



GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM  
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE  
AIZAWL, MIZORAM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> STATE STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC)  
OF GREEN-AG, MIZORAM**

Venue : Secretariat Conference Hall, MINECO, Aizawl  
Date and time : 25th July, 2023 (Tuesday) at 09:30am  
(List of members present attached as Annexure 1)

The 7th State Steering Committee was held under the chairmanship of Shri Dr. Lalrozama IAS, Secretary, Agriculture, Mizoram to discuss the various issues including Annual Work Plan and the proposed Budget.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the SSC members and gave a brief introduction of Green Ag in Mizoram and its aims in achieving the goals. He also highlighted the need for convergence for its successful implementation of the project. He narrated that the project is not a stand-alone project. It seeks to synergize with other existing projects in the landscape as such and invited the members to have valuable input in the meeting so that the project could mitigate the degraded environment and bring about transformation to the Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental benefits which will contribute to conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscape.

After giving a brief introduction for the purpose of holding the meeting, the Chairman requested Mr. Takayuki Hagiwara (FAO representative in India) to deliver a speech. The FAOR noted that GEF was founded in 1992 during the Rio Summit in which environmental awareness was introduced and has a mandate for preservation and conservation of Global Environmental issues. It is based in the US at the World Bank. The FAOR stated that the GEF is requesting various governments to work together to create a platform for collaboration and partnerships with Government and NGOs. He emphasized that sustainable development is the main goal, and Mizoram is a special place for the global environment. He stated that GEF is not an FAO project and that FAO is the implementing agency. He mentioned that India is the next largest recipient of GEF funds and therefore, there is a need to take important steps in the field/farmers and to transform farming practices in an environmentally friendly manner, thereby achieving behavioral changes that can benefit farmers. He also added that the Green-Ag project is a Government project and nothing can move without the participation of the government. He also mentioned that through this project, the improvement of local livelihoods must be visible in order to maximize the effect at the global level. In the project, the contribution of GEF is very small, major contribution has to come from the Government. In his closing remark, he said that

direct involvement in FFS in terms of training and indirect participation through digital platform is very essential.

The chairman requested Mr. R. B. Sinha, the Project Director and Senior Policy Advisor to deliver a speech. In his speech, Mr. Sinha told the meeting that at the grass root level, transformational changes are needed in concerted efforts at all stages from all the departments. He also pointed out that convergence of agriculture and horticulture is very crucial for sustainability and also informed the meeting that FAO has signed agreement with the National Tiger Conservation Authority to work in protected areas.

The chairman called upon Shri James Lalsiamliana, Member Secretary, State Project Director to give an assessment on the works taken up along with the achievements and a proper compliance report. The report contains the following:

- Approval of Terms of References for three studies has been received from NPMU. The names of the topics are:

- i. Studies on Local Procurement for Social Safety Net Programs

- ii. Studies on Incentives for Environment Friendly Agriculture

- iii. Impact of Monoculture in terms of Agro-biodiversity Loss **(Action: SPMU)**

- Dialogue on “Natural Resource Management” carried out by Hoi Philoi consultant has taken more than the stipulated time. The SPMU will take a call and the draft report needs to be review for further incorporation for final draft **(Action: SPMU)**

- Agricultural Policy: Meeting with all concerned line departments to be convened before 15th of August, 2023 **(Action: Agricultural Policy Drafting Committee)**

- Implementation of Green Landscape Management Plan (GLMP) **(Action: All concerned line departments for better convergence)**

- Recruitment of Expert and Community Resource Persons is completed.

- Recruitment for Administration and Operation Officer and Office Assistant for GLIU to be done **(Action: OP and SPMU)**

- **AFOAR and Project Director Field visit to Dampa Landscape, Mizoram:** Dr Konda Reddy, AFAOR and Mr RB Sinha, Project Director and Senior Policy advisor, Green Ag, visited Mamit District from 12th to 17th December, 2022. During their visit, a meeting with all line departments was held at DC’s Conference hall, Mamit. Possible convergence was discussed during the meeting from the convergence plan prepared from Community Consultations in Dampa landscape. A meeting with Village Implementation Committees (VICs) and the community was also conducted in Mamit district villages - West Phaileng, New West Phaileng, Phuldungsei and Teirei village to discuss about various aspect of the project.

