



Grant Assistance Report

Project Number: 43069
September 2012

Proposed Grant Assistance India: Livelihood Improvement for River Erosion Victims in Assam (Financed by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction)

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 15 August 2012)

Currency Unit	-	Indian rupee/s (Re/Rs)
Re1.00	=	\$0.017904
\$1.00	=	Rs55.86

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
AIFRERMIP	–	Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program
CRD	–	Centre for Rural Development
FREMAA	–	Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam
FRERM	–	flood and riverbank erosion risk management
GIU	–	grant implementation unit
JFPR	–	Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction
JICA	–	Japan International Cooperation Agency
kg	–	kilogram
NGO	–	nongovernment organization
PoPs	–	package of practices
SHG	–	self-help group
SPV	–	special purpose vehicle

GLOSSARY

aahu	–	spring crop (grown February–May), following <i>rabi</i>
aadhi	–	land leasing system in which yield is shared equally between the lessee and the land owner
bigha	–	local unit of land measurement. In Assam, 1 <i>bigha</i> is equal to 0.13 hectare
<i>char</i>	–	island formed in the river from natural deposition of sand
charkha	–	hand-operated spindle
embankment	–	raised artificial earthen bank designed to hold back water in order to prevent flooding from seas, lakes, or rivers onto adjacent land. Sometimes with a road or path along its back.
Eri silk	–	silk from the worm <i>Samia cynthia ricini</i> , found in the northeast of India.
gram panchayats	–	local self-governments at the village or small town level in India
haat	–	market
hazira	–	daily wage laboring
kachcha	–	building made of natural materials such as mud, grass, bamboo, thatch or sticks
kharif	–	summer monsoon crop (grown June–September) harvested in autumn
Mishing	–	the second largest ethnic group in Assam
momo	–	dumpling
muri	–	puffed rice
rabi	–	winter crop (grown October–April), harvested in spring

sali	–	local name for the summer monsoon crop (<i>kharif</i>)
sukani	–	system of annual land lease

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollar.

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JAPAN FUND FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (JFPR)

JFPR Grant Proposal

I. Basic Data

Name of Proposed Activity	Livelihood Improvement for River Erosion Victims in Assam
Country	India
Grant Amount Requested	\$ 2,500,000
Project Duration	3 years
Regional Grant	No
Grant Type	Project

II. Grant Development Objective(s) and Expected Key Performance Indicators

Grant Development Objectives: The impact of the project is the improved incomes of vulnerable victims of river erosion, ¹ in the subproject areas of Kaziranga, Dibrugarh and Palasbari, Assam. ²
Expected Key Performance Indicators: Income levels of the direct beneficiary households increased by an average of 50% from the pre-project levels.

III. Grant Categories of Expenditure, Amounts, and Percentage of Expenditures

Category	Amount of Grant Allocated in \$	Percentage of Expenditures
Civil Works	12,250	0.5%
Equipment and supplies	147,422	5.9%
Training, workshops, seminars and public campaigns	222,556	8.9%
Consulting and nongovernment organization services	632,000	25.3%
Grant management and other inputs	1,258,500	50.4%
Contingencies	227,273	9.1%
TOTAL	2,500,000	100%
Incremental Asian Development Bank (ADB) Costs	75,000	

Note: Figures may not equal totals due to rounding.

¹ Vulnerable in this context includes the displaced, landless, marginalized, capital and asset poor, unskilled, and those likely to experience multiple dimensions of poverty (e.g., households headed by females and widows).

² Kaziranga is an area of villages in Golaghat District; Palasbari is an area surrounding Palasbari town in Kamrup District; Dibrugarh is the main town of Dibrugarh District; all in the state of Assam, India.

JFPR Grant Proposal Background Information

A. Other Data

Date of Submission of Application	August 2011
Project Officer (Name, Position)	Shanny Campbell, Social Development Specialist
Project Officer's Division, E-mail, Phone	Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division (SAER) scampbell@adb.org, +632 683 1936
Other Staff Who Will Need Access to Edit/Review the Report	Ricasol Cruz-Calaluan Operations Assistant, SAER
Sector	Agriculture and natural resources
Subsector(s)	Agriculture and rural sector development
Theme	Social development, governance
Subtheme(s)	Other vulnerable groups, civil society participation
Targeting Classification	TI-G: addresses geographical issues of poverty
Was JFPR Seed Money used to prepare this grant proposal?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have SRC comments been reflected in the proposal?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Name of Associated ADB Financed Operation(s)	Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP)
Executing Agency	Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA)
Grant Implementation Agency	Ravi Shankar Prasad Chief Executive Officer, FREMAA F Block, Secretariat, Dispur Guwahati – 781 006, Assam (India) Telephone No +91-361-223 7259 r1ravi@gmail.com

B. Details of the Proposed Grant

1. Description of the Components, Monitorable Deliverables/Outcomes, and Implementation Timetable.

Component A	
Component Name	Improved Eri Silk Spinning and Weaving in Palasbari
Cost (\$)	710,215
Component Description	This component focuses on improving the profitability of Eri silk spinning and weaving among women in Palasbari by supporting training, the provision of technology, establishing linkages and organizing spinners and weavers into a

	<p>producer organization to ensure a more sustainable intervention.³ Information on Eri silk spinning and weaving and a livelihood analysis of the subproject areas are presented in Appendix 2.</p> <p>An implementing nongovernment organization (NGO) will assess appropriate technology, organize interested spinners and weavers into self-help groups (SHGs), and assist with improving procurement of cocoons, spinning and weaving production, weaving (if appropriate, with improved looms and designs) and marketing of produce. Liaison with relevant government organizations such as the Central Silk Board and the Department of Sericulture will be established and maintained to ensure SHGs benefit from all available services. In general, the project will provide access to technology, markets and organization to improve incomes. Specifically it will improve the productivity at the family level, establish a producers' collective and invest in its capacity, and promote the products of the artisans and explore linkages or collaboration with commercial buyers. At the family level, it will introduce spinning machines (if appropriate) to improve worker productivity and income, and improve weaving productivity. Direct beneficiaries of the program will be 500 women spinners and 50 women weavers. Spinning machines are available from the Central Silk Board, and the project will provide access to spinning machines and looms. Traditional pit looms will be used for weaving. The project will provide assistance for renting a venue for use as a spinning machine and loom training center.</p> <p>In order to build a producers' collective, the project will adopt a SHG model of organizing spinners into groups of 10 to 20 women. The NGO will organize a supply chain of cocoons to the groups on a credit and return system. The NGO will also be responsible for training at least one member of each group to act as yarn grader.</p> <p>Seed capital</p> <p>The project will provide seed capital to 500 yarn spinners and 50 weavers through the implementation NGO to help them start a handloom fabric business. The cost of yarn constitutes almost 35% of the wholesale price of fabric. Normally Eri would be used in the weft in combination with another yarn in the warp, and would therefore constitute on average about 25% of the fabric being produced and sold. The turnaround cycle of any handloom fabric business is</p>
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³ Wherever self-help groups (SHGs) or other groups are used in this project, the NGO will provide additional capacity building in related skills (group management, life skills, and money management) to enhance intervention sustainability.

	<p>approximately 130–150 days: 10 days holding time for yarn stock, 45 days to weave, 15–30 days holding time for finished goods (until sold), and 60–90 days to recover dues from customers. Thus a business can rotate its working capital 3.5 times per year.</p> <p>Projected production of Eri yarn by 500 women working part time would be 13,500 kilograms (kg) (500 women for 9 months, producing 3 kg per month.⁴) At Rs.900 per kg the value of the total yarn production would be about Rs. 12 million (\$267,000).</p> <p>Wage generation potential of the project</p> <p>500 female yarn makers would earn approximately Rs.1,500 per month for 9 months per year, jointly earning Rs 6.75 million (\$150,000) per year. 50 weavers would earn approximately Rs. 3000 per month 12 months per year, which would collectively total Rs.1.8 million (\$40,000). Total annual wages generated sustainably would be Rs. 8.55 million (\$190,000).</p> <p>Target areas within the district</p> <p>The Palasbari area in rural Kamrup district, south of Palasbari town, between Guimara and Bartari; priority will be given to those living on the embankment who have lost their land to erosion and face the threat of river flooding (a list of subproject areas and target villages is in Appendix 3).</p>
Monitorable Deliverables/Outputs	<p>500 female spinners; from among these, 50 female weavers trained in improved production and finishing skills.</p> <p>70% of the spinners (approximately 350 female spinners) will have improved their skills in spinning and will have taken spinning as a source of sustained livelihood. They will earn approximately Rs.1,500 per month for 9 months per year.</p> <p>70% of female weavers, approximately 35, will learn new skills in weaving, enough for weaving to become a source of sustained livelihood, with year round monthly income of approximately Rs. 3000 a month.</p> <p>The income level of 350 households will increase by an average of 50% from current levels (Rs 120/day or 3600/month during the agricultural laboring season).</p>
Implementation of Major Activities: Number of months for grant activities	<p>Identification and awareness raising of participants (month 1)</p> <p>Training in skill enhancement for Eri spinning technology (months 2–4)</p> <p>Training in weaving skills (months 3–5)</p>

⁴ Nine months is a normal working period after deducting time spent on agriculture and other family vocations or activities.

	<p>Training in management of a microenterprise (months 3–5)</p> <p>Operational management of spinning and weaving activities on a continuous basis (over the course of 2 years)</p> <p>Improving market access and establishment of a value chain for Eri yarn and Eri silk cloth (months 4-6)</p> <p>Producers' organization: yarn producer groups will be formed with 10 to 20 women spinners as members. These groups will aggregate into a single producer organization, which will be a producer company under the Indian Companies Act (months 4–6)</p>
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Component B	
Component Name	Improved Vegetable Cultivation and Marketing in Kaziranga and Palasbari
Cost (\$)	748,660
Component Description	<p>This component focuses on improving the vegetable production and marketing skills of 1,000 families (800 in Kaziranga and 200 in Palasbari). Technical assistance would be provided for an appropriate package of practices (PoPs) for improved seed and for improving access to the market by aggregating, collecting and transporting member's produce. Farmers in Palasbari, and the landless in Kaziranga, will be assisted in making lease arrangements with landowners.⁵ The livelihood analysis of this component is presented in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The project will contract suitable NGO(s) to initially promote SHGs among people interested in taking up vegetable cultivation. The vegetable growers will be trained and introduced to an improved PoP and encouraged to purchase inputs and sell their produce collectively so as to realize economies of scale.</p> <p>Target beneficiaries, number of beneficiaries and their selection criteria</p> <p>800 small farmers, preferably belonging to the Mishing tribe, will be chosen in Kaziranga, with a goal of involving about half the population in the 10 villages chosen. 200 landless families will be selected in Palasbari using suitability criteria to be developed by the NGO after a needs analysis, and not overlapping with component A. The focus will be on training women and involving them in decision making regarding various issues (e.g., seed, fertilizer, pesticides, and marketing).</p>

⁵ Different types of lease arrangements, including cash rental and forms of share cropping, are outlined in Appendix 2. The project will assist with identification of available land, negotiating a suitable arrangement, and startup costs.

Monitorable Deliverables/Outputs	<p>1000 households are earning an income from vegetable production in the project areas.</p> <p>Workable (enforceable) lease agreements with landowners.</p> <p>The price of vegetables produced and the marketed volume increases at 10% per annum due to improved production and quality control.</p> <p>Producer organization established with a representative structure and cost-effective operation for input purchases and marketing of produce, leading to higher margins for members.</p>
Implementation of Major Activities: Number of months for grant activities	<p>Community mobilization; formation of 100 SHGs (with 10 female members each) and 200 producer groups (5 members each); and strengthening of SHGs through training in (i) leadership, (ii) setting group norms, and (iii) account keeping (months 1–2).</p> <p>Technical training on vegetable cultivation, especially on PoPs and marketing (months 2–3)</p> <p>Creation and management of infrastructure, including (i) identification of land or plots, (ii) lease agreement with land owner (Palasbari), (iii) identification of points for bore well, (iv) arrangement of pumps and engines (one set for 10 members), and (v) other equipment and machinery (months 2–4).</p> <p>Vegetable cultivation: implementation of PoPs for 6–7 months (two crops) (over a 2-year period).⁶</p> <p>Collection and marketing: training on collection, weighing, grading and exploring markets (4 months in a year)</p> <p>Setting up of producer organization (months 2–3)</p>

Component C	
Component Name	Skill Training and Placement of Youth in Dibrugarh
Cost (\$)	624,390
Component Description	<p>This component focuses on employable skill training and placement for two distinct target groups of youth living on the river side of the embankment in Dibrugarh: (i) relatively better educated youth, and (ii) daily wage laborers. The better educated youth will receive training in more advanced skills, with placement assistance, post-placement counseling, etc. The daily wage laborers will be provided micro-entrepreneurial skills for livelihood diversification and income enhancement. On-the-job training and counseling</p>

⁶ Note on seasonality: the first production cycle begins in October and ends sometime in January. A second production cycle begins sometime in January and ends in April. The marketing period is January through April.

