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

105, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 5th June, 2023

Subject: Minutes of 7th 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.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of minutes of the meeting of 7th National Project Monitoring Committee of Global Environment Facility (GEF) to discuss implementation progress of the project titled "**Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes**", held on 15th May 2023 in Room No. 142, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (RFS), for further necessary action.

(R.A.S. Patel)
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Distribution: -

1. Principal Secretary (Agriculture) for States of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
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, Bhubaneshwar, 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.
15. Dr. Konda Reddy FAO, 55 Lodhi Estate, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi- 110003.

Copy to:

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

**Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC),
Green-Ag Project held on 15th May 2023 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**

7th meeting of the National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC), Green-Ag Project was held on 15th May, 2023 in physical mode under the chairmanship of Shri Franklin L Khobung, Joint Secretary (RFS Division), Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India. The meeting was held to discuss the implementation progress of Green -Ag Project in the project States of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. List of participants is annexed.

2. At the onset, the Chairperson welcomed the participants and requested a brief introduction from all to ensure physical participation from all the States. Further, the Chair requested Shri R.B. Sinha, Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO to present the project's implementation progress.

3. Shri R.B. Sinha presented the **compliance report on the action points** of the sixth NPMC meeting held on 01 December 2022 as detailed below :-

(i) **Audit** : He informed that the NPMU ensured that the hired agency's employees may have experience in auditing of government departments.

(ii) **Regular Monitoring** : He informed that the States have not updated on the action taken by operational partners for regularly monitoring the activities at both State and District levels. Updating the status of NPMU's monthly review meeting with the State teams, he informed that so far not a single review meeting has been conducted with Rajasthan despite continuous communication over phone and emails.

(iii) **Recruitment of Community Resource Persons in Madhya Pradesh** : Offer letters are still to be issued despite assurance given by the Additional Chief Secretary and Director - Agriculture of Madhya Pradesh to complete the whole process by March 31, 2023. As regards recruitment of SPMU, GLIU team and the Community Resource Persons in Rajasthan, it was informed that recruitment is not done yet. However, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Rajasthan has issued instructions (Dated: May 8, 2023) to Deputy Director Agriculture of project districts for engaging Assistant Agriculture Officers and Agriculture Coordinators for project work in the high-priority villages under the project landscape. In this regard, NPMU has received the details of resource persons allocated for the high-priority villages in the Barmer District and similar information from Jaisalmer District is still awaited.

4. Shri Sinha then presented **physical progress** of the project as follows :-

(i) Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), which is the first step in the project, is still not completed in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, and the geo-spatial analysis is ongoing in Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) Preparation of baseline reports will be completed by the end of May 2023 after which it will be available on the project website.

(iii) Household survey and community engagement has not yet been initiated in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

(iv) The Green Landscape Management Plan (GLMP) has been prepared and endorsed by the TSG in Mizoram, Odisha, and Uttarakhand. For Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, priority actions, in line with the project objectives, have been identified in consultation with the state administration and district officials. However, both the States have not updated the progress on GLMP development to the NPMU.

(v) Curriculum development workshop for sustainable agriculture for farmer field school (FFS) activity has been completed in all the project states except Rajasthan.

(vi) The training of trainers (ToT) for sustainable agriculture will be initiated for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, and Rajasthan after 20th of May for the upcoming Kharif season. The NPMU has completed the training of trainers (ToT) for Field School on Landscape Governance for all the States, and Mizoram and Odisha have started its field-level implementation.

(vii) Studies are pending in all the States. Similarly, two policy dialogues were scheduled to be conducted by each State annually. However, till date, no policy dialogue has been conducted by any State.

(viii) **Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS)** : It was informed that a Geo-visualization tool has been developed for all the States. Soil-water conservation measures integrated with the SDSS system are being developed with the help of the Principal Scientists at ICAR in all States. The crop matrix development is completed in Mizoram, and ongoing in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in consultation with respective KVVKs. In Odisha, ground truthing is going on, and in Uttarakhand, the crop matrix is under development.

(ix) **Development of MIS system** : Financial MIS has been developed for all the States and the online account system is functional in all the States. However, Rajasthan has not made any entries in the online accounting till date. Physical MIS is being developed for all the States, and the physical MIS page for FFS is under development.

5. Shri Sinha also apprised the Committee about the **present challenges** in the project States. He mentioned that in Odisha State, the nodal officer and district nodal officer superannuated on April 30, 2023, and another district official has been given additional charge of these posts, which is having an adverse impact on the project progress in the State. He requested the Chair to discuss the issue with the Principal Secretary to post someone at the District level.