• **Training of farmers on Post Harvest Management of Mizo Chili:** Training on Post-Harvest Management - Mizo Chili was conducted for the Mizo Chili growers by the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who were trained earlier by KVK Scientist & Green Ag Project staff. The training was conducted successfully in 13 villages (12 in Mamit & 1 village in Lunglei). A total number of 315 farmers including 203 males and 112 females actively participated in this training. The training dealt with important topics such as the different techniques of drying, grading system, packaging and storage of Mizo Chilli. The objective of the training is to increase the knowledge of farmers in post-harvest management of Mizo Chili.

• **Policy dialogue on State Agriculture Policy, Mizoram:** The member secretary reported that the hired consultant declined to take up the task due to personal reason. He informed that the matter was brought up before the SSC chairman and the State Project Director, and highlighted that appropriate action will be taken up as soon as possible.

• **Development of Crop Suitability Matrix and Ground Truthing for soil suitability of Sticky Rice, Maize and Sesame:** Crop Suitability matrix for the 3 Crops mentioned was developed under the guidance of KVK, Hnahthial with support from NPMU. Training to District Support Officers and CRPs was conducted by Dr. Henry Saplalrinliana, Sr. Scientist & Head at KVK, Hnahthial on Ground Truthing for validation of soil suitability map on 28th Feb, 2023. The report on Crop Suitability matrix and Ground truthing for soil suitability is prepared by GLIU and KVK, Hnahthial, and approved by NPMU, New Delhi. The crop suitability map will be made accessible for the farmers through Green Landscape Information Platform.

• **Awareness on Forest Fire Prevention on Fire Prevention Week:** A Fire Prevention Week was observed during 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 in convergence with EF&CC Department. Awareness campaign on forest fire was conducted on Lunglei and Mamit project villages as follows:

Lunglei – 1) West Bunghmun 2) Laisawral 3) Sesawm 4) Tleu

Mamit – 1) Marpara N 2) Phuldungsei 3) West Phulpui 4) Pukzing 5) Pukzing Vengthar

• Community Engagement Plan was received from NPMU, this will be taken up shortly. Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) is already taken up in the field.

• **Distribution of Rainbow rooster:** On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, the Green-Ag Project in convergence with the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, under National Livestock Mission distributed 2000 rainbow rooster in four villages of Lunglei district. A total of 100 beneficiaries were selected from the villages of Tleu, Bunghmun, Sesawm, and Laisawral and each beneficiary received 20 rainbow roosters.

• **MiSALT (Mizoram Sloping Agriculture Land Technology) Demonstration plot:** 15 plots are established in 9 high priority villages under the Project landscape in the month of March, 2023. Activities done are as follows:

- i. Land clearance and burning is completed
- ii. Contour line marking is completed
- iii. Collection of changkham material and placing of changkham is completed
- iv. In some plots where agriculture crops are to be planted, farmers already planted the crops
- v. Very Important Plants (Indigenous & NFTs) seeds and planting materials are being planted during pre-monsoon to monsoon season. (VIP – Khanghu, Phuihnam, Behliang, Thingthupui)
- vi. A bacterium based (*Ochrobactrum pseudogrignonense*) Organic fertilizer, OP-12 was received from the Department of Agriculture. These bio-fertilizers are being used in 15 MiSALT plots from 9 villages

MiSALT Plot location:

- |           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Lunglei - | 1. West Bunghmun – 2 plots    |
|           | 2. Laisawral – 2 plots        |
| Mamit -   | 1. West Phaileng – 1 plot     |
|           | 2. New West Phaileng – 1 plot |
|           | 3. Teirei – 1 Plot            |
|           | 4. Damparengpui – 2 Plots     |
|           | 5. Tuirum – 2 plots           |
|           | 6. Phuldungsei – 2 plots      |
|           | 7. Pukzing – 2 plots          |

• **Capacity Building on Seed Treatment & Storage for Women (Rice, Mizo Chilli, Maize and for indigenous vegetables Brinjal, Solanum spp, Cow pea, French bean):** Training on seed treatment & Storage for women was conducted for CRPs on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 in Aizawl. The same training was conducted in the month of May, 2023 by CRPs in 17 High Priority villages - Lunglei (4 villages) and Mamit (13 villages). A total of 402 Women farmers participated in 17 villages in the training.

