 3: Support to Irrigated Agricultural Development

**Progress Toward Outcome:**

- Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development
- Irrigation
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)  
Most of these outputs were transferred to TWGAW and incorporated in Strategy for Agriculture and Water. Annual workplan has been developed.  
FWUC sub-decree has been awaiting the COM’s adoption, 5 Apex committees formed, 12 FWUC formed and registered.  
12 FWUC have been formed and trained.  
Distributed, Completed, Conducted, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed.  
About 68% of the planned irrigation areas have been achieved by the end of the project partly due to the sharp increase in cost of construction material and labour in 2008 and also to availability of suitable areas for development.  
Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed.  
Twelves FWUCs have been established and functioning, however, they need further help.  
Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed, Completed.  
Twelve FWUCs need further training on credit intermediaries.  
Twelve FWUCs have been established and started to function. FWUCs acting as marketing agents or input suppliers need further training.

Safeguard Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

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  
The AFD grant will finance approximately 366 person-months of consulting services (133 international and 233 domestic), in the fields of project management, institutional and water policy development, legal aspects, regulation on irrigation management transfer, resettlement and land management, hydrology and river basin development, water resources management, irrigation design engineering and construction supervision, environmental management, project performance monitoring and evaluation, agriculture extension, training, community development and water user formation, and rural credit. Consultants to be financed by the AFD grant will be engaged in accordance with AFD’s procedures, with ADB’s endorsement of their competence and experience. ADB will finance consulting services to carry out specific activities related to surveys and studies, preparation of detailed designs, and supervision of construction works. The Project will also contract the services of local institutions and local or international nongovernment organizations for community development, specialized training, and external monitoring of the resettlement activities. All ADB-financed consultants will be selected and engaged in accordance with ADB’s Guidelines on the Use of Consultants and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for engaging domestic consultants.

Procurement  
Procurement under the Project will be in accordance with ADB’s Guidelines for Procurement. Civil works contracts will be procured through international competitive bidding (ICB) procedures for contracts estimated to cost more than $1,000,000 equivalent, and through local competitive bidding (LCB) procedures for contracts estimated to cost $1,000,000 or less. Vehicles, equipment, and materials will be procured by ICB where the cost is more than $500,000 equivalent, or by international shopping (IS) where the cost is $100,000-$500,000. Small or off-the-shelf goods and materials valued at less than $100,000 may be procured using direct purchase arrangements.

Responsible ADB Officer  
Long, Piseth Vou

Responsible ADB Department  
Southeast Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division  
Cambodia Resident Mission
Loan 2035-CAM

Milestones

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<th>Approval</th>
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<th>Effectivity Date</th>
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<td>10 Nov 2004</td>
<td>02 Feb 2005</td>
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<td></td>
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Financing Plan

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Status of Covenants

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Project Page
https://www.adb.org/projects/34379-013/main

Request for Information
http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=34379-013

Date Generated
19 January 2020

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