



AGRICULTURE, FOOD, NATURE, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The **Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development (AFNR) Sector Office** leads bank-wide efforts on promoting food security, scaling up natural capital investment, promoting integrated river basin management, developing inclusive and green agrifood value chain, and spearheading integrated sovereign and nonsovereign solutions.



Vision

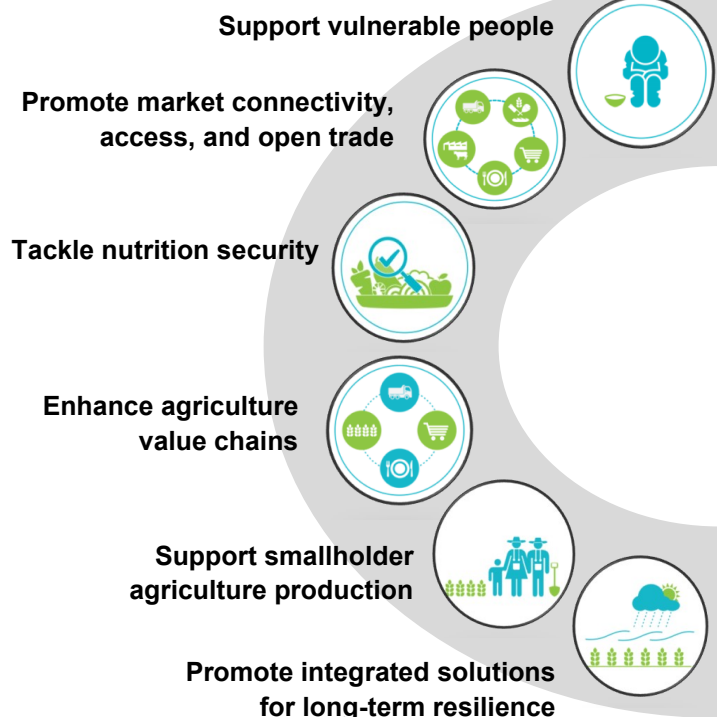
Invest in nature, build resilient food systems, and vitalize rural economies

Key Opportunities



- Innovate to reduce climate change impacts to food production and minimize global greenhouse gas emissions
- Integrate digital solutions to improve resource management and efficiency
- Advance nutrition-smart solutions to increase access to healthy diets
- Improve access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food
- Promote nature-based solutions to address the triple threat of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity
- Maximize the gains from climate-food-nature nexus
- Leverage on partnerships to collectively drive food system transformation

Operational Priorities



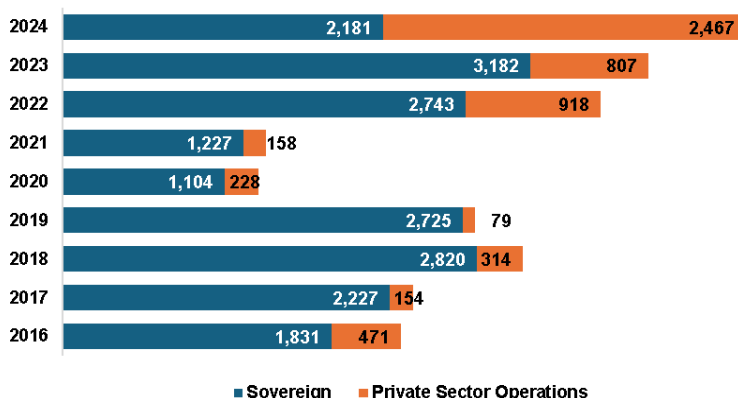
Food Security Investments

ADB announced its \$14 billion comprehensive food security program over 2022–2025 to ease the food crisis and improve long-term food security in the Asia and Pacific region.

In 2023, ADB committed \$3.9 billion in food security to support climate-food-nature nexus, climate-smart food production, food supply chain improvements, natural resources management in agrifood systems, integrated water resources management, and application of nature-based solutions for more sustainable farming practices. ADB is on track to achieve its \$14 billion target with \$7.6 million investments from 2022 to 2023.

ADB also participates in the [IFI Action Plan on Global Food Security](#) and [COP28 Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#).