	<p>have been incorporated In addition to skills training, apprenticeships with local employers and workshops. The livelihood analysis of this component is in Appendix 2.</p> <p>Interventions</p> <p>A. Skill training and placement for educated youth. Educated youth have expressed their desire to be employed in healthcare, construction, and food retail (restaurants) sectors. Skill training and placement would be managed by a suitably qualified NGO or training institute and based on actual market analysis. The intervention would have the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Trainers that design and conduct the course would be practicing professionals in their respective sector, thereby ensuring the course curriculum matches employers' demands and imparts practical skills. (ii) To enhance the acquisition by trainees of suitable skill sets, exposure visits will be held to potential employers' sites (e.g., hospitals and nursing homes), in order to help trainees understand (a) potential work environments; (b) tasks they would be expected to perform; and (c) expectations regarding their behavior, including the importance of timely reporting, functional literacy, and appropriate attire. (iii) Trained youth will receive apprenticeship stipends during their first 6 months of work to facilitate their entry into employment, and enable employers to test and gain confidence in the abilities of trainees. In the absence of stipends employers may hesitate to offer jobs due to (a) the agency being relatively unknown, or (b) the socioeconomic background of the trainees (some may have been previously discriminated against for caste or by reason of where they live).⁷ (iv) A retention strategy (to include counseling sessions for trainees experiencing difficulties in their first job), and further on-the-job training if there are skills gaps.⁸ <p>The starting monthly salary for entry-level jobs (e.g., a salesperson in a retail shop or para-nurse) is 2,500 to 3,500 rupees. Those with aptitude could expect to be promoted fairly rapidly.</p> <p>B. Microenterprise promotion. The project will model its microenterprise promotion program on the rickshaw bank developed by the Centre for Rural Development (CRD).⁹</p>
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⁷ The NGO or training organization will build in a risk-mitigation or reward strategy to avoid the letting go of subsidized trainees by employers after the probation period for economic rather than performance reasons.

⁸ This takes into account that most of the participants have parents working in the informal sector as their role models, and may need additional coaching on how one behaves in a formal or business setting, or as a wage employee.

⁹ CRD is an Indian NGO working in the development sector

	<p>The microenterprise promotion would have the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Baseline studies matching demand and supply to identify potential microenterprises and participants from the target area who do not benefit from the main project (including through resettlement compensation). Potential enterprises should emphasize a high labor content, with skills that can be learned to earn higher wages. Examples include <i>muri</i> making (would employ women and allow them to work from or near their home) and masonry and carpentry, which would normally attract men. The study will assess the demand for such products or services, wages earned and the potential for such wages to be earned throughout the year, competition, and cost. (ii) Training in skill and enterprise management for youth. Location of facilities and timing of training would be determined to suit the convenience of the target beneficiaries. Exposure visits to the ongoing work in Guwahati may be appropriate. (iii) Provision of income-generating equipment or assets, on a rent-to-buy scheme, with facilities to maintain and repair the equipment where possible and necessary. The financial repayment model for rickshaws and food carts is established; in other cases, the project will provide the requisite funds and time to learn from this model at an accelerated pace, according local conditions, and may progressively reduce the support for recurring expenses. (iv) Maintenance facilities where needed.¹⁰ (v) Promotion of groups to provide a forum for sharing experience, developing and enforcing repayment norms, and building solidarity. <p>The project will assist about 500 young men and women to set up microenterprises, including pulling technically improved rickshaws or food carts.</p> <p>Target beneficiaries, number of beneficiaries and their selection criteria</p> <p>A. Skill training and placement for educated youth. There will be about 250 youth in total, with the number at each location determined on basis of the potential opportunities and the capacity of youth in a target area to learn the skills. The project component NGO will conduct a study of job opportunities. Study parameters of such a study</p>
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¹⁰ Such as a place where rickshaws or food carts can be fixed and maintained.

	<p>will include (i) identifying skill sets for entry-level support staff jobs; (ii) a compensation or salary scale at least for the first 3 years; and (iii) developing recruitment and selection criteria and procedures and the current pool of candidates from which these industries draw their employees. Based on this study, the project will choose target beneficiaries among the youth, with priority given to the neediest that have the capacity to learn the required skills. To assess capacity, implementation partners will use a framework based on knowledge, skills, attitude, and values.</p> <p>B. Microenterprise promotion. This component is for youth (about 250 in number), who are not suitable for component A, either as a result of their lower education level or different aspirations. Youth who seek set up a new microenterprise are preferred, but those with one or more existing microenterprises would also benefit from help in improving equipment design, technical skills, or enterprise management skills. Working with existing microenterprises would also benefit the project by making it possible to learn from the experiences of the beneficiaries and build a robust model. Preference would be given to youth who belong to scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and minorities. Provision of equipment or assets to participants should be conditional on their willingness to reimburse project for the full or partial cost within a short period of time; the project will determine payback terms (daily or monthly installments, and the period) on the basis of local conditions.</p> <p>In order to provide counseling and other support, the project implementation agency will promote the formation of peer groups (one for every five rickshaw pullers or food cart vendors); they will be aggregated into clusters (one cluster for every 12 peer groups). The peer group network and support structure will help encourage members to make timely loan repayments.</p>
Monitorable Deliverables/Outputs	<p>A. Skill training and placement for educated youth Identification of appropriate employment sector(s) for youth training</p> <p>250 educated youth (50% girls and 50% boys) trained in employable skills in appropriate sectors</p> <p>250 youth placed and earning at least 2,500 Rs/month</p> <p>B. Microenterprise promotion Income from a microenterprise higher than the daily labor rate of Rs 83/day¹¹ by the end of year 1.</p>

¹¹ Directorate of Economics and Statistics. 2009-10. *Economic Survey of Assam*. Assam.

	At least 75 youth trained to start as micro-entrepreneurs in year 1, 100 in year 2 and 75 in year 3.
Implementation of Major Activities: Number of months for grant activities	<p>A. Skill training and placement for educated youth</p> <p>Identification of educated youth ready to be trained in employable skills (1 month)</p> <p>Identification of sectors where jobs for such youth could be found if trained (2 months)</p> <p>Designing the training program covering technical skills, soft skills and computer skills as appropriate, and identification of trainers (2 months)</p> <p>Training 8 groups of trainees (with 30 to 35 trainees each); training duration to be 4 months; training of first group to start in month 5 of the project</p> <p>Midcourse correction in training curriculum after two groups are trained and placed, and after four groups are trained and placed (review with help of external consultant).</p> <p>Placement of trained youth</p> <p>Post-placement counseling and training (to enhance retention)</p> <p>B. Microenterprise promotion for less educated youth</p> <p>Conduct supply and demand baseline studies (months 1–2)</p> <p>Youth identified and microenterprises identified (months 2, 14, and 20)</p> <p>Establish training programs (months 3, 13, and 20)</p> <p>Startup of microenterprises and mentoring (months 4-36)</p> <p>Promotion of peer groups from among youth micro-entrepreneurs; one peer group comprises 5 members in similar trade (months 4, 13, 20)</p> <p>Financial management support to microenterprises (3 years)</p>

Component D	
Component Name	Project Implementation Support and Capacity Building for Implementation Nongovernment Organizations
Cost (\$)	416,735
Component Description	This component focuses on (i) project implementation and monitoring support; (ii) expanding and building the capacity of the beneficiaries and NGOs in the project area in order to increase their effectiveness, and to improve the technical and human resources made available to the communities; and (iii) providing startup funds to the groups promoted by the NGOs with the intention of bridging to formal micro

finance institution or bank credit.

Management of this project would require a collaborative effort between the government and NGOs. The executing agency in Assam state capital of Guwahati is likely to be fully occupied with management of the main project, and is unlikely to be able to pay adequate attention to management of multiple NGO contracts in different technical areas. Therefore, a coordination and livelihood consultant will be recruited, who will be based in the Guwahati project management office and serve as a bridge between the executing agency and field NGOs, and provide management guidance. In addition, there is limited evidence regarding the effectiveness of skills training in rural environments in developing countries. Therefore this project will include a robust monitoring and evaluation system to improve program effectiveness and provide information on how successful initiatives might be scaled up or adapted for wider application.

Roles and functions of the coordination and livelihood consultant.

- (i) Provide capacity-building support to field NGOs regarding: (a) organizing technical assistance regarding all components of livelihoods promotion, except the Eri silk sector; assistance is in value chain linkage and marketing for vegetables, and in designing training courses for skill development and placement; (b) assisting with reporting, monitoring, and valuation; and (c) liaising with district and state governments;
- (ii) undertake financial management for timely budgeting; indenting, releasing and tracking of expenses; and auditing;
- (iii) manage procurement, including identification of additional technical assistance requirements;
- (iv) monitor and report on implementation progress; and
- (v) interface with the government of Assam's special project vehicle for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan project, and ADB.

Roles and functions of the Monitoring Consultant.

- (i) Design a baseline survey for all potential participants of each livelihood component that can be replicated at project completion and may show differential livelihood outcomes for participants and non-participants in project areas;
- (ii) train each implementation NGO regarding the conduct of surveys as part of their beneficiary identification process;
- (iii) advise each NGO on selection criteria where demand for participation exceeds capacity to supply;
- (iv) advise each NGO on community-led monitoring

	<p>techniques to ensure beneficiaries consistently provide feedback on the value of NGO livelihood services;</p> <p>(v) prepare periodic review reports on project impacts; and</p> <p>(vi) conduct comprehensive midterm and final evaluations of each livelihood component.</p>
Monitorable Deliverables/Outputs	<p>Appointment and briefing of coordination and livelihood consultant by month 3.</p> <p>Appointment of monitoring consultant by month 3.</p> <p>Quarterly reports on program's progress, impacts and expenditure.</p>
Implementation of Major Activities: Number of months for grant activities	<p>36 months of project implementation at the grant implementation unit (GIU) level.</p> <p>10 months monitoring input (4 in year 1, 3 in year 2, 3 in year 3).</p>

2. Financing Plan for Proposed Grant to be Supported by JFPR

Funding Source	Amount (\$)
JFPR	2,500,000
Government	100,000
Other Sources (Please identify)	0
Total	2,600,000

3. Background

1. Assam is the most severely affected area in India in terms of floods and erosion, accounting for 9.4% of the country's total flood-prone area. In Assam, damage due to floods has been caused by two river systems: the Brahmaputra and the Barak. In the subproject areas, flood and riverbank erosion has been a chronic problem, causing enormous damage to lives, crops, livestock, land and property. These impacts cause massive displacement of people, increase landlessness, and force local governments to focus scarce resources on relief operations rather than development. Major floods have occurred in 1954, 1962, 1966, 1972, 1977, 1984, 1988, 1998, 2002 and 2004, while floods of lesser magnitude occur almost yearly. As a result, in spite of having vast natural resources, Assam has been unable to meet its development goals. The people in the subproject areas (Palasbari, Kaziranga and Dibrugarh) have lost land and lives to floods and riverbank erosion, which is now an annual phenomenon. In many cases, entire villages have been shifted and relocated away from their original location after the land has eroded.

2. Dikes or embankments have been erected throughout Assam along the riverbanks to protect people and assets from flooding. Such embankments are used by the victims of both riverbank erosion and floods, as their raised platforms provide better shelter than living on the floodplain. Entire families and villages in need of land have built their houses on existing or retired embankments. Many of these families, especially in Dibrugarh, live along the side of embankment nearest the river, increasing their vulnerability. Although the embankments are built on government land, the government of Assam has not taken a hard line approach towards the illegal settlements. It would be complex and costly to resettle the riverbank inhabitants on

private land, and the government has supported the provision of limited facilities (e.g., basic drinking water supplies, and in some instances electricity and some educational facilities).

3. The JFPR project is linked to the ADB-financed AIFRERMIP,¹² as described in Section C, parts 2 and 3. Further contextual information on the subproject areas is given in Appendix 3: Subproject Areas and Target Villages.

4. Innovation

4. The project is innovative in that it seeks to target the most vulnerable people in areas most prone to floods and river erosion. The activities target people who are landless or have lost a majority of their productive assets due to riverbank erosion and flooding; these households are extremely poor and vulnerable, and largely live hand-to-mouth. Although these communities are part of the municipalities and *gram panchayats*, very little in the way of development activities have been implemented for embankment dwellers and flood plain inhabitants, meaning they have been excluded from the development process. This JFPR project seeks to include these vulnerable sections of the population in the development process by improving their livelihood skills and ability to save through meaningful, needs-based interventions.

