

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (ADS) JOINT SECTOR REVIEW (JSR)

Background

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) endorsed the concept of the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) Joint Sector Review (JSR) mechanism in November 2017 for building mutual ownership and accountability in implementing and achieving intended results of ADS that was prepared by the Government of Nepal (GoN) in August 2015 with technical assistance from development partners (DPs).

Purpose

The ADS JSR is a platform for analyzing the performance of the agriculture sector and supporting the successful implementation of the ADS. It regularly brings together MoALD and DPs to discuss their activities and issues and helps to identify the strengths and limitations of the agriculture sector, and makes recommendations for increased effectiveness and efficiency. ADS JSR supports enhancing mutual accountability and harmonizing resources in ADS implementation.



Some specific objectives of ADS JSR are to:

- Provide a forum for dialogue and coordination between GoN and DPs on ADS,
- Promote successful implementation of ADS through joint priority setting, effective and efficient resource mobilization, adoption of result-orientated management, timely monitoring, and reporting of progress and achievements.

Structure and Responsibilities

The concept of ADS JSR was established under the broader framework of the National ADS Implementation Committee (NADSIC) which is chaired by the Hon. Minister, MoALD. The ADS JSR meeting is held once a year and executed through two committees: i) JSR Committee and ii) JSR Technical Committee.

The JSR Committee is chaired by the Secretary of MoALD, meets biannually, and reviews agriculture sector performance. Committee members include Joint Secretaries, Director Generals and institution chiefs under MoALD, Joint Secretaries from relevant sector ministries, and representatives from DPs. The issues discussed in, and recommended by, the JSR Technical Committee are forwarded to the JSR Committee for further analysis, prioritization, and endorsement. The issues endorsed by the JSR Committee serves as the agenda for the Annual ADS JSR meeting for further discussion, higher-level approval, and development of an implementation strategy. The JSR Technical Committee is chaired by the Joint Secretary of the Planning and Development Cooperation Coordination Division and meets every two months. Its members include Under Secretaries from concerned sections of MoALD, and representatives from DPs. The Technical Committee identifies operational and policy issues based on agreed-upon methods and information sources. These issues encompass the enabling environment (policies and institutions) for ADS implementation; areas of improvement to attain intended performance and results; critical operational issues and effectiveness of coordination mechanisms; and the current status of implementation. The Technical Committee meets prior to the annual ADS JSR committee meeting to:

- Finalize themes and agenda for the annual ADS JSR meeting,
- Recommend and guide formation of a team for collection and analysis of data on the themes identified for review,
- Define indicators and targets for the review process,
- Finalize resource mobilization (human and financial) for data collection and synthesis, and
- Plan logistics—field visits, workshops, or meetings, as needed.

Both the committees are co-chaired by a representative of DP that has supported the preparation and implementation of the ADS and is a member of the DP Food Security Group.

Progress

Annual JSR meetings provide actionable recommendations to the GoN, DPs, and related stakeholders to jointly improve sector performance. The first annual JSR meeting was held in April 2019. It mainly covered three themes: (i) implementation of ADS in a federalized system, (ii) agriculture development program planning in a federalized context, and (iii) establishment of nation-wide progress monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

Extensive orientations were conducted in provincial agriculture ministries (PAM) and municipalities in all seven provinces to increase their familiarity with ADS. The orientations enhanced their capacity to prepare annual programs in alignment with ADS outcomes, outputs, and indicators. However, in 2020, COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns stalled formulation of ADS implementation, coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and the establishment of a web database—all of which have resumed from the beginning of 2021.



Based on the first annual JSR recommendations, three agricultural projects (Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project, Nepal Livestock Sector Innovation Project and Knowledge-Based Sustainable Agriculture Nepal II Project) were assessed and found to be aligned with ADS outcomes and outputs to varying degrees, although all three required some enhanced alignment by setting up relevant monitoring and reporting mechanisms to directly measure their contributions to ADS.

The second annual JSR meeting was held in February and March

2021, virtually, under the framework of NADSIC, chaired by the Hon. Minister, MoALD. After endorsement from MoALD in April 2021, the meeting's action plan was transformed as national priority programs, included in PAMs' annual programs, and implemented through joint-financing and collaboration with DPs. Annual priority programs include: (i) organizing a series of subnational consultations on priority policies and directives to align them with the federalized context, and (ii) implementing high national priority production programs (i.e. fine rice and industrial maize) to promote domestic self-sufficiency and further harness export potentials for tea and large cardamom.

The third annual review of the sector was completed in January 2022 and publication of the report is in the final stage. Compared to last year's assessment, the review shows similar progress on ADS indicators. Twelve of the 16 indicators are on track and the remaining four are still behind, mostly related to food grain self-sufficiency, trade (with specific reference to rice), irrigated areas, and agriculture productivity.

As a step towards institutionalizing the JSR mechanism and annual sector reviews within the GoN system, a shorter version of the third annual review report (translated into Nepali) is included as part of MoALD's Annual Progress Report for FY2021/22.

Future Steps

The third annual ADS JSR meeting will be organized in June 2022. Actions agreed in the meeting will be inlcuded in the GoN's and DPs' annual priority programs for FY2022/23, which will be monitored and reported in Technical Committee meetings. JSR implementation guidelines will be prepared for future use and reference by MoALD.

For detailed information, please contact:

Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey Chief, ADS Coordination Section Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mobile: 98511-25554

Email: pandeypr08@yahoo.com

Mr. Govinda Prasad Gewali ADS JSR Coordination Expert Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mobile: 98510-82787

Email: Govinda.Gewali@winrock.org

DISCLAIMER

This brochure is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Feed the Future initiative. The contents are the responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Winrock International, KISAN II Project and European Union's Technical Cooperation Facility and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.