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Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
(RFS Division)

118, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi  
Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022

**Subject: Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> National Project Monitoring Committee Meeting of Global Environment Facility (GEF) project titled 'Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes' - reg.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> National Project Monitoring Committee Meeting of Global Environment Facility (GEF) project titled 'Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes' was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 11.00 AM virtually under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

2. I am enclosing the minutes of the Video Conference for further necessary action.

**Encl: as stated.**

  
(R.A.S. Patel)  
Dy. Commissioner (RFS)

Distribution:-

1. Principal Secretary (Agri.) or his Representative not below the rank of Director from the states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. (Email: pdcoop.mp@mp.gov.in, psagriculture@mp.gov.in, hmingtea.ias@gmail.com ; agrdepimiz2021@gmail.com, aoc.od@nic.in, cag.agri@rajasthan.gov.in, plshukla@gmail.com, cpd-wmd.uk@gov.in) with request to present the status of the implementation of GEF project in their respective State.
2. Representative, NRAA, NASC Complex DPS Marg, Opposite Todapur Village, New Delhi.
3. Representative of Director General, PPV&FRA NASC Complex DPS Marg, Opposite Todapur village, New Delhi.
4. Representative, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh New Delhi
5. Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh New Delhi.
6. Director (AH), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan New Delhi
7. ADG (Soil/Agronomy), ICAR, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa Road, New Delhi.

8. FAO Representative, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003
9. Director (Agriculture), Directorate of Agriculture Government of Madhya Pradesh
10. Director (Agriculture), Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Mizoram, Aizwal.
11. Director (IMAGE), Siripur, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.
12. Project Director, Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project Phase-II (GRAMYA), Watershed Management Directorate Indira Nagar, Forest colony, Dehradun.
13. Director Agriculture, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan, Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur.
14. Mr. R.B. Sinha, Project Director, GEF, FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003.
15. Mr. Konda Reddy FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003.
16. Smt. Uma Bala, FAO, 55, Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003

Copy to:

PS to JS (RFS)/ PS to ADC (RFS)/ PS to Dir (RFS), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) of the Green-Ag Project held virtually on 18 January 2022  
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare,**

The fourth meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) was held virtually under the Chairmanship of Shri Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to discuss the Project progress and impact of COVID 19 pandemic on project implementation, Risk Mitigation Strategy and Annual Work Plan Budget for year 2 (April 2021-March 2022). List of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, chairman welcomed the participants and asked them to follow the guidelines of COVID-19 and stay safe. After giving a brief introduction highlighting the purpose of holding this meeting, he requested Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva, Officer-In-Charge, FAO Representation in India to throw light on implementation of Green Ag: projects in all five landscapes. Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva welcomed the Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), all NPMC members including the Operational Partners in all the five implementing states – Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. He gave a brief outline of the implementation of "Green Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental benefits and the conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest landscape Project" in the five selected unique landscapes namely; The Chambal Green Landscape, Madhya Pradesh, The Dampa Green landscape, Mizoram, The Similipal Green Landscape; Odisha, The Desert Green Landscape, Rajasthan and The Corbett- Rajaji Green Landscape. He also thanked the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for organizing this meeting and the support provided by the Department in the implementation of the project.

3. On the invite of the Chair, Mr. R.B. Sinha (Project Director, Green-Ag), presented a short Compliance Report on the Action Points of the third NPMC meeting held on 17 June 2021. The Project Director highlighted that the recruitment in the state of Madhya Pradesh have been initiated for SPMU (State Project Management Unit) positions but there is no information about issuance of offer letter to recommended candidates. Further the recruitment process for GLIU (Green Landscape Implementation Unit), the district level implementation unit, have not been initiated so far in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Recruitment process for few vacant GLIU positions and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) have been initiated and will be completed by the end of January/ Mid of February, 2022 in the state of Odisha. Recruitments process in the states of Mizoram, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan has been completed. He further informed that the Risk Mitigation Strategy was finalized in consultation with all Operational Partners (Ops). He apprised the NPMC that domain registration and procurement of web-server from NICS I for hosting Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) has been completed besides, procuring digital data layers. He also informed that the Financial Management Information System developed by FAO has been completed and Physical Management System will be completed soon. The Project Director further emphasized the necessity of NPMC regularly reviewing the progress of the project.

