

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Finance**  
**Economic Relations Division**  
**ADB-4 Branch**  
**Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

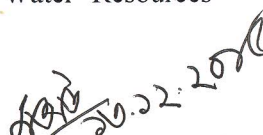
A Loan Agreement to the tune of US\$ 45 million and Grant agreement of US\$ 07 million have been signed today (13 December 2015) in Dhaka between the Government of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance the Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project-Additional financing. Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance and Mr. Kazuhiko Higuchi, Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank signed the loan and Grant agreements on behalf of the Government and ADB respectively. A number of senior officials of the Government and ADB were present at the signing ceremony.

Southwest Area Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management Project- Additional financing is a 07-year term Project (2015-2022) and the Total cost of the Project is estimated at US\$ 63.7 million. Under the loan Agreement signed on 13/12/2015 ADB extended US\$ 45 million as ADF Loan and the Nederland's Government provided US\$ 7 million as Grant to Bangladesh. Rest of the amount of US\$ 11.7 million will be borne by the Government of Bangladesh. The ADF Loan is Refundable in 25 years with a Grace period of 05 years and the interest Rate is 2% per annum during the grace period and thereafter.

The Ministry of Water Resources is the implementing Ministry and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is the Executing Agency of the project. The main Objective of the project is to enhance economic growth and reduce rural poverty in the project areas by flood control and drainage/Irrigation system development. The overall activities under the project are to -

- (a) Ensure capacity development of the beneficiaries through registration and imparting Comprehensive training to introduce Integrated Water Resource Management activities;
- (b) Introduce participatory and Integrated Water Resources Management Plans (IWMP) for Selected hydrological units;
- (c) Repair, rehabilitate or construct embankment, Irrigation schemes, drainage canals and regulator infrastructure;
- (d) Enhance livelihoods and livelihood opportunities impacted by IWMP as a result of upgraded infrastructures, increased user participation , improved and decentralized service delivery;
- (e) Strengthen institutional capacity of Bangladesh Water Development Board for participatory Sustainable integrated water resources planning and management.

ADB is one of the largest multilateral Development Partners of Bangladesh, extending assistance to the country since it became the member of it in 1973. ADB's total loan to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh stands at more than US\$ 15.5 billion. The development assistance of ADB mainly focus on Power, Energy, Local Government, Transport, Education Agriculture. Water Resources and Governance Sectors of Bangladesh.

  
(Md. Waliullah Mia)  
Deputy Secretary