



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

WATER-ENERGY-FOOD IN SOUTH ASIA



© Connor Ashleigh/ACIAR

The Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) is a program supported by the Australian Government addressing the regional challenges of water, food and energy security in South Asia. It seeks to strengthen transboundary cooperation, facilitate economic growth and improve livelihoods, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and girls.

SDIP is delivered in the Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra river basins across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. These basins are home to 300 million people, many of whom are small-scale farmers. There is a heavy dependence on Himalayan water resources for agriculture, livelihoods and energy. Water scarcity and food and energy insecurity is exacerbated by rapid population and economic growth with growing competition for water resources between agriculture, energy, environment and industry.

SDIP provides a mechanism for Australia to share its internationally recognised experience and expertise in integrated water resource management, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy:

- Water resource management: Cooperative decision-making within and across jurisdictional borders for effective and equitable management of shared water resources.
- Food systems: Greater food and nutrition security and increased farm incomes through the adoption of efficient and sustainable agricultural practices and improved agricultural value chains.
- Energy access: Increased access to and cooperation on energy.
- Renewable energy capacity brought to market in India through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), leveraging substantial private sector investment
- Best practice environment and social standards for hydro development in Nepal and Pakistan
- Supporting governments in the region to develop climate-resilient hydropower and national water plans with a social inclusion and gender lens
- Improving overall food system resilience in the Eastern Gangetic Plain by adopting sustainable intensification methods that are market driven
- Training and capacity building for governments and water practitioners across the region with a social inclusion and gender lens.

Contributions to date include:

- Supporting regional capacity in river basin modelling and integrated water resource management for more cooperative flood management and water resource use efficiency
- Significant energy and water savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions through implementing resource efficient measures in textiles, cement, agricultural processing and sugar industries in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan