

Inspection & Evaluation Study of BADP Projects Amritsar District, Punjab



Prepared For Government of Punjab

By



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Acknowledgements

NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) Pvt. Ltd. gratefully acknowledges the cooperation and support received from the following officials / agencies in the successful conduct of the field study:

- i. Department of Planning, Govt. of Punjab
- ii. District Planning Board, Amritsar District
- iii. Block Development Officer, Ajnala Block, Amritsar District
- iv. Block Development Officer, Chogaon Block, Amritsar District
- v. Executive Engineer, PWD (B&R), Amritsar District
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Abbreviations

BADP	:	Border Area Development Programme
EOPS	:	Executive Officer Panchayat Samitee
FYP	:	Five Year Plan
GoI	:	Government of India
km	:	kilometre
NABARD	:	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NABCONS	:	NABARD Consultancy Services
No.	:	Number
SGP	:	Sarpanch Gram Panchayat
Sl.	:	Serial
Sq km	:	Square kilometre
Xen GP	:	Executive Engineer Gram Panchayat
Xen R & B	:	Executive Engineer Roads & Building

Executive Summary

Border Area Development Programme (BADP) had been started by the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India during VII Five Year Plan in Western Region of India. During the VIII FYP, the programme was extended to the States that had an international border with Bangladesh. During the IX FYP, the programme was further extended to the States having international border with Myanmar, China, Bhutan and Nepal. At present, BADP covers 362 blocks located along the international border in 96 border districts of 17 States that share an international land border with India's neighbouring countries.

The main objective of the programme is to meet the special developmental needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with essential infrastructure through convergence of BADP/Central/State//Local schemes and through a participatory approach.

Punjab has 553 KM long international border with Pakistan that spread along 4 districts, viz., *Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Amritsar* and *Tarn Taran* (the last was created in April 2006). As many as 19 blocks in the State of Punjab (*Attari* block included in 2010-11), with an aggregate geographical area of 6369.82 Sq.km, are being covered under Border Area Development Programme.

The Border districts in Punjab have economically suffered a lot because of three wars with Pakistan during the post-independence era, long spells of cross-border terrorism and internal disturbances during the last quarter of the twentieth century. The border areas also lagged behind industrially as no heavy industry could come up due to their proximity to the international border and uncertainties and security threats.

Border areas lag behind in basic amenities of education, health, sanitation, potable drinking water, transportation, roads, etc. The lack of environment for development of industries and marketing infrastructure has further accentuated the difficulties of the people in the border areas.

Major sectors considered for support under BADP scheme are **Education, Health, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Social Sector** and **Miscellaneous Activities**.

During 2007-08, an amount of Rs.1870 lakh was sanctioned under normal BADP schemes and Amritsar district has received Rs.257.53 lakh (14%).

During 2008-09, an amount Rs.2218.00 lakh was allocated in four districts of Punjab and the share of Amritsar district was Rs.305.46 lakh (14%).

Maximum number of projects was sanctioned under infrastructure, which includes construction of roads, approach roads, link roads, provision and operation of boats for ferrying of men and material across the water channel and development of

model village *Lopoke*, etc. These infrastructures have improved connectivity in the border villages and to the Border Out Posts that, in turn, has helped in better security in the border areas against cross-border illicit trafficking of drugs and infiltration. Incidentally, the project for the development of the model village *Lopoke* should have been covered under “Miscellaneous” category and not under infrastructure.

Social sector projects that include construction of infrastructure like community centre, *Dhamshalas*, etc. had received only 4% of the projects and 5% of the grant during 2008-09 while no fund was allotted during 2007-08.

Agricultural projects, which are otherwise priority sector activities, had been allocated no fund inasmuch as the purportedly covered project entailing construction of a sewerage system with a cost of Rs.15 lakh in *Chogaon* Block and sanctioned during 2007-08, is sewerage system, the type of projects not permissible as per BADP guidelines.

Health sector activities, another priority sector area, had received only two projects - construction of two civil dispensaries costing only Rs.6 lakh in *Ajnala* block during 2007-08 - were executed. However, both the projects were found to be incomplete and, hence, not being utilized.

Under Education Sector, only *Ajnala* block had received 22% of the projects and 14% of the grant during 2007-08. This grant had been utilized for construction of classrooms, *varandahs* and boundary walls. The infrastructure thus created had facilitated the schools to hold classrooms and deliver better education facilities to the students. No grant was allotted during 2008-09.

Overall, the infrastructures created under BADP have improved the living conditions and well-being of the people of the area. However, regular maintenance and proper utilization of these assets would go a long way in enhancing the productive life of these assets and would ensure continuation of the outflow of the intended benefits much longer.

PART - I

AN OVERVIEW
OF BADP IN
AMRITSAR
DISTRICT