



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.33-34/1  
25 March 2019

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Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION  
DATE: NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT (INDIA) (1)**

## 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 Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan", 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 the following objectives: 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 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 2015. The first project performance report (PPR) for the project was submitted in July 2018 and cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) in August 2018. As of March 2019, a total amount of US\$ 940,908 had been disbursed to the project by the trustee, corresponding to 70% 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 June 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 VOICE in Vannikonendel Kurukalpatti was unable to execute climate-proofing activities in the watershed due to the inability to mobilize the community;
- The Executing Entity ITC-RDT in Rajasthan State registered a slow start of the activities due to the time taken of the finalization of the implementation arrangements;
- The Executing Entity SPACE in Anjukulipatti watershed had delayed some project activities due to the lack of adequate rainfall in the project area, and due to the efforts in creating awareness among the vulnerable communities.

### **Secretariat's review of the request**

6. Following a review of the request, the secretariat finds that given the complex implementation arrangements for this project which needs to coordinate work among 14 Executing Entities, this request of a ten-month extension is justified. Furthermore, it is noted that the project's team has been making technical arrangements to identify a new Executing Entity in the Vannikonendel Kurukalpatti watershed.

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 ten-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**

<b>Implementing Entity Name: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)</b>			
<b>AF Project/programme ID : IND/NIE/Water/2013/1</b>			
<b>Project/programme Title : Climate Proofing of Watershed Development projects in the States of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan</b>			
<b>Country:</b>		: INDIA	
<b>Project/Programme Approval (date)</b>	09/01/2016		
<b>Expected Project/programme Completion (date)</b>	08/01/2019	<b>Proposed Revised Completion (date):</b>	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 20120.

**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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Date: 18 Dec 2018

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