5. Sustainability

5. To enhance sustainability the project will focus on expanding the activities of local NGOs already active in or near the subproject locations of Dibrugarh, Palasbari and Kaziranga by building and expanding their existing livelihood and economic opportunity programs with technical improvements and enhanced emphasis on market linkages. Local NGOs provide a range of services in the project areas, but their current resources are insufficient to meet the increasing demand. The additional resources provided under the project will enable these NGOs to meet the demand and diversify their programs; however, NGOs should not be overextended by a demand for rapid results. The business and employment components also include measures, such as apprenticeship stipends and support groups, to enhance sustainability. The project is intended to be replicable in other parts of Assam by NGOs and training institutions, and discussions with the government also raised the possibility that project beneficiaries would participate in government schemes and initiatives.

6. Participatory Approach

6. During project design, local NGOs and several women's SHGs were consulted to assess the extent and level of participation in existing programs by beneficiaries. Local NGOs have a high level of participation, and potential project beneficiaries were generally satisfied with the extent to which their views and ideas were considered.

7. The project has been designed to build on existing participatory processes. Local NGOs will be contracted to implement the main activities relating to the development of economic opportunities and livelihoods, largely through building and expanding successful participatory programs. Much of the work by local NGOs has been through producer groups and SHGs.

8. A socioeconomic survey will be carried out in each of the project's target villages and on

¹² ADB. 2010. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Multitranchise Financing Facility for the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program in India*. Manila (MFF 0050-IND).

the embankment in Dibrugarh and Palasbari to (i) identify the socioeconomic situation of the target population; (ii) identify the most vulnerable and landless people; and (iii) assess their needs, ongoing activities, and demand for project-related activities. This assessment will be the baseline for all the activities to be implemented during the 3-year period of the JFPR project.

Primary beneficiaries and other affected groups and relevant description	Other key stakeholders and brief description
<p>The primary project beneficiaries will be the landless households affected by river erosion, including the ethnic Mishings in the three subproject sites. Direct project beneficiaries are expected to include 500 households in Dibrugarh, 700 households in Palasbari, and 800 in Kaziranga.</p> <p>Local nongovernment organizations. Local NGOs will benefit from (i) capacity building from the GIU, (ii) select experts brought in to assist with specific technical areas, and (iii) overall strengthening through improved implementation. This may result in future expansion and diversification of NGO activities.</p>	<p>Other stakeholders would include the local banks, microfinance institutions, and local self-governments.</p>

7. Coordination

9. The Embassy of Japan and the the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) were consulted in the development of this JFPR proposal. At a meeting on 9 June 2011, the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi expressed support for the interventions envisaged in the proposal. JICA was consulted and invited to participate in project activities where feasible, including provision of management and monitoring staff or volunteers. After consideration, JICA declined to participate, noting they currently did not work in Assam due to perceived security concerns.

8. Visibility

10. The project will promote the visibility and local inhabitants' awareness of JFPR in India (and Assam more specifically) through acknowledgement of Government of Japan funding—including use of the JFPR logo—at all training events and on all project publications, press releases and contacts with the local media. An Embassy of Japan representative will be invited to the grant-signing ceremony and any infrastructure created under the project will similarly highlight the source of funds and display the JFPR logo. There is a possibility for Japanese NGOs to form partnerships with local NGOs to bid for project implementation work.

9. Detailed Cost Table

11. Appendix 4 has the detailed cost estimates and Appendix 5 has the fund flow arrangement. ADB will channel the JFPR funds directly to a JFPR imprest account, which will be opened and maintained by the special purpose vehicle (SPV) GIU in Guwahati at a bank endorsed by the SPV as the executing agency and acceptable to ADB. This account will be used for day-to-day local expenditures of the JFPR project. The SPV (executing agency) and

the Ministry of Finance will be kept informed by the GIU about all transactions, and receive copies of all financial statements and audit reports. The JFPR imprest account will be managed by the GIU on the principle of a co-signatory arrangement with the SPV coordinator and grant project coordinator, based (i) initially on the first 6-month activity plan and related budget, and (ii) afterwards on the approved annual work plan and budget.

C. Linkage to ADB Strategy and ADB- Financed Operations

1. Linkage to ADB Strategy

Document	Document Number	Date of last Discussion	Objective(s)
Country Partnership Strategy 2009–2012 ¹³	Sec.M16-09	March 2009	Support for inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth; catalyze investment through the use of innovative business and financing solutions; increase results orientation and emphasize knowledge solutions; support for regional cooperation.
Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of ADB 2008–2020 ¹⁴		April 2008	Promotes inclusive growth and poverty reduction; supports rural infrastructure development for irrigation, water resources, and agriculture marketing

2. Linkage to Specific ADB-Financed Operation

Project name	Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERMIP)
Project Number	38412
Date of Board Approval	19 Oct 2010
Loan Amount (\$ million)	120

3. Development Objective of the Associated ADB-Financed Operation

12. The AIFRERMIP loan (footnote 12) was included in ADB's lending program for 2009 for \$120 million in the country operations business plan for India (2010).¹⁵ It became effective on 4 August 2011. It aims to enhance the effectiveness and reliability of flood and riverbank erosion risk management (FRERM) systems in the selected existing embankment systems protecting urban and other strategic areas, while strengthening policy and institutions. The Water Resources Department of the state government of Assam is the key agency implementing the program. AIFRERMIP will serve as an initial model for future replication, and will renovate and extend various structural works, with a focus on three large deteriorated flood embankment systems, and a range of non-structural flood management measures. This will reduce flood risk and encourage investment and development. The project is classified effective gender

¹³ ADB. 2009. *Country Partnership Strategy: India, 2009-2012 (Abridged Version)*. Manila.

¹⁴ ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

¹⁵ ADB. 2010. *Country Operations Business Plan: India, 2010*. Manila.

mainstreaming, and strongly supported by the complementary activities contained in this JFPR project proposal.

13. The loan project is currently in its inception phase, having recently set up a project management office, and recruited key staff. Current priorities are the advancement of procurement packages for riverbank protection, and consultant selection for the two main packages (institutional strengthening and project management). Progress is also being made on implementation of the two initial resettlement plans (for Palasbari and Dibrugarh). Finalization of the JFPR project has been delayed to date so as not to divert the project management office away from critical program inception activities.

4. List the main components of the Associated ADB-Financed Operation

No.	Component name	Brief Description
1.	Flood and River Erosion Risk Management (FRERM) planning, institutional and knowledge bases	Development of FRERM planning, institutional and knowledge bases will establish a sound basis for the state to put into operation reliable and effective FRERM systems, encompassing: (i) a policy and planning framework; (ii) institutional basis; (iii) knowledge base; and (iv) regional knowledge networks.
2.	Operationalize Flood and River Erosion Risk Management (FRERM)	The operationalization of comprehensive FRERM programs will enhance the reliability of FRERM systems through comprehensive structural and non-structural measures and strengthening of the relevant local organizations that provide an institutional framework for community consultation and participation. The component comprises: (i) non-structural FRERM measures, including flood hazard mapping and pilot floodplain zoning programs, riverbank erosion risk mapping and an advance warning system, improved flood forecasting and warning system, improved delivery of local and regional flood emergency services, and flood and riverbank erosion awareness programs; (ii) community-based flood risk management; (iii) structural FRERM measures; and (iv) sustainable infrastructure planning, operation, and maintenance.
3.	Program Management and Coordination	Program management and associated capacity building has established a multi-disciplinary program management unit (PMU) at the state level and sub-project implementation units in each of the three target sites. Capacity building and awareness raising seminars has been conducted for relevant staff.

5. Rationale for Grant Funding versus ADB Lending

14. Landless people and sharecroppers (including many tribal people) and low-caste communities along the reaches of the Brahmaputra River require additional project assistance

as their potential to generate productive income is limited, and their access to social services and literacy levels are low. Many lost their land as a result of river erosion and are now residing on the edges of flood embankments without sanitation, electricity and safe drinking water. They are highly vulnerable people, as they have already lost land and assets, and continue to be affected by recurrent floods. To date relief efforts under the government program have reached these people only during the flood period. Therefore, a particular pilot intervention focusing on capacity building and livelihood generation is proposed under this JFPR project, recognizing that although these are the poorest inhabitants in their communities, they will not benefit from the ADB-financed project due to their vulnerable locations. The project will serve to increase the household income of river erosion victims residing on the embankment, or on the flood plain or river side of the embankment. The aim is to extend development interventions to the most vulnerable people and involve them in mainstream development activities.

D. Implementation of the Proposed Grant

1. Provide the Name of the Implementing Agency	NGO Implementation
The project will be implemented by the special purpose vehicle (FREMAA) with day-to-day implementation undertaken by the GIU.	Up to five NGOs will be contracted by the GIU to manage the livelihood activities in the three project areas.

15. The grant project will be executed by the AIFRERMIP SPV (FREMAA), which was set up by the state government for implementation of the AIFRERMIP loan. The grant project will be implemented by the disaster risk management and safeguards division of the SPV, with the support of the GIU; the latter will consist of a project coordination and livelihood specialist (individual consultant), with access to funds to mobilize other technical consultants when required by the project for short-term technical inputs to build the capacity of the implementing NGOs or introduce new technical concepts. The livelihood specialist will oversee the day-to-day implementation of the grant project. The GIU will be established within the SPV of the AIFRERMIP, and will use the services of the AIFRERMIP accountant and general office staff on a limited basis in order to facilitate smooth implementation of the grant project. Detailed arrangements are in Appendix 6.

16. Procurement under the JFPR grant will be conducted in accordance with ADB's *Procurement Guidelines* (2010, as amended from time to time). All NGOs and individual consultants (the project coordination and livelihood specialist, and the monitoring specialist) will be recruited in accordance with ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* (2010, as amended from time to time) to provide services for implementation, management, and progress monitoring of the JFPR grant. A procurement plan is provided in Appendix 7.

17. The grant funds will be disbursed in accordance with ADB's *Loan Disbursement Handbook* (2012, as amended from time to time). Eligible expenditures under the grant are provided in the detailed cost estimates (Appendix 4), and include local transport costs, insurance costs, bank charges, taxes and duties.

18. NGOs will be contracted to undertake the JFPR project implementation in the subproject areas using consultants' qualification selection, and/or least cost selection. This recruitment method is also suggested to ensure successful implementation of the project and to achieve sustainability of the interventions for the following reasons:

- (i) Recruitment of local NGOs is necessary in order to mobilize and engage the project's beneficiary communities and ensure the sustainability of the investments.
- (ii) The engagement of external agencies to work with local communities in the project areas is problematic because of sensitivities pertaining to (a) migration from neighboring countries, (b) migration from both neighboring and distant states within India (e.g., Bihar and Uttar Pradesh), and (c) land issues; as a result commitments made by outsiders are either doubted or simply not accepted.
- (iii) No NGOs in Dibrugarh work on livelihoods or microfinance; NGOs have worked in and around Palasbari and Kaziranga in the livelihoods sector, albeit at a small scale.
- (iv) The jurisdictions of the local NGOs working in the project areas generally do not overlap. NGOs typically work in certain geographical areas over many years, because of the lengthy time required to win trust of communities in Assam's highly politicized environment.

19. The NGOs will operate in coordination with the loan AIFRERMIP PMU, and will be supervised by the project management and livelihood specialist, who will undertake regular visits to the subproject sites and subproject implementation office for monitoring and supervision of the grant project implementation.

2. Risks Affecting Grant Implementation

Type of Risk	Brief Description	Measure to Mitigate the Risk
Coordination and commitment	In the project areas, local communities view the engagement of external organizations and NGOs with suspicion due to sensitivities in relation to illegal migration from neighboring countries (particularly Bangladesh), and from other states of India, and "land grabbing" by illegal settlers. Therefore, caution will be required when engaging outside organizations as they are not trusted by the communities and commitments made by outsiders are either doubted or not accepted.	Preference will be given to local, trusted NGOs (in partnership with other NGOs if required). Transparency in project implementation through SHGs and public meetings will ensure cooperation among project stakeholders.
NGO capacity	Weak capacity and program diversity of local NGOs.	The GIU, particularly the project management and livelihood specialist, will have a dual project management and capacity-building role.

