

Quality at Entry Report and Next Steps to Complete Design for Community Development through Agro-Silvo-Pastoral Program

A: AidWorks details <i>completed by Activity Manager</i>			
Initiative Name:	Nusa Tenggara Timur Agro-Forestry Community Development Program		
AidWorks ID:	INJ764	Total Amount:	AUD2,5 million
Start Date:	1 January 2011	End Date:	30 June 2014

B: Appraisal Peer Review meeting details <i>completed by Activity Manager</i>	
Initial ratings prepared by:	Julie Klugman Leonard Simanjuntak Alwyn Chilver
Meeting date:	23 December 2010
Chair:	Petrarca Karetji, Director, Decentralisation, Poverty Reduction and Rural Section, AusAID
Peer reviewers providing formal comment & ratings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alwyn Chilver, Principle Adviser, Rural and Environment, AusAID – Leonard Simanjuntak, Unit Manager, Decentralisation Unit, AusAID
Independent Appraiser:	– Julie Klugman
Other peer review participants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alopi Latukefu, Director, Economic, Rural Development and Infrastructure, AusAID Canberra – Jeremy Stringer, Unit Manager, Decentralisation & Rural Development Unit, AusAID Jakarta – Richard Manning, Director, Australia-Nusa Tenggara Assistance for Regional Autonomy (ANTARA) – Dan Heldon, Unit Manager, Climate Change Unit, AusAID Jakarta – Esnawan Budisantoso, Project Officer, Australia-Nusa Tenggara Assistance for Regional Autonomy (ANTARA) – Erinch Sahan, Rural Development, Trade and Economic Governance, AusAID Canberra – Rani Noerhadhie, Senior Program Manager, Rural Development Unit, AusAID Jakarta – Joel Tukan, Program Manager, Rural Development, AusAID Jakarta – Ria Houriyah, Program Officer, Rural Development, AusAID Jakarta – Dwiagus Stepantoro, Performance and Quality Unit, AusAID

C: Safeguards and Commitments		
<i>Answer the following questions relevant to potential impacts of the activity.</i>		
1. Environment	Have the environmental marker questions been answered and adequately addressed by the design document in line with legal requirements under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> ?	N/a
2. Child Protection	Does the design meet the requirements of AusAID's Child Protection Policy?	N/a

D: Initiative/Activity description	
3. Description	<p>A well-regarded Indonesian NGO, Yayasan Mitra Tani Mandiri (YMTM), has submitted a draft proposal for AusAID's consideration – Community Development through Agro-Silvo-Pastoral Program. It proposes a 3 year, \$2.5 million program of support to development of sustainable agriculture for selected communities in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). The initiative aims to reduce rural poverty by increasing incomes and improving food security in marginal areas through sustainable agro-silvo-pastoral systems and equitable development in Timor and Flores Islands in NTT.</p> <p>\$2.5 Million will be provided to YMTM between January 2011 and June 2014, to increase incomes and improve food security for 12,500 farmer families in 90 villages of 4 Districts in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province, Indonesia by assisting to develop more sustainable and productive agriculture systems. The initiative supports Pillar 1 of the Australia Indonesia Partnerships Country Strategy, 'Sustainable Growth and Economic Management', and helps to deliver on AusAID's \$464 million, four year Global Food Security through Rural Development commitment (2009-2013).</p>
4. Objectives Summary	The objectives of the YMTM's proposal are as follows: (a) improve agro-silvo-pastoral production; (b) profitable agriculture enterprises; (c) increase added value of agricultural product

