

**F. No.14-2/2016- NRM-I(65625)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Agriculture & farmers Welfare**  
**Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & farmers Welfare**  
**(RFS Division)**

118, B wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

31/87

**Subject: GEF-6-Green Agriculture: Transforming India Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes – minutes of the meeting of Operational Partners- reg.**

It is to inform that a Project Partners meeting of GEF-6-Green Agriculture: Transforming India Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (NRM/IC) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. The minutes of the meeting is enclosed for further necessary action.

  
(R.A.S Patel)

**Assistant Commissioner (RFS/NRM)**

**Distributions:**

1. Principal Secretary (Agriculture) to the States of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
2. Sh. K.P. Aharwal, Additional Director, Department of Farmers Welfare & Agriculture Development, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
3. Dr. J. Lalzamlia, Director (Agriculture), Dte. of Agriculture, Govt. of Mizoram, Aizwal.
4. Shri Satyanarayan Mishra, Director (IMAGE), Siripur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
5. Mrs. Neena Grewal, Project Director, Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project Phase-II (GRAMYA), Watershed Management Directorate, Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Dehradun.
6. Sh. K.C. Meena, Joint Director, Agriculture (ATC), Commissionrate of Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan, Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur.
7. Mr. Tomio Shichiri, FAO representative in India, FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi.
8. Mr. Konda Reddy, FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi.

Copy to PS to JS (NRM/IC), PS to ADC (RFS).

## **Minutes of GEF-6 Green Agriculture Project- Project Partners Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**

Project Partners Meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Alka Bhargava, Joint Secretary (NRM & IC) in Room No. 142, Krishi Bhawan to discuss fund flow mechanism, various steps and pre-project activities to be taken to start the implementation of the "Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes" project. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, welcoming the participants, the chairperson informed that the Secretary, Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, has approved the constitution of National Project Steering Committee (NPSC), National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) and notification will be issued shortly. Besides, approval has also been accorded for constitution of National Project Management Unit (NPMU) in the domain of FAO. Mr. Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in India, in his opening remark welcomed the participants and the Chairperson, and thanked Chairperson for the steps taken by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in constitution of NPSC, NPMC and focusing for early start of the implementation of this project.

3. On invite of the Chair, Mr. Manoj Singh, National Project Coordinator and Ms. Jirlyne Katharpi, Research Associate, FAO made a presentation to the operational partners (OP) on the following issues:

- fund flow mechanism;
- project documents such as draft Annual Work Plan and Budgets (AWPB), Terms of Reference for NPMU, SPMU and GLIU, draft Project Operations Manual, and revised State Summaries; and
- Proposed timelines for pre-project activities such as setting up of State Steering Committees (SSC), project staff recruitment plan, setting up of Project Implementation Units and their offices.

4. Following the presentation, the chairperson invited the OPs to make their observations on the above issues.

- The representative, Watershed Management Directorate, Government of Uttarakhand informed that the State treasury has already included the budget line for the Green Agriculture project. She further informed that as per discussion with State Finance Department, the State Government is not in a position to receive direct transfer of funds from FAO; therefore, the fund could be routed either through the Controller Aid, Audit and Accounts (CAAA), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance or through the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW). She apprised that during GEF 4 project (2009-13) implemented by the State Government, the project fund was from State Treasury routed

through the CAAA. She further added that she would reconfirm the fund flow process. On the issue of pre project activities, she highlighted the need for revision in page no. 21 of the draft Project Operations Manual to remove duplication of project implementation units at the district level [Technical Support Group (TSG) and District Project Monitoring Unit (DPMU)]. She further reiterated that the watershed area needs revision as the Rajaji and Corbett wildlife corridor falls under the Nyari Watershed catchment within Pauri Garhwal district rather than the Ram Ganga watershed. She informed that the SSC in the state has been established under the chairpersonship of the Agricultural Production Commissioner and the process of AWPB endorsement from SSC will take at least a month. She desired that FAO officials should visit the States to discuss the details of the AWPB with the OPs. On the issue of contractual staff in the project, she apprised that consultants currently hired as project staff in the Department is contracted on a yearly basis, and their contracts are renewed based on their performance, which is reviewed through a scoring evaluation process.

- Representatives from the Government of Rajasthan, Department of Agriculture informed that there are no bank accounts for the State Government Departments. They further stated that if MOAFW endorses the policy decision for the transfer of funds from FAO to SAMETI/ATMA directly, the Department could initiate action to receive necessary clearances from the State Finance Department. On the issue of establishment of SSC, they informed that a proposal has been sent for the establishment of the SSC to the State Government. They also expressed their concerns over establishment of too many committees for various programmes, schemes and projects. Further, they raised apprehensions of project consultants/personnel demanding full time permanent positions in the project, and in the Department of Agriculture after project closure. They also expressed the opinion that procurement timelines will be difficult to follow.
- Representatives from Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh informed that a letter has been sent to the Finance Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh requesting for clarity about the fund flow mechanism. They further stated that the funds could be operated through SAMETI/ ATMA account, where the funds will be released only through the directives of the Director (Agriculture). Audit and other operational responsibilities of SAMETI already lie with the Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development Department. On the issue of pre project activities, they reiterated that it will be good to organize a workshop for the Department officials in January 2019 to explain the project operations manual and AWPB of the project. He also informed that the Department will not have any issues in setting up project offices in the new buildings of ATMA, in the project districts.
- The Director, IMAGE, Odisha expressed that IMAGE, Odisha can open a new account for the GEF 6 project. The Director, IMAGE will be the drawing and disbursing officer for the funds to be operated. The Director, IMAGE, Odisha suggested that an Undertaking letters can be taken from consultants to prevent

- IV. Uttarakhand will confirm about the fund flow mechanism (State Treasury routed through the CAAA) for the previous GEF 4 project (2009-13) implemented by the State Government.

