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

118, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi

Dated: 5th April 2022

Subject: Minute of the 1st National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) Meeting of Global Environment Facility (GEF) project "Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes"- reg.

The 1st National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) 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 15th March 2022 at 5:30 PM under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (A&FW), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare at Room No- 142, Krishi Bhawan.

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

Encl: as stated



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Distribution: -

1. CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
2. Additional Secretary (NRM/RFS), DA&FW, New Delhi.
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4. Additional Director of Forest (wildlife), MOEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi.
5. Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV &FRA), NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur Village, New Delhi.
6. Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, ICAR, Pusa Complex, IARI, New Delhi.

7. Joint Secretary (IC & Nodal GEF Project), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi.
8. Joint Secretary (NRLM), MoRD, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Joint Secretary (Medicinal Plantation -Ayush), Ministry of Ayush, Ayush Bhawan, B- Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi.
10. Joint Secretary (IWMP)/DG (IWMP), D/o Land Resource, MoRD, 201, Annexe Building Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi.
11. Joint Secretary (Climate Change), Department of Science and Technology, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi.
12. Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa Road, New Delhi.
13. Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
14. Advisor (Agri.), NITI Ayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
15. Director, National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Makrampur, GT Road Bye Pass, Karnal, Haryana-132001.
16. Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR, Road, Taramani, Chennai-600113.
17. Joint Secretary (NRM), DA&FW, Krishi Bhawan New Delhi.
18. Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. DG (RD)& SS, Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Transport Bhawan, 1,Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.
20. Director, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003.
21. Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
22. Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
23. Nodal Officers, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
24. Mr. R.B. Sinha, Project Director, GEF, FAO, 55, Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003.

Copy for information to: PPS to Secretary (A&FW), PPS to AS(PKS), PPS to JS(RFS), PS to Director RFS, PS to ADC(RFS).



**Minutes of the First Meeting of National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) of the Green-Ag Project held in hybrid mode on 15 March 2022
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**

The first National Project Steering Committee meeting was held in the hybrid mode under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to discuss the status of implementation and the Annual Work Plan Budget for the project Years 1, 2 & 3 (1 August 2019 to 30 March 2022) in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and the National Project Management Unit (NPMU). The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, on behalf of the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC), Shri Prasanta Kumar Swain, Additional Secretary welcomed the Chair and all NPSC members including the Operational Partners in all the five implementing states – Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. He gave a brief introduction of the project and the reason for the selection of the five landscapes (Madhya Pradesh: Chambal Landscape, Mizoram: Dampa Landscape, Odisha: Similipal Landscape, Rajasthan: Desert National Park Landscape, and Uttarakhand: Corbett-Rajaji Landscape). He also mentioned the broad objectives of the project which was in the path of sustainability (i) managing human biodiversity interface, scaling of the landscape approach, (ii) sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources, (iii) scaling of Sustainable Land Management, (iv) scaling of Sustainable Land Management for Climate-Smart Agriculture, followed by agro-biodiversity. He also added that apart from the GEF Grant, the states would be providing co-finance to the project. He further added that farmers across 104,070 Ha utilize and conserve the genetic diversity of at least 10 globally significant plant and animal species/ varieties, which will also be quite novel. He also mentioned the importance of monitoring the project activities at the State and National level and for this State Project Management Units (SPMU) and Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU) was set up at the state and district level, respectively.

3. Sh Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare also added that at the national level, as part of the project start-up activities, a national level intersectoral coordinating committees i.e., i) National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) and National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) have been set up. These committees were established to facilitate cross-sectoral support and are supported by the National Project Management Unit (NPMU) set up by FAO. NPMC has conducted 4 meetings to date and had approved the Annual Work plan of Project Years 1, 2 & 3 (1 August 2019 to 30 March 2022). He then requested FAO which is the implementing agency to give an overview and progress of the five landscapes.



4. Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva (Officer-in-Charge, FAO Representation in India) presented and gave a brief introduction and the progress of the project. He gave a brief introduction about the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). He further presented the project objectives and the different approaches which are taken to achieve those objectives. He appraised the panel, the rationale behind the selection of project landscapes. He further explained the major threats which are identified in the project landscapes and the expected impacts from the project interventions. He further briefed the project components and the institutional architecture of the project. He presented the functions and roles of the project implementation units and the policy guidance and coordination units at various levels. He further briefed about the results and targets of the project.