2016-2023 and 2024 Projections (\$ million)



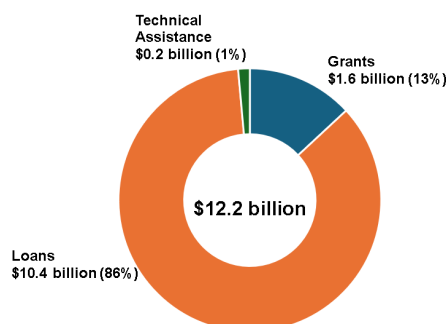
Investments in Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development

AFNR operations provide short- and long-term assistance for food security and food system resilience. Investment priorities include: integrated water resources management and productivity, agrifood value chain development, flood risk management, rural infrastructure development (market facilities, farm-to-market roads), climate-resilient smallholder farming support, natural capital improvement, and nutrition-smart solutions.

Active Sovereign Investments

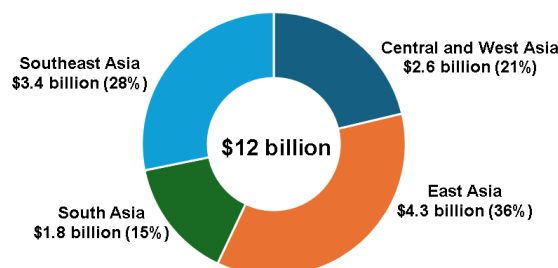
By Type of Assistance (\$ million)

As of Q1 2024, majority of ADB sovereign assistance were loans (86%).



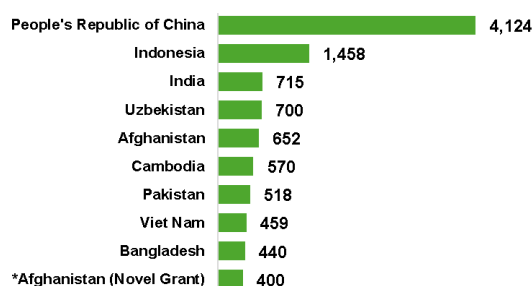
By Region (\$ million)

As of Q1 2024, ADB provided the most sovereign investments (loans and grants) to East Asia (36%).



Top Borrowers (\$ million)

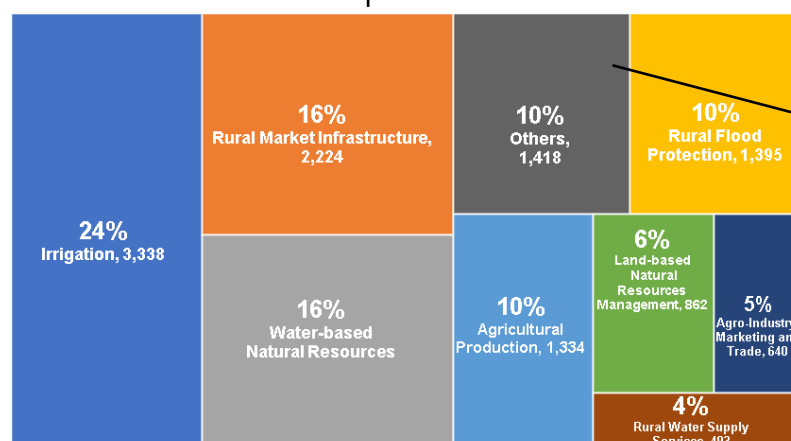
As of Q1 2024, ADB's top recipients of sovereign investments (loans and grants) were the People's Republic of China (\$4,124 million), Indonesia (\$1,458 million), and India (\$715 million).



*Grants to United Nations agencies to support Afghanistan.

By Subsector (\$ million)

AFNR operations comprised 24% irrigation, 16% each for water-based natural resources management and rural market infrastructure, and 10% each for rural flood protection, agricultural production, and other priority areas.



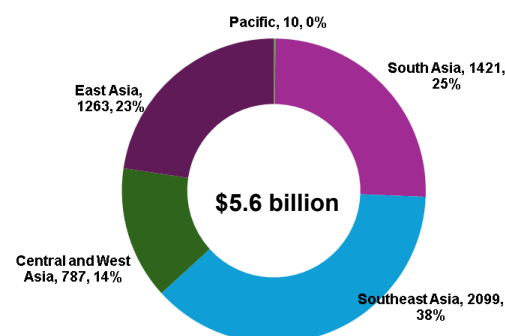
Others
(Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development; fishery; forestry; livestock; rural sanitation; rural water policy, institutional and capacity development; small and medium enterprise development; etc.)

Active Nonsovereign Investments

ADB's Agribusiness Investment Team identifies, structures, and finances agribusiness projects, supporting food security, rural development, gender inclusion, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Downstream private sector projects inform policy dialogues and design of sovereign investments following the One ADB approach.