• **Farmer Field School (FFS) on Green Landscape Governance:** ToMT on Green landscape governance was conducted by NPMU for Experts of GLIU & SPMU. At village level, FFS on Green Landscape Governance was conducted in 17 high priority villages in the month of May to June 2023. FFS on Green Landscape Governance consists of 3 modules such as:

Module I: Landscape Delineation, Climate, & Natural Resources

Module II: Demography, Livelihoods, Community Institutions, & Social and Productive Infrastructure

Module III: Green Landscape Governance Mechanisms

Through FFS on Green Landscape Governance Village Implementation Committees identifies challenges and selected priority actions for 1 year by studying their landscape characteristics, demography, livelihoods, institutional mechanism and social & productive

infrastructure. This eventually leads to preparation of convergence plan and finalization of Green Landscape Management Plan (GLMP) for 1 year. Monitoring of GLMP is done by VICs at village level.

- **Observation of World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June, 2023):** In commemoration of the World Environment Day, the Green-Ag Project, Mizoram observed the World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 by conducting an awareness drive with a theme “Go green today for a better tomorrow” to reduce the use of plastic and the adverse effect it has on our environment and to promote eco-friendly materials made of bamboo and paper which are biodegradable. Six Government Middle School Eco-clubs were selected under Lunglei (West Bunglei & Sesawm) and Mamit (Damparengpui, Phuldungsei, West Phaileng and New West Phaileng).
- **Vaccination on Classical Swine Fever in convergence with AH & Vety Department:** Vaccination of pigs on Classical Swine fever was conducted in the month of May to July, 2023 in convergence with AH & Vety Department. Vaccine is supplied by the line department, Vaccination was done by the Qualified Veterinary Field Assistant among Community Resource Persons (CRP) in Lunglei and Mamit district. A total of 461 pigs were vaccinated (Lunglei-75, Mamit-396)
- **Curriculum Development Workshop on Livestock Management:** CDW on Livestock Management was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 under the guidance of Dr Hitesh Awasthi, Animal Husbandry Specialist, NPMU, Delhi. The Line Department Officers and Professor from College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, CAU participated as Resource Persons for the workshop. The draft curriculum/modules for FFS on Piggery and poultry were developed in the workshop.
- **Moringa distribution under National Livestock Mission (Community Moringa Cultivation for Green Fodder):** Moringa (Drumstick) seedlings were distributed to farmers of Lunglei district villages on July, 2023 to promote Green fodder for animal feed in convergence with AH & Vety Department, Lunglei as below:  
**West Bunglei** – distributed to 8 farmers (40 seedlings/farmer) – 320 seedlings  
**Laisawral** – distributed to 5 farmers (40 seedlings/farmer) – 200 seedlings  
**Sesawm** – distributed to 5 farmers (40 seedlings/farmer) – 200 seedlings  
**Tleu** – distributed to 2 farmers (40 seedlings/farmer) – 80 seedlings
- **Distribution of forest tree saplings for plantations in Village Safety & Supply reserve:** Forest tree saplings were distributed in the month of July, 2023 in convergence with EF&CC Department for planting in the safety and supply reserve of 17 High Priority villages. A total of 2317 saplings were distributed in 17 villages (Lunglei-520 saplings and Mamit-1597 saplings)
- **Development of Communication product:** The following communication products have been developed:

- i) Leaflet on Post Harvest Management of Mizo Chilli
- ii) Booklet of Greenhouse cultivation of Tomato
- iii) Booklet on Farmers guide to MiSALT
- iv) Booklet on Management of Rainbow Rooster
- v) Leaflet on Seed Treatment and Storage

#### **Agenda Minutes:**

1. **The state Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2023-2024:** The AWP&B for 2023 to 2024 was approved after deliberation and the approved amount is Rs. 2,66,43,815 (3,24,925 USD @ Rs. 82/ USD) (Annexure 2)
2. **Ex-post facto approval of office renovation amounting to Rs. 80,000:** The Agriculture Department allotted a separate building for Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU), Office at Lunglei. The building is occupied with free of cost. But, the building needs renovation, partition, white wash, separated wash room etc. In this regard, Rs. 80,000 (rupees eighty thousand only), payment for the renovation was made on February, 2020 under GOE head. The meeting was informed that if office is to be rented, the EMI for rental would be more than the amount spent on renovation and justify the amount spent; therefore, the meeting unanimously approved the ex-post facto of Rs. 80,000 spent for the renovation of the office.
3. **Annual Increment of Remuneration for Green-Ag staff:** The Secretary explained this agenda that there is a budget earmarked for annual increment in the agreement signed between FAO and OP. After careful discussion, the annual increment on the remuneration of Green-Ag project staff is approved by the meeting in principle. The FAOR commented that there is no objection whatsoever as long as the increment can be accommodated within the budget.