3. Incremental ADB Costs

Component	Incremental Bank Cost
Amount requested	\$75,000
Justification	To finance: (i) one part-time consultant or specialist to assist with ADB startup

	and review missions during the project implementation period; (ii) the consultant's travel and per diem for missions to the project areas; and (iii) midterm audit or review and project completion report.
Type of work to be rendered by ADB	Project monitoring and administration. The staff consultant engaged by ADB will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) develop a grant implementation manual; (ii) develop a monitoring and information system; (iii) assist the PIU in preparation of the work plan, implementation schedule and progress reports; (iv) assist the PIU and implementing agencies in procurement of equipment and materials (community contracts) and recruitment of local NGOs based on ADB policies and guidelines; (v) monitor, supervise, and coordinate overall project implementation and progress; (vi) coordinate with ADB, the executing agency and PIU; (vii) coordinate with other multilateral and bilateral agencies involved in similar work; and (viii) assist ADB in conducting inception and regular review missions.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Key Performance Indicator	Reporting Mechanism	Plan and Timetable for M&E
Establishment of GIU, hiring of two key consultants	Communication from executing agency and physical verification	Inception mission and first quarterly progress report
Improved skills in Eri spinning and weaving, increased market access of products	Monitoring and progress reports by NGOs, GIU	Quarterly progress reports, Impact assessment report by monitoring specialist in year 3
Improved vegetable production skills and market access of products.	Monitoring and progress reports by NGOs, GIU	Quarterly progress reports, Impact assessment report by monitoring specialist in year 3
Educated youth learn new employable skills and gain jobs; less-educated youth learn to set up microenterprises	Monitoring and progress reports by NGOs, GIU	Quarterly progress reports, Impact assessment report by monitoring specialist in year 3

5. Estimated Disbursement Schedule

Fiscal Year (FY)	Amount (\$)
FY 2013–2014	1,125,000
FY2014–2015	875,000
FY2015–2016	500,000
Total Disbursements	2,500,000

Appendixes

1. Design and Monitoring Framework
2. Livelihood Analysis for Eri, Vegetable Production and Employable Skills
3. Subproject Areas and Target Villages
4. Summary Cost Table and Detailed Cost Estimates
5. Fund Flow Arrangements
6. Implementation Arrangements
7. Procurement Plan
8. Summary Poverty Reduction and Social Strategy

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
Impact Reduced poverty of communities vulnerable to river erosion in Dibrugarh, Palabasri and Kaziranga	By 2018 the income level of more than 50% of the households in the vulnerable communities to river erosion in the three subprojects will exceed the poverty level set by the state. (as these are informal settlements with no official data, project will collect baseline data)	State poverty surveys Monitoring mechanism to be established under the Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam.	Assumption The pilot project activities replicated and expanded by NGOs and the state government Risk Further floods or erosion displace project population
Outcome Increased livelihood opportunities and incomes of river erosion victims in 3 subproject sites in Assam, including women.	The income of 500 spinner and 50 weaver households of Palasbari increased by 50% by 2016 (baseline Rs 6,750 p.a. in 2011). At least 50% of the 500 Dibrugarh youth who receive employable skills training find jobs in the formal sector or self-employment as micro-entrepreneurs, by 2016. The income of at least 50% of the 1500 vegetable cultivators of Kaziranga and Palasbari increases by at least by 50% by 2016.	Project monitoring reports Project includes a formal monitoring component which will collect exact income baselines for all project participants as well as a control group (existing household incomes will be benchmarked under the baseline survey to be carried out in month 4)	Assumption Sufficient interested participants in each project area
Outputs 1. Improved spinning skills and increased market access 2. Improved weaving skills and increased market access 3. Improved vegetable production skills and market access	500 female spinners and 50 female weavers trained in improved production and finishing skills, by month 18. Production and sale of Eri silk yarn and cloth by 500 beneficiary households, by month 28. Producer company established with a marketing arrangement, by month 28. 800 beneficiaries in Kaziranga (a majority of whom are tribal, and at least 50% of whom are women) and 200 landless families in Palasbari (including at least 50% women) establish vegetable cultivation as their livelihoods by 2016.	Monitoring and progress reports by NGOs, SPV, GIU and external evaluation. Project progress reports Project progress reports Monitoring and evaluation reports by NGOs, SPV, GIU and external evaluation.	Assumption Competent NGOs successfully appointed by SPV and GIU.

<p>4. Educated youth learn new employable skills</p> <p>5. Youth learn to set up microenterprises</p> <p>6. Increased capacities of project management and implementation of NGOs.</p>	<p>Women fill at least 50% of the leadership roles and general membership of producer organizations.</p> <p>250 educated youth (50% boys and 50% girls) learn employable skills, and at least half of them are employed by 2016.</p> <p>250 youth are self-employed or establish microenterprises by 2016.</p> <p>Project progressing according to timeline of grant implementation manual.</p> <p>Establishment of MIS with sex, ethnic and caste-sensitive indicators.</p> <p>One orientation session for each NGO on project monitoring, reporting (financial and results), funds request and disbursement procedures, and procurement of equipment.</p>	<p>Project progress reports</p> <p>Course entry, exit and follow-up interviews with participants and employers (by training providers).</p> <p>Project progress reports</p> <p>Project progress reports</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation indicators, progress reports, final project and external evaluation reports, and audit report</p> <p>Project progress reports</p>	
<p>Activities with Milestones</p> <p>1. Improved spinning skills and increased market access, and</p> <p>2. Improved weaving skills and increased market access</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training on skill upgrading, especially in the use of Eri spinning machines (Q2 2013) 2. Training in weaving skills (Q3 2013) 3. Training in management of microenterprises (Q3 2013) 4. Operational management of spinning and weaving activities on a continuous basis (Q3 2013–Q3 2015) 5. Improving market access and establishment of value chain for Eri yarn and Eri silk cloth, explore and establish linkages with buyer organizations (Q2 2013–Q2 2014) 6. Producers' organization: yarn producer groups will be formed with a membership of 10 to 20 female spinners. The groups will aggregate into a single producer organization, whose legal form is likely to be a producer company under Indian Companies Act (Q1 2014) <p>3. Improved vegetable production skills and market access</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobilizing community, formation of 100 SHGs (of 10 members each) and 200 producer groups (of 5 members each), and strengthening groups through leadership training and training in setting group norms and account keeping (Q2 2013) 2. Technical training on vegetable cultivation, especially on POPs and marketing (Q3 2013) 3. Creation and management of infrastructure: identification of land or plots, lease agreement with land owner (Palasbari), identification of points for bore well, arrangement of pumps and engines (one set for 10 members), and other equipment and machinery (Q2 2013) 			<p>Inputs</p> <p>ADB Project management and administration</p> <p>Cofinancing \$2,500,000 (proposed financing by JFPR)</p> <p>Government: \$100,000 (in-kind)</p> <p>NGO (up to 5 contracts) 32 months (each)</p> <p>GIU Consultants 46 person-months</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Establish linkages with input supply companies, preferably those which also undertake marketing functions (i.e. off-take linkages), for the delivery of further training or capacity building (Q2 2013) 5. Vegetable cultivation: implementation of PoPs (6–7 months [for two crops] for crops with reduced growing time, practices to reduce growing time such as starting off in cloches or tunnel houses and transplanting, vertical gardening techniques). First production cycle begins in October and ends in January. Second production cycle begins in January and ends in April. Marketing period is between January and April (commence Q3 2013) 6. Collection and marketing: training on collection, weighing, grading, etc. and exploring markets (four months per year) (commence Q4 2013). 7. Setting up of producer organization (Q4 2013). <p>4. Educated youth learn new employable skill</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of educated youth ready to be trained in employable skills (Q2 2013) 2. Identification of sectors where jobs for such youth could be found if trained (2 months in Q2 2013) 3. Designing the training program covering technical skills, soft skills and computer skills as appropriate, and identification of trainers (Q3 2013) 4. Running 8 trainee groups (some concurrent), each for 30 to 35 trainees (four month duration, first group starting in Q3 2013) 5. Mid-course review of training curriculum after two groups are trained and placed (Q1 2014), and after four groups are trained and placed (Q4 2014) (review with help of GIU monitoring specialist). 6. Placement of trained youth (Q1 2014 onwards) 7. Post-placement counseling and training (to enhance retention) (Q1 2014 onwards). <p>5. Youth learn to set up microenterprises</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct supply and demand baseline studies (Q2 2013) 2. Youth identified and microenterprises identified (Q2 2013) 3. Establish training programs (Q3 2013) 4. Startup of microenterprises and mentoring (Q3 2013) 5. Promotion of peer groups from among youth micro-entrepreneurs; one peer group will comprise 5 members in a similar trade (Q3 2013) 6. Financial management support to microenterprises (starting Q3 2013) 7. Ensure 75 youth start microenterprises in year 1, 100 in year 2, and 75 in year 3. <p>6. Increased capacities of project management and implementation of NGOs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GIU established within the SPV (Q4 2012) 2. Recruitment of GIU coordination and livelihood consultant (Q4 2012) 3. Recruitment of GIU monitoring specialist (Q4 2012) 4. Advertising and procurement of NGO services (Q4 2012) 5. Project monitoring information system and component-wise monitoring and evaluation indicators developed by GIU (Q1 2013) and monitored by implementing NGOs (Q1 2013 onwards) 6. Baseline survey carried out by NGOs, supervised by monitoring consultant (Q1 2013) 7. Ongoing coordination of NGO activities and results between GIU and NGOs. <p>GIU helps identify technical resource requirements for capacity building</p>	
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ADB = Asian Development Bank, GIU = grant implementation unit, JFPR = Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, MIS = management information system, NGO = nongovernment organization, PoPs = package of practices, Q = quarter, SHGs = self-help groups, SPV = special purpose vehicle.

Livelihood Analysis for Eri, Vegetable Growing and Employable Skills

1. Eri Silk Spinning and Weaving

a. Situational Analysis

1. Currently the families squatting on the embankments of Palasbari area and downstream of the project's proposed embankment upgrading zone live in cramped, makeshift houses, having been displaced from their original homes in the last 5–25 years as a result of riverbank erosion. They are now landless, and men and women primarily derive their livelihoods working as wage laborers on farms. They are very vulnerable, both physically (their flood prone land is inhabited unofficially) and in terms of income poverty. The women spin Eri silk yarn from cocoons, and those with the requisite skills also weave Eri silk cloth. In rural Kamrup district, where Palasbari is located, around 8,000 women are associated with Eri activities, according to a recent study by Grameen Sahara in three development blocks.¹ Weavers sell their cloth individually to middlemen at markets; they compete against one another, so designs are basic and prices and income are low.

2. Eri silk worm rearing is a widespread phenomenon in Assam, and many families rear them on a small scale in their households. The pupae are consumed as food and the cocoon is traditionally spun into a coarse handspun yarn. This yarn is subsequently used to weave fabric on the simple handlooms found in many rural households. Weaving is done almost exclusively by women.

b. Spinning Yarn as a Livelihood

3. Traditionally Eri cocoons available locally are spun into a coarse yarn on small semi-mechanical *charkhas*. In this part of Assam, the yarn is typically either used by the spinner herself to weave fabric at home or is sold in local *haats* to other local weavers. Spinning of yarn can be undertaken at home and with very little investment. The spinning technique can be learned by anyone fairly quickly, requiring only hand–eye coordination skills.

4. A robust market for handspun Eri yarn of a minimum quality also exists outside Assam. The Assam Department of Sericulture estimates the supply gap at 7000 metric tons per year.

5. The average production possible on locally available spindles is approximately 2–4 kg per month, which produces an income of about Rs 1300 to Rs1800 per month. This is at best a supplementary income for the household, earned purely on a part-time basis. Therefore spinning of yarn is suitable for women who cannot work fulltime or in areas where there are few alternative wage opportunities. This compares to production of 4–5 kg per day using machine-operated spinners.

c. Weaving as a livelihood

6. In many parts of Assam, women have been traditionally trained to weave on handlooms located in their households. Because handloom technology is very simple, the end product is at a cost disadvantage compared to mass produced textiles. Most handloom weavers have insufficient year-round work and production is thus limited to domestic use with

¹ Grameen Sahara is an NGO working in Assam to promote sustainable livelihoods for the poor and for women from rural, semi-urban and urban areas through provision of financial services, technical assistance and other development support services.

little surplus. Presently the woven product is made using traditional designs and consumed locally, but there is a potential to add value to this activity by adopting contemporary designs and marketing the products of those capable of becoming artisans. Average earnings are about Rs3000 per month.

d. Background of Eri Silk Sub-Sector in Assam

7. The silk produced by *Philosomia ricini* is called Eri silk. It is grown primarily in Assam with a concentration in the rural Kamrup, Golpara, Bongaigaon, Dibrugarh, and Lakhimpur districts. Assam produces as much as 90% of the Eri silk in India by rearing Eri silk worms on castor leaves, providing supplementary livelihoods to 132,000 families (2004). In 2003–2004 about 8.6% of all Indian silk was Eri silk.

8. The annual report of the Ministry of Textiles of the Government of India² includes a thrust on development of the northeast region and several new projects were initiated to spread Eri culture, using 400 existing castor plantations. These were largely aimed at the large-scale processing of cocoons and spinning of yarn, rather than addressing the livelihood options of rural spinners and weavers.

