

## ARTF Strategy Group Meeting

May 28, 2015

### Summary of Discussions

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An ARTF Strategy Group Meeting was held on May 28, 2015 with participation from 12 donors. The objective of the meeting was to update the Strategy Group on the Agriculture Sector Review, which was finalized in May 2014. The World Bank team leader provided a briefing on the review and gave an update on the follow-up efforts that have taken place since the finalization.

**Update on the Agriculture Sector Review:** Following the review that was undertaken in close collaboration with Government and discussion with many donors and development partners, it was clear that activities in the agriculture sectors needed to be better aligned with the directions of the Government. The team leader provided an update on a series of meetings led by the World Bank and the European Union to support Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) in a more programmatic manner. A programmatic approach would build on the strategic plans of the Government with continued support from all stakeholders.

Consultation sessions were also conducted with other donors / development agencies in Afghanistan, in order to align all activities under the proposed programmatic approach. All donors agreed on engaging in the process, follow up meetings will be conducted under the lead from MAIL for further details and next steps.

The meeting discussed the leadership role of MAIL and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in driving the national strategy and in leveraging donor support. In this area, the appropriate funding mechanism for programmatic approaches will be explored as the strategy evolves.

The importance of conflict-sensitive approaches and use of a gender lens in the strategy was also stressed. Options to address land ownership issues, and the challenge of limited supply of power were also pointed out and discussed.