



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a-35.b/22
14 September 2020

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).
2. 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.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and NABARD in November 2014 and the project started implementation on 28 May 2015.
4. NABARD submitted the first no-cost extension request in December 2018 which was approved by the Board through decision B.32-33/12, postponing the project completion date from 28 May 2019 to 30 November 2020.
5. On 7 August 2020, NABARD submitted a second request for extension of the project completion date from 31 May 2020 to 30 June 2021 (see Annex 1). 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 submitted two project performance reports (PPR) to the secretariat. As of 14 September 2020, the total project funding for an amount of US\$ 2,134,226 had been disbursed by the trustee, including the implementing entity fees, which corresponds to 85% of the grant.
7. The reason for an additional request for the project completion date extension, as outlined in the memo shared by NABARD, includes the need for additional time to complete the many activities planned during the 4th year of project implementation. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic health emergency and national restriction measures for up to 120 days, land and water conservation activities, as well as community trainings, and availability of construction materials and agriculture inputs, were affected. Furthermore, the Amphun Cyclone occurrence in May 2020, caused large scale disruption, as the heavy rainfall hampered the execution of different works on the ground (excavation, ditch and well digging, etc.) for about 6 weeks.

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 a natural disaster, the secretariat believes that this request of a further 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 30 November 2020 to 30 November 2021 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.

Annex

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

Annex 1: Request for an Extension of the Project Completion Date*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, India				
Country: India				
Project/Programme Approval (date)		10.10.2014		
Date of Inception Workshop (Official start date)		28.05. 2015		
Expected Completion (date)	Project/programme	28.05.2019 30/11/2020 (Extended Timeline)	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	30/11/2021

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

COVID-19: Many activities have been planned in year 4 (Dec 2019 to Nov 2020), making it very crucial year. However, due to COVID 19 Pandemic health emergency and nationwide lockdown for about 90 to 120 days, has affected implementation progress of various activities viz., land and water conservation activities, labour works, community trainings, creation of water harvesting structures procurement of material, etc. Some of the specific issues faced by the EE at project sites due to pandemic are as follows:

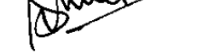
- The earthwork was sanctioned to be completed during March to June 2020; lockdown due to Pandemic has disrupted all the activities since mid March 2020.
- The lockdown also adversely impacted supply/ availability of construction materials and inputs of agriculture.
- There were specific instructions from local government authorities to stop works during locked down phase which the EE had to comply.
- Neither the EE's Staff nor any outsiders could reach the project area, due to restrictions.

Amphun Cyclone: There was also another adverse climatic phenomenon in the form of 'Amphun' cyclone in May 2020 which has caused large scale disruption. The heavy rainfall received during the cyclone made it not possible to execute various earth works (excavation, ditch and well digging, construction of check dam, biogas, etc) for about 4 to 6 weeks.

Owing to the above factors adversely affecting the project implementation, it is recommended that an additional one-year extension may be granted to the project, up to 30 November 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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