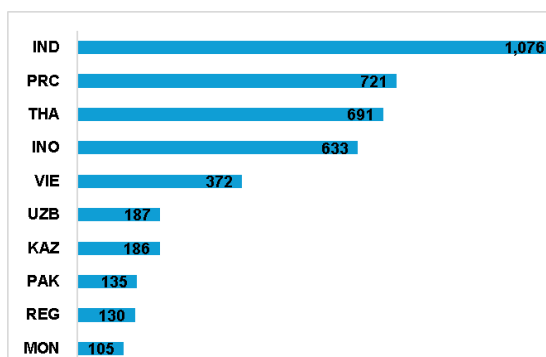
By Region (\$ million)

As of Q1 2024, ADB provided the most nonsovereign investments to Southeast Asia (38%).



Top Borrowers (\$ million)

As of Q1 2024, ADB's top recipients of nonsovereign investments were India (\$1,076 million), People's Republic of China (\$721 million), and Thailand (\$691 million).



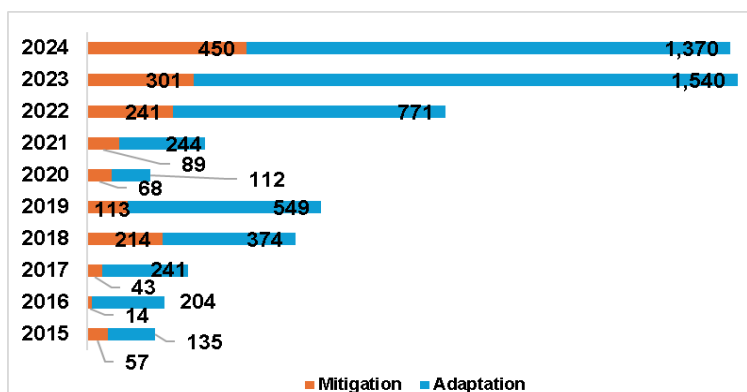
Climate Financing

In 2021, ADB announced its \$100 billion climate financing ambition over 2019–2023. Through this target, ADB is committed to decarbonizing agrifood systems using climate-smart agriculture and natural capital approaches, and effectively deploying digital technologies to address climate change.

ADB's multisectoral One ADB approach helps transform agrifood systems, upskills staff, and works with strategic partners to strengthen ADB's position as the region's leading climate bank.

2015-2023 and 2024 Projections (\$ million)

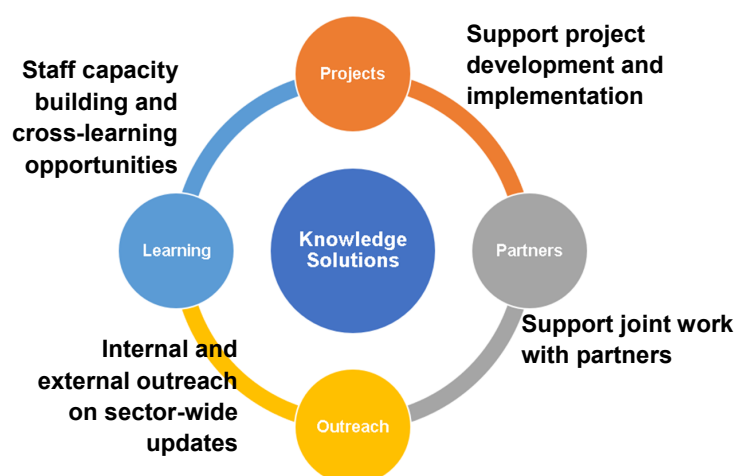
Climate financing for AFNR operations from 2015 to 2023 is at \$5.3 billion (79% for climate adaptation and 21% for climate mitigation), with a projected \$1,820 million for 2024.



Knowledge Solutions

From 1989 to date, ADB completed more than 400 knowledge products and events that reflect AFNR's changing landscape in Asia and the Pacific while offering quick learning opportunities and updates in support of operations.

ADB's biennial flagship event, the [Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum](#), encourages engagement with key stakeholders, promotes collaboration and partnerships, and strengthens partnerships that complement ADB operations.



Operations Cofinancing

ADB has partnered with 87 organizations from 1972 to date, with \$4.26 billion cofinancing in support of AFNR operations.

