

Concept Note

SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC) and Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP), Bangladesh submitted a project proposal titled “**Livelihood enhancement of the small farmers in SAARC region through small scale agro-business focusing on value chain development**” for funding of SDF.

SDF Board accorded “Concept Clearance” of the proposal. As per the selection procedure, SDF requires Sectoral Expert opinion of the project in the following areas:

1. Technical (program) viability;
2. Financial viability; and
3. Sustainability of the project at the exiting of SDF funding.

Brief information of the proposed project proposal:

Objectives of the project:

1. Increase income and improve livelihoods of small farmer groups;
2. Promote empowerment of rural women and employment through promotion of agri-business; and
3. Develop value chain of the agriculture products and mainstreaming the locally produced commodities.

Major activities:

1. Inception meeting and farmer group formation (regional and international);
2. Identification and supply of equipment and inputs (procurement and supply);
3. Training need assessment (capacity building);
4. Conduct of trainings base on need - regional and on site;
5. Development of small agro-business – operational models;
6. Production, processing and marketing; and
7. Monitoring and evaluation.

Direct beneficiaries:

1,000 small farm families in 8 SAARC countries.

Project implementation period:

2 years

Proposed fund:

USD 1.623 million

Implementation Countries:

8 SAARC Member States