The meeting suggested that the OP calculate the annual increment along with a provision of one year at no cost extension and share with FAO. The ex-post facto approval may be obtained from the SSC chairman after sharing the worked out budget.

**(Action – Agriculture Department, GoM/Nodal Department)**

4. **Daily Allowance:** The daily allowance for field work of Green-Ag staff was deliberated. The secretary explained the need for approval as follows:
  - 1) Rs. 2000 per day for State Technical Coordinator, Team Leader, Experts, District Support Officers and Communication Officer
  - 2) Rs 1500 per day for Budget & Finance Officers, Administration & Operation Officers and MIS Expert
  - 3) Rs. 1000 per day for Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and Office Assistants

4) Daily allowance of Rs. 2000 for officials from line Departments is also put up for approval as the state government is not paying any allowance to the officers for attending workshops, field work etc.

The floor was opened for discussion and the daily allowance was approved by the meeting. The meeting suggested that the OP calculate the requirement for the remaining years and share with FAO. The ex-post facto approval may be obtained from the SSC chairman after sharing the worked out budget. **(Action – Agriculture Department, GoM/Nodal Department)**

5. **Revision of Staff Remuneration under Green-Ag Project:** An overall revision of staff remuneration under Green-Ag Project, Mizoram was considered as a crucial need on account of inflation, etc. and moreover, immense disparity of remuneration among staff in key positions with same qualification requisite in their respective disciplines and same designation with different remuneration were put forwarded in the meeting.

After deliberation, the meeting, especially the FAOR commented that there is no objection on any ground if the remuneration revision can be accommodated within the fixed budget. The meeting suggested that the OP calculate the remuneration revision from Year 5 i.e. August 2023, along with a provision of one year at no cost extension and share with FAO. The ex-post facto approval is to be obtained from the SSC chairman after sharing the worked out budget. **(Action – Agriculture Department, GoM/Nodal Department)**

6. **Insurances for the staff:** As the project requires extensive field works, and given the rugged terrain and unforeseen eventualities (the project area consists of sanctuary areas which is prone to wild animals and diseases etc.), Insurances such as (1) Accidental Insurance and (2) Medical Insurance for project staff was deliberated.

The meeting approved in principle stating that there would be no objection provided that it could be accommodated within the budget. The ex-post facto approval must be obtained from the SSC chairman after the OP shares the prepared budget to FAO.

**(Action – Agriculture Department, GoM/Nodal Department)**

7. **Restructuring of State Steering Committee:**

i) The Chairman invited Mr RB Sinha, National Project Director to explain the need for restructuring the SSC. Mr Sinha informed the meeting that Green-Ag is implemented in five States including Mizoram. In all the other four states, the State Steering Committee is chaired by the Chief Secretary. FAO also communicated a restructuring of the SSC in December, 2022 wherein the SSC members are requested to consider restructuring of the SSC member, so that the Chief Secretary becomes Chair, Secretary, Agriculture Co-chair and other members remain the same. In this regard, the meeting, after careful discussion decided that the Chief Secretary could chair the meeting after obtaining consent of willingness.

ii) Re-inclusion of Education Department in the SSC member as the project is taking up eco-club activities in the project landscape: The meeting approved re-inclusion of the School Education Department from the next SSC meeting.

The meeting also suggested Women and Child development Department, GoM and Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Water Resources Department, GoM be added in the SSC meeting.

**(Action – Agriculture Department, GoM/Nodal Department)**

In his closing remarks, the Chairman eagerly reminded the meeting that Green-Ag project is not a stand-alone project and aims to synergy with other existing schemes, projects etc. At the same time, the state has committed itself to convergence with this project. Therefore, the Chairman requested all the concerned line departments to actively participate in all possible convergence.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.



( Dr. LALROZAMA IAS )

Secretary to the Government of Mizoram,  
Agriculture Department, etc.

&

Chairman,  
State Steering Committee  
Green-Ag, Mizoram, Aizawl.

Memo No.B.13014/5/2019-DTE(AGR-GEF6) : Dated Aizawl, the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2023

Copy to:

1. PS to Agriculture Department, Government of Mizoram
2. PPS to Secretary, Agriculture Department, Government of Mizoram
3. All members



( JAMES LALSIAMLIANA MAS )

Director of Agriculture,  
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&

Member Secretary,  
State Steering Committee,  
Green-Ag, Mizoram.