

February 18, 2019

Mr. Malay Kumar De
Chief Secretary
Government of West Bengal (GoWB)
'Nabanna', 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road
Howrah – 711102

Dear Mr. De:

***INDIA: West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project
Implementation Support and Review Mission (December 13-19, 2018)***

A World Bank team conducted an Implementation Support and Review Mission to review progress of the West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP) during October and December 2018. I would like to thank you for the courtesies and cooperation extended to the mission. The mission's findings and agreed next steps as discussed at a wrap-up meeting with the Project Director and the Principal Secretary are provided in the attached Aide Memoire.

The project is now in its final year of implementation and the outcomes are encouraging. The project is serving 114,378 members of Water Users Associations (WUA) and has created irrigation potential for 54,000 ha (target is 75,000 ha and 100,000 users). Owing to a combination of increased cropped area, productivity, and diversification to cash crops, the value of output has increased by 217% against the target of 140% (from INR 56,550 per ha to INR 1,26,700 per ha).

The project has disbursed 74% with the commitments at 85% of total allocation and is targeting to finalize remaining commitments by March 2019. Most of the schemes under procurement are small and require 2-3 months for construction with subsequent hand over to WUAs during this year. The implementation plan while ambitious is doable. The project should be able to disburse fully before its closure in December 2019 while realization of irrigation potential in these schemes will require at least two years of post-handover support to WUAs. Based on this assessment, implementation progress is being rated as Satisfactory, though the project development objective is being maintained at Moderately Satisfactory.

The mission was pleased to note that energy levels among all project stakeholders from field to head office staff are at its peak. It was encouraging to note that the state is keen to leverage the project approach in various state-run schemes. To institutionalize community mobilization across the state, the department should consider introducing a unit dedicated to providing continued support to WUAs. Additional resources may also be required to scale up innovative interventions developed under the project to reap maximum dividends. The Project is requested to

commence impact assessment and strengthen monitoring systems in place to ensure timely completion of remaining schemes by June 2019.

Our team stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to help ensure the successful completion of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Anju Gaur (email: agaur@worldbank.org) and Mr. Raj Ganguly (email: rganguly@worldbank.org), Task Team Leaders, for any questions or clarifications.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



Junaid Kamal Ahmad
Country Director, India

Encl.: Aide Memoire

cc:

Ms. S. Aparna, Executive Director (India), The World Bank

Mr. Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya, Senior Advisor to ED (India), The World Bank

Mr. Suresh Yadav (Advisor), ED (India), The World Bank

Ms. Bandana Preyashi, Director (MI), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi

Mr. Naveen Prakash, Additional Chief Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Hirdyesh Mohan, Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources Investigation and Development, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Naveen Prakash, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal

Mr. H. K. Dwivedi, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Ravi Inder Singh, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Dushyant Nariala, Principal Secretary, Department of Disaster Management and Civil Defence, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Indavar Pandey, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal

Ms. Nandini Chakravorty, Principal Secretary, Food Processing Industries & Horticulture Department, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Prabhat Mishra, Project Director, West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project, Department of Water Resource Investigation & Development, Government of West Bengal

Mr Niladri Naha, Director State Water Investigation & Development Directorate