9. Eri silk has several advantages that could be exploited in marketing it: (i) Eri comes mostly in natural colors—cream or brick red. Dyes are not needed, unless a customer insists; (ii) it is user friendly and healthy because of its porous texture and thermal properties; (iii) all production processes are ecofriendly and produce no chemical effluents; (iv) production can be done by women at home. All activities (from cocooning to marketing) are carried out mostly by women; (v) the tribal community and economically disadvantaged sections of the society are the primary rearers of this silk worm; and (vi) Eri silk enjoys a niche market in many countries and has a high potential for development.

10. Eri fabric production is concentrated in southern Kamrup (in Assam), and women from this part of the state are experts in this occupation. Most marketing transactions involving Eri fabric take place in Bijohnagar, 35 km west of Guwahati (annual transactions in the Bijohnagar market total roughly Rs.200 million (\$4.5 million equivalent).

e. Problems with the Subsector

11. Eri silk remains largely a family occupation. The subsector is disorganized. It lacks a structure for cocoon production and sale. There are no organized marketing arrangements and different stages of the trade—i.e., the seed, cocoon, yarn, and woven cloth trades—continue to be dominated by intermediaries, who take a disproportionate share of the profits. The rate of production, especially measured from cocoons to yarn and yarn to fabric, is low. The entire production process is manual and production per day per person is insufficient to earn more than is earned through wage work. There is also a lack of innovation in product design. Attracting a non-local market requires development of better designs and quality improvement.

f. Work Done by Nongovernment Organizations in the Subsector

12. A few NGOs operate in this sector. One example is Grameen Sahara, which is supported by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Grameen Sahara is a well-established organization focused on rural livelihoods. Their project on Eri silk (the Golden Weavers project) is in its

² Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. 2005. *Annual Report*. New Delhi.

third year of operation, and reached 2400 families in 2010. To date they have supplied 2.4 tons of cocoons to yarn producers. In 2009, 4000 kilograms of yarn was sold at a price of 800 to 1200 rupees a kilogram. There are 70 yarn producer groups and 4 cocoon producer groups, with 14 centers set up to distribute cocoons to women and collect yarn. There are 15 women weavers. In order to strengthen their marketing plans, Grameen Sahara has begun collaborating with two commercial buyers, one of which also provides suggested designs.

2. Improved Vegetable Cultivation and Marketing in Kaziranga and Palasbari

a. Situational Analysis

13. In Palasbari the target families are living on the dike and in flood-prone areas downstream of the proposed embankment upgrading. They are resource poor and landless. Temporary *kachcha* houses, and a few domesticated animals (e.g., goats and chickens) are their only resources. Most work as agricultural laborers in fields owned by others, and a few lease land for cultivation. Most of the target population lost their revenue land through erosion, and have not been included in the list of “official” villagers in new settlements; because they do not have land in their names, they are ineligible for agriculture department services (these include promotion of high-value crops and distribution of good seed varieties). In Kaziranga, some people were displaced by the Dhansiri river in the 1990s, and have resettled on fairly marginal land. Agriculture and agricultural labor are their main occupations.

14. Flooding is prominent in both locations and occurs almost annually. Both communities lose almost 4 months of cultivation time per year due to floods. Floods affect both agriculture and livelihoods earned through daily wage labor. The *kharif* crop is locally called *sali*, which is grown in the rainy season, and is most at risk to floods, which causes huge uncertainty. Sometimes early floods also affect the next crop (*aahu*), which is grown locally during February–May, during harvest. In the Palasbari area *aahu* is replaced by winter paddy. Both areas face two problems: (i) high uncertainty in the production of *aahu* crops or paddy to meet annual subsistence needs, and (ii) lost opportunities to secure employment (daily wages) because flooding makes access to areas where employment is available very difficult.

b. Selection of Project Villages

15. In Kaziranga the project will work in all ten identified flood-prone villages beyond the embankment that have basic connectivity to the road. Some inhabitants are landowners with 1–2 hectares, while others are landless. These villages are inhabited predominantly by people from the Mishing tribe (85%). In Palasbari, five flood-prone villages would be targeted for this intervention.

c. Livelihood Analysis with Regard to Vegetable Cultivation

16. **Kaziranga.** Growing a *kharif* crop is risky because it is subject to floods or heavy rain, while growing a *rabi* crop is without risk (*rabi* is grown October to the middle of April). *Sali* (or *kharif*) paddy is grown on approximately 60% of the cultivable area during a favorable *kharif* season, which implies there is either no flood, or the flood is timely. The other 40% of the area is reserved for cash crops (i.e., mustard and early vegetables) during *rabi* season. When *sali* paddy cannot be grown because of late floods, the area under the *rabi* crop and in particular the area under mustard increases. Wheat is mainly grown for home consumption and hence requires a limited area. Assured irrigation would increase the productivity of a *rabi* crop, but growers have no water pumping devices, and have no access to technical assistance for growing vegetables. The help is needed particularly for small farmers who don't have the

requisite resources or knowledge, and make up almost 70% of the population (20% are large or mid-sized farmers, and 10% are landless). The main vegetable crops grown in the *rabi* season for commercial purposes are cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant and tomato. Vegetable crops grown between *rabi* and *kharif* (from April onwards) include ladies finger, ridge gourd, pumpkin and cucumber, but these crops are sometimes damaged by early floods and early, heavy rain.

17. Vegetables are mostly sold or bartered at weekly markets, although large farmers use small trucks to transport and sell their vegetable produce at the district trading center (Golaghat), where the price is 30%–40% higher than at the farm gate, where it is purchased by a middleman. Vegetable prices fluctuate widely. One rupee to fifteen rupees at the farm gate, and three to twenty at the market. Kaziranga farmers have minimal technical knowledge related to modern agriculture (use of good seeds, and correct doses of fertilizer and pesticides), and there is no government agency providing technical or extension support.

18. **Palasbari.** The community members targeted for this intervention are landless. Leasing of land is quite common, but the target population lacks the resources and skills to begin land leasing. Three lease systems are in practice: (i) the *sukani* system of annual leases without commitment to incur costs on behalf of the owner, (ii) a seasonal lease system with payment in kind, and (iii) the *aadhi* system, where yield is shared equally. People who have their own draft animals are able to lease land. The intervention target of 200 families is based on the estimate of the amount of leasable land. Vegetable growing is common in the area, but vegetables are grown only in the riverside area (i.e., between the embankment and the river), meaning crops can be grown only during the non-monsoon season. Paddy crops are grown inside the embankment area (embankment to hill side) during both *kharif* and *rabi*, meaning no other crop can be grown in that area. Crops likely to give higher commercial gain include cabbage, cauliflower, and eggplant, according to a Guwahati market survey. At present farmers sell their vegetable crop at Bijoynagar. Middlemen do not come to the villages to make purchases. Farmers in Palasbari generally have a better knowledge of modern farming techniques than those in Kaziranga.

d. Potential for Vegetable Cultivation

19. There is considerable scope for growing vegetables in both Kaziranga and Palasbari, and farmers in both locations would benefit from technical and marketing assistance. The project model would have a small piece of land (bigha) as the unit of production, and also explore quick maturing crops (to prevent loss of harvest due to early monsoon) and vertical or elevated gardening close to residences for use during periods when flooding is likely.

20. Preliminary analysis reveals significant profits in vegetable cultivation. Tomato cultivation in a bigha of land (0.13 ha) could yield a net profit of Rs.35,000 and cultivation of eggplant Rs. 17,000.³ However, there are risks involved due to high price fluctuation. This risk is mitigated by the fact that the markets are nearby (Guwahati for Palasbari, and tea estates and residents in the campus of Numaligarh Refinery Limited for Kaziranga).

e. Assessment of Existing Nongovernment Organization Capacity

21. At least two NGOs are working in agriculture in the project districts, although not in the target areas.

³ Tomato cultivation on 0.13 ha has a cost of cultivation of Rs9,000, while income is expected to be over Rs.45,000 if production is assumed to be 4,500 kg, and the price ranges from Rs2 per kg to Rs40 per kg in Guwahati market.

3. Skill Training and Placement of Youth in Dibrugarh

a. Situational Analysis of the Community

22. A large number of families living on the river side of the Brahmaputra embankment are tenants, as the rentals are much cheaper than in town. In general the embankment community has devised a variety of innovative ways to reduce the cost of living, such as collecting fuel wood from logs floating in the river and seasonal use of *char* land for livestock rearing. They have organized successfully to demand and obtain electricity and similar services from the Dibrugarh municipality, but on the whole they lack a sense of real community, as residents are often displaced people from throughout the region, with differing ethnic and religious backgrounds. Although entrepreneurial, these families are vulnerable to floods and economic poverty. Focus groups reveal that petty trade in the area is being financed by local moneylenders at very high rates of interest (60% per annum). Inhabitants are highly sensitive to any news regarding the need to vacate their housing (e.g., because of embankment strengthening), and those who can move to more secure livelihoods and/or to housing in town do so at the earliest opportunity.

b. Livelihood Analysis

23. A majority of boys and girls growing up in the settlements have been to school. Many have been educated up to the Standard 10 or beyond. Focus groups revealed that they aspire to jobs in a formal work setting, to earn a regular income and live in hygienic conditions. These dreams are shared by their parents. Making the transition is difficult, however, due to a lack of income for further study or training.

24. A significant proportion of adult or males earn their livelihoods from vocations and microenterprises such as rickshaw pulling, masonry, carpentry, and small restaurants and petty shops on the embankment or in the town proper. Women earn additional income as domestic helpers, making *muri*, or in agriculture and allied activities on *char* lands. Adolescent boys and girls are likely to adopt similar livelihoods as their parents.

c. Gaps in welfare programs for the community

25. Schools are among the few facilities accessible to this community. However, although the children attend schools, there are no training classes to equip them with the skills they need to secure employment, and no institutions or agencies that cater to the livelihood needs of the families living on the embankment. Because they have different ethnic origins, they are not readily accepted by the main community, and their houses are not suitable as venues for training classes focusing on employment-related skills.

26. There are currently no government programs to help inhabitants learn new skills, establish new microenterprises, or market any products they may make. The government's skills training programs (e.g., industrial and people's training institutes) have not reached this community; in addition, entry barriers are often too high for youth from disadvantaged and poor families. Further, parents lack the social contacts to identify and often cannot afford to pay the fee for long-term training courses.

27. There has been little engagement by external agencies, possibly because a large number of the families are migrants from neighboring or distant states in India (e.g., Bihar and Uttar Pradesh). Over a period of two decades or so, most inhabitants of Assam have become

resentful of new migrants local NGOs and local authorities have also become discriminatory and are not motivated to help “outsiders.”

d. Opportunities and Current efforts by NGOs

28. With the growth of cities employment opportunities for educated and semi-skilled youth are expanding. Construction, hospitals and health care, hospitality, retail, automobile, transport and tourism sectors have recorded steep growth in the last few years in India. Dibrugarh town is experiencing growth and there appear to be opportunities for girls and boys in these sectors, provided they are well trained; behavioral skills and computer skills are often needed in addition to content-related technical skills.

29. NGOs such as Centre for Rural Development and Don Bosco Institute have the requisite skills and prior experience in creating employment opportunities for youth. The Centre for Rural Development has worked with rural youth and has proven technical expertise in fabrication and maintenance of rickshaws and food carts.⁴ The Don Bosco Institute has well-designed courses in soft skills (personality development), computer skills, and microenterprise development. Neither currently operates in Dibrugarh.

⁴ The Centre for Rural Development established the internationally recognized “rickshaw bank” model that provides young men with loans for technically improved rickshaws, for repayment within 12 to 13 months. In Assam 390 rickshaw pullers have become the owners of their own means of livelihood.

Subproject Areas and Target Villages

Target Village Summary

Subproject location	Target Villages	No. of HH (approx.)	Social Category	Main Occupations		Remarks
				Male	Female	
Palasbari	Guimara Simina Mokhardhoj Phuturi Bartari	1000	Hindus and Muslims	Mostly <i>hazira</i> (daily wage laboring). Involved in both agricultural and non-agricultural labor.	Weaving	Victims of erosion who have lost their land and live on the embankment. Target villages subject to annual flooding.
Kaziranga	Alengmari Bikori Muidolopa Riri I and II Barbali Boralemore Lohoregaon Sahala/ Chowguri Ongonia No.2 Silijuri Kakajuri Moriaholla	1600	ST (Mishing) SC OBC General Caste	Mostly <i>hazira</i> (daily wage labor). Involved in both agricultural and non-agricultural labor.	Weaving and <i>hazira</i> (both agricultural and non-agricultural activities)	Victims of erosion who have lost their land; the ongoing erosion poses a serious threat to their lives and assets. Annual flooding.
Dibrugarh	Mohanaghat (guard para) Amaraguri Panchali Puja ghat Mali pati Koilaghat Phul bagan Chandmari notun bosti Chandmari ghat Phoni bungla Maijan gara line Maijan thakur bari	3500	ST (Mishing) SC OBC General Caste	Mostly <i>hazira</i> (daily wage labor) largely non-agricultural labor, services, trade and business.	<i>Hazira</i> (wage labor, non-agricultural activities), domestic help and trade and business	Victims of erosion who have lost their land. Annual flooding.

