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

118, B wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 20th August, 2019

Subject: Minutes of First 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 First 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 **9th August, 2019 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi** under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare.

2. I am enclosing the minutes of meeting for further necessary action.
3. This issues with approval of Competent Authority.

Encl: as stated.



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

Distribution:-

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6. Joint Secretary (LH), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
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Copy to:

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

**Minutes of the National Project Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 9th
August 2019 at Krishi Bhawan, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers'
Welfare (MoAFW)**

First National Project Monitoring Committee meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary (RFS) in Room No. 142, Krishi Bhawan to discuss Annual Work Plan, Budget and preparedness of Operational Partners for implementation of GEF Cycle 6 project "Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes". The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, welcoming the participants, the chairperson highlighted the objectives of National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) and informed that NPMC meeting has been organized to review the consolidated Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for the year 2019-20 of all Operational Partners (OPs) and the National Project Management Unit (NPMU), and to approve the start of implementation in the States including the transfer of funds from FAO to the Operational Partners. Further, she requested to Mr. Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in India, who attended the meeting via skype from Osaka, Japan to give his overview on the occasion.

3. On request of the Chairperson, FAO Representative in India, Mr. Tomio Shichiri, welcomed the NPMC members and expressed his regret for not participating physically in the meeting. However, he informed that he will be available through skype to discuss the progress and challenges faced by the States (OPs) in creation of State Steering Committees (SSC), the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and in opening their dedicated project bank accounts. Thereafter, chairperson requested States to provide their status on creation of SSC and its meeting, project fund flow mechanism – Creation of SPV, dedicated project account and signing of Operational Partner Agreement (OPA). On request by the Chair, the State Operational Partners gave a brief update of the status of the Green Agriculture Project in their respective states:

- The representative, Government of **Mizoram** informed that State has already constituted State Steering Committee (SSC) and its first meeting was held on 23rd April 2019. The SSC has approved AWPB for Project Year 1 (2019-20). Subsequently, the second SSC meeting was also held on 17th July 2019, wherein the relocation of the Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU) from Mamit to Lunglei has been approved. The Department of Agriculture (Animal Husbandry) will be directly implementing the project and has created a separate GEF project account to accept funds directly from FAO. Operational Partner Agreement (OPA) has been signed and vacancy notice will be floated for the second time, as the first notice has been called off due to some modifications in the recruitment process, for recruitment of project staff in State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU). The representative further informed that they are in process of setting up GLIU at Lunglei and Office space for the SPMU is already available. They requested National Project

Management Unit (NPMU)'s support for the recruitment of the SPMU and GLIU staff.

- The representative, Government of **Uttarakhand** informed that Department of Watershed Development, Government of Uttarakhand is Operational Partners (OP) in the state. State Steering Committee (SSC) has been constituted and its first meeting was held on 22 February 2019, wherein the AWPB for PY 1 (2019-20) has been approved. The representative further informed that project area has been revised and approved by SSC to cover only Pauri district under the project and requested NPMC to endorse the same. Representative informed that in Uttarakhand, Watershed Project Management Unit in the Department of Watershed Development is the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) through which it will receive the funds from FAO and dedicated GEF bank account has been created. Representative Uttarakhand conveyed that Operational Partner Agreement countersigned by Government of Uttarakhand has been sent to FAO and they will use project staff from the existing Projects being implemented by them.
- The representative, Government of **Odisha** informed that Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE) is Operational Partners (OP) in the state. State Steering Committee (SSC) has been constituted and its first meeting was held on 26th July 2019, wherein the AWPB for PY 1 (2019-20) has been approved however, it needs to be revisited by the Technical Support Group (TSG) at the landscape level. They further informed that a State technical committee will review the AWPB, ToRs, qualification, experience and remuneration of personnel to be engaged at SPMU and GLIU. IMAGE is the SPV for the project and dedicated GEF bank account will be created after obtaining clearance from the State Finance Department.
- The representative, Government of **Rajasthan** has informed that State Steering Committee (SSC) has not been constituted so far. Representative informed that Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan (OP) has identified State Institute of Agriculture Management (SIAM) as SPV. They conveyed that SSC will be constituted and notified soon and after constitution of SSC, its meeting dates will be notified, besides, SPV and dedicated bank account to receive GEF fund will be created before signing of OPA with FAO.
- The representative, Government of **Madhya Pradesh** has informed that Department of Farmer's Welfare and Agriculture Development is OP for GEF Project. State Steering Committee (SSC) has not been constituted so far; however, it is under process and will be notified soon after approval of Government of Madhya Pradesh. After constitution of SSC, SSC meeting dates will be notified, besides, SPV and dedicated bank account to receive GEF fund will be created before signing of OPA with FAO.

