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Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(RFS Division)

118, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi
Dated: 22nd December, 2022

Subject: Minutes of 6th National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) Meeting of Global Environment Facility (GEF) project "Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes"- reg.

The 6th National Project Monitoring Committee 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 **1st December 2022 at 11.00 AM at Room No. 142, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi** under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in hybrid mode.

2. I am enclosing the minutes of the meeting for further necessary action.

(R.A.S. Patel)
Deputy Commissioner (RFS)
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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 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. Representative of Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Jor Bagh, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi- 110003.
5. Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh New Delhi
6. ADG (Soil/Agronomy), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa

Campus, New Delhi – 110012.

7. Director (AH), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, 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.

11. Director (IMAGE), Siripur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

12. Director Agriculture, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan, Pant Krishi Bhavan, Jaipur.

13. Project Director, Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project Phase-II (GRAMYA), Watershed Management Directorate, Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Dehradun.

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

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

Copy to:

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

**Minutes of the sixth meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC),
Green-Ag Project held on 01st December 2022 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**

The sixth meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee was held in the hybrid mode under the chairmanship of Shri Franklin L Khobung, Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare to discuss the progress of implementation of Green-Ag: Transforming Indian agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes Project in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the onset, the chairman welcomed the participants and requested for an introduction. The state operational partners from the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states attended the meeting in-person and the state operational partners from Mizoram, Odisha and Uttarakhand attended the meeting virtually. Further, the chairman requested Shri R.B Sinha Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO, to present the project overview and progress of implementation.

3. Shri R.B. Sinha welcomed the chairman and the NPMC members and made a presentation on the project overview and briefed the chair about the Global Environment

Facility (GEF) and its goals and mission, project rationale and its objective. He then described the project landscapes, which are production areas contiguous with the protected areas in five agroecologically different states across the breadth of the country. He also briefed about the current threats in the landscape and how the project is going to address those threats through a landscape approach, the project components and its design, institutional architecture, implementation units, multisectoral platforms, funding mechanisms, etc.

Further, Shri Sinha presented the compliance report on the action points of the fifth NPMC meeting held on 23rd May 2022. He also provided an update of the recruitment in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh, the positions of State Technical Coordinator (STC) and technical experts at the Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU) have been filled (except two positions, GLIU Team Leader and Animal Husbandry expert). The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are yet to be recruited being one of the most important as they will be working with the communities. In Rajasthan, the recruitment of full-time SPMU staff is still ongoing. He mentioned that NPMU has no information on the current status on these and requested the states to provide an update during their presentation.

4. The Chairman inquired about the arrangements made in Rajasthan for the SPMU. Shri Arjun Lal, Joint Director (Agriculture), Government of Rajasthan, informed the chair that an interview for the SPMU is scheduled for 12th December, 2022 and the full time SPMU will be in place soon. Besides, interview for some of the GLIU position has also been fixed.

5. As part of the compliance report, Shri Sinha mentioned that the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) for 2022-23 was submitted to the RFS Division, DA&FW which was examined and approved. Further, he mentioned that in the previous NPMC meeting the chair suggested for hiring of a local audit agency. However, as per the OP agreement, the audit is to be undertaken by FAO as per their rules. As per FAO rules, hiring of a local audit firm is a long drawn process and it would have been difficult for NPMU to complete this task within the timeline. Donor wants the audit and other risk mitigation measures like spot checks etc. to be done as per schedule. Hence, audit has been assigned to the firm empanelled by the FAO headquarters to save on time and also because the mid-term review is due in a few months' time. Shri Sinha mentioned that the audit has been completed for Mizoram and process for audit for other four states is currently underway and is targeted to be completed within next three months. He further requested the Chair to provide a formal letter from the government to initiate the process of hiring of a local audit agency from next year onwards.