HH = households, OBC = other backward castes, SC = scheduled castes, ST = scheduled tribes,

Source: Project design field work

1. **Dibrugarh.** Dibrugarh is one of the state's most urbanized districts, with established tea and oil industries. The district is bounded on the north and northwest by the river Brahmaputra. The inhabitants of the various urban slum areas in Dibrugarh—situated in low lying areas on the bank of the Brahmaputra—are very poor. The project area is the river side of the Dibrugarh dike, which has about 12,000–14,000 households; of these 500 households are targeted under the project for vocational training and self employment. The Dibrugarh embankment is inhabited by people who have lost their land and assets due to floods and river erosion, rendering them vulnerable. There are many “riches to rags” stories among the people who have lost valuable agricultural land and now are involved in *hazira* to sustain themselves and their families. On average they earn up to Rs120 per day. Many migrant families (mainly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) are also involved in *hazira*. Their status as migrants means very few own land; the majority are tenants on the river's banks or embankments.

2. Families do not want to live in the subhuman conditions found on the Dibrugarh dike, where sanitation and hygiene are extremely poor, given a choice. To assist youth seeking employment in modern urban sectors, the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction intervention will focus on (i) skill training and placement of educated youth in modern sectors; and (ii) providing microenterprise promotion support for youth, such as modernized rickshaws and food carts.

3. **Palasbari:** Palasbari is one of the municipal areas of Kamrup District, situated on the banks of the river Brahmaputra, near the district capital Guwahati and its airport. The project area is situated south of Palasbari town and comprises the following villages along the Palasbari dike: Guimara, Simina, Bartadi, Mokhardhoj and Phuturi. These households are flood prone and—being downstream—will not benefit from the main loan project infrastructure. About 1,000 households are found in the subproject area, 700 of which are targeted under the project.

4. Many people have lost their land and other assets to riverbank erosion and have consequently moved to this marginal area. Living conditions are dire on the embankment with very poor access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. Open defecation is common among all households.

5. The primary source of livelihood for these households is income earned from *hazira* (about Rs120 per day). Most women in the target villages are acquainted with the traditional art and craft of Eri spinning but don't use this knowledge to earn a livelihood. Eri silk weaving is not widely practiced for income earning; a primary reason is the lack of technical knowhow and lack of improved spinning machines and looms. Among women who do spin to support their families, a lack of knowledge regarding market linkages and the role of middlemen has resulted in little substantial change in income levels. For example, a middleman provides women in Phuturi Village with the raw materials (cocoons) to make yarn; they make a shawl in 3–4 days and are paid Rs60 per piece, while the market cost of the same product is not less than Rs700.

6. It is in this context that the JFPR project seeks to improve the living conditions of households in the target villages. By equipping households with better spinning skills, providing improved Eri silk spinning machines, assisting in marketing the Eri silk yarn, and introducing Eri silk weaving, the project will make a significant contribution towards providing a stable, almost year-round income. It is hoped households can generate savings that will at a minimum help them survive flood season, and may assist them in the future to buy land in a less vulnerable location.

7. **Kaziranga:** The subproject location of Kaziranga is known worldwide for the Kaziranga National Park, as well as its many sprawling tea plantations. However, it is also severely affected by river bank erosion of the Dhansiri, a tributary of the Brahmaputra.

8. The 10 target villages are inhabited mostly by Mishings, scheduled castes, and “other backward classes” groups.¹ The majority of the target villages are home to people who have lost all or a major part of their livelihood sources due to floods and river erosion in the past, leaving them poor and vulnerable. As with the other subproject locations, men are mainly

¹ “Scheduled castes” are any of the historically disadvantaged Indian castes of low rank, which now receive government protection under the Indian Constitution. The national government classifies some citizens as “other backward classes” (OBCs) based on their social and economic condition. The OBC list presented by the commission is dynamic (castes and communities can be added or removed) and will change over time depending on social, educational and economic factors.

involved in *hazira* and women weave. With the existing meager sources of livelihood through *hazira* and weaving and the constant threat posed by flooding and erosion, they are further marginalized and vulnerable to disasters and external shocks. The JFPR project seeks to improve the livelihood sources of the households in the villages in Kaziranga through interventions in the agriculture sector. It will aim to improve the vegetable production practices and marketing skills of Mishing families, assigning a much greater role to women.

Table A4.1: SUMMARY COST TABLE (US\$)

<div> <div>↓</div> <div>→</div> </div> Inputs / Expenditure category	Grant Components				Total (\$)	Percent
	Component A Improved Eri Silk Spinning and Weaving in Palasbari	Component B Improved Vegetable Cultivation and Marketing in Kaziranga and Palasbari	Component C Skill Training and Placement of Youth in Dibrugarh	Component D Project Implementation Support and Capacity Building for Implementation NGOs		
1. Civil Works	12,250				12,250	0.5%
2. Equipment and Supplies	63,600	68,200	14,272	1,350	147,422	5.9%
3. Training, workshops, seminars, and public campaigns	23,700	40,000	158,856		222,556	8.9%
4. Consulting Services	96,000	160,000	192,000	184,000	632,000	25.3%
5. Grant Management	57,600	158,400	90,000	63,000	369,000	14.8%
6. Other Inputs	392,500	254,000	112,500	130,500	889,500	35.6%
7. Contingencies (0-10% of total estimated grant fund): Use of Contingencies requires <u>prior</u> approval from ADB.	64,565	68,060	56,763	37,885	227,273	9.1%
Subtotal JFPR Grant Financed	710,215	748,660	624,390	416,735	2,500,000	100.0%
Government Contribution				100,000	100,000	
Total Estimated Costs	710,215	748,660	624,390	516,735	2,600,000	
Incremental Costs				75,000	75,000	

ADB = Asian Development Bank. JFPR = Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction.
Source: Asian Development Bank.

Table A4.2: DETAILED COST ESTIMATES

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES RENDERED	COSTS			CONTRIBUTIONS		
	Unit	Quantity Units	Cost Per Unit (\$)	Total (\$)	JFPR	
					Amount (\$)	Method of Procurement
Component A. Improved Eri Silk Spinning and Weaving in Palasbari			Subtotal	645,650	645,650	
1.1 Civil Works						
1.1.1 Construction of a central store for cocoons (includes electrical installation)	ft ²	675	18	12,250	12,250	Shopping
1.2 Equipment and Supplies						
1.2.1 Furniture & fixtures (cabinets, tables, chairs, etc)	set	1	700	700	700	Shopping
1.2.2 Spinning machines	unit	500	100	50,000	50,000	Shopping
1.2.3 Looms	unit	50	200	10,000	10,000	Shopping
1.2.4 Motorcycles	unit	2	700	1,400	1,400	Shopping
1.2.5 Office set-up (including computer and paraphernalia)	package	1	1,500	1,500	1,500	Shopping
1.3 Training, Workshops, and Seminars						
1.3.1 Training of Spinners (25 trainees/training)	training package	20	500	10,000	10,000	
1.3.2 Training of Weavers on Design Development (15 trainees/training)	training package	50	250	12,500	12,500	
1.3.3 Training Center rental	month	1	1,200	1,200	1,200	
1.4 Consulting Services						
1.4.1 NGO engagement	person-month	32	3,000	96,000	96,000	CQS/LCS
1.5 Management and Coordination of this Component						
1.5.1 Staff salaries						
Coordinator (1)	person-month	36	400	14,400	14,400	
Marketing Staff (1)	person-month	36	200	7,200	7,200	
Accountant (1)	person-month	36	100	3,600	3,600	
MIS Staff (1)	person-month	36	100	3,600	3,600	
Field Staff (2)	person-month	72	200	14,400	14,400	
1.5.2 Travel and per diem	month	36	200	7,200	7,200	
1.5.3 Office operations	month	36	200	7,200	7,200	
1.6 Other Project Inputs (specify)						
1.6.1 Seed fund for spinners	spinner	500	30	15,000	15,000	
1.6.2 Seed fund for weavers	weaver	50	50	2,500	2,500	
1.6.3 Marketing support	spinner	500	750	375,000	375,000	

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES RENDERED	COSTS				CONTRIBUTIONS		
	Unit	Quantity Units	Cost Per Unit (\$)	Total (\$)	JFPR		Government
					Amount (\$)	Method of Procurement	
Component B. Improved Vegetable Cultivation and Marketing in Kaziranga and Palasbari			Subtotal	680,600	680,600		
2.1 Equipment and Supplies							
2.1.1 Diesel engine	unit	100	400	40,000	40,000	Shopping	
2.1.2 Pipes and boring	per bore well	100	150	15,000	15,000	Shopping	
2.1.3 Sprayers	unit	200	30	6,000	6,000	Shopping	
2.1.4 Motorcycles	unit	6	700	4,200	4,200	Shopping	
2.1.5 Office set-up (including computer and paraphernalia)	office	2	1,500	3,000	3,000	Shopping	
2.2 Training, Workshops, and Seminars							
2.2.1 Farm practices (Rs28,500/batch of 25 trainees or Rs1,140/trainee)	per training	40	500	20,000	20,000		
2.2.2 Market linkages (Rs28,500/batch of 25 trainees or Rs1,140/trainee)	per training	40	500	20,000	20,000		
2.3 Consulting Services							
2.3.1 NGO engagement (Palasbari)	person-month	32	2,500	80,000	80,000	CQS/LCS	
2.3.2 NGO engagement (Kaziranga)	person-month	32	2,500	80,000	80,000	CQS/LCS	
2.4 Management and Coordination of this Component							
2.4.1 Staff salary							
Coordinator (2)	person-month	72	400	28,800	28,800		
Marketing Staff (2)	person-month	72	200	14,400	14,400		
MIS Staff (1)	person-month	72	100	7,200	7,200		
Field Staff (6 in first year, 12 from second year onwards)	person-month	360	200	72,000	72,000		
2.4.2 Travel and per diem	month	72	400	28,800	28,800		
2.4.3 Office operations	month	72	100	7,200	7,200		
2.5 Other Project Inputs (specify)							
2.5.1 SHG promotion including Federation groupings	per SHG	100	200	20,000	20,000		
2.5.2 Vegetable growers group promotion	per group	200	200	40,000	40,000		
2.5.3 Legal fees for establishment of producer company	per legal fee	2	2,000	4,000	4,000		
2.5.4 Revolving fund for vegetable cultivation (including lease rent)	per grower	1,000	100	100,000	100,000		
2.5.5 Market linkage support							
Establishment of weighing and collection center	per center	15	1,000	15,000	15,000		
Sorting, bagging, packaging, etc (expected 500 kg/acre/year)	kg of production	675,000	0.044	30,000	30,000		
Transportation	kg of production	675,000	0.067	45,000	45,000		

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES RENDERED	COSTS				CONTRIBUTIONS		
	Unit	Quantity Units	Cost Per Unit (\$)	Total (\$)	JFPR		Government
					Amount (\$)	Method of Procurement	
Component C(1). Skill Training and Placement for Educated Youth			Subtotal	267,256	267,256		-
3.1 Furniture and Equipment							
3.1.1 Training equipment						Shopping	
Desktop rental (5 units for 2 weeks for 8 batches)	unit	40	60	2,400	2,400		
Laptop	unit	2	700	1,400	1,400		
Printer	unit	2	100	200	200		
Modem/Datacard	unit	5	60	300	300		
Television	unit	1	100	100	100		
DVD player	unit	1	100	100	100		
Projector	unit	1	500	500	500		
3.1.2 Furniture (chairs and tables)	set	1	500	500	500		
3.2 Training, Workshops, and Seminars							
3.2.1 Vocational Training (8 batches, 30 trainees per batch)	batch	8	5,500	44,000	44,000		
3.2.2 Placement of Youth							
Linkages with Employers (includes monthly stipend)	student	250	22	5,556	5,556		
Post placement support (stipend for six months, Rs2,500/month)	student	250	300	75,000	75,000		
On-the-Job training and counselling support (30 students/batch)	fee per batch	16	550	8,800	8,800		
3.3 Consulting Services							
3.3.1 NGO engagement (skills training and placement of youth)	person-month	32	3,000	96,000	96,000	CQS/LCS	
3.4 Management and Coordination of this Component							
3.4.1 Staff salary							
Program Manager (1)	person-month	36	400	14,400	14,400		
Coordinator - Enrollment and Placement (1)	person-month	36	300	10,800	10,800		
3.4.2 Office operations (includes project monitoring and governance system)	month	144	50	7,200	7,200		
Component C (2). Microenterprise Promotion			Sub-Total	300,372	300,372		-
4.1 Equipment and Supplies							
4.1.1 Rickshaw and Triwheeler Cart Assembly	unit	1	5,000	5,000	5,000	Shopping	
4.1.2 Maintenance & Repairs	lumpsum			872	872	Shopping	
4.1.3 Motorcycles	unit	2	700	1,400	1,400	Shopping	
4.1.4 Office set-up (including computer and paraphernalia)	package	1	1,500	1,500	1,500	Shopping	
4.2 Training, Workshops, and Seminars							
4.2.1 Microenterprise management (25 trainees/batch)	training batch	20	1,200	24,000	24,000		
4.2.2 Peer Group building (5 members/group)	group	50	30	1,500	1,500		
4.3 Consulting Services							
4.3.1 NGO engagement (skills and enterprise management training)	person-month	32	3,000	96,000	96,000	CQS/LCS	
4.4 Management and Coordination of this Component							
4.4.1 Staff salary							
Coordinator (1)	person-month	36	400	14,400	14,400		
Field staff (2 in first year, 4 from second year onwards)	person-month	120	200	24,000	24,000		
4.4.2 Travel and per diem	month	156	100	15,600	15,600		
4.4.3 Office operations	month	36	100	3,600	3,600		
4.5 Other Project Inputs (specify)							
4.5.1 Microenterprise machines/assets	per person	250	400	100,000	100,000		
4.5.2 Grant for operating costs	person	250	50	12,500	12,500		

