



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a-35.b/20  
14 September 2020

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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-sixth meeting, approved a four year project titled “Climate smart actions and strategies in north western Himalayan region for sustainable livelihoods of agriculture-dependent hill communities”, submitted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for a requested amount of US\$ 969,570 (Decision B. 26/10).
2. The main objective of the project is to improve the adaptive capacity of rural small and marginal farmers including hill women in North Western Himalayan region by introducing a combination of Climate Smart Farming Technologies along with required social engineering and capacity building processes. The packages of activities are expected to improve /sustain the livelihoods of vulnerable hill communities and demonstrate ways of diversification of income while also initiating the process of natural resource management in the region. The project aims to deliver on its objective through achieving five outcomes: i) Improved community mobilization to collectively plan and undertake climate change adaptation; ii) Building resilience through increased water availability and efficient water use in hill region; iii) Adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies and farm diversification options for climate resilient livelihoods; iv) Improved potential of livestock resources as an option for livelihood stabilization in hills; v) Knowledge generation based on field actions and wider dissemination to enhance awareness of hill communities and stakeholders as well as for better policy inputs
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and NABARD in April 2016 and the project started implementation on 22 August 2016.
4. This is the first no-cost extension request for extending the project completion date from 22 August 2020 to 31 August 2021.
5. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.29-30/3/Rev.1; Decision B.29-30/15 and Decision B.34-35/12), a request for an extension of the project completion date must be submitted by the implementing entity at least six months prior to the official completion date. However, due to late processing of the request at the entity level and the COVID-19 outbreak, the request was received only after the deadline aforementioned.
6. The implementing entity has submitted three project performance reports (PPR) to the secretariat, of which two PPRs have been cleared by the secretariat. As of 14 September 2020, the total project funding for an amount of US\$ 862,817 had been disbursed by the trustee, including the implementing entity fees, which corresponds to 85% of the grant.
7. The reason for the request for the project completion date extension, as outlined in the memo shared by NABARD, is twofold. The project had experienced initial delays on account of high climatic variability resulting in seasonal linked activities such as soil work, land and forest restoration, ground water recharge measures and fruit tree plantation, being rescheduled on various occasions. In addition, activities planned during the fourth year of project implementation related to agriculture and water conservation that are crucial to be completed pre-monsoon, were further delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic health emergency and national restriction measures for up to 120 days.

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

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by NABARD related to COVID19 outbreak and the occurrence of climatic variability impacting the good progress of crucial seasonal linked activities, the secretariat believes that this request of a twelve-months extension is justified.

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

### **Recommendation**

10. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an additional twelve-months extension of the project completion date from 22 August 2020 to 31 August 2021 for the project "Climate smart actions and strategies in north western Himalayan region for sustainable livelihoods of agriculture-dependent hill communities I" as requested by NABARD.

### **Annex**

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

## Annex 1: Request for an Extension of the Project Completion Date

**ANNEX A: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT / PROGRAMME***Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

<b>Implementing Entity Name: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD)</b>			
<b>AF Project/programme ID: NA</b>			
<b>Project/programme Title: "Climate smart actions and strategies in North Western Himalayan region for sustainable livelihoods of agriculture-dependent hill communities"</b>			
<b>Country: India</b>			
<b>Project/Programme Approval (date)</b>	<b>09/10/2015</b>		
<b>Date of Inception Workshop (Official start date)</b>	<b>22/08/2016</b>		
<b>Expected Project/programme Completion (date)</b>	<b>22/08/2020</b>	<b>Proposed Revised Completion (date):</b>	<b>31/08/2021</b>

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

**Delay in Inception workshop:** The project implementation commenced on October 09, 2015. There was delay in project inception workshop as it had to be preceded by a series of meetings with all the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project. Finally, the workshop could be organized in August 2016. The fund release to the EE was made in October 2016 after the EE fulfilled the pre-release requirements. Due to the initial delays and coincidence of monsoon season, certain works such as water harvesting structures and micro irrigation could not be executed in time and it also delayed the connected works & activities, by one year.

**Community mobilization:** The project involves the local community as primary stakeholders. The mobilization and awareness creation interventions for the primary stakeholders have taken 3 to 6 months' time after the inception workshop.

**Difficult terrain:** The project period approved is 4 years. The Project area includes 10 villages in Uttarakhand state, which is part of Himalayan region. There is physiography related constraints viz., relative inaccessibility of the villages, dependency on the Plains region for certain materials and skilled man power.

On account of high climatic-variability, occurrence of sudden & unpredicted climatic events, certain season linked project activities were rescheduled on various occasions. Many of the activities such as soil work, land and forest restoration, ground water recharge measures, fruit tree plantation are season bound but the time-window available for these operations/ activities was too small.

**COVID-19:** Many activities have been planned in year-4 (Dec 2019 to November 2020), making it very crucial year. Pre-monsoon time is crucial for agriculture related and water

conservation activities. However, due to COVID 19 pandemic, health emergency and nation-wide lockdown of about 90 to 120 days, has affected implementation progress of various works/ activities under the project, since staff could not move due to transportation ban, procurement of inputs/ materials could not be done, social and community gatherings were cancelled.

The Executing Entity has to complete all the stalled and deferred works & activities. In this last phase of the project, the EE is also required to take certain measures for post project sustainability and appropriate exit strategy. This would require at least one more year so that project cycle completes and smooth transition takes place.

NABARD Regional Offices, Dehradun through District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, have been regularly monitoring progress of the project. All the project activities will be completed by 30 August 2021.

In view of the above and the prevailing uncertainty due to COVID 19, it is recommended that one-year extension may be granted to the project up to **31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**.

#### **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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 Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Mumbai, India.



Date: 07 August 2020

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