6. Shri Sinha presented the physical progress of the project. He mentioned that till date one National Project Steering Committee meeting has been convened and requested the Department to hold the next NPSC meeting before the budget session. He further briefed about the mandatory requirement of the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process in the projects funded by international agencies, wherein consent is sought from the indigenous communities in the project area. He further briefed the status of the same in various project landscapes. The Chairman inquired whether any problem has been faced for any statutory requirement or any difficulties getting the consent of the state biodiversity board etc. The Project Director responded these are not mandatory requirement of the project. He further presented the status of the landscape assessment in the states. He went on to explain why and how priority areas were identified within the landscape. He further presented the status of the community consultation process, the baseline reports, the development of Green Landscape Management Plans (GLMPs), household survey in the project landscapes.

He also explained about the Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS), the real-

time management information system (MIS), and the project website which are hosted on the NIC server. He expressed thankfulness to the officials of the RFS Division, who helped in getting approvals and space on the government server for the project.

7. The Project Director further presented the status of studies and policy dialogues being undertaken in states. He mentioned that the studies and the background note for policy dialogues in Mizoram have not been finalized till date. These activities have been going on since over a year now. He mentioned that the NPMU has been continuously providing support to the state team. Shri Sinha also presented the status of funds transferred and expenditures in the project. He mentioned that there was some delay in the transfer of funds from the FAO to Uttarakhand due to the absence of country representative. However, that has been sorted out and there will not be any further delays in fund transfer in future.

8. The Project Director further presented the challenges being faced in the project landscapes. In Rajasthan due to delays in remuneration by third-party agency to the GLIU team, the team has been witnessing resignations by the members. The Chair suggested the representative from Rajasthan to have a meeting with the agency regarding the delays in remuneration and resolve the issue. Chair also advised for making the payment to the CRPs based on amount of work they have completed. He also suggested hiring local people from the surrounding area be kept as CRPs.

9. After presentation of Shri Sinha, the Chair requested the state representatives to present the progress in their respective states. The state wise issues presented by respective States are as under:

- **Uttarakhand:** Ms. Neena Grewal, Project Director, Watershed Management Directorate, Government of Uttarakhand, gave a brief on the project progress. She provided details on high-priority villages in the landscape. She further discussed the budget summary sheet and the financial accomplishments for the financial year 2021-2022. Further, she added that the revised geospatial analysis report has been submitted to the NPMU and the primary draft of the study on human-wildlife conflict has been submitted by the WII, and after incorporating suggestions, the final report will be submitted by the institute on December 15, 2022. She apprised the chair that the ToRs for hiring an institute/university for a study on sustainable energy alternatives and a study on incentives for reviving agro-biodiversity have been finalized by NPMU and that the hiring process at SPMU is going on. She also stated that the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) is being developed and will be completed by December 20, 2022. This will help in the preparation of the Green Landscape Management Plan (GLMP) after the approval of TSG. She further briefed about the pilot activities (project initiatives) that have been started in the high priority villages. Shri Sinha mentioned that the mid-term evaluation will be held either in the month of March 2023 or April 2023. As informed by the FAO headquarters, the mid-term evaluators will look for the sustainability of the interventions that have been in the project and hence he suggested that the sustainability issue should be kept in mind while selecting the interventions.
- **Odisha:** Shri Hemant Kumar Panda, Director, Soil Conservation & Watershed Development, Government of Odisha, presented the progress from the state wherein 66 villages have been approved as high priority villages by the TSG. He mentioned that the stakeholder mapping, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and community consultations have been completed in the state. He presented the crop interventions for the *rabi* season. Further, he added that the State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) meeting will be held by the third week of December 2022 and the SSC meeting will be held by the second week of January 2023. Shri R.B. Sinha, mentioned that state needs to convene the TSG meeting. Shri R.A.S Patel, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, requested that all states should send the meeting notices of TSG and SSC to the Ministry, either through NPMU or directly. In case a visit is required

or possible, someone from the ministry can visit the state and attend the meeting. Shri R.B. Sinha also requested that Ministry of Agriculture officials to visit the project landscapes since the field implementation has initiated. Other departments who are members of the NPMC should also visit the field so as to strengthen the convergence and effectiveness of the project.

