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Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 22-Dec-2022 | Report No: PIDA35180

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Romania	Project ID P179786	Project Name Romania Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project (RAPID)	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 02-Dec-2022	Estimated Board Date 30-Mar-2023	Practice Area (Lead) Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Finance	Implementing Agency Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity of selected public entities to monitor pollution from agriculture, and to transfer knowledge on agricultural pollution reduction for adoption by participating farmers.

Components

Modernization of Public Institutions in Charge of Pollution Control
Knowledge-Sharing, Awareness, and Information/Innovation Transfer for Farmers
Project Management

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	63.75
Total Financing	63.75
of which IBRD/IDA	63.75
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS**World Bank Group Financing**



International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	63.75
Environmental and Social Risk Classification	
Moderate	
Decision	
The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate	

Other Decision (as needed)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

The Project Development Objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity of selected public entities to monitor pollution from agriculture, and to transfer knowledge on agricultural pollution reduction for adoption by participating farmers.

Note: a public entity could be a national or regional agency or authority, or a department within a line ministry.

Key Results

1. Successful achievement of the PDO will be measured against the following outcome level Indicators:

- Outcome Indicator 1: Reporting by public entities meeting defined criteria, as demonstrated by issuance of the following publications:
 - i. Reports by MEWF on NRRP meeting defined criteria
 - ii. Reports produced by ANAR meeting defined criteria
 - iii. Reports produced by NFA meeting defined criteria
 - iv. Reports produced by LILF meeting defined criteria
- Outcome Indicator 2: Participating farmers adopting agricultural pollution reduction practices as a result of the project (male/female disaggregated) (Percentage)

Project Description

2. The proposed project will benefit the whole territory of Romania and will include the following three inter-linked components: (i) Modernization of Public Institutions in Charge of Pollution Control; (ii) Knowledge-Sharing, Awareness, and Information/Innovation Transfer for Farmers; and (iii) Project management.

Component 1: Modernization of Public Institutions in Charge of Pollution Control

Subcomponent 1.1: Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of MEWF (includes consultancy services, non-consulting services, and goods)



This subcomponent will address the current identified administrative gaps and strengthen the institutional capacity of MEWF's NRRP-DG by providing technical assistance, consultancy services and goods for the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and reporting of the NRRP environment related investments. These services include: internal audit services; technical assistance support for strengthening MEWF administrative capacity for monitoring and reporting NRRP investments; technical assistance for the development of software applications and licenses for NRRP (including development of software for M&E and reporting applications and interface software for enhancing integration and communication with governmental structures for NRRP); energy efficient office equipment to support the monitoring and reporting capacity; vehicles for MEWF's administrative capacity for NRRP and the project; other capacity building activities for MEWF for NRRP (consultancy services, trainings, conferences/workshops, participation at knowledge-exchanges meetings) which will integrate climate resilience and mitigation frameworks.

Subcomponent 1.2: Enhancing the National Capacity for Monitoring, Prevention and Reduction of Pollution from Agricultural Sources in Rural Areas (includes consultancy services, non-consulting services, goods, equipment, and training). In alignment with the targets defined in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and going beyond the investments carried out on nutrient pollution in the INPCP, the subcomponent will support:

- A) **Strengthening the institutional capacity of ANAR** (subordinated agency of the MEWF) with investments such as (i) energy-efficient digitalization: state-of-the-art monitoring equipment and an integrated database with hardware and software (including servers) that will replace the inefficient fragmented databases of the 11 River Basin Management offices and support ANAR in monitoring the quality of surface and groundwater bodies¹, providing an early-warning-system in case of rising pollution and EU-compliant reporting, as well the development of a software for reporting in accordance with EU directives (especially for the Nitrates Directive); (ii) energy-efficient equipment for the laboratories to ensure sampling and testing of pesticides, antimicrobials, heavy metals, and other pollutants; (iii) training services of the personnel from the water quality laboratories of ANAR in the determination of nutrients and water sampling, to improve the institutional capacity of ANAR for monitoring and reporting in accordance with Directive 676/91/EEC. Specific interventions include equipment necessary for the monitoring of water quality; equipment for the determination of biological indicators relevant to eutrophication; equipment necessary for the monitoring of nutrients in surface and groundwater resources; equipment required in laboratory work for the analysis of heavy metals; trainings of laboratory personnel; development of an IT tool for modeling the pollutant emissions from agricultural activities; development of integrated information management systems. As part of the continued efforts in reducing nutrient losses, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will also continue supporting the national institutional obligations for reviewing and

¹ IT (software) investments will be carried out in alignment with the National Digitalization Strategy.



revising the Code of Good Agricultural Practices and its Action Program², as well the preparation of other guidelines³ addressing the reduction of pollutants from agricultural sources.

