



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.32-33/6
18 December 2018

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (INDIA)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty-sixth meeting, approved a three-year project titled “Climate Proofing of Watershed Development projects in the States of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu”, submitted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for a requested amount of US\$ 1,344,155 (Decision B. 26/15). The project main objective is to improve climate resilience and build adaptive capacities of the communities to climate change in the rain-fed areas of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. This is achieved through four main components: i) Improving adaptation to climate variability / change in farm sector with better

management and maintenance of soil and water regime enabling better crop / pasture land productivity and resultant increase in income of small and marginal farmers.; ii) Promoting climate resilient farming system and diversification of livelihoods engaging community and their associations in the concrete adaptation pathway; iii) Reducing climate change vulnerability and process of marginalization with integration of risk mitigation products, like crop, weather and market advisory and information system; and iv) Creation of knowledge management system on climate change adaptation and sharing the learning to wider audience for replication and technology cascading.

2. As mandated by the Board’s decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and NABARD.

3. The first tranche of disbursement for the implementation of the project was released following signature of the agreement in December 2015. The first project performance report (PPR) for the project, unexpectedly covering a two-year (2016-2018) reporting period, was submitted in July 2018 and cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in August 2018. As of December 2018, a total amount of US\$ 970,808 had been disbursed to the project by the trustee, corresponding to 72% of the total project funding.

4. This is the first request for an extension of the project completion date. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.29-30/3/Rev.1) amended by the Board in October 2017 (Decision B.29-30/15), a request for an extension of project completion date must be submitted by the implementing entity at least six months prior to the official completion date. NABARD had submitted such request through the secretariat on 17 December 2018, hence at a date more than six months prior to the expected completion date of September 2019, for an extension of the completion date until 30 June 2020 (see Annex 1).

5. The reasons for this project completion date extension request, as outlined by NABARD, include the fact that:

- The executing entity, Voluntary Organization for Integration of Community and Environment (VOICE) in Tamil Nadu State had expressed their inability to execute climate-proofing activities in the watershed due to inability of the executing entity to mobilize the community.
- The executing entity in Rajasthan State, ICT-Rural Development Trust (ICT-RDT) that is implementing the project in the two watersheds of Nayagaon-I and Nayagaon-II in Rajasthan took a longer period to finalise implementation arrangements.
- There are 14 Executing Entities (EEs) implementing 20 watersheds under the project. However, one executing entity, Society for People’s Action for Change and Education

(SPACE) implementing the Anjukulipatti Watershed Development project, has requested for extension of time up to 22 January 2020. The reasons for seeking time extension are: (i) Implementation of project activities was delayed due to lack of adequate rainfall in the project area. (ii) It took much time for the executing entity to mobilise and awareness creation amongst the vulnerable communities.

Secretariat's review of the request

6. Following a review of the request, the secretariat finds that given the delays in the programme implementation caused by the challenging task of 14 different executing entities to mobilize capacity building of staff as well as vulnerable communities and the lack of adequate rainfall in the project area, this request of a seventeen-month extension is justified. Furthermore, it is noted that the project's team had made arrangements in terms of identifying an executing entity in place of VOICE and endorsement of same is pending at the Designated Authority level. The progress of the project in the two watersheds in Rajasthan State is satisfactory and is expected to be completed before 30 June 2020. Additionally, the project's team has been spending considerable time on considerable time on awareness creation the staff as well as community and, sensitization of community on climate proofing measures.

7. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and the Designated Authority has been notified, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

8. Therefore, the Board may consider and decide to approve the request for a seventeen-month extension of the project completion date for the project "Climate Proofing of Watershed Development projects in the States of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan" as requested by NABARD, from September 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from NABARD.

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from NABARD*Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

Implementing Entity Name: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)			
AF Project/programme ID : IND/NIE/Water/2013/1			
Project/programme Title : Climate Proofing of Watershed Development projects in the States of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan			
Country: : INDIA			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	09/01/2016		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	08/01/2019	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	30/06/2020

Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/programme completion:

A total of 14 Executing Entities (EEs) are implementing this project in 20 watersheds in two different States viz. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

One non –starter project: All EEs except one EE viz. VOICE in Vannikonendal Kurukalpatti watershed have started implementation of the project activities and positive outcomes are reported. The EE, VOICE in Vannikonendal Kurukalpatti watershed in Tamilnadu had expressed their inability to execute climate-proofing activities in the watershed due to certain internal difficulties of the EE. Implementation of interventions for this particular watershed could not be started due to inability of the EE to mobilize the community. Due to this, substantial time was lost in motivating the EE and exploring for alternatives, the existing EEs or a new EE. Presently EE has been identified and endorsement of same is pending at NDA level.

Two (Watersheds) late starters: Further, one EE viz. ITC- RDT in Rajasthan State took much time to finalise implementation arrangements. The EE is implementing the project in two watersheds viz. Nayagaon-I and Nayagaon-II in Rajasthan. After a series of discussions, the EE accepted the terms & conditions of the project and project implementation started in the second half of 2018. However, the progress of the project is satisfactory and will be completed before 30 June 2020.

Coordination among the different EEs: There are 14 Executing Entities (EEs) implementing 20 watersheds under the project. As 14 different EEs under this project are working at community level, it was a huge task in terms of capacity building of the staff as well as community, coordination for inception workshops, technical guidance for implementation of project activities, synchronising, data collection & compilation of physical and financial progress by the PMU, scrutiny of disbursement proposals, monitoring the field level progress at different locations, eliciting compliance to the observations made during monitoring visits and to obtain data/ information at regular intervals for preparing PPR. All the EEs except one, implementing the project in Tamil Nadu state are likely to complete the project activities within the stipulated project completion date, i.e., 31 August 2019. However, one EE namely, Society for People's Action for Change and Education (SPACE)

implementing the Anjukulipatti Watershed Development project, has requested for extension of time upto 22 January 2020. The reasons for seeking time extension are: (i) Implementation of project activities was delayed due to lack of adequate rainfall in the project area. (ii) It took much time for the EE to mobilise and awareness creation amongst the vulnerable communities.

It may be noted that the chief reason of delay in all the watersheds is slow execution during the initial period of implementation of this project as considerable time was spent on awareness creation and sensitization of community on climate proofing measures.

Implementing Entity certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authority (DA) has been notified.	
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