

July 29, 2013

**Comments from United States on Approval by mail: IFC Investment Project 1
“Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security”, and Technical
Assistance Project 2 “Feasibility Study for a Pilot Program of Climate Resilient
Housing in the Coastal Region” (Bangladesh)**

Dear CIF Admin Unit,

Our team has reviewed the proposal below. We have substantive feedback on the Program.

Given this feedback, we request that the deadline for submission of our position be extended until next Monday, August 5th or until these comments are addressed and our respective agencies can provide follow up input.

We would like to be supportive of this proposal, once these issues have been adequately addressed. Please find these issues listed below.

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We believe the project is in general well-conceived; however, we have some specific questions and comments relating to project implementation that should be addressed before project approval:

1. Given the project's focus on agricultural interventions, it is not clear to us why the Ministry of Environment and Forests would be the implementing entity rather than the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the select agencies operating under the MOA including the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).
2. We believe greater complementarity could be achieved by focusing the project not on rice, which is being addressed by the multi-partner Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia, but instead on piloting non-rice cereals including maize and wheat to diversify cereal production systems in the coastal belts.
3. The project document provides insufficient information about the proposed Early Warning System for weather and crop-related information to understand how this system would integrate with existing data sources and activities in Bangladesh and whether it would be designed in such a way as to effectively address the actual needs of farmers.

Collaboration and integration of the project with existing efforts and building on the experience of other institutions and programs will be key to success. These include the U.S. Government's Feed the Future program (as noted), but also UNDP, BRAC, CARE and SPARRSO. We would be happy to provide more detailed recommendations for specific existing programs that should be built upon in designing specific program elements.

Best,

Hy Martin
Environment and Energy Office
U.S. Department of the Treasury