Further, he presented progress made in all five states (Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand). He highlighted that the recruitment in the state of Madhya Pradesh has been initiated for SPMU (State Project Management Unit) positions but appointment letters have not been issued to date. In the state of Odisha SPMU (State Project Management Unit) has been recruited, for GLIU (Green Landscape Implementation Unit) and CRPs (Community Resource Persons) recruitment process completed but appointment letters not yet issued due to Model Code of Conduct. The recruitment process in the state of Mizoram and Uttarakhand has been completed. In the State of Rajasthan, recruitments were completed for GLIU including CRPs. Recruitment for SPMU positions will be completed soon through a hiring agency.

It was also informed that as a part of the startup activities, NPMC and NPSC have been constituted at the National level and the fourth NPMC meeting was held in January 2022. Besides, FAO has established the 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 (OP) and key relevant officials in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. He also added that the State inception workshops and the technical session to orient the SPMU /GLIU staff and relevant Department staff 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). Apart from this, a one-day GLIU orientation (January 2022) was done virtually for the State of Rajasthan.

As part of the Landscape Assessment

- i. **Geospatial analysis** has been initiated for the states of Mizoram, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand and the report has been finalized from Mizoram and Uttarakhand and Odisha report will be finalized by end of March 2022. Madhya



Pradesh has requested the support of NPMU to carry out this but no formal communication received.

- ii. **The secondary literature review** has been carried out by a National consultant hired by FAO and the final reports were received for three states (Mizoram, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand) and the final report is awaited for the states of Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
- iii. **Value chain analysis** is being carried out by an external agency in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram and will be completed by March and April 2022. In Uttarakhand, it will be undertaken after initiating project interventions. For the states of Rajasthan and Odisha, it will be carried out in the next quarter.
- iv. **The household survey instrument** has been developed by NPMU and the software development process has been initiated. Digital data collection will be undertaken using tablets and the survey instrument being field-tested in the states of Mizoram and Rajasthan so that the feedback/issues could be incorporated in the final questionnaire that would be installed in the tablet.

He also reiterated that NPMU Experts have developed an online Management Information System (MIS) to track the physical and financial progress of the project. The financial part of MIS has been completed and is fully functional whereas the physical part will be completed soon. The project website has been designed and is hosted on the NIC server with the active support of DA&FW (<https://greenag.nmsa.gov.in>). In addition, NPMU has developed an Operations Manual as a guidance document and shared it with all the OPs. Seven Strategy papers on broad thematic areas of the project were also developed and shared with the OPs, SPMUs, GLIUs, and the LTO. (Landscape Assessment, Livestock Management, Communication Strategy, Village Implementation Committee, Free Prior Informed Consent, Gender Mainstreaming, Standard Operating Processes on online accounting)

Training has been conducted for Capacity building of SPMUs, GLIUs, and Community Resource Person (CRPs). For states of Mizoram, Odisha, and Rajasthan Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) training was conducted, and financial MIS training was conducted for the SPMU team of Mizoram, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan. Village Implementation Committees will be formed after the identification of priority areas based on Secondary literature review and the Geospatial analysis conducted. The TSG has been planned for coming week in the State of Mizoram for the finalization of the priority areas. For the other states, this is being planned for the next quarter. The curriculum development workshops would be planned in early April 2022 for the state of Mizoram after the formation of VICs in all the identified priority areas. A guidance note on the selection of topics for the State dialogues has been developed for NPMU and shared with the states, He added that several studies have been undertaken on critical issues in the landscape to identify feasible options for intervention and inform current policies and programs.



The Officer-in-Charge further informed that FAO also collaborated with the National Tiger Conservation Authority in Project Tiger areas and State Forest Departments for landscape management in the fringe and buffer areas of Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas in project landscapes. A proposal was submitted, and concurrence was received from NTCA but the agreement is still to be signed. Green-Ag project has been in dialogue with officials of Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) on mainstreaming agrobiodiversity into programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW). 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 was pending further approval from Union Cabinet, Government of India. He further stated that Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) is being developed. The concept note of this has been shared with DA& FW as well as National Informatics Centre (NIC). The SDSS will generate thematic maps, reports, advisories etc. for effective landscape planning, implementation and monitoring by farmers, local communities, districts and state authorities. He also added that the domain experts from different landscapes are being hired to provide landscape level technical inputs on Soil and Water Conservation, Agronomy and Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and experts input will be digitalized and integrated with the data like districts, landscapes, villages, protected areas, soil, forest cover and density, geology, population data, water harvesting structures and meteorological data.