**Action: State Government of Uttarakhand**

- V. FAO will plan visits to the States for finalization of AWPBs in the beginning of January 2019, after discussion with OPs. Besides, FAO will share the soft copies of the draft AWPB, Project Operations Manual and the ToRs of the consultants to OPs.

**Action: FAO**

- VI. The SSC should approve the proposed changes to the green landscape in Uttarakhand; with appropriate justification following which it would be placed for approval of Chairman NPSC.

**Action: State Government of Uttarakhand**

- VII. Different Committees (at state and district level) of different projects can be clubbed and joint meetings can be held to promote and facilitate cross learning. Electronic portal can be used by the OPs for the project staff recruitment. A procurement calendar should be prepared for all procurement by the OPs.

**Action: Concerned State Governments**

- VIII. Focus should also be directed towards the inclusion of bamboo and agro-forestry in integrated farming system besides crops, livestock, fisheries etc.

**Action: Concerned State Governments & FAO**

- IX. All OPs agreed to share the inputs on the draft AWPB and project operations manual by 1st week of January 2019.

**Action: Concerned State Governments**

- X. The proposed timelines for NPSC meeting will be last week of January 2019/ first week of February 2019.

**Action: DAC&FW & FAO**

- XI. The OPs must ensure that relevant departments including Agriculture, Forest, Rural Development etc., work together for the successful implementation of the project.

**Action: Concerned State Governments**

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

them from demanding permanent positions in the project and after project closure. He informed that due to Krishi Odisha event from 15 to 19 December 2018, the AWPB can only be finalized in January 2019. He further expressed that the option of hiring of consultant through service provider will be costly due to the imposition of 15 % GST. He also informed that IMAGE will not have issues in setting up a project office within the office of the Project Director, ATMA in Mayurbhanj district. Further, the Director requested the Chairperson to apprise Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Odisha for establishment of SSC.

- The Representative, Department of Agriculture (Crop Husbandry), Government of Mizoram was unable to participate in the meeting. However, minutes of the meeting between the officers of the Planning and Programme Implementation, Finance and Agriculture Departments of the Government of Mizoram was shared with the Chairperson. As per the minutes, the Department of Agriculture (Crop Husbandry) can open a joint saving account to which the fund released by FAO for the Green Agriculture project will be credited. The Chairman (Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture Department) and Member Secretary (Director of Agriculture, Crop Husbandry) of the State Steering Committee will be the signatories of the account. The accumulated bank interest, if available, will be utilized for implementation of the GEF project after obtaining prior approval of FAO.

5. After remarks of State representatives, FAO requested the States to provide a departmental order/ supporting documentation clearly showing the relationship between the Directorate of Agriculture and SAMETI/ ATMA, and stating that the Director (Agriculture) is the primary signatory of the SAMETI/ATMA bank account.

6. After detailed discussion with the OPs, following **decisions** emerged:

- I. MoAFW will further discuss with the Financial Advisor of MoAFW and seek his views on the fund flow mechanism.

**Action: DAC&FW**

- II. The State OPs or the State Government will issue a departmental order/ supporting documentation clearly showing the relationship between the Directorate of Agriculture and SAMETI/ ATMA, and stating that the Director (Agriculture) is the primary signatory of the SAMETI/ATMA bank account.

**Action: Concerned State Governments**

- III. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will clarify whether the project account should be saving or current, and provide a notification/ communication that formally states that that Director (Agriculture) will operate the project account.

**Action: State Governments of MP & Rajasthan**

## Annexure

### List of Participants

No	Name	Designation	Phone No.	Email ID
<b>Government of India</b>				
1.	Dr. Alka Bhargava	<b>Chairperson</b> and Joint Secretary (NRM & IC),	011 - 23383744	jsnrm-agri@gov.in
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<b>FAO</b>				
6.	Mr. Tomio Shichiri	FAO Representative in India	011 - 46532201	Tomio.Shichiri@fao.org
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10.	Ms. Jirlyne Ingti Katharpi	Research Consultant, FAO India	9718259096	Jirlyne.katharpi@fao.org
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12.	Ms. C. Lalnunthari	Intern, FAO India	8119947964	C.Lalnunthari@fao.org
<b>Government of Uttarakhand</b>				
13.	Smt. Neena Grewal	Project Director (UDWDP)	9412082346	wmd-ua@nic.in

		Phase-2), Watershed Management Directorate, Dehradun, Uttarakhand		
<b>Government of Odisha</b>				
14.	Mr. Satyanarayan Mishra	Director IMAGE, Odisha	9437179708	<a href="mailto:satyanarayanmshr@yahoo.co.in">satyanarayanmshr@yahoo.co.in</a>
<b>Government of Madhya Pradesh</b>				
15.	Mr. K P Aharwal	Additional Director, Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development Department, Madhya Pradesh	9993310582	<a href="mailto:kpaharwal@gmail.com">kpaharwal@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Government of Rajasthan</b>				
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18.	Mr. B L Sharma	Deputy Director Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan	9414265253	<a href="mailto:ddagro_bls@rediffmail.com">ddagro_bls@rediffmail.com</a>