6. Shri Sinha then apprised the Committee about the **financial progress** of the project. He further briefed the Committee as to how the Green-Ag project is in synergy with the six themes of Mission Life. He brought the attention of the Committee to the action points from the last NPSC and briefed the Committee on the challenges in the State's financial management reporting. NPMU demonstrated the online project MIS in real-time to the panel.

07. Subsequently, the **Annual Work plan and Budget (AWPB) of three States** and that of NPMU was presented for approval. Shri Sinha informed that the AWPB of three States and NPMU had been shared with the RFS division for approval of Chairman, NPMC. The Chair directed the divisional officials to examine them and put them up for approval within the next few days. He also instructed the other two States to finalize their AWPB immediately in consultation with NPMU and share them with the RFS Division within fortnight.

08. The project financial MIS and accounting system was briefly presented before the Committee. The Chair directed the Dy. Commissioner concerned to have a closer look at it within the next few days and apprise him of this.

09. The Committee was also informed that a sheet for capturing the data on convergence from other Government schemes/programmes has already been developed as per the decision of the National Project Steering Committee. It was also informed that again as per decision of the NPSC, the NPMU had sought information on the names of the districts where work under NICRA programme has been taken up in the project districts. It was informed that CRIDA has informed about the overlapping districts. Only two project districts have NICRA villages. The Project Director sought guidance from the Committee in regard to getting information on the technologies developed by ICAR in these NICRA villages.

10. The Chairperson requested all the States to present the issues they are facing in implementation of the project and the matters they wanted to discuss with the panel.

11. Representatives from **States** informed the Committee about the **progress** as under :-

(i) **Mizoram** : Dr Keny Vanlalhriatpuia, State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag, Mizoram informed that the studies are delayed in the State. It took more than two years to finish one study and three more studies are in the pipeline. He informed that the state doesn't have an agriculture policy, and a Committee has been set up at the State level along with line departments to develop one. The Chairperson assured the team that if there were any issues at the policy level, his office will keenly look into them.

(ii) **Odisha** : Dr. S.K. Khatua, Joint Director-SC, Odisha informed the Committee that the NPMU presentation has captured all the progress from Odisha. Regarding the studies, he assured that the agency/institution will be identified by the end of this month. He further mentioned that the replacement for the State nodal official might take some time.

(iii) **Rajasthan** : Shri Arjun Lal, Joint Director, Agriculture, Rajasthan informed that for the recruitment of the SPMU team a proposal has been given to the National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) which will take a minimum of 3 months for recruiting. The Chairperson instructed the State to ensure completion of recruitment within 3 months and submit a compliance report to the Chair. For the recruitment of CRPs, Shri Arjun Lal informed that local persons are not available, despite various efforts. the Chair suggested the State to review and revise their strategy/job requirement and complete the recruitment as soon as possible. The Chair instructed the States to conduct the SSC meeting by the first week of June.

(iv) **Madhya Pradesh** : Dr Sujan Bimal, State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag, Madhya Pradesh, briefed on the project progress in the State. He informed that recruitment of Animal Husbandry Expert is completed, and the CRPs recruitment letters have been issued and they will join within a week.

The Chairperson asked the team about the availability and procurement of indigenous seeds in the project states. Addressing the query of the Chair, Shri R B Sinha mentioned that the Government of Odisha has issued instructions on certifying the indigenous seeds, and the Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Odisha has directed the State Millet Mission to coordinate it. Regarding this, for each district, they have identified the varieties. Some FPOs are identified to prepare the certified indigenous seeds. The Odisha Millet Mission Director has informed the NPMU that they could assure the supply of indigenous varieties of millets for the

project's use. For rice, the NPMU has requested the district team in Odisha to identify the local varieties of rice, and they have identified the suppliers of local varieties within the community. The Odisha state government has undertaken some trials for certification and after that, the agricultural department has now issued instructions on how community seeds can also be certified.

Shri Sinha further added that the NPMU will share the guidelines prepared by Odisha for the certification of indigenous varieties of millets with all the states. The Chair advised the States to study these guidelines and adopt them as per their needs.

