



**2nd Asian Irrigation Forum**  
**Securing Water and Food for the Future**

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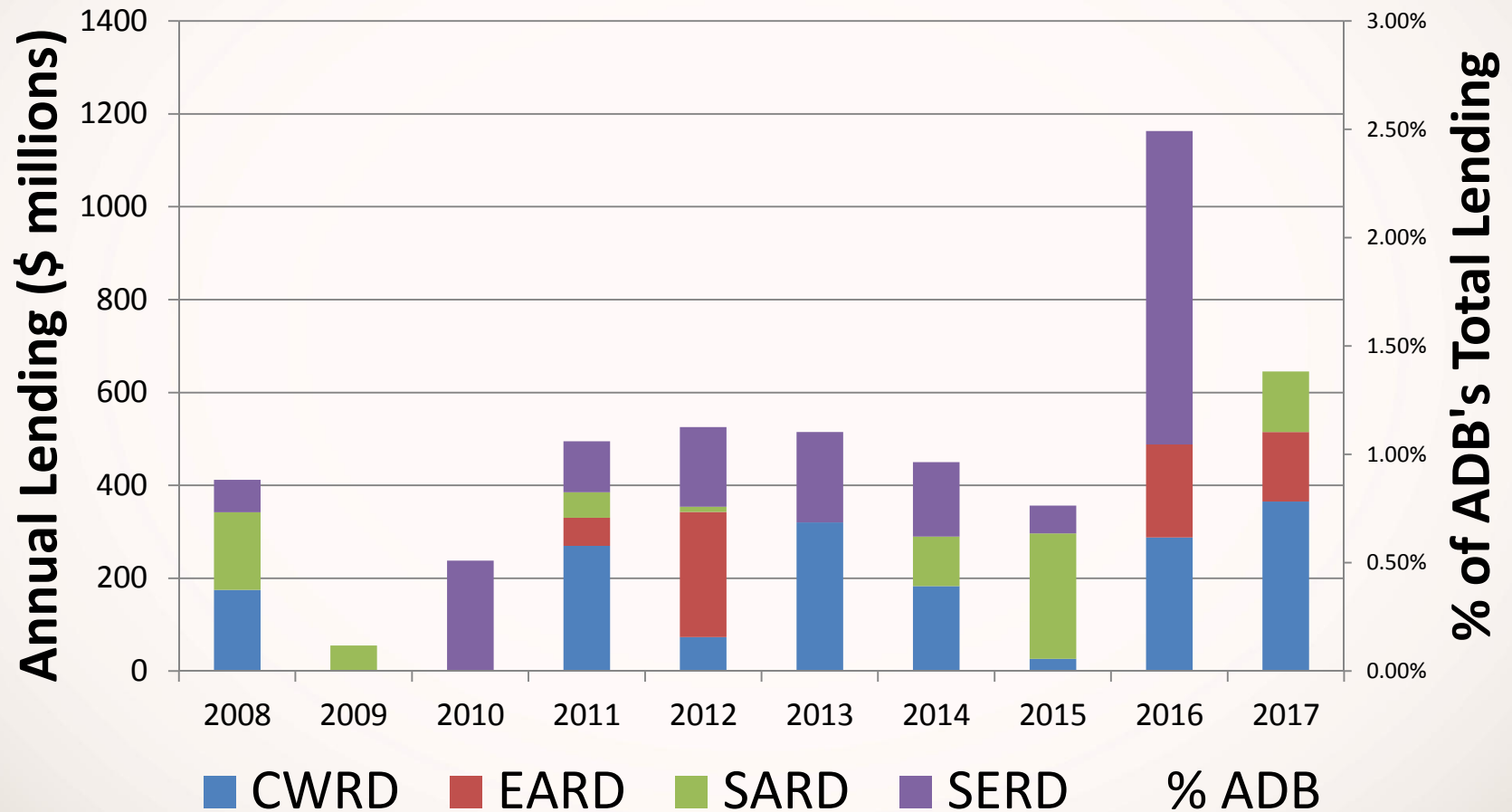
# **Making Wins in Irrigation – What Have We Learned**

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**Session 1: Revitalizing Irrigation Performance: Lessons from the Region – 20 January 2016**

