

“Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes”

Green-Ag Project FAQ

1) What is the objective of the Green-Ag project?

A. The project aims to catalyse a transformative change in India's agricultural sector to support the achievement of national and global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.

Hence, the project aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices and livelihoods while protecting the environment.

2) In how many states the project is being implemented?

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

3) In which District of Odisha is the project being implemented?

A. The project is being implemented in Similipal Landscape of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha.

4) Which organization is the owner of this project?

A. The project belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India (GoI).

5) What is FAO's role in this project?

A. FAO or the Food and Agriculture Organization is one of the specialized agencies of the United

Nations. FAO is overseeing the implementation of this project in the five landscapes on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI.

6) What is the funding source of the project?

A. Green-Ag project is being funded by the Global Environment Facility or GEF which is a gap funding. The main source of funds is the ongoing government programmes and schemes.

7) What is the duration of the project?

A. The project started in the year 2019 and will be implemented till 2026.

8) Why the Green-Ag project in the Similipal landscape in Odisha?

A. Project landscape falls within the Mayurbhanj district and it includes the Similipal Biosphere Reserve which includes the Similipal Tiger Reserve, Similpal Wildlife Sanctuary and Satkosia Reserve Forests.

The landscape is very rich in biodiversity and is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger, the Asian Elephant, Gaur Chousingha and Mugger crocodile. Similipal is the only home of the unique melanistic tiger or the "black tiger".

It is home to around 1286 flowering species including two orchid species that are endemic to Similipal.



This region also has notable diversity of indigenous rice varieties- Rupapatia, Kantakarpura, Kalamkati, Janjalijata, Sarubhojana. The region is also rich in a variety of millets, such as finger millet (ragi), Kodo millet (kodua), barnyard millet, spiked millet (bajra) etc. Additionally, legumes, oilseeds, horticultural crops, vegetables, spices and condiments are grown in the landscape.

The region is rich in wildlife, plants and crops as well, but the landscape is witnessing various threats such as follows:

- Loss of agro biodiversity - high-yielding species replacing traditional varieties
- Conversion of forest land to other land uses such as agriculture, mining etc.
- Unsustainable use of natural resources
- Human-wildlife conflict

Thus, the project is being implemented in the landscape to provide support to the agriculture sector and help protect the environment as well.

9) What are the main components/focus area of the project?

- A. 1) Conservation of local biodiversity (BD) 2) Preventing Land Degradation (LD) 3) Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) and 4) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

10) What are the arrangements for the implementation of this project in Odisha?

- A. An Operational Partner (OP) Agreement is signed between the Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE) and FAO and thus IMAGE is the Operational Partner. The project is being implemented by the Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed

Development (DSC&WD), Bhubaneswar. At the district level, the project is being executed by the Dy. Director (Soil Conservation), Mayurbhanj as the District Project Nodal Officer.

The project management units are as follows.

National Project Management Unit (NPMU) - at the national level in FAO

State Project Management Unit (SPMU) - at the State level

Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU) - at the District level

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) - at the village level

11) What is the role of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in the project?

- A. The CRPs have a very crucial role in the project implementation as they have to coordinate all the project activities at the village level which includes undertaking FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) and support in the constitution of Village Implementation Committees (VICs). They will be actively involved in the community engagement processes and implementation of on-field activities including data collection, preparation of the village-level plan, its implementation, coordination with the field-level government functionaries, monitoring progress, documenting the learnings in terms of best practices and reporting it to GLIU etc. to help improve the livelihood security of communities while protecting the environment. The CRPs are instrumental to the project as they will serve as a link between the communities and the project i.e. they will be the eyes and ears of the project.

