



1. Project Data :
OEDID: C2257
Project ID: P010377
Project Name: Second SCARP* Transition [*Salinity Control and Reclamation Project]
Country: Pakistan
Sector: Irrigation & Drainage
L/C Number: C2257
Partners involved :
Prepared by: Anthony J. Blackwood, OEDST
Reviewed by: Jock R. Anderson
Group Manager: Roger Slade
Date Posted: 08/06/1998

2. Project Objectives, Financing, Costs and Components :

The main objectives of the project (approved in July 1991) were to (i) increase agricultural production by timely availability of supplementary irrigation on a financially sustainable basis; (ii) maintain an appropriate groundwater table level in fresh groundwater areas by private tubewell pumping replacing publicly operated tubewells ("transition"); (iii) test the viability of transition in Sindh Province, and (iv) prepare a follow-up project for larger scale transition, based on the project's experience. After a slow start over the first two years, the project objectives were broadened, following a mid-term review (MTR), to include improving the equity of groundwater distribution by increasing farmer participation and introducing the concept of community owned and operated tubewells (CTWs). **Components** of the project as approved were installation of private tubewells, improvement of watercourses, and technical assistance and training. After the MTR a social organization component was added to assist the establishment of Farmers Organizations. **Project costs** were estimated at US\$ 48.5 million, of which US\$20 million would be financed by IDA. The project was completed on schedule for US\$26 million (54 percent of the appraisal estimate), with US dollar costs being reduced by devaluation of the rupee and fewer tubewells being required with the switch to community ownership. **IDA funding** totaled US\$12.8 million, or 64 per cent of the original amount. The credit was closed as planned in December 1997.

3. Achievement of Relevant Objectives :

The project's revised physical objectives were achieved in all respects, and a good start was made in pioneering community tubewells as a means of achieving more equitable supply of supplementary irrigation and controlling watertable levels. The ICR estimates that agricultural production increased substantially as a result of the project, but less than half that projected at appraisal for grain crops because in Punjab fewer tubewells were funded, while private tubewell installations (unsupported by the project) continued at a high rate. Fodder production and sugar cane in Sindh exceeded appraisal projects in those areas served by project tubewells. Groundwater tables have been stabilized in Punjab at pre-transition levels, and the rising levels in Sindh have been reversed in those areas served by project tubewells. The economic rate of return has been reestimated at 29 per cent, compared with 24 percent at appraisal, with the lower costs being almost offset by more conservative estimates of agricultural production.

4. Significant Achievements :

The switch to community tubewells has proved a successful, although continued after-care and training of farmers organization staff will be necessary. Privatizing tubewell pumping in fresh groundwater areas is substantially reducing the administrative and financial burdens of O&M on provincial governments and is saving large amounts of electrical energy with the switch to mostly diesel wells. The success of the program in Punjab has already led to a follow-up project that covers most of the remaining SCARPs in

fresh groundwater areas of the province (Cr. 2901-PAK). The viability of the transition strategy was confirmed for Sindh and the provincial government has prepared a large-scale project for implementation under the National Drainage Program (Cr. 2999-PAK).

5. Significant Shortcomings :

The original project design was deficient in not providing for a social organization component to ensure that farmers could organize to capture project benefits. Funding arrangements were unduly cumbersome. The borrower's early performance was lackluster and caused serious implementation delays.

6. Ratings :	ICR	OED Review	Reason for Disagreement /Comments
Outcome :	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Institutional Dev .:	Substantial	Substantial	
Sustainability :	Likely	Likely	
Bank Performance :	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Borrower Perf .:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Quality of ICR :		Exemplary	

7. Lessons of Broad Applicability :

(i) A social mobilization program and a multi-disciplinary approach to project implementation is essential for such irrigation projects; (ii) farmer training should be an integral part of project design; (iii) availability of micro-credit may lessen poor farmer reliance on other more affluent farmers and increase equity impact of such community -based projects; and (iv) monitoring and impact evaluation activities should run from the start of a project.

8. Audit Recommended? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Why? Explore further the social aspects of the project, where good performance brought project round, especially operation and sustainability of community tubewells.

9. Comments on Quality of ICR :

The ICR is rated of exemplary quality, being generally complete and consistent and one of the best seen of late.