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No.17-1/2020- RFS-I (83851)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(RFS Division)

118, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi

Dated: 6th June, 2022

Subject: Minutes of 5th 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 5th 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 **23rd May 2022 at 3:00 PM** under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

2. I am enclosing the minutes of the meeting for further necessary action. Further, the Annual Work Plan and budget for third Year (2022-23) has also been approved by Competent authority for \$3,486,602.



Encl: as stated.

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

Distribution:

1. Principal Secretary (Agri.) Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. (Email: pdcoop.mp@mp.gov.in , psagriculture@mp.gov.in, hmingtea.ias@gmail.com ; agrdepimiz2021@gmail.com, aoc.od@nic.in cag.agri@rajasthan.gov.in, plshukla@gmail.com, cpd-wmd.uk@gov.in)
- 2.CEO, NRAA, NASC Complex 2nd Floor, NASC Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, PUSA, New Delhi – 110012
- 3.Director General, PPV&FRA, NASC Complex DPS Marg, Opposite Todapur village, New Delhi.
4. Joint Secretary (IC), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh New Delhi
5. Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment Forest and

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Climate Change. Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh New Delhi.

6. Director (AH), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan New Delhi.

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

8. FAO Representative, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller 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 Director, 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 Bhawan, Jaipur.

14. Mr. R.B. Sinha, Project Director, GEF, FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003.

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

Copy to:

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

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) of the Green-Ag Project held on 23rd May 2022 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

The fifth National Project Monitoring Committee meeting was held in the hybrid mode under the chairpersonship of Smt. Shomita Biswas, Joint Secretary (RFS Division), Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) to discuss the status of implementation and the Annual Work Plan Budget for the project Year 3 (1st August 2022 to 31st March 2023) in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and the National Project Management Unit (NPMU). The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the onset the participants from the National Project Monitoring Unit (NPMU) and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare introduced themselves. The State operational partners from the five States viz Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, where the project is being implemented joined the meeting, virtually. The chairperson welcomed the participants and requested Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva, AFAOR/Officer-In-Charge, FAO Representation in India to present the project overview and highlights of the project implementation.

3. Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva, welcomed the Joint Secretary (RFS Division), DA&FW and all the NPMC members including the Operational partners. He then gave a presentation on the project overview and briefed the chair about the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) goals and mission, project rationale and its objective. Dr. Konda then described about the project landscapes which are production areas contiguous with the protected areas in five agroecologically different states across the country. He also briefed about landscape approach, the project components and its design, institutional architecture, implementation units, multisectoral platforms, funding mechanism, etc. While concluding, Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva thanked the Department in providing support for the implementation of the project and he mentioned that a detailed debriefing meeting on the project will be scheduled with the chairperson NPMC.

4. Dr. Divya Shah, (NRM & Biodiversity specialist, Green-Ag project) presented a short Compliance Report on the Action Points of the fourth NPMC meeting held on 18th January 2022. She highlighted the recruitment process of the states, however, the Chairperson was of the view that the States should present their own compliance and progress. Thus, she requested the Operational Partners to present the implementation status, update and future plans. Accordingly, the Operational Partners briefed about the project status in their respective States.

- **Madhya Pradesh:** Sh. Ravindra Modi, Deputy Director (Agriculture), Government of Madhya Pradesh informed that three experts (Communication

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expert, Budget & Finance officer and Admin officer) have been recruited through third party agency. As the selected candidates for the post of State Technical Coordinator (STC) did not join the post, it is vacant and will be re-advertised. He also informed that the state has opted for alternative ways to recruit GLIU team and STC as the agency is charging excess surcharge but the timeline for this is not known. He also informed that the second SSC meeting will be conducted by the end of June 2022.

- **Mizoram:** Dr. Keny, State Technical Coordinator, SPMU and Ms. Lalchhuanawmi, Team leader, GLIU stated that the state has identified priority areas in the project landscapes. Further, they stated that a training on Household survey and FGD along with its trial run will be conducted between 23 to 25 May 2022 with the Statistical expert hired by NPMU. They also mentioned that three studies on, Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC), Sustainable *Jhum* practice and Natural Resource Management (NRM) have been completed and the reports have been submitted to NPMU and final report of HWC and NRM studies is currently under review. They also mentioned that the 6th SSC meeting will be conducted on 26th May 2022.
- **Odisha:** Sh. Hemanta Kumar Panda, Director Soil Conservation & Watershed Development, Government of Odisha informed that the recruitment of GLIU experts and CRPs has been completed, however, one post of Animal Husbandry Expert is still vacant, and an advertisement will be given soon. He also mentioned that 40 CRPs have joined. He further mentioned that the State will also identify the priority areas in the project landscape. The State Inception Workshop report has been finalized. He also informed that the Household survey Instrument was translated to Odia and has been finalized. He also mentioned topics for studies and policy dialogue have been identified by SLTC and recommended to SSC which will also be finalized during the SSC meeting.
- **Rajasthan:** Sh. Arjun Lal, Joint Director (Agriculture), Government of Rajasthan, mentioned that State Inception Workshop has been conducted but the report has not yet been submitted to NPMU. Further, he mentioned that GLIU team and CRPs have been hired; a three-day GLIU inception workshop was held from 13th to 15th May 2022 at Jaisalmer wherein the NPMU team participated. He also mentioned that SSC meeting was conducted in hybrid mode in April 2022.
- **Uttarakhand:** Ms. Neena Grewal, Project Director, Watershed Management Directorate, Government of Uttarakhand, mentioned that all the staff are in place and the project inception workshop was conducted last year. She mentioned that the state has identified the high priority area in the project landscape and the geospatial analysis has been done. Further she added that the state has conducted social and BD assessment, however, NPMU has informed that the data needs to be collected through the tablets. Ms. Neena stated that the state is also going to conduct two-policy dialogues from 26th to 27th May 2022. She also informed that study on human wildlife conflict is being undertaken by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and another study on

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sustainable energy has also been initiated. Ms. Neena also highlighted that there were unusual delays in receiving the funds from FAO, as funds are received few days back, only.