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES RENDERED	COSTS				CONTRIBUTIONS		
	Unit	Quantity Units	Cost Per Unit (\$)	Total (\$)	JFPR		Government
					Amount (\$)	Method of Procurement	
Component D - Project Implementation Support and Capacity Building for Implementation NGOs			Subtotal	478,850	378,850		100,000
5.1 Equipment and Supplies							
5.1.1 Office set-up (includes computers, printers, and paraphernalia)	package	1	44,150	44,150	1,350		42,800
5.2 Consulting Services							
5.2.1 Coordination and Livelihood Consultant	person-month	46	2,000	92,000	92,000	Individual	
5.2.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant	person-month	46	2,000	92,000	92,000	Individual	
5.3 Management and Coordination of this Component							
5.3.1 Staff salary							
Coordinator (1)	person-month	36	400	14,400	14,400		
Monitoring specialists (2)	person-month	72	300	21,600	21,600		
Accountant (1)	person-month	36	100	3,600			3,600
Support staff (1)	person-month	36	100	3,600			3,600
5.3.2 Travel and per diem	month	36	300	10,800	10,800		
5.3.3 Office operations	month	36	1,589	57,200	7,200		50,000
5.3.4 External Audit (yearly)	year	3	3,000	9,000	9,000		
5.4 Other Project Inputs (specify)							
5.4.1 Mentoring and Monitoring of NGO activities	field visit	15	1,100	16,500	16,500		
5.4.2 Microfinance Fund	beneficiary	100	650	65,000	65,000		
5.4.3 Support for bank linkages (20% of fund)	lumpsum			13,000	13,000		
5.4.4 Baseline survey and poverty impact assessment	no. of surveys	6	6,000	36,000	36,000		
Components A to E = Subtotal			Subtotal	2,372,727	2,272,727		100,000
Contingency (Maximum 10% of Total JFPR Contribution)				227,273	227,273		
TOTAL Grant Costs			Total	2,600,000	2,500,000		100,000
TOTAL Incremental Costs				75,000			

CQS = consultants' qualification selection, JFPR = Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, kg = kilogram, LCS = least cost selection, MIS = management information system, NGO = nongovernmental organization

SHG = self-help group, ft² = square feet

Notes: 1. All furniture, equipment, and motorcycles will be handed over to the Government (Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam) after the Project.

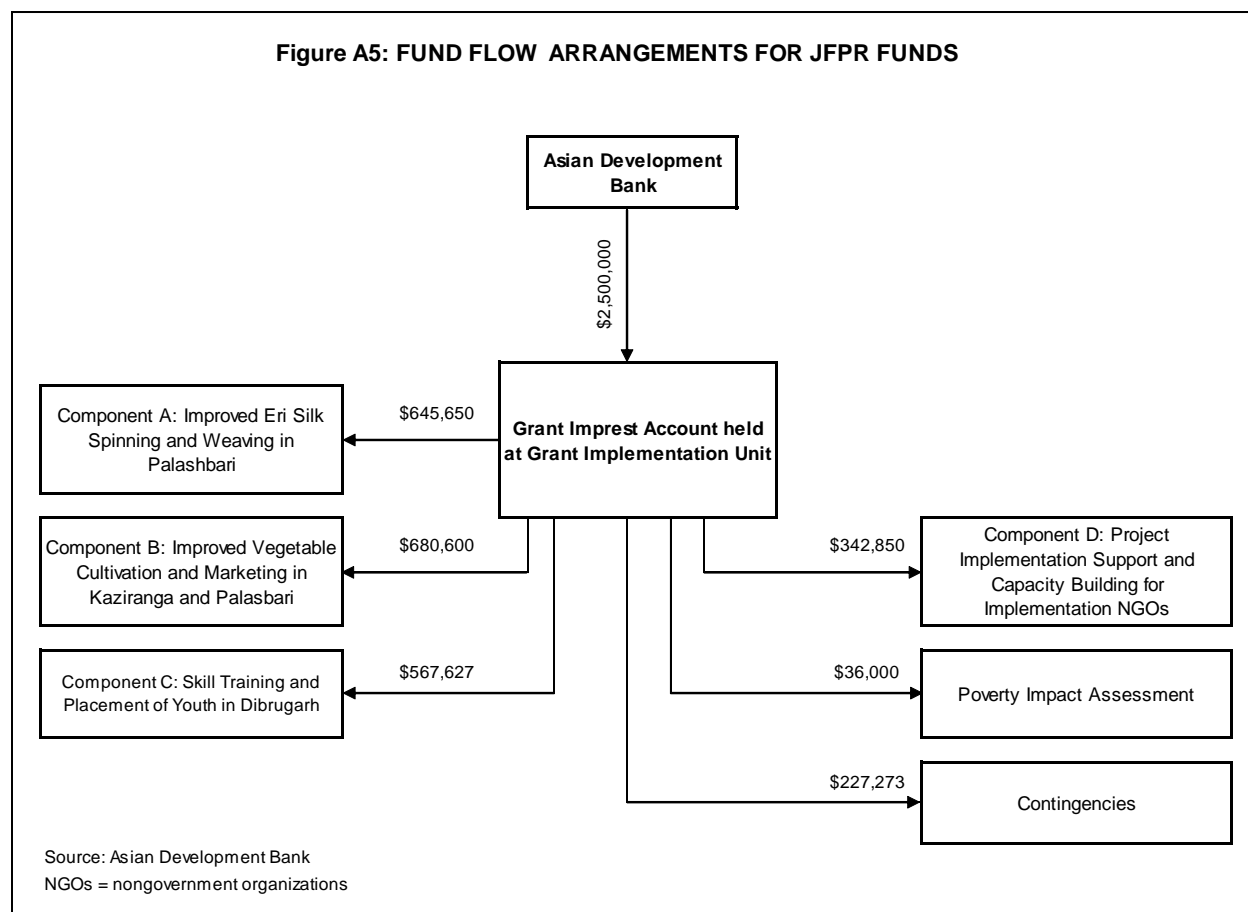
2. Motorcycles will be the only means of transport to be used by field supervisors and staff, and are required for mobility and efficient monitoring of grant activities.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

FUND FLOW ARRANGEMENTS

1. The grant funds will be disbursed in accordance with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) *Loan Disbursement Handbook* (2007 as amended from time to time). A Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) imprest account will be opened in a commercial bank as a current account and operated by the executing agency (EA) Grant Implementation Unit (GIU). The imprest account will be maintained by the special purpose vehicle (SPV)—Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam—(i.e., the EA) and will transfer disbursements to the respective implementing agencies. The imprest account will be established, managed, replenished, and liquidated in accordance with the provisions set forth in ADB's *Loan Disbursement Handbook*. The SPV will be supported by the GIU in administration and maintenance of books of accounts. Local project partners or implementing agencies will prepare budget requirements based on the proposed livelihood activities and submit the budget requirements to the GIU. The GIU will consolidate the budget requirements and submit them to the Project Steering Committee for its review and in-principle approval. Upon approval, the GIU will send to ADB through the SPV a formal request for release or replenishment of funds. ADB, through its statement of expenditures (SOE) procedures, will release funds to the EA. The advance to the imprest account will be based on the estimated expenditures for a 6-month period, but will not exceed the 10% of the grant amount. Further replenishment of the account will be based on liquidation of the account. The account ceiling will be adjusted based on the evaluation of previous fund absorption and revised contractual arrangements. The ceiling for individual SOE payments is \$30,000. For all SOE payments above \$30,000, claims must be submitted with supporting documentation. The funds flow arrangements is in Figure A5, and the disbursement arrangement in Appendix 7.

2. The interest if any earned on JFPR accounts will be used for project activities only, subject to ADB's prior approval, and any unused interest should be returned to the JFPR fund account maintained in ADB upon completion of the project and before closing of the JFPR accounts with the executing agency. Fund flow details including other implementation arrangements will be set out in the grant implementation manual, and will be established through the JFPR letter of agreement between the Government of India and ADB.

Figure A5: FUND FLOW ARRANGEMENTS FOR JFPR FUNDS

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Executing and Implementing Agencies

1. The Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA), the state's special purpose vehicle (SPV), will be the executing agency. The SPV is an autonomous body anchored to the Water Resources Department with a multidisciplinary structure, stable leadership, high-level oversight, and timely fund flow.

2. A Grant Implementation Unit (GIU) will be established within the SPV to handle day-to-day project activities and assist SPV's disaster risk management and safeguards division in implementing the project. A project management and livelihood specialist will be engaged by ADB to oversee GIU operations and facilitate coordination among GIU staff, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and other project stakeholders. The specialist will have access to funds to mobilize other technical consultants as and when required by the project for short-term technical inputs to build the capacity of the implementing NGOs or introduce new technical concepts. In addition, ADB will engage a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist to supervise the overall M&E framework for the project including the establishment of baseline information, regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms, and project information database. The GIU will also utilize on a limited basis, the accountant and general office staff from the associated loan (Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program [AIFRERMIP]) to facilitate the smooth implementation of the grant project.¹

B. Nongovernment Organizations

3. Up to five local NGOs will be engaged by the GIU according to ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* (2010, as amended from time to time). The NGOs will develop economic opportunities and manage livelihood activities in the three project areas, largely by building on and expanding successful participatory programs. The NGOs will coordinate with the subproject implementation office of AIFRERMIP and will be supervised by the project management and livelihood specialist. Given the weak capacity and program diversity of local NGOs, the GIU through the project management and livelihood specialist will have a dual project management and capacity-building role. The NGOs will benefit from GIU training programs on technical assistance in the livelihoods theme chosen, effective project management, accounting and reporting procedures, networking among fellow NGOs, and expansion and diversification of their activities.

C. Coordination with Government and Other Development Partners

4. Close coordination among the state government, executing agency, GIU, other line departments, and project stakeholders is expected. Transparency in project implementation will be maintained through self-help groups and local self-government involvement. Public meetings will also ensure cooperation among project stakeholders.

5. The project preparation involved consultations with the embassy of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Consultations will be continued and JICA participation in project activities will be invited where feasible.

¹ ADB. 2010. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Multitranchise Financing Facility for the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program in India*. Manila.

D. Implementation Schedule

6. The project will be implemented over 36 months. A project inception mission will finalize the grant implementation memorandum, and review and endorse schedule of activities. Activities are envisaged to start by about December 2012 and be completed by about November 2015.

E. Procurement and NGO/Consulting Services

7. All procurement activities will be carried out according to ADB's *Procurement Guidelines* (2010, as amended from time to time). Only minor procurement is envisaged under the project. Civil works will involve construction of a cocoon central store for the proposed Eri silk production in Palasbari. Goods to be procured include Eri silk production equipment, farm implements, office furniture, fixtures, and computer equipment. The GIU will also purchase motorcycles for field staff. These and other equipment will be turned over to FREMAA after project completion. An indicative procurement plan is in Appendix 7.

8. All individual consultants and NGOs will be engaged according to ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* (2010, as amended from time to time). Local NGOs will be recruited using consultants qualification selection.

F. Safeguards

9. Project activities focus on skills improvement and capacity building of beneficiaries to help them access services and market opportunities. No social or environmental safeguard issues are envisaged.

G. Grant Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation

10. The GIU will prepare brief quarterly reports addressing grant implementation progress, issues, and concerns. The reports should be concise, and kept to a maximum of five pages. They should also be circulated by email to FREMAA, the Ministry of Finance, and ADB. In addition, ADB requires submission of a semiannual JFPR status report. Close monitoring of project progress and performance will be ensured and reported annually based on baseline information and end-of-project poverty impact reports.