(v) **Uttarakhand** Shri J C Pandey, State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag, Uttarakhand briefed on the project progress in the State. He informed that for conducting the studies, the State received a proposal from GB Pant University for two studies which is being processed. The studies will begin this year only. The suggestion received from the NPMU on human-wildlife conflict study has been shared with the Wildlife Institute of India and they are working on the same. The revised report will be shared shortly. He further added that the SSC meeting will be conducted shortly.

11. In his closing remarks, Shri Franklin L Khobung, Joint Secretary and Chairman of NPMC mentioned that the project is a lighthouse project in practical terms. He further mentioned that the Secretary, Agriculture, GoI has reviewed the project thoroughly, and based on that, a DO letter was addressed to all the states; however, the States have not responded well. The Chair proposed to send a second DO letter from Secretary, Agriculture to the State Chief Secretaries for support in convergence and inter-departmental coordination. He further advised the project team to use the project platform to disseminate the technology being developed under the climate resilient agriculture initiatives that have been taken up by the Ministry and ICAR, for example, NICRA villages. He further added that the Ministry is redesigning the RAD program to include the NICRA clusters. He advised the project teams that the technology and practices implemented in NICRA villages can be scaled up through the Green-Ag project in its villages that come under the NICRA districts. He further reiterated that the knowledge and experience from the project should be documented. The project is closely working with the ICAR and KVKs in all States and the Agriculture Departments get this information from them, however, project documents will be helpful in drawing the learnings.

Action points: The following action points have been identified after detailed deliberations in the meeting:

- I. SSC meeting to be conducted by the first week of June. **(Action: Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh)**
- II. Studies and policy dialogues must be completed on time. **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
- III. State Operational partners to monthly monitor the activities at both state and district levels **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
- IV. Expedite the recruitment of SPMU staff in Rajasthan and complete it before August 2023. **(Action: Rajasthan)**
- V. Review and revise the strategy for recruiting CRPs and complete the recruitment as soon as possible. **(Action: Rajasthan)**
- VI. Issue a DO letter to the Chief Secretaries of all states from Secretary, Agriculture for support in convergence and interdepartmental coordination. **(Action: DA&FW, NPMU)**
- VII. NPMU to share the guidelines prepared by Odisha for the certification of indigenous varieties of millets with DA&FW and all the OPs. **(Action: NPMU)**
- VIII. RFS Division examined the AWPB of three states and NPMU, which is approved, however, NPMU has to take care that the AWPB should be as per the original approved document. **(Action: NPMU)**
- IX. The two states Rajasthan and Uttarakhand AWPB to be shared with NPMU and then to RFS Division within a fortnight. **(Action: Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and NPMU)**
- X. Dy. Commissioner to have a closer look at the MIS and accounting system of the Project and apprise the Chair on its efficacy. **(Action: Dy. Commissioner, RFS & NPMU)**
- XI. ICAR to issue suitable instructions to their field functionaries to make available the technologies developed under NICRA in the districts where the project is being implemented. Also, ICAR to share technologies developed in any NICRA villages which are in vicinity of the project's districts. **(Action: ICAR)**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and panel members.

List of Participants

S. No	Name	Designation/Office Address
1	Shri Franklin Khobung	Joint Secretary (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
2	Dr S N Bhaskar	Advisor (NRM/RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
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 Vijay Kumar	ASCO (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
7	Shri Rameshwer Shah	ASO, DA&FW, MoA&FW
8	Shri Arjun Lal	Joint Director (ATC), Nodal officer, Green-Ag Project, Rajasthan
9	Dr S K Khatua	Joint Director, Soil Conservation and Watershed Development, Odisha
10	Dr Keny Vanlahriatpuia	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag, Mizoram
11	James Lalsiamliana	Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Mizoram
12	Mr Hirendra Omkar	Deputy Director, Department of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh
13	Dr Sujan Bimal	State Technical Coordinator, Green- Ag SPMU, Madhya Pradesh
14	Dr S.S Srivastava	Deputy Director, Watershed management Directorate Uttarakhand
15	Dr J.C Pandey	State Technical Coordinator, Green- Ag SPMU, Uttarakhand
16	Sh. Gulshan Singh	Statistical Officer, Watershed management Directorate Uttarakhand
17	Dr Konda Reddy	AFAOR, FAO
18	Shri R.B. Sinha	Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
19	Ms Devashree Nayak	Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
20	Ms Seema Sharma	Budget and Finance Specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
21	Mr Abhishek Saini	IT specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
22	Ms. Athira R. S	Junior NRM Specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO

