

No.17-1/2020- RFS-I (83851)

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

118, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi
Dated: 25th October 2021

Subject: Review Meeting of Global Environment Facility (GEF) project title "Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefit and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes"-reg

A review 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 11 October 2021 at 2: 00 PM under the Chairmanship of Mr. Prasanta Kumar Swain, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, India.

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

Encl: as stated.


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

Distribution: -

- ✓ 1. Mr. Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in India, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110003
2. Dr. Konda Reddy, Assistant FAOR, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110003
3. Mr. R.B. Sinha, Project Director, GEF, FAO, ^{55 Lodhi Estate} New Delhi-110003

Copy to:

PS to AS (PKS)/ PS to Advisor (RFS)/ Ps to Additional Commissioner (RFS), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

**Green-Ag Project Review Meeting held on 11 October 2021 at 14:00 hours
in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**

A project review meeting of the "Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes" was held on 11 October, 2021 at 14:00 hours under the chairmanship of Mr. Prasanta Kumar Swain, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, India. The list of participants is at Annexure-I

2. At the outset, the Additional Secretary welcomed all the participants in the meeting and gave a brief introduction for purpose of holding this meeting. He requested FAO Representative to highlight the implementation of Green-Ag: Project being implemented in five selected landscape one each in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

3. Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva, Assistant FAO Representative, FAO-India gave a brief presentation on the project's overview, progress, challenges, strategies adopted by the project to expedite implementation in all five States. He also mentioned the selected five landscapes are unique representing different agro-ecosystem and ecological importance and conservation value. After the presentation, Mr. R.B. Sinha, Project Director, Green-Ag, apprised the Additional Secretary about the recently concluded State Inception Workshops in Jaipur, Rajasthan (from 23-25 September 2021) and Dehradun, Uttarakhand (from 04 - 06 October). He informed that since this project envisages a landscape approach for collaborative planning, it is expected that representatives of relevant line Departments be present in the workshop. This will help them to develop an understanding of the project's overall approach of multi-stakeholder collaborations for planning, implementation, and monitoring of project activities. In this regard, Mr. Sinha informed that representatives of line Departments were present in the State Inception workshop in Rajasthan. However, there was inadequate participation of representatives of line Departments in the State Inception Workshop in Uttarakhand, despite official invitation sent to them by the Directorate of Watershed, Operational Partner of Uttarakhand in the Green-Ag project. He further, informed that State Inception Workshop is about to be held in Odisha tentatively from 24 – 26 October, 2021. In this regard, the Additional Secretary suggested that a formal communication may be conveyed well in advance to the DA&FW, MoA&FW, so that participation of representatives from DA&FW could be ensured in the workshop as required, which will give a new impetus to the event.

4. During the meeting, the Project Director underscored various challenges faced by the project. He added that the project's progress was impacted due to initial operational delays caused due to change in fund transfer mechanism by CAAA,

Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Further, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic derailed the project's progress. Accordingly, in the wake of the pandemic situation, to expedite the project's implementation, a comprehensive Risk Mitigation Strategy and Work Plan have been developed in consultation with the Operational Partners of the States. In this regard, the Additional Secretary mentioned that the Risk Mitigation Plan and the roadmap for the project can be approved by the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC). He opined that this would ensure that the States comply with the planned activities and timelines mentioned in the plan.

5. Further, the Project Director highlighted, how the project is strategically focusing on continuous engagement with key stakeholders and policymakers, originally planned in Project Years (5-6) to overcome the delay in field-level implementation of activities. To this effect, the Green-Ag project will be collaborating with National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for landscape-level planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities in Tiger Reserve areas of Mizoram, Odisha, and Uttarakhand, the State Forest Departments, Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Likewise, the project has actively engaged with officials of the DA&FW, MoA&FW on mainstreaming agro-biodiversity into the programs and schemes of the Department. These strategic engagements will save the project's efforts and time on advocacy at a later stage and facilitate shared understanding among various stakeholders and an increased sense of ownership toward the project.

6. Toward the end, the Project Director requested the support of DAC&FW, MoA&FW on the following key aspects to ensure smooth implementation of the project:

- I. To accelerate project's progress in all the States with a special focus on Madhya Pradesh which has not shown any significant improvements in operationalizing project teams in the State
- II. To arrange for a meeting with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) to support the development of Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS), one of the key outputs of the project that will serve as a tool for landscape management, knowledge management and monitoring in the project landscapes.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I**List of Participants**

| S.No | Name of Participants | Designation Department | Email address |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Mr. Prasanta Kumar Swain, | Additional Secretary, DA &FW, MoA&FW | prashantkumar.swain@gov.in |
| 2 | Dr. Om Prakash Sharma | Additional Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW | omprakash.1967@gov.in |
| 3 | Mr. R.A.S. Patel | Dy. Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW | raspatel@nic.in |
| 4 | Mr. S.P. Gupta | Asstt. Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW | guptasp61@gmail.com |
| 5 | Mr. Vijay K. Pawar | ASCO(RFS), DA&FW | vijay.pawar12@gov.in |
| 6 | Mr. N.K. Saroj | STA (RFS), DA&FW | nd.saroj@gov.in |
| 7 | Mr. R.B. Sinha | Project Director, Green-Ag, FAO India | rakesh.sinha@fao.org |
| 8 | Mr. Konda Reddy Chavva | Assistant Representative, FAO India | konda.chavva@fao.org |
| 9 | Ms. Sravani Avula | Assistant Project Officer, Green-Ag, FAO India | sravani.avula@fao.org |
| 10 | Ms. C Lalnunthari | Research Assistant (RFS) | c.lalnunthari@fao.org |