

September 18, 2015

Approval by mail: Cambodia: Climate Resilient Rural Infrastructure in Kampong Cham Province (as part of the Cambodia: Rural Roads Improvement Project II) (PPCR) (ADB) – LEAD Pakistan

Thank you for providing LEAD Pakistan the opportunity to review “Climate resilient rural infrastructure in Kampong Cham province (as part of the Rural Roads Improvement Project (RRIP – II))” project. Besides in house review, we also circulated the proposal for discussion among our network of experts in the region. We would like to make the following comments on this proposal.

1. The major component of resilience in this project is based upon “climate resilient paving” of rural roads. It will be useful to have more information on the nature and design of these pavements. Especially how they compare in cost and benefit with traditional pavement design.
2. Knowledge sharing component of the project envisions replication within Cambodia. It may be more appropriate to upscale knowledge sharing strategy to a regional level keeping in view the many unique features of this project.
3. The efficacy of community based emergency management plans depends largely on local buy in. It will be useful if the operational design and community engagement strategies of these plans are also outlined.
4. Given the commercial interests towards improved rural access, it will be interesting to explore possibilities for leveraging private sector finance for rural infrastructure development component of this project. This can significantly improve the future sustainability for financing other similar projects.
5. The gender considerations for the project are appreciable but it is important to ensure that these considerations especially employment roles are in line with the native culture and social norms.

Many thanks,
Ali Sheikh
LEAD Pakistan