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Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers
Welfare
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Climate Change



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Green-Ag

Transforming Indian agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes

Background

Indian agriculture has made remarkable progress in contributing to the country's food and nutrition security. Globally, India is one of the largest exporters of agricultural produce. Over the years, the contribution of agriculture to the Indian GDP has lessened considerably. Yet, it continues to be the largest source of livelihood in India.

More than 84 percent of the country's farmers are small and marginal; and 58 percent of agricultural land is primarily rain-fed. Therefore efforts to increase food production must ensure sustainable management of natural resources and improvement in access to nutritious food for all.

Unsustainable agricultural practices are reducing ecosystem services across India and resulting in loss of agricultural biodiversity. Additionally, overgrazing by livestock is reducing available habitat for wild species and increasing rates of desertification and land degradation.

Overuse of water in agriculture places enormous stress on the country's limited water

resources, particularly groundwater aquifers. Climate change, an emerging threat, will accelerate the loss of agricultural productivity and cause adverse ecological impacts.

The aim of the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is to develop strategies to address some of these challenges

in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other key players through the "Green-Ag" project.

FACT FILE

Focal area: Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change Mitigation (CCM), Land Degradation (LD), and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

GEF project grant: USD 33.5 million (approximately)

Co-financing: USD 868 million (approximately)

Total financing: USD 902 million

Duration: 2019-2026

Locations: Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand

National Executing Agency: Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Government of India

GEF Operational Focal Point for India: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India

Implementing Partners:

National Level: FAO

State Level:

- Directorate of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh
- Department of Agriculture (Crop Husbandry), Government of Mizoram
- Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE), Government of Odisha
- Department of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan
- Watershed Management Directorate, Government of Uttarakhand

FAO Strategic Objectives (SO)

SO 2: Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

SO 3: Reduce rural poverty

SO 4: Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linkages



The Green-Ag project aligns with three of the "FOUR BETTERS" as outlined in FAO's new Strategic Framework 2022-31. These are as follows:

- Better Production
- Better Environment
- Better Life

Project objective: To catalyze transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.

Project components:

- **Component 1:** Strengthening the enabling framework and institutional structures to mainstream BD, Sustainable Land Management (SLM), CCM and SFM policies, priorities and practices into India's agricultural sector.
- **Component 2:** Improved agricultural and conservation practices demonstrating sustainable production, livelihood advancements, habitat improvements, and delivery of tangible BD, LD, CCM, and SFM benefits.

Some expected results

The Project is designed to achieve multiple GEBs in at least 1.8 million ha of land across five landscapes with mixed land use systems, and will include the following:

- Institutionalization of inter-sectoral mechanisms (agricultural and allied sectors, forestry and natural resources management, and economic development) at the National level and in five States to facilitate continued main streaming of environmental concerns and priorities related to resilience into the agricultural sector beyond the project's life.
- Inclusion of quantitative indicators in the State/National programmes and schemes to conserve critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.
- Reduction in the threat index from baseline at critical sites of high biodiversity importance.
- Bring at least 104,070 ha of farms under sustainable land and water management (including organic farming and agrobiodiversity conservation).
- Sequester or reduce 49 million tCO₂eq Greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable land use and agricultural practices and improved management of agro eco systems.

Project Locations

The project is being implemented in five landscapes in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

Chambal Landscape, Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh the project's associated protected area is the National Chambal Sanctuary. The landscape covers 97,982 ha in the

Sheopur and Morena districts along the Chambal river. This landscape is characterized by severely eroded ravines formed over centuries, as a result of surface runoff and monsoon rainfall on deep alluvial soils

and the indiscriminate land-use practices leading to stark land degradation.



Dampa-Thorangtlang Landscape, Mizoram



In Mizoram the project's associated protected areas are the Dampa Tiger Reserve, and the Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary. The landscape covers 145,670 ha in Lunglei and Mamit. The landscape falls within the intersection of the eastern Himalayan and Indo-Burma Biodiversity hotspot region.

Similipal Landscape, Odisha

In Odisha the project landscape is spread over 556,900 ha including the UNESCO recognized Similipal Biosphere Reserve. The landscape falls entirely within the Mayurbhanj district and consists of the Similipal Tiger Reserve, Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary and Satkosia Reserve Forests.



Desert National Park Landscape, Rajasthan

The landscape in Rajasthan represents India's hot arid region and is spread over 674,083 ha across the districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer. The core of this "green landscape" is the 316,200 ha Desert National Park. Despite the seemingly hostile desert conditions, this landscape is particularly important for its biodiversity having one of the richest plant diversities among the world's deserts.

Rajaji Corbett Landscape, Uttarakhand

The project is being implemented in Pauri Garhwal district that includes the corridors of the Corbett and the Rajaji Tiger Reserves. It covers 279,438 ha and is a major corridor for wildlife, particularly, the endangered Asiatic elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and the Royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*).



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