5. After the presentation by FAO representative, the Chairman requested the Operational Partners to give a brief update of the project status in their respective states:

- **Madhya Pradesh:** The representative from the state informed that due to pandemic work has been delayed. Now, the recruitment for SPMU has been processed and the appointment letter will be issued by the week ending 18 March 2022. A review meeting by the Joint Secretary, Project Director with the Department of Agriculture, Government of Madhya Pradesh has been planned in March 2022.
- **Mizoram:** The representative from the state conveyed that 36 villages in the Dampa Landscape have been identified from the geospatial analysis and secondary literature review. Under these villages, twenty (20) Village Implementation Committee (VICs) has been constituted. In these villages, trials of the household survey are already done and the feedback has been shared with NPMU. The third TSG (Technical Support Group) meeting for both Mamit and Lunglei districts is scheduled in March 2022, to decide/discuss the high priority areas for the project districts in the selected villages.



- **Odisha:** The representative informed us that the recruitment process has been completed and appointment letters will be issued soon to recommended candidates for the positions of CRP. There exists a gap between the Operational Partner and the nodal agency responsible for the implementation of the project. The additional chief secretary has assured that it will be sorted out soon.
- **Rajasthan and Uttarakhand:** The states of Rajasthan and Uttarakhand could not provide updates due to connectivity and network issues.

6. After brief progress updates of the states, the Chairperson provided the following comments:

- The chair directed that NPSC meetings must be called for regularly.
- If the Annual Work plan Budget has been examined by the NPMC, Post facto approval of AWPB is given. However, the power of approval for AWPB is being delegated to NPMC. The NPMC should do it after due deliberations and scrutiny and inform NPSC in the future.
- The chair was of the view that the project's structural architecture is heavy at the State level. This needs to be deliberated by NPMC and examined whether any change is required. It was informed to the committee by the FAO team that these structures were agreed upon by the DA&FW at the design stage of the project. However, as directed by the Chair, this may be examined by NPMC.
- The chair also raised the question about the creation of another committee at the village level. He was of the opinion that any existing committee should be brought in for implementation. However, he instructed NPMC to examine this issue and take appropriate action.
- Gaps were presented, but the strategies and modalities for removing the gaps have to be identified by NPMU.
- The next AWPB be considered for approval as soon as possible as the new financial year is going to begin.

7. in his concluding remarks, Chairman NPSC endorsed the NPMC approved AWPBs of all the OPs, NPMU, and the Risk Mitigation Strategy developed by FAO and he further stressed that NPSC must meet regularly for effective monitoring and implementation of the project. The Chairman highlighted the following actions that should be taken up immediately to accelerate project implementation:

- Expedite recruitment process and issuance of the offer letter to recommended candidates. Also, the recruitment for GLIU positions have to be initiated soon
(Action: Madhya Pradesh)



- Expedite issuance of appointment letter for GLIU and CRPs by 24 March 2022 i.e after Urban body elections. **(Action: Odisha)**
- Prepare the monthly action plan which will be monitored in a structured way. **(Action: Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand)**
- Expedite the inception workshop to orient the staff of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. **(Action: NPMU in coordination with the state of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan)**
- Expedite finalization of the inception workshop report. **(Action: Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand)**
- To have a smooth functioning of the project implementation, gaps and strategy need to be relooked. **(Action: NPMU)**
- NPMC to examine the constitution of a new committee at the village level (Village Implementation Committee) and also the efficacy of the State Steering Committee at the state level. **(Action: NPMU)**
- Expedite activities that can be carried out online and offline mode (curriculum development (Farmers Field School)). **(Action: NPMU in coordination with states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand)**
- Indigenous varieties of seeds be included in the specific schemes **(Action: DA &FW)**
- Prepare the action plan- a monthly action plan- which will be monitored in a structured way. **(Action: NPMU in coordination with Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand)**
- AWPB for the next year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) requires to be prepared, approved by the SSC of the implementing states and shared with NPMU. **(Action: Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand)**
- NPMC to meet to scrutinize and approve the Annual Work plan of all the states. NPMC to inform NPSC about the approval of AWPB **(Action: NPMU)**