- **Rajasthan:** Shri Arjun Lal, Joint Director (Agriculture), Government of Rajasthan, mentioned that a Letter of Award (LoA) has been issued for the hiring of different positions for the State Project Management Unit (SPMU). Further he mentioned that a bank account has been opened for fund transfer besides, various assets and IT equipments have been procured. Village Implementation Committees (VICs) have been constituted in 27 villages. As part of convergence activities 5680 animals have been covered under deworming. Shri R.B. Sinha informed that both the collectors from Barmer and Jaisalmer districts have assured that all cattle in the priority villages would be immunized by 31st January 2023. They have also committed that artificial insemination will be done only through local breeds. Shri R.A.S Patel requested that the operational partners those who have presented the progress online to share the presentation with the Ministry and the NPMU as well.

- **Madhya Pradesh** Shri Ravindra Modi, Deputy Director, Department of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh informed the chair that the delay in all activities was due to a delay in staff recruitment at both the SPMU and GLIU levels. He further added that now all the vacancies at the SPMU level have been filled, and at the GLIU level, all but NRM expert and the animal husbandry expert positions have been filled. He added that for the animal husbandry expert position, no application was received since the remuneration offered is low for the qualifications mentioned. To address this issue relaxation in qualification is being sought and the once the same is done, the recruitment is expected to be completed by the end of December 2022. He further mentioned that during the SSC meeting, the Chief Secretary, MP and Chairman of SSC advised the team to do the recruitment of CRPs at the panchayat level, and the ratio should be one CRP for every two Gram panchayats. Based on this, the project villages were grouped at the Gram Panchayat level, and it was observed that there are 68 Gram Panchayats in the project landscape. Hence, the collectors were requested to recruit 39 CRPs at the local level. The recruitment of CRPs is expected to be completed by the end of December 2022. He further added that the inception workshops have been completed. Shri Modi also mentioned that the order for procurement of tablets through GeM portal will be placed by 15th December 2022. Shri Sinha suggested that the state partners need to take regular follow up with collector on status of the field activities. He also mentioned that the proceedings from the previous meetings to be put up to the new Collector of Morena and he further needs to be apprised about the project.

- **Mizoram:** Dr Keny Vanlalhratpuia, State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Mizoram, presented the project progress. He mentioned that six State Steering Committee meetings and four TSG meetings in each project districts have been conducted. He also added that the studies on human-wildlife conflict and the natural resource management policy dialogue are in progress. He assured the chair that the natural resource management policy dialogue will be finalized immediately after conducting the stakeholder workshop. He also mentioned that there are studies on local procurement for social safety net programs, incentives for environment friendly agriculture and impact of monoculture in terms of agro-biodiversity loss got approved by the sixth State Steering Committee. He also presented the list of online training imparted by the NPMU to the state and district teams.

10. Shri Franklin L Khobung, Joint Secretary and Chairman of NPMC in his closing remarks mentioned that the project is quite interesting, and it talks about biodiversity

conservation. He states that convergence is the key to this project. He further added that coordination among the different departments is important at all levels, National, State and District level. He further requested the state officers to monitor the activities regularly at both the state and district levels. He observed that the recruitment of the staff is the key issue, and requested the nodal agencies to speed up the recruitment process for the vacant positions. He mentioned that one of the positive aspects of this project is that there no issue in the fund flow. The Chairman added that because of the programmatic interventions there will be policy changes. He further said that NPMU needs to monitor progress with OPs on a monthly basis.