E: Quality Assessment and Rating			
Criteria	Assessment	Rating (1-6) *	Required Action (if needed)
5. Relevance	Overall, the proposal has strong linkage with the AIP Country Strategy and aligns with Indonesia government priority. The proposal provide an option to address the poverty issues in NTT which directly benefit number of villages and farmer groups and link them to the market and information system	5	
6. Analysis and Learning	<p>YMTM has extensive experience and strong reputation in support the community development in NTT but the lessons learned from their work does not well articulate in the proposal.</p> <p>Farmers and farmer groups are the crucial aspect for the program's sustainability, but the proposal does not have measurable outcome of strong self sufficient farmer group organisation</p> <p>Due to the successes of YMTM work in NTT, it is potential to investigate the condition of copy cat behaviour to link with the other programs and share across the border (i.e. Seed of Life program in Timor Leste)</p>	4	<p>Outline key lessons learned and how they have influenced strategy development and ensure its relation to promoting gender equality, strengthening farmer group, increase productivity, collective marketing, and how to engage the private sector and local government.</p> <p>Expand the market analysis and its logic on how the monopoly trader system and the engagement of private sector will affect the farmers' price</p> <p>Add strong self sufficient farmer group organisation as an outcome</p>

E: Quality Assessment and Rating			
7. Effectiveness	<p>Issues around the government policies, trade and monopoly are not adequately addressed in the document.</p> <p>The proposal document lacks of the stakeholder analysis which needs to identify their roles and relationship (farmers/ farmer groups, government agencies in local and national level, NGOs, university and research centre, and private sector)</p>	4	<p>Needs to better articulate how those issues will potentially influence the program.</p> <p>It would be good that the proposal have more information on the roles and responsibility of the stakeholder such as YMTM staff and different partners i.e. London school of Economics, technical adviser and government)</p> <p>The proposal need to spell out where would YMTM draw the external expertise/technical knowledge to support the work in gender, finance, M&E, human resources and communication/media; how to improve the capacity or effectiveness of PPL / agriculture extension staff as they will be there for longer term;</p> <p>Add better services provided by agriculture extension service officer as an outcome</p>
8. Efficiency	<p>This program is an efficient mechanism to deliver support to rural communities in NTT which involve relatively lower costs by engage an Indonesian NGO</p> <p>A clarification on the timeframe issues will strengthen the proposal. Program costs structure and budget do not really reflect the complexity of the work and the comprehensiveness of the strategy.</p>	4	<p>The proposal need to flesh out the work modalities (ie. cost structure that reflect the modalities which currently only anchor into the staff and training costs)</p> <p>Outline in the proposal a minimum farmer group/institution capacity / indicators that will allow them to access a matching grant; and ensure that the program will provide support to farmers in improving their cash/financial management.</p> <p>Clarify / demonstrate organisation capacity in gender, communication/ media, M&E, financial management system.</p> <p>Need to develop implementation schedule</p>
9. Monitoring and Evaluation	<p>The proposal contains a good outline of outputs, outcome and s strong result framework and also a number of M&E approaches that will be utilised.</p> <p>Explanation and clarification of the output and outcomes will strengthen the M&E framework</p> <p>Majority of the activity is around the capacity building, then how to measure the success of these indicators</p>	4	<p>Need to revise the M&E to ensure capture the impact of capacity building activities; additional outcome and indicators in relation to farmers associations and involvement of private sector.</p> <p>Ensure the M&E plan includes monitoring of assumptions underpinning the theory of change</p> <p>Cleary articulate how to apply the participatory M&E approach and its reporting mechanism to the community and donor in regularly basis</p>

E: Quality Assessment and Rating			
10. Sustainability	<p>Sustainability of this program would appear the biggest challenge and area to focus monitoring on. This is a key aspect of concern across the AusAID rural development portfolio as a whole, along with achieving results at scale that need to ensure more systematically addressed.</p> <p>The proposal is not clear on what is the transformation process that will lead the sustainability of the program.</p> <p>YMTM seems to play a role of bridging intermediary between farmers association with traders / private sector where gradually they need to pull out from this linkage and progressively transfer the power to farmers to communicate directly to private sector or government to establish sustainable partnership</p>	3	Proposal need to have sustainability strategy (clear picture of what is the successful looks like and timeframe to achieve, better articulate the theory of change, how to scale up the copycat behaviour, and how the program could link to AIPD-Rural)
11. Gender Equality	<p>Gender aspect in the proposal is very weak, it is important for YMTM to seriously address the issue in the inception of the program. The proposal notes that gender will be a key focal area, analysis of gender issues, lessons learned, or strategy to promote equity is not included.</p> <p>Nor are there any specific outputs relating to gender equality. As gender issues are cross cutting, they will need to be considered in the detailed development of all activities.</p>	3	It is recommended that a Gender and Social Inclusion strategy be developed as soon as possible to provide guidance, in a practical step by step way, to ensure that gender equality is considered and integrated in a practical way under all log frame activities and outputs.