4. The Project Director presented Green-Ag's progress in all the five states (Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand). He informed that as part of the startup activities, NPMC and NPSC have been constituted at the National level and the third NPMC meeting held in June 2021. Besides, FAO has established National Project Management Unit (NPMU) to provide technical assistance and ensure effective project implementation at the National level. The National level Inception Workshop was organized from 7-9 November 2019 to orient Operational Partners (OPs) and key relevant officials in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. State inception workshops and the technical sessions to orient the SPMU/GLIU staffs and relevant Department staffs handling the Green Ag Project were completed for the States of Mizoram (6-16 October 2020), Odisha (26 – 28 October 2021), Rajasthan (23-25 September 2021) and Uttarakhand (4 – 6 October 2021).

As part of Landscape Assessment, i) Geospatial analysis has been initiated for the states of Mizoram, Odisha and Rajasthan using other funds of FAO. Report has been finalized for Mizoram whereas, comments of FAO have to be incorporated into the reports of Odisha and Rajasthan before its finalization. Uttarakhand will probably complete it before the end of this month. Madhya Pradesh has now requested FAO to carry out this activity however; a formal communication is still awaited from them. ii) Secondary literature review for all the five states is being carried out by a consultant and the entire process including the submission of final reports will be completed by 15 March 2022. iii) Value Chain Analysis is being carried out by an external agency in the state of Madhya Pradesh and for Mizoram it is being carried out by a national consultant whereas for Odisha and Rajasthan, procurement process for hiring an agency has been initiated. In Uttarakhand it will be carried out during project interventions.

The Project Director further informed that FAO has also collaborated with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NICA) and State Forest Departments for landscape management in fringe and buffer areas of Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas in the project landscapes and concurrence was received but implementation agreement still need to be signed. Green-Ag project has also been in dialogue with officials of DA&FW on mainstreaming agro-biodiversity into their programs and schemes. In principle, agreement has been received from DA & FW to incorporate components on indigenous varieties into specific schemes and programmes related to seed production and organic farming with pending further approval from the Union Cabinet, Government of India. Green-Ag is also developing an online Management Information System (MIS) to track physical and financial progress of the project. The financial part of this MIS has been completed and the physical part will be completed soon. The project website <https://greenag.nmsa.gov.in> has been designed and is hosted on NIC server. This was possible with the help and active support of DA & FW. In addition, Operations Manual was developed by NPMU and shared with all the OPs to serve as a guidance document to SPMU/GLIU for smooth implementation of the project. Strategy paper on broad thematic areas of the project was also developed and shared with the OP, SPMU and GLIU (Landscape Assessment, Livestock Management, Communication Strategy, Village Implementation Committee, Free Prior Informed Consent and Gender Mainstreaming). A guidance note on the selection of topics for the State dialogues has been developed by NPMU and shared with the States. In the wake of Covid-19, project

strategy was revised to engage with different stakeholders at the initial stages of project implementation.

5. After the presentation made by Project Director, the Chairman requested Operational Partners to give a brief update of the project status in their respective states.

- **Madhya Pradesh:** The representative from the Government of Madhya Pradesh informed that the State Steering Committee (SSC ) and Technical Support Groups (TSGs) have been constituted. The SSC meeting will be planned in February 2022. The recruitment for SPMU will be finalized soon and simultaneously recruitment for GLIU will be initiated.
- **Mizoram:** The representative from the SPMU, Government of Mizoram, informed that five SSC and four TSG meetings have been conducted so far. All recruitments completed for SPMU and GLIU. Three studies have been initiated. The consultants have submitted the reports after incorporating OP's & FAO's comments which is being reviewed. SSC has approved 36 villages and the TSG has approved to setup 20 village Implementation Committees (VICs) in the priority villages. All necessary activities have been initiated for forming the VIC which will be completed soon. State has initiated the procurement process for initiating the "State Agriculture Policy" as part of policy dialogue approved in the SSC. The sixth SSC is planned in the month of February 2022. Uploading of required documentation in the financial MIS is almost completed.
- **Odisha:** The representative from Government of Odisha informed that the Second SSC and Second TSG meeting were held and minutes of the meeting have been circulated. CRP recruitment have been finalized. Interviews for the few vacant positions in GLIU are planned in January 2022. NPMU, FAO is requested to nominate a representative as part of the interview panel. State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) meeting will be scheduled soon so that the topics for the studies and state policy dialogues could be finalized.
- **Rajasthan:** The representative from the Government of Rajasthan informed that all recruitments under GLIU including CRPs have been completed. At present, Department officials have been deputed for SPMU. But soon recruitment process for SPMU will be initiated. State Steering Committee will be held in the month of February and the TSG Meeting, Jaisalmer will be held in January 2022. State Inception Report will be finalized before end of January 2022.
- **Uttarakhand:** Recruitments for SPMU and GLIU including CRPs completed. Inception workshop along with technical sessions completed. State Inception Report to be finalized after incorporating the comments of FAO. SSC and TSG meeting held and minutes have been finalized. Study on Human wildlife conflict will be initiated soon.

