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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: June, 2021

**Subject: Minutes of 3<sup>rd</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 3<sup>rd</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 virtually on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 2.00 PM under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture Cooperation & 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: agrimizoram@gmail.com; agrsec.or@nic.in; bhaskar.sarma@nic.in ; cpd-wmd.uk@gov.in ; dagpa@mo.gov.in; diragri@mp.gov.in; hmingtea.ias@omaiI.com; psagriculture@mp.aov.in; s.sarg@gov.in; vsbhale@gmail.com ) 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. Joint Secretary (IC) or his representative, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. Indira Paryavaran Bhavan Jor Bagh New Delhi
5. Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. Indira Paryavaran Bhavan Jor Bagh New Delhi.
6. Director (AH), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Krishi

Bhawan, New Delhi

7. ADG (SoiI), ICAR, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa Road, New Delhi.

8. FAO Representative, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Nue!ler 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 Dirctor, 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 Bhavan, Jaipur.

I4. Mr. R.B. Sinha, Project Director, GEF, FAO.

15.Mr. Konda Reddy FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003.

16.Smt. Uma Bala, FAO, SA 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, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

## **Minutes of the Third Meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee of the Green-Ag Project held on 17 June 2021 at Krishi Bhawan, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**

The third meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee was held virtually under the Chairmanship of Shri. Ashwini Kumar, Joint Secretary (RFS), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, to discuss the Project progress in the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and its impact on project and thereby risk mitigation strategy of Green-Ag project. The 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 for purpose of holding this meeting, he requested Mr. Tomio Shichiri (FAO Representative) to highlight the implementation of Green-Ag: Transforming Indian agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes Project. While welcoming the participants FAO representative gave brief outline of the projects and thanked the Department of Agriculture for organizing the meeting to review the progress 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 second NPMC held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The Project Director highlighted that recruitments in the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have not been completed so far. He further apprised the Committee that recruitment of few technical positions at the district level and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are also pending in the project in most of the implementing States. He informed that State Inception Workshop of Uttarakhand was organized on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister, Watershed and Tourism. However, in Uttarakhand, CRPs haven't been recruited yet. The detailed orientation/training sessions for project personnel of Odisha and Uttarakhand have to be conducted before July 2021. These sessions can be conducted in-person by NPMU, if COVID-19 related restrictions are removed in the states, otherwise, virtual sessions can be organized.

4. The Project Director also presented Green-Ag's progress in all the five states (Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand). He informed that as part of the startup activities, NPMC and NPSC have been constituted at the National level and two NPMC meetings have been held so far. 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 07-09 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. FAO also

collaborated with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and State Forest Departments for landscape management in fringe and buffer areas of Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas in the project landscapes. A proposal for collaboration was submitted and concurrence received from NTCA (for Mizoram, Odisha and Uttarakhand) and from State Forest Department in Madhya Pradesh. Concurrence is awaited from Rajasthan. Green-Ag has also been in dialogue with officials of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) on mainstreaming agro-biodiversity into their programmes and schemes. In principle agreement has been received from DAC&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 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 component 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 DAC&FW.

5. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated national lockdown have adversely affected project implementation. Therefore, to mitigate this adverse impact and expedite project implementation, a Project Task Force was set up (internally within FAO) and as per suggestion of Task Force a Risk Mitigation Strategy has been developed. The strategy has been shared with the OPs for their comments/feedback. After finalization of the strategy, it would be presented to the NPMC in the next meeting. As part of the Risk Mitigation Strategy and as requested by some of the Operational Partners, NPMU will be taking a lead on some of the activities under Social and BD assessment. One of these activities is the geospatial assessment initiated by Green-Ag in the states of Mizoram, Odisha and Rajasthan using FAO's core funds. Also, a Secondary Literature Review and Value Chain Analysis have been initiated on a cost sharing basis with the project states.

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

- **Mizoram:** The representative from the State Project Management Unit (SPMU), Government of Mizoram, informed that four State Steering Committee (SSC) and two Technical Support Group (TSG) meetings have been conducted so far. All personnel have been recruited. The SPMU and Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU) have been setup. Three studies have been initiated. The number of villages in the project area have been finalized, which is about 39. Mizoram does not have a State Agriculture Policy. Therefore, SPMU would like to conduct a policy dialogue which could pave the way for such a policy. This activity has been approved by the SSC and has also been agreed by NPMU/FAO. SPMU will provide feedback on the Risk Mitigation Strategy soon.