- All the Operational Partners (States) informed that they shall be participating in the proposed one-day Farmer Field School (FFS) brainstorming session on 28th May 2022, being organized by NPMU.

5. Shri R.B. Sinha, Project Director explained in detail about the challenges faced by the project and the reasons for the slow implementation of the project. The project director also explained the institutional arrangement of the project in response to a query raised by the chairperson, NPMC. He mentioned that during the design phase, the states had requested to strengthen the manpower at grassroot level, thus FAO planned for hiring of manpower at the field-level as well as at the administrative level for smooth execution of the project. He informed that the concept for the project was developed by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the same was shared with the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change. Further, the department requested FAO to develop the project and submit it to GEF for approval. Hence, when the project was approved, an agreement was signed between DA&FW and FAO, wherein FAO was requested to implement the project on behalf of the Department.

Shri Sinha also explained how the livestock sector is the biggest emitter of the Green House Gases (GHGs) and how promoting the local breed crop varieties will reduce the emission. He also mentioned that none of the government schemes and programmes provide support for indigenous crop varieties. The chairperson opined that for promotion of local or indigenous crop varieties, provisions can be made under the natural farming scheme.

6. NPMU representatives wanted to present the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) of the financial year 2022-23 for approval from the NPMC, however, the chair stated that since the AWP&B was not shared with the Department prior to meeting hence, it could not be examined. She stated that the NPMU should submit the AWP&B to the RFS Division, which will be examined and put up to her for approval.

7. Sh. R.A.S. Patel, Deputy Commissioner, RFS Division, advised the states to fasten the activities so that the actual field level implementation can be started in the project. Sh. Patel also mentioned that since the project is in the third year, what process for the audit will be followed by FAO. Sh. Sinha responded that currently auditing is being undertaken in Mizoram. The audit firm have been hired from the agencies which are on the panel of FAO. Shri Sinha further said that these international agencies are then sub-contracting the audit work to some Indian audit companies. Sh. Patel then said that in this case FAO should explore the options of hiring of a local agency instead as India is having a very sound audit system in place. The chair then requested for comments/ observations from other members of the committee. No comments were made by the other members of the NPMC.

8. After the progress updates from each State and detailed deliberations the

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following actions points have been identified:

- NPMC meeting to be held quarterly (**Action: NPMU, FAO**)
- From next meeting each Operational Partner will present the progress of their respective states, their workplan along with timeline of activities (**Action: All States with support from NPMU**)
- Expedite the recruitment of GLIU and STC in Madhya Pradesh. (**Action: Madhya Pradesh**)
- Expedite the recruitment of SPMU staff in Rajasthan. (**Action: Rajasthan**)
- Annual Work Plan & Budget of the Operational Partners and NPMU for the financial year 2022-23 to be examined by the RFS Division, DA&FW, for approval by chairperson NPMC (**Action: NPMU and RFS Division, DA&FW**)
- Local agency may be hired for auditing (**Action: NPMU, FAO**)

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

List of Participants

A. Physical Mode:

S No	Names	Designation/Office Address
1	Smt. Shomita Biswas	Joint Secretary (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
2	Dr. O.P. Sharma	Additional Commissioner (NRM/RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
3	Shri R.A.S Patel	Deputy Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
4	Shri Yogesh Raundal	Assistant Commissioner (NRM/RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
5	Ms. Sunita Bhardwaj	Senior Statistical Officer (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
6	Shri Narendra Kumar	Senior Technical Assistant (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
7	Shri V.K. Pawar	ASCO (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
8	Ms. C Lalnunthari	Research Assistant, Green-Ag project, NPMU/DA&FW
9	Shri. S.P. Gupta	Assistant Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
10	Dr. Konda Reddy Chavva	AFAOR/ Officer-in-charge FAO Representation in India, FAO, New Delhi
11	Shri R.B. Sinha	Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO, New Delhi
12	Dr. Divya Shah	NRM & Biodiversity specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO, New Delhi
13	Shri Sumanta Sahoo	Finance and M&E specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU FAO, New Delhi

B. Virtual Mode:

14	Shri. D. R. Choudhury	Joint Registrar, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers
15	Shri Subrato Paul	GEF Consultant, MoEF&CC
16	Ms. Shailja Pahariwal	MoEF&CC
17	Shri Ravindra Modi	Deputy Director, Dept. of Farmers Welfare & Agricultural Development, Madhya Pradesh

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18	Shri S C Singadia	Additional Director, Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh
19	Shri James Lalsiamliana, MAS	State Project Director, Mizoram
20	Dr. Keny	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Mizoram
21	Ms. Lalchuanawmi	Team Leader, GLIU, Mizoram
22	Shri Hemanth Kumar Panda	Director, Soil Conversation and Watershed Development, Odisha
23	Shri Kali Charan Behera	Deputy Director, IMAGE, Odisha
24	Shri Sukanta Kumar Samal	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Odisha
25	Shri Arjun Lal	Joint Director (ATC), Nodal Officer, Green-Ag Project, Rajasthan
26	Shri R.P.Kumawat	Additional Director, Agriculture, Rajasthan
27	Ms. Neena Grewal	Project Director, Watershed Management Directorate, Govt. of Uttarakhand