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

105, B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 12th September, 2023

Subject: Minutes of 8th 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 8th 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 **18th August, 2023 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi** under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

2. The Minutes of the meeting are enclosed for further necessary action.

Encl: as stated above.


(R.A.S. Patel)
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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 Bhawan, 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 Bhawan, 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 (NRM) PS to Director (RFS), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Minutes of the 8th meeting of National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC), Green-Ag Project held on 18th August at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Eighth meeting of the National Project Monitoring Committee of Green-Ag was held on 18th August in physical mode under the Chairpersonship of Shri Franklin L Khobung, Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India (GoI) to discuss the progress of implementation of the project "**Green-Ag: Transforming Indian agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes**" in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The 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 Compliance Report of the 7th NPMC meeting and progress report on implement of the project.

3. Shri R.B. Sinha presented the compliance report on the action points of the seventh NPMC meeting held on 15th May, 2023 as detailed below.

- i. **SSC meeting:** The SSC meeting has not been conducted by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand, despite several reminders from the NPMU. He informed that the NPMU team visited Rajasthan on 7 August 2023 to meet the Chief Secretary of the State and the Chief Secretary assured that the SSC meeting would be convened soon; however, so far there is no information from the State. It was also informed that the mid-term review of the project is about to start and even SSC meetings have targets. If the meetings are not done regularly, it will show that the Operational Partner (OP) does not have ownership of the project. The Chairperson inquired with the State Representatives about the cause of the delay in conducting the SSC meeting. Shri. Arjun Lal, Joint Director, Agriculture, Rajasthan, informed that the file is under process and the State is doing the required follow-up as well to conduct the meeting as soon as possible. Dr. J. C. Pandey, State Technical Coordinator, Uttarakhand, informed that the annual work plan and budget (AWPB) for the State was approved by the NPMU on July 29, 2023, and the file is under process to conduct the meeting. Dr Sujan Bimal, State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Madhya Pradesh, informed that the meeting in Madhya Pradesh is proposed for August 28, 2023. The chairperson advised the OPs to initiate the process of conducting the SSC meeting on time, as it is the responsibility of OPs to conduct the SSC timely, instead of waiting to get advice from the NPMU.
- ii. **Study and policy dialogues:** Shri Sinha informed the panel that the studies and policy dialogues are not being conducted in any of the sStates on time. The chairperson advised the State representatives to provide the status of studies in their respective States. Dr. Keny Vanlalhriatpuia, State Technical Coordinator, Mizoram, informed the panel that the state team shared their remarks on the draft Natural Resource Management Policy Dialogue, and the consultant will share the final document with the State within one week. Shri Niranjana Sahoo, AEE, Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, informed that the institutions for conducting two studies and policy dialogues have been identified, and the Chairperson, SSC, has approved the institutions as well. The OP shared

- the draft MoU with the institution, and by the end of August, all the agencies will be on board.
- iii. **Monthly monitoring of project activities by the OPs:** Shri Sinha apprised the panel regarding the update on the monthly monitoring of project activities. In Madhya Pradesh, the state is claiming that they are monitoring the progress regularly; however, the NPMU has flagged its dissatisfaction with the progress to the OP on several occasions. In Mizoram, the OP monitors the progress regularly, and the Joint Director Agriculture participates in all the meetings without fail. In Odisha, the Director of the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management is proactively reviewing the project's progress. In Uttarakhand, there is still a struggle to have the monthly review meeting on time despite several requests from the NPMU. Also, the State is having lot of issues on convergence with the line departments. In Rajasthan, there are no team members in both SPMU and GLIU. The chairperson instructed all the State teams to have monthly review meetings on project progress since these meetings are essential and help streamline the project activities. He further advised the teams to be active on project WhatsApp groups.
 - iv. **Recruitment of project staff in Rajasthan:** Shri Arjun Lal informed the chair that Rajasthan has a rule of RTCP through which tenders are given to a third-party agency, and through the agency, the GLIU team and community resource persons were recruited. The institution hired the staff on contract, but the team members left the project because of the remoteness of the project landscape and irregular pay from the agency. The institution has been barred because of the non-payment of staff. The file has been moved for fresh hiring according to the contractual hiring rules of the Rajasthan government. The NPMU suggested the state identify some local NGOs that are already there in the landscape to set up the GLIU. The State officials said that it will be difficult to choose any good NGO with the existing rules of the state for procuring their services. The State officials in their meeting had suggested that if FAO can do it following their own regulations and recommend their name to the state then it may be possible for them to recruit a good NGO. The NPMU further suggested the state to bring this to the SSC agenda, where this issue can be discussed and an appropriate decision may be taken in this regard.
 - v. **NPMU to share the guidelines prepared by Odisha for the certification of indigenous varieties:** NPMU shared the guidelines with all the OPs. The NPMU received feedback from Rajasthan only on the guidelines. The guideline mentions minor millets, but in Rajasthan, there are no minor millets. Bajra, which is a major millet in the area, and the variety used are cross-pollinated, and due to this, the process given in the document is not feasible. Therefore, a dedicated guideline is required. The Other states should also review and provide their feedback on its adoption to their landscape.
 - vi. **AWPB of Rajasthan and Uttarakhand:** The AWPB of Uttarakhand has been finalised in consultation with the NPMU after several exchanges between NPMU and the OP. It is further submitted to NPMC for its endorsement. The AWPB of Rajasthan is yet to be submitted by the OP.
 - vii. **Implementation of technologies developed under NICRA in the project districts:** The ADG, CRIDA, instructed all the KVKs in the project districts or nearby districts to share the technologies developed under NICRA project to support the project in respective landscape. Madhya Pradesh has initiated the meeting with KVK Morena. In Odisha, the state project management unit is connected with KVK Bhadrak. In KVK Bhadrak, the technology developed is for