- **Madhya Pradesh:** The representative from the Government of Madhya Pradesh informed that SSC and TSGs have been constituted. Recruitment of project personnel will be completed before end of July 2021. They would be sharing their response to the Risk Mitigation Strategy shortly.
- **Odisha:** The representative from Government of Odisha informed that recruitments to SPMU and GLIU have been completed, except for few positions in GLIU and CRPs, which they aim to fill up soon. They would be sending their response to the Risk Mitigation strategy. Also, a procurement plan has been prepared and the process will be initiated soon. Rented office space will be taken for setting up the GLIU office at Mayurbhanj district.
- **Rajasthan:** The representative from the Government of Rajasthan informed that the SPMU and GLIU recruitments will be completed by July 2021. They have already shared their feedback/comments on the Risk Mitigation Strategy with NPMU.
- **Uttarakhand:** The representative from the Government of Uttarakhand informed that the SSC and TSGs have already been constituted. TSG meeting will be held in July 2021. The state inception workshop was held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Detailed training/orientation sessions will be planned in July. These sessions maybe conducted in-person by NPMU, if COVID-19 related travel and lockdown restrictions are removed.

7. After the brief progress of the States, Chairman requested members for their opinion on the implementation of GEF project. The representative from PPVFRA informed that he is glad to know that the Ministry has a plan to include indigenous and traditional varieties in the scheme. In the states of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand there are more than 800 plants varieties and crops and not all traditional varieties are registered. If these varieties are included in the seed scheme, it will be better as the benefits will also go to the farmers. Representatives from NRAA and Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairy did not have any specific comments.

8. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman highlighted the following actions that should be taken up to immediately to accelerate project implementation:

- Expedite recruitments of SPMU, GLIU and CRPs in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (**Action: Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan**)
- Expedite recruitments of CRPs in Uttarakhand and finalize the dates for the State Orientation trainings for SPMU and GLIU staff (**Action: Uttarakhand**)
- Expedite recruitments of CRPs and other vacant positions in Odisha and finalize the dates for the State and Landscape level Inception Workshops, besides to expedite the procurement process (**Action: Odisha**)
- Expedite OPs response on Risk Mitigation Strategy and Work Plan shared by

**NPMU (Action: Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand)**

- Expedite approval from NIC for data and server space to host the Spatial Decision Support System for long-term sustainability and accessibility by stakeholders even in a post-project scenario **(Action: DAC&FW, NIC and FAO)**
- Undertake periodic review of project's progress virtually state-wise starting with Rajasthan in July **(Action: DAC&FW and FAO)**
- Centralized MIS developed by NPMU should be used by all states for tracking the physical and financial progress of the project **(Action: Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand)**
- All Operational Partners should provide requisite support to FAO for coordination of project activities **(Action: 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 4,000 varieties in the schemes **(Action: DAC&FW)**

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair

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<b>List of participants for first NPMC meeting of GEF-6: Green Agriculture project on 17 June 2021</b>	
<b>Government of India</b>	
1	Shri. Ashwini Kumar, Joint Secretary (RFS) and Chairman NPMC
2	Dr.O.P.Sharma Additional Commmissioner (NRM/RFS)
3	Mr. Pankaj Tyagi, Director (RFS)
4	Mr. R.A.S. Patel, Deputy Commissioner (RFS)
5	Ms. Sunita Bhardwaj, SSO (RFS)

6	Narendra Kumar, STA (RFS)
7	Ms. C Lalnunthari , TA
<b>NRAA</b>	
8	Mr. B Rath, Technical Expert
<b>PPV&amp;FR Authority</b>	
9	Mr. Dipal Roy Choudhury
<b>Department of Animal Husbandry &amp; Dairy</b>	
10	Representative from AHD
<b>Government of Madhya Pradesh</b>	
11	Ms. Preeti Maithil, Director/Commissioner Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh & her team
<b>Government of Mizoram</b>	
12	Mr. Rohmingthanga Colney MAS, Director of Agriculture, Mizoram and his team
<b>Government of Odisha</b>	
13	Mr. Hemanth Kumar Panda, Director, Soil Conservation and Watershed Development and his team
<b>Government of Rajasthan</b>	
14	Dr. Omprakash, IAS, Commissioner Agriculture, and his team
<b>Government of Uttarakhand</b>	
15	Ms. Neena Grewal, Project Director , Watershed Management Directorate and her team
<b>FAO</b>	
16	Mr. Tomio Shichiri FAO Representative , New Delhi
17	Dr. C. Konda Reddy, Assistant FAOR
18	Mr. R.B.Sinha, Project Director (GEF-6 AG)
19	Ms. Uma Balaji, Admn & Operations Officer and her team