



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 RURAL
DEVELOPMENT (INDIA)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty-fourth meeting, approved a four-year project titled “Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small and Marginal Farmers in Purulia and Bankura Districts of West Bengal”, submitted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for a requested amount of US\$ 2,510,854 (decision B. 24/10). The project main objective is to develop climate adaptive and resilient livelihood systems through diversification, technology adoption and natural resource management for rural small and marginal farmers associated with agriculture and allied sector in the Lateritic Zone of West Bengal. Specifically, it would seek to enhance adaptive capacity of 5,000 vulnerable farm families in semi-arid regions of Purulia and Bankura districts of West Bengal by introducing measures to tide over the adverse impacts of climate change on their food and livelihood security. This is achieved through four main components: i) development of a land and water use master plan; ii) reducing climate risks through timely and appropriate weather specific crop/agro-advisory services in local language; iii) climate resilient technology transfer for enhancing the adaptive capacity of the community; and iv) learning and knowledge management.
2. As mandated by the 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 November 2014. The first project performance report (PPR) for the project was submitted in October 2017 and cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in November 2017. As of December 2018, a total amount of U\$ 1,255,427 had been disbursed to the project by the trustee, corresponding to 50% of the 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 in compliance with the Policy, for an extension of the completion date until 30 November 2020 (see Annex 1).
5. The reasons for this request for an extension of project completion date, as outlined by NABARD, include the fact that:
 - The Executing Entity (EE) encountered difficulties in the implementation of soil and water conservation measures;
 - The occurrence of monsoon rains and severe drought in the initial phase of the project has hampered the execution of activities related to agriculture, plantation, and fisheries installment;
 - The EE experience difficulties in finding required technical profiles to cover some key local positions in the project’s team; and
 - Political unrest in one of the 40 selected villages in the Purulia District did not permit the project’s activities to take place.

Secretariat's review of the request

6. Following a review of the request, the secretariat finds that given the exogenous nature of the reasons causing the delays in the project implementation, this request of an eighteen-month extension is justified. Furthermore, it is noted that the project's team has been making technical arrangements to progress on the soil and water conservation measures, as well as had to change one project village making sure to respect the technical feasibility and people's acceptance to implement project's activities.

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 an eighteen - month extension of the project completion date for the project "Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small and Marginal Farmers in Purulia and Bankura Districts of West Bengal" as requested by NABARD, from 28 May 2019 to 30 November 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/Agri/2014/1			
Project/programme Title: Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small and Marginal Farmers in Purulia and Bankura Districts of West Bengal			
Country: INDIA			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	10/01/2014		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	05/28/2019	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	11/30/2020

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

(i)The EE had faced difficulty in expediting the execution of earth works of soil and water conservation measures, construction of check dams, RLI, Plantation etc., due to the launching of USHARMUKTI programme of the State Government taken up under MGNREGS. The Government programme was also implemented in the same villages & same locations. Therefore, the EE was compelled to re-identify the land survey numbers for execution of the sanctioned project activities and works are in progress now.

(ii)The failure of monsoon rains and severe drought situation in the initial phase of the project has hampered execution of various works related to agriculture, plantation, fisheries and other allied livelihood activities. The other activities like construction work of Bio- Gas units which require water, was also hampered.

(iii)Another reason was that the EE took long time to deploy the Project staff - Community Resource Centre (CRC) Manager and Village Development Volunteer as they could not get suitable persons.

(iv)In one of the 40 villages selected in Purulia District, work could not be started due to severe political unrest. EE had put lots of efforts for community mobilization but in vain and finally the EE has changed the project village. The Village which has the requirement, technical feasibility and people's acceptability for implementation of the project activities was selected. This process also consumed significant time and it is another cause of delay.

As per the revised timelines drawn by the EE, the project activities shall be completed by 30 November 2019.

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.

Name & Signature: Kuldeep Singh

Project/programme contact person: Kuldeep Singh, Deputy General Manager, NABARD

Date: 13 Dec 2018

Tel. and Email: +91-022-26530094
climate.change@nabard.org