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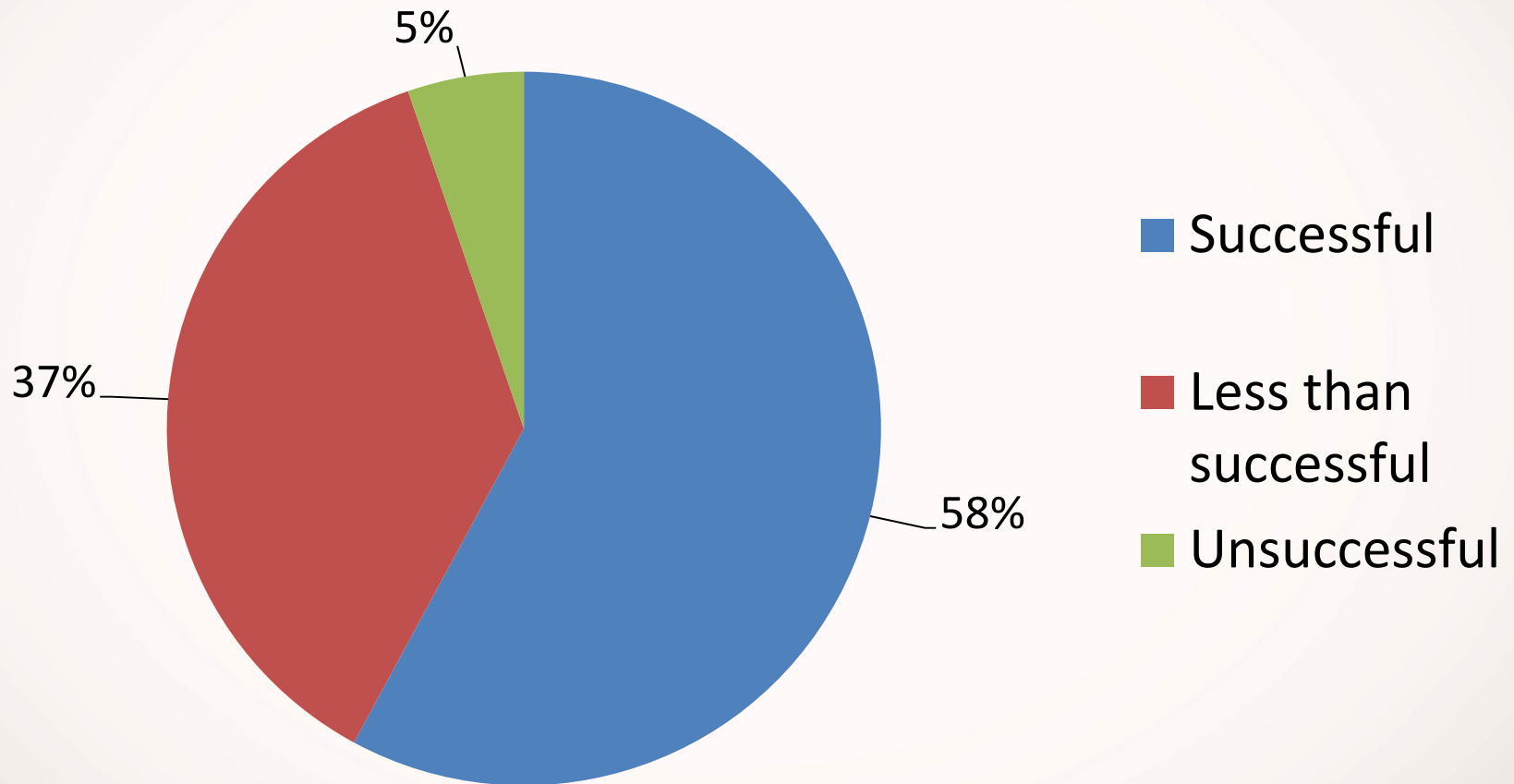
# ADB's Lending in Irrigation



# Nature of Investments

- Mostly rehabilitation works (in PAK some projects are expanding irrigated area and modernizing systems)
- Some support for:
  - Irrigation Management Transfer/Participatory Irrigation Management
  - On-farm water and agriculture inputs
  - Efficiency improvements
  - Promotion of crop diversification
  - Policy reforms & institutional strengthening
- Generally reactive/ad-hoc planning and investment approaches
- Inadequate use of diagnostics for benchmarking

# Have projects been Successful?



# What have we learned?

- Improved coordination critical among agencies
- Treating water as a public rather than economic good is inefficient
- Volumetric charging is promising but challenging to implement.
- Rehabilitation alone unlikely to bring desired change in farming systems
- Consider institutional capacity in project designs
- Long-term vision and engagement required for policy and institutional reforms

# How should we proceed?

- Adopt holistic system/basin-based planning
- Modernize rather than rehabilitate
- Consider food-water-energy nexus
- Incorporate climate change variability
- Ensure financial sustainability
- Focus on land and water productivity
- Prepare long-term investment strategies