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and all the members of NPSC



ANNEXURE

List of participants

S No	Names	Department
1	Shri Sanjay Agarwal	Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
2	Shri Manoj Ahuja	OSD, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
3	Shri. Prasanta Kumar Swain	Additional Secretary Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
4	Shri Samuel Praveen Kumar	Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
5	Dr O.P. Sharma	Additional Commissioner (NRM/RFS)
6	Shri R.A.S Patel	Deputy Commissioner (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
7	Ms Sunita Bhardwaj	Senior Statistical Officer (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
8	Shri Vijay Kumar Pawar	Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
9	Shri Narendra Kumar Saroj	Senior Technical Assistant (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
10	Mr. Ajit Kesari	Additional Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh
11	Mr Shailendra Singh	Agriculture Production Commissioner APC, Madhya Pradesh
12	Mr. Rajiv Chaudhary	Director of Agricultural Engineering, Madhya Pradesh
13	Ms Sanjana Jain	Deputy Director, Madhya Pradesh
14	Mr. Ravindra Modi	Deputy Director, Dept of Farmers Welfare & Agricultural Development, Madhya Pradesh
15	Mr. James Lalsiamliana	MAS, Director, Agriculture Department & State Project Director Green-Ag, Mizoram
16	Mr. Ngurrinsanga Sailo,	Deputy Director, Agriculture Department & State Project Coordinator, Green-Ag, Mizoram

17	Dr Keny Vanlalhriatpuia	State Technical coordinator, SMPU, Mizoram
18	Ms Lalchhuanawmi Pachuau	Team Leader, GLIU, Mizoram
19	Dr. Bimalananda Dash,	Director, IMAGE Government of Odisha
20	Smt. Sanjukta Pattanaik	Assistant Director, IMAGE, Government of Odisha
21	Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha, IFS	Special Secretary to Govt., Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department, Government of Odisha
22	Shri Hemanta Kumar Panda,	Director, SC&WD cum SPNO, GAP, Government of Odisha
23	Dr. Om Prakash (IAS)	Commissioner, Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan
24	Sh. Arjun Lal	Joint Director (ATC), Government of Rajasthan
25	Sh. Mahendra Jain	Deputy Director (ATC), Government of Rajasthan
26	Mrs Neena Grewal, IFS,	Project Director, Green Ag, Uttarakhand
27	Shri. B Rath	Technical Expert (WM) National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)
28	Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife)	M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change
29	Dr Kumble Vinod Prabhu	Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (PPV&FRA), MoAFW
30	Dr. Ashok Kumar	Director National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, ICAR
31	Mr. Neelesh Kumar Sah	Joint Secretary IC & Nodal GEF Project, MoEF&CC
32	Shri Subrato Paul	GEF Consultant, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
33	Ms Shailja Pahariwal	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
34	Shri Hari Ram Meena	Deputy Secretary-RL, NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development
35	Shri D. Senthil Pandiyan	Joint Secretary, Medicinal Plantation-Ayush, Ministry of Ayush
36	Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sanwal	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Medicinal Plantation-Ayush, Ministry of Ayush
37	Shri Umakant	Joint Secretary IWMP/DG (IWMP) Department of Land Resource, Ministry of Rural

		Development
38	Dr Vijay Kumar Leotia	Scientist/Director, Department of Science and Technology
39	Dr. Surya Narayan Bhaskar	ADG (Agronomy, Agroforestry & Climate Change,) ICAR
40	Dr. Praveen Malik	Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
41	Dr. Neelam Patel,	Sr. Advisor (Agri), NITI Aayog
42	Dr. S.K.Niranjan,	Principal Scientist & I/c PME Cell, ICAR-NBAGR, Karnal National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources
43	Dr. V. B. Mathur	Chairman, Representative of National Biodiversity Board
44	Smt. Chhavi Jha	Joint Secretary, Natural Resources Management, MoAFW
45	Shri Mustaq Ahmad	Director, Ministry of Mines
46	Dr. Amit Mallick	Director, National Tiger Conservation Authority
47	Ms C Lalnunthari	
48	Dr. C Konda Reddy	Officer-in Charge, FAO
49	Mr R B Sinha	Senior Policy Advisor and Project Director, Green-Ag Project
50	Ms Uma Balaji	Admin and Operations Officer, FAO
51	Ms Athira Ramesh	Project Associate, FAO
52	Ms Bhumika Patel	Project Associate, FAO
53	Mr Kaustuv Chakrabarti	Communications and Green Value Chains specialist, FAO