

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT



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Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan Planning and Development Department Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

Program Overview

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is home of mountains, rivers and glaciers with limited land holding of 0.6-0.8 acres with a roughly 1.5% area under cultivation of total area. The majority of the population is dependent on agriculture with comparatively higher incidence of poverty at 0.179 on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Agriculture production and productivity is generally low due to small landholding, poor access to quality inputs, huge pre and post-harvest losses, lack of processing and value addition facilities thus ending in low end markets affecting the overall income of rural farmers. However, the agro-ecological diversity of GB enables production of a wide range of agricultural commodities in a relatively pest and disease-free environment. It helps to grow crops in a more natural way offering healthy and high value products which needs a comprehensive integrated sustainable long-term support for its high production, value addition and marketing.



CHALLENGES

Gilgit-Baltistan faces all the generic challenges of a region placed in a difficult and challenging geography. The classical triad of challenges affecting the economy of the region.

Density- Low population, small holdings, small and scattered individual production, and lack of means for aggregation and collection, and lack of wholesale points/auction platforms.

Distances- Within the region and from main markets and consumption centers with poor transport facilities

Divisions- Lack of integration with value chains, disconnect between extension and research support services, gaps along entire length of value chain, absence of right policies and regulations, and inability to connect with private sector and market demand.

SOLUTIONS

An integrated approach to overcome these challenges to agriculture development.

Institutions- includes support to farmer/producer associations to create output densities through aggregation; building public sector capacities for effective policy, extension and research support; building producer-public sector-private sector relationships and forums; and establishment of quality control and certification bodies.

Infrastructure- Improved access to opportunities; invest in Irrigation and Land Development and Farm to Market Roads to increase cropped area, improve intra-region road connectivity, improve storage options and local processing/value addition, storage options and local processing/value addition and farmers access to markets.

Incentives- All interventions with inbuilt incentives to rural farmer in the form of provision of 100% cost of construction of infrastructure, land development support, grants, institutional and policy support

Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan (ETI-GB) Initially a seven-years (2015 to 2022) development programme of Government of Pakistan with a financial outlay of 120 million USD co-funded by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

The overall goal of the programme is to “improve incomes and reduce poverty and malnutrition in rural areas of Gilgit-Baltistan

region”. ETI-GB aims at increasing agriculture incomes and employment for at least 100,000 rural households in GB through sustainable development of agriculture value chains”. The programme has been granted extension for another three years from October 2022 to September 2025 with expansion of component to leftover districts; Gilgit, Hunza, Nagar, Skardu, Kharmang and Shigar.

Programme Components:

ETI-GB programme comprises of three complementary and mutually reinforcing components:



Component 1: Economic Infrastructure for Value Chain Development: This component is aimed at substantially increasing the current irrigated area in the target districts and providing improved access to markets through upgraded road links.

1.1: Irrigation and Land Development (ILD) is aimed at developing 70,000 additional acres of irrigation in all 10 districts of GB region through implementing irrigation and land development schemes.

1.2-Farm to Market Road (FMR) aiming at improving critical road linkage for the supported value chains for linking the production areas to valley roads and main roads. The sub-component will

finance the upgrading/construction of 600 km of shingle compacted roads and span of 300-meter bridges.

Component 2: Support Services/PPPP for Value Chain Development: The component will revolve around a commercial and market oriented production and value addition by organized groups of farmers and other value chain players. This component consists of five sub-components including:

2.1- Value Chain Support Fund with an objective to meet the financing needs of value chain actors including farmers, farmers' organizations, traders, processors, packagers, and exporters on matching grant basis.

2.2- Social Mobilization (Farmers Organization and Institution Building) to organize farmers into groups, associations to address challenges of scattered production, aggregation, quality control and to address extension and research links to smallholders.

2.3- Agriculture Extension Department to provide demand driven extension services to organized farmers.

2.4- Agriculture Research mainly to address the current paucity of quality of potato seed in the region through farmers and contract centered seed production programs.

2.5- Land Titling System: Provincial Land Commissioner to secure land titles for the beneficiary of irrigation and land development interventions and strengthening the capacities of the concerned department.

Component 3: Programme Management and Policy Support: This component aims at providing an effective programme coordination, procurement, monitoring and technical support capability at Gilgit-Baltistan level for effective management of programme resources and attainment of its objectives. ETI will provide policy formulation support to the government in a number of areas related to value chain development as well as priority areas for project investments. These include land titling, Water Policy, Roads Master Plan and O&M Policy, Seed and Products and quality certification etc.

Line Department/Implementing Partners

1. Planning & Development Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
2. Water Management & Irrigation Department, Gilgit-Baltistan
3. Agriculture Extension Department, Gilgit-Baltistan
4. Agriculture Research Department, Gilgit-Baltistan
5. Cooperative Department, Gilgit-Baltistan
6. Gilgit-Baltistan Board of Revenue (GBoR)