6. After brief progress updates of the States, Mr. Sumanta Kumar Sahoo, Budget and M&E Specialist, NPMU, FAO presented the Risk Mitigation Strategy, the revised timeline and Annual Work Plan Budget for Year 2 of the Green Ag Project. The COVID-

19 and the associated National lockdown and the severity of the second wave followed by the present third wave have adversely affected implementation of project activities.

As such to mitigate this impact "Risk Mitigation Strategy and revised Work Plan" was developed by the project to adjust its operations and ensure project continuity in the face of COVID-19. He further highlighted that this has been prepared in consultation with OPs. State Steering Committees have approved the Risk Mitigation Strategy in the states of Mizoram, Odisha and Uttarakhand. In principle the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have also agreed to this.

As part of the Risk Mitigation Strategy and as requested by some of the Operational Partners, NPMU, FAO will be taking lead on some of the activities under Social and BD Assessment. One of the activities is the geospatial assessment which has been initiated by FAO in the states of Mizoram, Odisha and Rajasthan using FAO's own funds. Also a Secondary Literature Review and Value Chain Analysis have been initiated on a cost sharing basis with the OPs. Besides, Mr. Sahoo presented the consolidated Annual Work plan Budget (AWPB) prepared in coordination with the State OPs. The AWPB for Year 2 for Mizoram, Odisha and Uttarakhand have been approved by their respective SSCs. The AWPB of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been finalized and will be taken up for SSC approval as soon as the SSC meeting dates are finalized. Anticipating approval from the State SSCs of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh it is also submitted for the NPMC approval.

7. After the brief progress of the States, risk mitigation strategies and AWPB, Chairman requested members for their opinion on the implementation of GEF project. The representative from PPVFRA informed that PPVFRA has registered several indigenous and traditional varieties of crops and Plants. If the indigenous and traditional varieties are included in the seed scheme, it will be better as the benefits will also go to the farmers. The other members agreed that the implementation of Green Ag: projects is going in right direction.

8. With deliberated discussions, in his concluding remarks, Chairman NPMC endorsed the Consolidated AWPBs of all the OPs, NPMU and the Risk Mitigation Strategy developed by FAO, however, he asked the FAO to break the Annual Work Plan Budgets into monthly action Plan so that the implementation could be monitored on monthly basis. He further Stressed that NPMC could meet at least on quarterly basis for effective monitoring of implementation of the project. The Chairman highlighted the following actions that should be taken up immediately to accelerate project implementation.

- Expedite the recruitments of SPMU and GLIU in Madhya Pradesh (**Action: Madhya Pradesh**)
- Expedite the interview dates for the vacant GLIU positions, and issuance of appointment letters to CRPs. (**Action: Odisha**)
- Expedite the recruitments of SPMU in Rajasthan (**Action : Rajasthan**)
- Expedite finalization of State Inception workshop report by end of January/ Mid of February, 2022. (**Action: Odisha Rajasthan, Uttarakhand**)
- The States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to schedule the SSC meetings, urgently. (**Actions Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan**)
- Expedite the selection of Studies topics by SLTC, Odisha and Policy dialogues. (**Action: Odisha**)
- All relevant documents to be uploaded and the MIS developed by NPMU to be updated regularly by all states for tracking the physical and financial progress of the project (**Actions: Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand**)
- Expedite the activities that can be carried out in an online mode in the coming two months and offline activities to be initiated thereafter. (**Actions: NPMU along with the States of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand**)
- Annual Work plan and Budget to be broken up into monthly action plan (**Action: NPMU in coordination with the states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand**)
- Indigenous varieties of seeds will be included in the specific schemes as soon as Government approval is received. Already included about 4000 varieties in the schemes. (**Action: DA &FW**)
- NPMC to meet every quarter (**Action: NPMU**)

