



GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

BRIEF

SUBJECT: “STRENGTHENING MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION (SMART) PROGRAM”

The Government of Punjab implemented World Bank’s assisted “Strengthening Markets for Agriculture and Rural Transformation (SMART) Program” with a total revised funding of **USD 229.75 Million** over a period of six years starting from February 2018. The objective of program was to “increase the productivity of crop and livestock farmers”, “improve their climate resilience”, and “foster agribusiness development in Punjab”. **The program has ended on June 30, 2024 and has achieved 96% disbursements i.e. USD 220.255 Million.** The loan closing date is 31.12.2024.

Disbursement Target (Original) – FY 2023-24	Disbursement Target (Original) – FY 2023-24	Actual Disbursement Achieved – FY 2023-24	Disbursement Target for FY 2024-25
USD 17 Million	USD 20 Million	USD 18.98 Million	NIL

2. The World Bank has now started working on **Implementation Completion and Results Report (ICR)** for SMART Program in coordination with Program Implementation Unit, P&D Board and relevant implementing departments. **The impact assessment of SMART program** is also nearing its completion. It would help in documenting successes, strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned from SMART program to be used as key information for possible future operations.

3. The major achievements made by SMART program during its implementation period are given as under:

- Coverage of E-vouchers based input subsidies extended to 1,171,703 small scale farmers with less than 5 ha of farm land from F.Y. 2016-17 to F.Y. 2022-23. It is now available for eighteen (18) agricultural inputs including seed, fertilizer, micronutrients, demo plots Agricultural Implements, etc.

- Punjab Agriculture Policy approved by the cabinet and Agriculture and Livestock Research and Extension Strategies developed and approved by administrative secretaries.
 - To improve the productivity of animals, a stock of indigenous elite breed animals (Sahiwal Cow, Neeli Ravi Buffalo and Cholistani Cow) maintained through the Progeny Testing program. Under this program, a total of approximately 64,000 animals of elite breeds registered.
 - Farmers were encouraged to shift from conventional crops and adopt high value agriculture (HVA) crops through increase in public investment on HVA schemes from 3.5% in FY 2016-17 to around 32% in FY 2022-23.
 - Punjab Agricultural Marketing Regulatory Authority Act (PAMRA Act) approved and notified in Gazette.
 - Nine mobile food testing labs were developed and operationalized in Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sargodha, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur and D.G.Khan divisions. In addition, a regional food safety lab in Multan was also developed and operationalized.
 - Punjab Water Policy approved by the Cabinet and Punjab Water Act approved from Assembly and notified in Gazette.
 - Abiana assessment and collection was improved. The abiana assessment figure for F.Y. 2017-18 was improved and calculated as Rs.2.2 billion. The abiana rates were also doubled by the Government. The abiana collection improved from 61% in F.Y. 2016-17 to 89% in F.Y. 2020-21. Further, the Irrigation Department shifted to e-abiana system i.e. distribution of printed bills and recovery system.
 - The critical groundwater areas were demarcated, and groundwater zoning maps notified and published.
 - An application for electronic geo- referenced database for tube wells was developed. Under which, a total of of 1.2 million agriculture tube wells in Punjab with their geographical coordinates have been registered.
 - Agriculture Insurance Scheme was implemented in 27 districts of Punjab with insurance take up reaching to approx. 2,483,305 farmers starting from F.Y. 2017-18 to F.Y. 2023-24.
 - Farmers have been encouraged to adopt climate smart agriculture (CSA) crops through increase in public investment on CSA schemes from 6% in F.Y. 2017-18 to approximately 20% in F.Y. 2022-23.
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