Top Sovereign Cofinancing Partners (1972–January 2024, \$ million)	
Japan Bank for International Cooperation	1,701.00
International Fund for Agricultural Development	679.47
Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific	333.95
Netherlands	260.27
Agence Française de Développement (AFD)	238.31

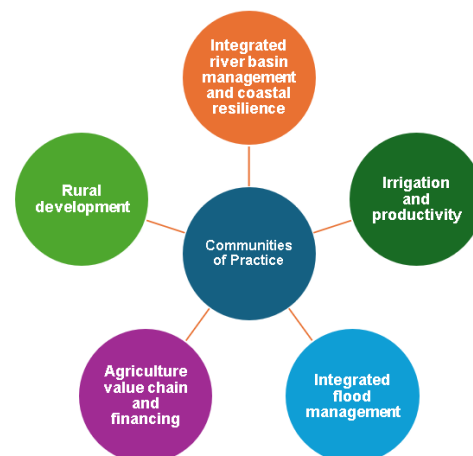
Top Nonsovereign Cofinancing Partners (1972–January 2024, \$ million)	
GIC (Singapore)	40.00
XL Bermuda Ltd.	45.38
Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd	51.18
Japan International Cooperation Agency	75.00
Hua Zia Bank	205.60

ADB manages the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#) (public sector window), a World Bank financial intermediary fund since 2010, to provide grant financing for national agriculture and food security investment plans developed with farmers, agribusinesses, technical experts, and civil society organizations.

Communities of Practice

Communities of Practice (CoPs) bring together ADB experts, professionals, and enthusiasts to generate and share knowledge and innovation; lead and organize workshops and training, and promote collaboration with other ADB sectors and thematic groups.

The CoPs also support AFNR operations through project peer reviews and in delivering more robust solutions to ADB clients in support of project pipeline development.



Highlights of Regional Operations

Central and West Asia

In Central and West Asia, AFNR operations comprised 26% of ADB's total commitments, and 10% of total investments in the region in 2023. AFNR operations focused on enhanced on-farm climate resilience, modernization of agricultural value chains, and promotion of private sector investments.

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program promotes regional cooperation for food security, supply chain climate resilience, and trade facilitation.

East Asia

In East Asia, ADB committed 71% of total AFNR commitments, and 38% of total investments in the region in 2023. Operations focused on rural development mostly through investments on modernization of agribusinesses and value chains, introduction of green agricultural production methods and technologies, low-carbon agriculture development, digital management systems (i.e., farm-to-market platforms), flood risk and soil erosion management, and cooperative and family farm development.

South Asia

In South Asia, AFNR operations comprised 39% of total ADB investments in 2023. Projects mostly focused on rural-urban connectivity, climate resilience, enhanced water supply and sanitation, renewable energy use for agricultural production, capacity development on crop diversification and use of climate-resilient varieties, irrigation and rural road infrastructure development and rehabilitation, and sustainable livelihood development.

The Pacific

In the Pacific, AFNR operations comprised 10% of total ADB investments in 2023, prioritizing mostly rural livelihood development, river ecosystem protection, government capacity development on river and water resources management, and livelihood development.



Southeast Asia

In Southeast Asia, ADB committed 31% of its total investments in 2023 to AFNR, and 14% of total investments in the region. ADB operations focused on sustainable horticulture, measures to address food pricing and supply (i.e., rice buffer stocks for emergencies), unconditional cash transfers to smallholder farmers, concessional loans for micro and small enterprises, land use planning and water management, improved access to horticultural inputs and post-harvest practices, and aquaculture development.

Infrastructure development under ADB's regional cooperation and integration initiatives help ease flow of goods, promote trade, and integrate supply chains. Ocean health is also a priority as ADB addresses pollution, while sustaining fishing livelihoods and coastal tourism.

Private Sector Operations

In 2023, ADB delivered \$807 million of nonsovereign commitments for food security under ADB's \$14 billion food security ambition 2022–2025. Nonsovereign commitments included \$181 million of direct agrifood investments, \$5 million through private equity funds, \$49 million through financial institutions' financing, \$140 million under the Microfinance Program, and \$432 million under the Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program.

In 2023, ADB's New Operating Model initiated closer integration of sovereign and nonsovereign AFNR operations with ADB's Agribusiness Investment Team integrated under the AFNR Sector Office operations.



Core Management Team



Qingfeng Zhang
Senior Sector Director



Yasmin Siddiqi
Director (South, Central and West Asia)



Jiangfeng Zhang
Director (East and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific)



Thomas Panella
Director (Natural Capital & Climate)



Takeshi Ueda
Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist and OIC (Emerging Areas)



Martin Lemoine
Principal Investment Specialist and Head (Agribusiness Investment Team)