After the progress updates from each State and detailed deliberations, the following actions points have been identified:

Sr. No.	Actionable Points	Decision Taken	Task Assign to	Deadline
1.	Formal letter for hiring of local agency for conducting audit to be sent from RFS Division, DA&FW to FAO	A Letter is being put up	RFS Division	20-12-2022
2.	National Project Steering Committee meeting to be convened at the earliest	File will be submitted to Secretary for consent of date and time for the meeting	RFS Division	31-12-2022
3.	State Operational partners to regularly monitor the activities at both state and district levels	Concerned States need to provide the updates	Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan & Uttarakhand.	31-12-2022
4.	NPMU to have monthly review meetings with SPMU and GLIU to monitor the progress of the project in each state till mid-term review is completed.	Concerned States & NPMU need to provide the updates	Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan & Uttarakhand.	31.01.2023
5.	Expedite the recruitment of vacant positions at the GLIU and the CRPs in Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh needs to update the progress	Madhya Pradesh	31.12.2022
6.	Expedite the recruitment of SPMU staff in Rajasthan	Rajasthan needs to update the progress	Rajasthan	31.12.2022
7.	State operational partners to share TSG and SSC meeting invitations or notices with the Ministry, either through NPMU or directly	Concerned States & NPMU need to provide the updates	Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, NPMU	-

8.	Participants to share the progress presentations with the Ministry and NPMU.	Concerned States & NPMU need to provide the updates	Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand NPMU	
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The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Annexure

List of Participants

A. Physical Mode:

S. No	Name	Designation/Office Address
1	Shri Franklin L Khobung	Joint Secretary (RFS) and Chairman NPMC, DA&FW, MoA&FW
2	Shri R.B. Sinha	Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
3	Shri R.A.S Patel	Deputy Commissioner (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
4	Shri S.P Gupta	Assistant commissioner (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
5	Ms. Sunita Bhardwaj	Senior Statistical Officer (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
6	Shri. N.K. Saroj	STA (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
6	Shri V.P. Singh	Director, D/O Animal husbandry and Dairying
7	Shri Arjun Lal	Joint Director (ATC), Nodal officer, Green-Ag Project, Rajasthan
8	Shri Ravindra Modi	Deputy Director, Department of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh
9	Shri Muzzam Hussain	State Technical Coordinator, Green- Ag SPMU, Madhya Pradesh
10	Dr Divya Shah	NRM & Biodiversity Specialist, NPMU, Green-Ag FAO
11	Ms. Seema Sharma	Project Associate, NPMU, Green-Ag FAO
12	Ms. Athira R S	Project Associate, NPMU, Green-Ag FAO

B. Virtual Mode

S. No	Name	Designation/Office Address
1	Dr S. Bhaskar	ADG, ICAR, New Delhi
2	Ms. C.Vanlal Chhuangi	State Project Coordinator cum Deputy Director (Agriculture), Govt. of Mizoram
3	Dr Keny Vanlalhriatpuia	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag, Mizoram
4	Ms. Lalchhuanawmi Pachuau	Team leader, GLIU, Green-Ag, Mizoram
5	Shri Hemant Kumar Panda	Director, Soil Conservation and watershed Development, Govt. of Odisha
6	Shri Dushasan Praharaj	Director IMAGE, Govt. of Odisha
7	Dr. Santosh Kumar Khatua	Joint Director(L-I), Department of Soil

		Conservation and watershed Development, Govt. of Odisha
8	Shri Niranjana Sahoo	AEE, Department of Soil Conservation and watershed Development, Govt. of Odisha
9	Shri Kali Charan Behera	Deputy Director, IMAGE, Govt. of Odisha
10	Shri Sukanta Kumar Samal	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag, Odisha
11	Ms Neena Grewal	Project Director, Watershed Management Directorate, Govt. of Uttarakhand
12	Dr. S.K. Singh	Deputy Director, Admin, Govt. of Uttarakhand
13	Dr J.C. Pandey	State Technical Coordinator, Green-Ag, SPMU, Uttarakhand
14	Dr. Vikas Vatsa	Biodiversity specialist, Green-Ag, SPMU, Uttarakhand
15	Mr. Gulshan Bisht	ASO, Watershed Management Directorate, Govt. of Uttarakhand