*** Definitions of the Rating Scale:**

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)		Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)	
6	Very high quality; needs ongoing management & monitoring only	3	Less than adequate quality; needs to be improved in core areas
5	Good quality; needs minor work to improve in some areas	2	Poor quality; needs major work to improve
4	Adequate quality; needs some work to improve	1	Very poor quality; needs major overhaul

E: Next Steps		
Provide information on all steps required to finalise the design based on <i>Required Actions</i> in "C" above, and additional actions identified in the peer review meeting	Who is responsible	Date to be done
1. Develop Program Implementation Plan	YMTM	31 March 2011
2. Develop Gender and Social inclusion strategy	YMTM	31 March 2011
3. Develop a Sustainability Strategy Paper	YMTM	31 March 2011
4. Revision of the M&E framework	YMTM	31 March 2011
5. Reference Group Meeting	AusAID	1 st week of April 2011

F: Other comments or issues

- It was agreed that the proposal passed the peer review, despite ratings of 3 for Sustainability and Gender. It should proceed to the implementation immediately with some additional work to articulate a Sustainability strategy Paper, Gender strategy Paper, and Implementation Plan including the Monitoring Evaluation framework. The Papers will be submitted by end of March 2011, with a Reference Group meeting held to reassess QAE ratings, particularly on sustainability and Gender, in the first week of April.
- The ANTARA Independent Completion Report asserts that YMTM achieved substantial outcomes in improving communities' incomes, increasing agriculture production and strengthening farmer organisations. Further, their remarkable work has been internationally recognised, and they were recent winners of the United Nation's Equator Prize 2010. The YMTM proposal provides an opportunity for AusAID to build on successes, contribute to sustainable food security and rural development, and help build the foundation for implementation of a larger program of support to be provided under AIPD-Rural
- Everyone participating in the Proposal Review agreed to be in the Reference Group to assist AusAID supervision of the project, and ensure research and lessons learned are integrated into development and implementation of AIPD-Rural.
- Lack of a platform to contribute to development of a consolidated policy framework particularly was mentioned by Leo in the Proposal Review. A suggestion to have a Rural Development Specialist employed by AIPD provides the link to a larger program of support under both AIPD and AIPD-Rural that is well placed to better deliver on policy engagement. YMTM has the experience and the contacts to influence local government policy. Rural Development specialist will also support the development and implementation of the YMTM program while the AusAID Rural Development Unit Activity Manager will provide oversight. The specialist will ensure maximum effectiveness of our aid in terms of YMTM project implementation, but also provides a focal point to help gather evidence from the field about what does and doesn't work, and what further work we need to engage in to leverage the YMTM inputs and achieve better development results.
- The proposal mentioned climate change as an issue, but it did not explain how the project is going to address the issue. YMTM to ensure program system includes the environment issues (how to plan, implement and monitor the activities).

F: Approval *completed by ADG or Minister-Counsellor who chaired the peer review meeting*

On the basis of the final agreed Quality Rating assessment (C) and Next Steps (D) above:

- ☒ **QAE REPORT IS APPROVED**, and authorization given to proceed to:
- ☒ **FINALISE** the design incorporating actions above, and proceed to implementation
- or: ☐ **REDESIGN** and resubmit for appraisal peer review

☐ **NOT APPROVED** for the following reason(s):

Petrarca Karetji
Director

signed: 

21 January 2011

When complete:

- Copy and paste the approved ratings, narrative assessment and required actions (if any) (table D) into AidWorks
- The original signed report must be placed on a registered file