4. After detailed deliberations of the States, a presentation was made by FAO highlighting consolidated Annual Work Plan and Budget for Project Year 1 (2019-20)

of the Green Agriculture Project for all the five states' OPs and the NPMU. After the presentation of FAO, NPMC members suggested to have an orientation workshop at each state to discuss in details about the project implementation. This could happen during the inception workshop which would take place at each state and landscape level.

5. In the concluding session, NPMC has agreed for the change in the project area of Uttarakhand as approved by SSC. The NPMC members unanimously agreed to endorse the consolidated AWPBs of all the 5 states Operational Partners and that of NPMU. The NPMC could review the AWPB during the next meeting in case of some changes in the AWPB of the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will expedite the creation of SSC, SPV and bank account by end of August, 2019. Chair has suggested that, in case of delay/ issue concerning to creation of SSC, SPV and bank account in State of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan ; she will follow up with higher authority, if required by Operational Partner. The NPMC approved the relocation of the GLIU office from Mamit to Lunglei (already approved by SSC). After detail deliberations of NPMC, following are the next steps and action points:

- i) NPMC endorsed the Consolidated AWPBs on behalf of the NPSC (National Project Steering Committee), with immediate effect. FAO can transfer payment to Mizoram and Uttarakhand as per the endorsed AWPB since the Operational Partner Agreement (OPA) between FAO and the OPs in Mizoram and Uttarakhand have been signed. For rest of the OPs (Odisha, M.P and Rajasthan), FAO can transfer the payment as soon as the respective OPAs are signed.

(Action: FAO)

- ii) NPMU (FAO) to provide support in the recruitment process (screening of applications, written test and interview) of SPMU and GLIU staff of Mizoram. While floating the vacancy notice, the time period should be set for not more than 4 weeks.

(Action: FAO and OP in Mizoram)

- iii) The states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to expedite the formation of State Steering Committees (SSC) and thereafter schedule the SSC meeting. This is to be completed before end of August.

(Action: Operational Partner in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan)

- iv) Odisha to expedite the creation of GEF project account and sign the OPA. Also review of the AWPB by the technical committee should be expedited and if required FAO team could visit the districts for finalization.

(Action: Operational Partner in Odisha &FAO)

- v) Mizoram and Uttarakhand to initiate the recruitment process and formation of State Project Management Units (SPMU) and Green Landscape Management Units (GLIU) to start implementation. The time period set for applying for the vacancies should not be more than four weeks.

(Action: Operational Partner in Mizoram and Uttarakhand)

- vi) Uttarakhand OP to share the procurement guidelines/process it follows for the World Bank procurement. Although as per the Operational Partner Agreement, the OPs have to follow the state procurement rules for its procurement; FAO could share some guidelines regarding procurement of goods/equipment of high quality and low monetary value. It may kindly be noted that this project is a grant fund from GEF, not a loan from the World Bank; therefore, procurement rules should reflect GEF's guidelines and its project documents.

(Action: Operational Partner in Uttarakhand and FAO)

- vii) Inception workshop at National level to be organized by FAO in the third or fourth week of September 2019. The state level workshops could happen as soon as the state teams are in place.

(Action: FAO)

Annexure

List of participants

SL.NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION	OFFICE ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL
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