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and all NPMC members including the Operational Partners of the States of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

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### List of Participants

1.	Shri Samuel Parveen Kumar,	Joint Secretary (RFS) and Chairman NPMC DA&FW, MoAFW
2.	Dr O.P. Sharma	Additional Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW
3.	Shri R.A.S Patel	Deputy Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW
4.	Ms Shailja Pahariwal	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Mr Subrato Paul	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
6.	Mr Rishi Kaushik Under Secretary (IC/GEF).	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
7.	Ms Meena Ndwani,	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, M/o Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries,
8.	Mr.Bisweswar Rath	National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)
9.	Mr. Dipal Roy Choudhury	PPV&FR Authority
10.	Dr S. Bhaskar	ADG , ICAR
11.	Shri Hemanta Kumar Panda,	Director Soil Conservation & Watershed Development cum State Nodal Officer Green-Ag: project, Odisha
12.	Dr. Basant Kumar Sahu	Director, IMAGE, Odisha
13.	Shri Niranjan Sahu	Assistant Executive Engineer, Directorate of Soil Conservation & Watershed Development, Odisha
14.	Shri. Sukanta Kumar Samal	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag. Project
15.	Ms. Silla Pattanaik	Communication Officer, Green-Ag. Project,
16.	Mr. Ngurrinsanga	State Project Coordinator, Green-Ag, Mizoram
17.	Dr. Keny Vanlalhriatpuia	State Technical Coordinator, Green-Ag, Mizoram
18.	Ms.Lalchhuanawmi	Team Leader, GLIU, Mizoram
19.	Mrs. Neena Grewal (IFS)	Project Director, Gef-6, State Project Management Unit, Uttarakhand
20.	Dr.D.S.Rawat	Deputy Director (Planning), Water Management Directorate, Uttarakhand
21.	Dr.S.K.Singh	Deputy Director (Admin.), Water Management Directorate, Uttarakhand
22.	Dr. R.P.Singh	Deputy Director (M&E), Water Management Directorate, Uttarakhand
23.	Mr. R.C.Tiwari,	Deputy Director (GEF-6), Green Landscape Implementation Unit, Uttarakhand
24.	Dr. J. C. Pandey	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Uttarakhand
25.	Dr. Vikas Vats	Biodiversity Expert, SPMU, Uttarakhand
26.	Mr.Gulshan Singh Bisht	Additional Stat. Officer, SPMU, Uttarakhand



27.	Shri. H.S. Meena	Additional Director Agriculture (Research), Rajasthan
28.	Shri Arjun Lal	Joint Director Agriculture (ATC) cum State Project Director, Rajasthan
29.	Shri M.K. Jian,	Deputy Director Agriculture cum State Technical Coordinator, Rajasthan
30.	Ms Preeti Maithil	Director/Commissioner Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh
31.	Mr. Ravindra Modi	Deputy Director, Dept of Farmers Welfare & Agricultural Development, Madhya Pradesh
32.	Mr. Gopal Singh Solanki	Government of Rajasthan
33.	Ms. C. Lalnunthari,	TA
34.	Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva	FAO, New Delhi
35.	Mr. R.B. Sinha	FAO, New Delhi
36.	Ms. Divya Shah	FAO, New Delhi
37.	Mr. Kaustuv Chakrabarti	FAO, New Delhi
38.	Mr. Manoj Semwal	FAO, New Delhi
39.	Mr. Abhishek Saini	FAO, New Delhi
40.	Ms. Athira Ramesh	FAO, New Delhi
41.	Ms. Uma Balaji	FAO, New Delhi
42.	Mr Yerrakonda Sudhakar	FAO, New Delhi
43.	Kalicharan Behera	
44.	Bhabani Shankar Kalo	
45.	B. Panda	