- B) **Strengthening the institutional capacity of the NFA** (subordinated agency of the MARD) through targeted investments in: (i) a national network to improve surveillance and alert system (collection of weather data) on plant diseases and pests, for an integrated pest management and sustainable use of pesticides that will lead to a system of automatic recommendations on the type and volume of pesticides; (ii) energy-efficient mobile laboratories for inspection and calibration of pesticides field-application equipment, in order to reduce losses and prevent spreading; (iii) energy-efficient equipment for strengthening the laboratories capacity for monitoring pesticide use that will improve the detection and identification of plant diseases and pests; (iv) digital technologies, such as databases and IT applications to track the movement of pesticides, ensuring traceability of pesticides to strengthen the sustainable use, monitoring, and reporting capacity; and (v) design data recovery and backup to prevent data loss in the event of climate-related disasters.
- C) **Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Directorate of Land Improvements and Land Fund (LILF) of MARD** through: (i) a diagnostic analysis of the situation in the Romanian agriculture sector in order to strengthen the management and integration of qualitative and quantitative data / information, and thus build institutional capacity for monitoring and reporting in accordance with EU and international obligations; (ii) software development for integrated collection, processing, analyzing, mapping, and reporting of data; the software will draw from MARD's various interfaces with other entities and their existing databases: from NFA with regards to traceability of pesticides, from the animal identification and registration system and from the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA) for fertilizers and antibiotics; the software will also record data on emissions (e.g. ammonia, nitrogen oxides etc.) and include data modelling in order to generate and transmit inter-institutional reports; (iii) consultancy services and trainings for the developed software and digital technologies.

Component 2: Knowledge-Sharing, Awareness, and Information/Innovation Transfer for Farmers

Subcomponent 2.1: Demonstrating role model farms and promoting innovation. The subcomponent will aim to innovation of pollution mitigation and prevention solutions and promote CSA in rural areas, drawing from national and international best practices, promoting technical collaboration, and building capacity among agricultural entrepreneurs, research, eco-businesses, and hosts of innovation. Demonstration facilities will function as training sites, thus should be available for mutual learning and sharing of knowledge.

An initiative will be financed to support the upgrade/modernization of existing farms for demonstration purposes, in all the 8 development regions of Romania. These farms will function as a role model to showcase different aspects of sustainable and climate-smart farming practices pertaining to

² Through INPCP, the Code of Good Agriculture Practices on the reduction of nitrates from agricultural sources and the Action Programme on nitrates (mandatory documents as required by the Nitrates Directive) were revised in 2021. According to the EU rules, these documents should be revised at (the latest) each 4 years. RAPID project will ensure the revision and update of the Code of Good Agriculture Practices and Action Programme.

³ The Code for the reduction of ammonia emission from agricultural activities should be prepared for Romania, as requested by the EU NEC Directive. In addition, Romania has the obligation (mentioned in the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive) of preparing Guidelines for pesticides use (Romania has a such guideline, but it requires a full revision and update).



comprehensive pollution management i.e.: collection, storage, composting, application of manure and chemical fertilizers, use of energy-efficient modern field machinery for pesticides application, practices for reduced emissions and reduced losses of fertilizers and pesticides. The financed interventions at farm level will sustain investments for environment protection. The envisaged investments will include but are not limited to facilities, equipment, and machinery that will lead to the prevention and reduction of pollution of nitrates, ammonia, pesticides, antimicrobials, while also enhancing energy efficiency. The investment grants for the role model farms will be taking into account relevant EU legislation. The MEWF and MARD will closely coordinate to guarantee alignment and complementarity with the payments granted under the National Strategic Plan. The investment grants will be subject to an open-call procedure and cover project costs between EUR 10,000 to 200,000.

Subcomponent 2.2: Establishing national knowledge transfer networks. Based on the role model farms and farmers organization networks, enhanced national knowledge transfer networks (KTNs) will be established, for the prevention and reduction of pollution from agricultural sources, contributing to accelerating the transition of the Romanian agriculture towards a sustainable and climate-smart agriculture system, in line with EU Farm-to-Fork targets and the various provisions of the EU and national legislation on environment protection. The KTNs and their training programs will function as a hub for advisory services, contributing to peer-to-peer learning and practical demonstrations within the farming communities, knowledge transfer on climate-smart agriculture techniques and practices, conditionalities, eco-schemes, organic farming, agri-environmental farming, farm environmental infrastructure and eco-innovations. Through these knowledge transfers, the farmers would learn more about the different agricultural pollution reduction practices and their associated benefits (e.g., sustainable use of fertilizers can help farmers save money and improve their livelihood etc.), thus being incentivized to adopt them within their own farms.

Subcomponent 2.3: Awareness Campaign. A broad public information and awareness campaign of project activities and benefits will be undertaken at the local, regional, and national levels. Informing the public, notably the rural population/farmers, on the various types of pollutants in Romania, their economic and environmental impact, and the project's various investments (including the NRRP financed ones), prevention and reduction activities, and resilience and emissions mitigation activities will be the subject of an information campaign. The campaign will also include enhancing awareness of climate impacts, and climate-smart agricultural practices. Showcasing best-practices of farmers and rural households in certain regions and sharing experiences with the remainder of the country will support the campaign. With the aim to achieve behavioral changes, a comprehensive awareness campaign will be prepared for prevention and reduction of pollution from agriculture.

Component 3: Project Management

3. The component will include supporting the PMU with project management, implementation, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and environmental and social impact assessment and management through the provision of: (i) funds for incremental operating costs and for acquisition of goods; (ii) PMU (non-civil servant staff) salaries for project implementation; (iii) consultant and non-consultant services, supervision, monitoring, and financial audit; and (iv) capacity building/training.



Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

4. **The MEWF is the authority within the GoR entrusted with the overall responsibility of implementing the project.** The MEWF will implement the project through the existing PMU of the INPCP located within the MEWF, to build on its extensive experience.

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APPROVAL

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