11. The GIU monitoring specialist will prepare a standardized baseline survey of participants and non-participants in each of the livelihood activities, which can be repeated as part of the end-of-project poverty impact assessment. The survey will be implemented by each of the implementing NGOs, and the specialist will provide training to each NGO in survey implementation, and design and collection of community-led project monitoring. The specialist will use monitoring information to advise the GIU on program quality and progress towards expected outcomes on a 6-monthly basis. All data will be sex disaggregated and results will report on participation, progress and outcomes for both men and women.

INDICATIVE PROCUREMENT PLAN

Project Name	Livelihood Support for River Erosion Victims in Assam
Country	India
Executing Agency	Special Purpose Vehicle (Department of Water Resources), Assam
Grant Amount	\$2,500,000

Table A7.1: Procurement Thresholds, Goods, and Related Services

Procurement Method	Estimated Contract Value (\$)
National Competitive Bidding for Goods	≤ \$500,000
Shopping for Works	≤ \$100,000
Shopping for Goods	≤ \$100,000
Direct Contracting	≤ \$10,000

Source: Asian Development Bank.

Table A7.2: List of Goods and Works

General Description	Value of Contracts (\$, cumulative)	No. of Contracts	Procurement / Recruitment Method
Equipment, furniture, and supplies	148,000	Various	Shopping
Civil Works (Cocoon central store)	12,250	1	Shopping

Source: Asian Development Bank.

Table A7.3: List of Consulting/Nongovernment Organization Services

Contract Description	Estimated Cost	Procurement Method	Expected Date of Advertisement
NGO Services (5 contracts)	448,000	CQS	October 2012
NGO Coordination and Livelihood	92,000	Individual	September 2012
Monitoring and Evaluation	92,000	Individual	September 2012

CQS = consultants' qualification selection, NGO = nongovernment organization

Source: Asian Development Bank.

SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country/Project Title: INDIA: JFPR Livelihood Improvement for River Erosion Victims in Assam

Lending/Financing
Modality: GRANT

Department/
Division: SARD/SAER

I. POVERTY ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

A. Linkages to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy

India's 11th Five-Year Plan (2007–2012) prioritizes reducing regional and rural–urban disparity and chronic poverty, particularly in rural areas, through inclusive and equitable growth, with a strong focus on accelerating the growth rate in underdeveloped regions. Assam remains one of the least developed states in India, with a 2003 per capita income level 43% below the national average. This results from several factors, including poor infrastructure, remoteness, and inability to minimize the impacts of damage from frequent flooding. Among these, effective flood risk management remains high on the development agenda, given that 90% of Assam's agriculture land and urban areas are located in flood-prone areas that are mostly inundated during extreme flooding, with devastating impact. About 7% of the land in the state's 17 riverine districts has been lost as a result of river erosion over since the 1950s displacing a large number of people and adding to the number of landless and homeless poor. ADB's country strategy and program for India (2003–2006)¹ expanded ADB's operations in rural infrastructure, including water resources, as the most important feature to address the country's chronic regional disparity and looming water crisis. The current country partnership strategy (2008–2012) envisages enhanced ADB roles in rural infrastructure development for irrigation, water resources, and agriculture marketing, in accordance with the priority given to the sector in the government's 11th Five-Year Plan and ADB's long-term strategic framework 2008–2020 (Strategy 2020).² The objective and design of the ensuing project are consistent with the strategic direction of these planning frameworks.

The Northeast and Assam State

The northeast region of India lags behind the rest of the country in terms of national development indicators. The region is marked by low agricultural productivity, poor infrastructure, low levels of industrial activity, and ethnic tensions that have led to the split of the region into seven states. The lack of security and subsequent low investments in large public sectors and industries have further hindered development. Assam shares its borders with six Indian states and two countries and covers about 2.4% of the country's geographical area. The population of Assam is 26.64 million (2001 Census)³ and accounts for 2.59% of the country's total population. The Assam's 23 districts vary considerably in size and population. The levels and rates of growth of income in Assam are below the average for the country. In 1950–51, Assam's per capita income was 4.1% higher than the average for the country. By FY1981, Assam's per capita income was 27% lower than the national average and by FY1999, the gap had widened to 45.5%.

B. Poverty Analysis

Targeting Classification: General Intervention

1. Key Issues

Poverty, flood and river erosion

The proportion of Assam's population living below the poverty line is high (about 36%). Over two-thirds of Assam's population is rural, and 40% of the rural population lives below the poverty line. Poverty is more widespread in the western, southern and hill districts. The Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and their tributaries dominate the economic and social life of Assam. Over 90% of urban and agriculture land is located in the flood-prone area, and the regular occurrence of floods and loss of land due to river erosion constrains the state's economic activities. Agriculture remains the primary economic sector, with paddy, wheat, mustard, potatoes, and other vegetables as the major crops. The agriculture sector's productivity is well below the national average, and only about half of the state's farmers cultivate their fields more than once a year. The uncertainties of rainfall and associated floods hamper agricultural productivity. Likewise, service and industrial sectors are also affected by frequent flooding and associated low levels of investment and a lack of employment opportunities.

The proposed project aims to improve the economic and social livelihood of river erosion victims by supporting income-generating activities based on the traditional Eri spinning and weaving practice, vegetable cultivation on leased land and by vocational training and employment of youth among river erosion victims and their families dwelling on embankments or flood plains. Participation of poor and vulnerable groups will be pursued through the involvement of nongovernment organizations (NGOs).

¹ ADB. 2003. *India: Country Strategy and Program (2003-2006)*. Manila.

² ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

³ Source: Office of the Registrar General, India.

Analysis of vulnerability and access to livelihood assets. People in the project area are vulnerable to seasonal exceptionally high floods that take lives and assets, and erode farms and house lots. Cultural livelihood assets such as the existing spinning and weaving practices and vegetable cultivation and marketing in nearby markets constitute traditional knowhow and skills that can be further improved with new knowledge and equipment; in addition, new vocational skills can be imparted to educated youth, thus enhancing their employability, and providing a livelihood base for the entire household. Material assets have been lost repeatedly as a result of unexpectedly high floods and productive agricultural land has been lost due to river erosion and sand casting (deposition of sand over agricultural land making it unfit for purpose).

Distribution analysis and poverty impact ratio analysis. To improve the project's poverty reduction impact, poverty impact analysis has helped determine the contribution of the flood protection and river erosion mitigation to the overall economic growth of the area effectively protected by the planned civil works; and improve farmer's confidence in input investments and in industrial investment in general. The distribution analysis indicated that the most affected people living in the high- and medium-risk zone (comprising more than 65% of the total affected population) will benefit at a large scale from the Assam Integrated Flood and River Erosion Risk Management Investment Program, to which this JFPR project is associated. More than 50% people in the project area are poor in terms of assets they own (i.e. land), and their dependency on day labor.

2. Design Features

The scope of the JFPR proposal includes: i) supporting and diversifying the traditional Eri spinning and weaving practice; ii) improving and upscaling vegetable cultivation on leased land and establishing a value chain; (iii) supporting vocational training and employment of educated youth in a range of modern sectors; and iv) project implementation support and capacity building for implementing NGOs, plus robust monitoring of beneficiary satisfaction and progress towards expected outcomes.

II. SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

A. Findings of Social Analysis

A large segment of the population in the subproject areas (Palasbari in Kamrup district, Dibrugarh town, and Kaziranga in Golaghat district) live in areas at high risk from flooding and riverbank erosion. As a result, they suffer frequently, and many have lost land and material assets due to river erosion and sand casting from unexpected high floods. The local population reported losing nearly half of their crops every year along with substantial damage to homes and livestock. Agriculture and wage labor are the principal local occupations. For many women, (including tribal people and indigenous Assamese) Eri silk spinning and weaving is the most important source of livelihood. The incidence of landlessness is high in all subproject areas. Many families work on farms as laborers, and some lease land to cultivate vegetables. In urban Dibrugarh, the families engage in a range of economic activities at the low end of the value chain, often as unskilled or semi-skilled laborers. On the average, nearly 40% of the population is poor. Indigenous people account for 42% of the population in Kaziranga, and 15% in both Dibrugarh and Palasbari. According to the field assessment carried out during loan preparation, the social, economic, and cultural characteristics of indigenous people do not differ significantly from other social groups.

In general, development needs are clustered into three groups: (i) organizing the communities and providing reliable, year-round facilities and infrastructure; (ii) developing economic self-sufficiency through sustainable livelihoods; and (iii) training youth in vocational skills that would give them employment in modern sectors, which could enable them to obtain housing in the main town.

Appropriate Strategies:

- (i) **Gender-focused program.** Self-help groups (SHGs) exist in all areas, with variable participation by women in the project area. SHGs bring poor women together in a forum where they can discuss livelihood options and choose those that suits individuals.
- (ii) **Producer groups and federations.** Producer groups include people who engage in a common activity (e.g., Eri silk spinning or vegetable cultivation). People's institutions organized around livelihood themes enable the building of lasting linkages with input supply companies, markets, banks and government.
- (iii) **Vocational training and employment.** Youth who have completed school will obtain new opportunities through training in skills required by modern sectors, enabling them to obtain employment in those sectors.

B. Consultation and Participation			
<p>A participatory process was used during the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program project preparatory technical assistance,⁴ and consultations and collaborative decision making were carried out with a particular focus on women, the landless, indigenous people, and other vulnerable groups in the subproject area using participatory rural appraisal techniques, along with other ordinary stakeholders. These results were utilized in preparation of this JFPR proposal in addition to supplementary field visits, a series of focus group meetings in each district, and key informant interviews with NGOs and government agencies that provide livelihood development services.</p> <p>The project will be implemented by NGOs utilizing a participatory approach, building on the SHG and common interest-group principles to ensure transparency and useful participation. The GIU will ensure appropriate linkages with government.</p>			
C. Gender and Development			
<p>1. Key Issues</p> <p>In Assam, river erosion and regular flooding place additional burdens on women; in times of crisis and disaster women are traditionally responsible for delivering relief and preparing food, doing household chores and caring for the sick and elderly under difficult circumstances. During high floods, the incidence of sickness and malnutrition among vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly increases, increasing the burden of care on women proportionately. River erosion has led to loss of land and houses and women bear a disproportionately high burden of extra labor due to the need to reconstruct households and manage everyday life in hazardous circumstances. The loss of productive agricultural land increases migration by men in search of work and increases women's vulnerability, as most of the households headed by women earn wages from agriculture labor for only a few months per year, and are otherwise dependent on remittances. Nevertheless, rural women are major contributors to the rural economy through crop and livestock production, and cottage industries. In addition, women spend much of their time gathering water and firewood for household use.</p> <p>The project specifically targets women by providing support to traditional Eri silk spinning and weaving and enhancing access to markets through better trade terms. Women and men will participate equally in the vegetable cultivation program, and both girls and boys will be trained in vocational skills, increasing their opportunity to find jobs in modern sectors of the economy (e.g., healthcare). In addition, microfinance linkages through SHGs empower women and increase their financial independence.</p>			
<p>2. Key Actions. Measures included in the design to promote gender equality and women's empowerment—access to and use of relevant services, resources, assets, or opportunities for income generation and participation in decision-making process:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other actions/measures <input type="checkbox"/> No action/measure</p> <p>The project design adopts a gender mainstreaming approach to women's participation and empowerment through utilization of SHGs and capacity building for livelihood skill improvement, collective marketing, and savings mobilization.</p>			
III. SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES AND OTHER SOCIAL RISKS			
Issue	Significant/Limited/No Impact	Strategy to Address Issue	Plan or Other Measures Included in Design
Involuntary Resettlement	No impact	No involuntary resettlement issues.	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Plan in preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Short Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Framework <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action
Indigenous Peoples	Not Significant	The social analysis shows that the Mishing people of Kaziranga are no more vulnerable than other flood displaced persons and have identical livelihood patterns. ADB Safeguard Policy Statement 3 is not triggered.	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other Action <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples Framework <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action
Labor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Labor retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> Core labor standards	None	Component C addresses the problem of entry of educated youth into skilled occupations and includes a labor retention strategy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Action <input type="checkbox"/> No Action

⁴ ADB. 2008. *Technical Assistance to India for Preparing the Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project-Assam (Phase 2): Processing and Institutional Strengthening*. Manila.

Affordability	None	The project does not envisage cash contributions by beneficiaries (most have no assets or capital to invest).	<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action
Other Risks and/or Vulnerabilities <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking <input type="checkbox"/> Others	No impact.	The project does not envisage adverse impacts. The use of local NGOs where possible will mitigate any risk of inflaming local ethnic tensions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action
IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION			
Are social indicators included in the design and monitoring framework to facilitate monitoring of social development activities and/or social impacts during project implementation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			