flood-prone areas, and Mayurbhanj, where the project is being implemented, is not a flood-prone. However, the KVK advised the team to adopt certain technologies that can be implemented in areas that are not flood-prone. In Uttarakhand, the team contacted the concerned KVK; however, there has been no response so far. Shri Rajbir Singh, ADG, ICAR, advised the state to contact him if there is any support required to connect with the concerned KVK. He further added that, if required, an exposure visit for the farmers could also be arranged. Shri Sinha further informed the chair that the technologies developed in the NICRA villages are not updated on the respective KVK websites. He added that it would be helpful if the crop-wise information was updated on the KVK site.

4. Shri Sinha then presented following physical progress of the project :

- I. High-priority villages: Uttarakhand identified 99 villages as high priorities for the entire project period, and Uttarakhand should expand the project to more villages since the total number of villages is 1232.
- II. Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), which is the first step in the project, has not yet been initiated in Rajasthan.
- III. Geospatial analysis: completed in all states except Madhya Pradesh and is expected to be completed by September 2023.
- IV. Village Implementation Committees: In Madhya Pradesh, VICs are constituted; however, no meetings have been held to date. The yearly target for the VIC meetings is 240 meetings. Similarly, there is no update regarding the VIC meetings in Rajasthan.
- V. State Steering Committee meetings: The SSC meetings have to be done quarterly, and the total target is 12 meetings throughout the project period. However, in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, only 2 meetings have been held, and in Uttarakhand, only three meetings have been held so far.
- VI. Technical Support Group (TSG) Meetings: The TSG meetings have to be done quarterly, and the total target is 48 meetings for Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 24 meetings for Odisha and Uttarakhand throughout the project period. Against this target, only four meetings were conducted in MP and Uttarakhand, ten meetings in Mizoram, three meetings in Rajasthan, and five meetings in Odisha, respectively. The chairperson observed that the achievement of the TSG meeting target in every state is quite low, and it is important to have it on time. He instructed all the states to hold the meeting regularly.
- VII. Green Landscape Management Plan (GLMP): The GLMPs are prepared for Mizoram, Odisha, and Uttarakhand. There is no plan prepared for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The target is five plans covering at least 1,800,000 ha and the achievement is 3 plans covering 116,193 ha.
- VIII. Farmer Field School (FFS) on Landscape Governance: The target for FFS on landscape governance is 300 FFS per landscape with 6,000 local decision-makers; however, no FFS has been initiated in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to date. The chairperson observed that the achievement of the FFS in every state is quite low. He advised the team to make a work plan to achieve the target on time.
- IX. Farmer Field School (FFS) on Sustainable Agriculture: The target for FFS on sustainable agriculture is 750 FFS per landscape again the achievement is quite low in all the states and Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have not conducted any FFS on sustainable agriculture so far. Shri Sinha further informed the chair

that Rajasthan has done some field-level interventions however, it is not being documented by the state. The chairperson advised Rajasthan to train the agriculture coordinators to initiate the field-level interventions and document all the achievements at the field level.

- X. Farmer Field School (FFS) on Improved livestock management: The curriculum is developed for all the states and is approved by Madhya Pradesh. Final vetting from Mizoram, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan is awaited. The field schools will be initiated by September 2023.
- XI. Studies & Policy dialogues: Out of 29 studies, only three have been completed. No studies have been initiated in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, or Rajasthan. Similarly, 11 policy dialogues have to be conducted by each state; no policy dialogue has been conducted by any state to date. Also, Shri Sinha mentioned that the state does not have an agriculture policy, and the state initiated the development of an agriculture policy as a part of the project activity. The chairperson observed that it could be a great achievement for the project if the state could have its own agriculture policy as a part of the project activity. The chairperson advised all the OPs to identify suitable institutions to conduct the study, which will not take much time as it only needs a MoU between the OP and the institution. He also added that wildlife and biodiversity are very important as per the project focal area, and the studies conducted under these focal areas have to focus on one or two important aspects of the issue and conduct an area-specific study.
- XII. New policy recommendations: Shri Sinha further mentioned that 2 new policy recommendations would be at the national level at the end of the project, and he requested the chair to advise what all environmental indicators should be captured. The chairperson suggested to schedule a separate discussion regarding this.
- XIII. Establishment of Green Value chain: For developing green value chains, FAO identified 5 consultants for each landscape, and training is being organised from September 4 to 6, 2023, for the consultants and the project team to develop 10 detailed project reports or investment plans for each landscape. Shri Konda Reddy, AFAOR, FAO India, informed the Chair that the state representatives can also attend the training.
- XIV. Management and Information system (MIS): The financial MIS is functioning; however, the figures are not getting tallied between online reporting and physical reporting. Shri Sinha requested the chairperson instruct the OPs to finalise a date for clearing these disparities in accounting. Dr. Keny Vanlalhriatpuia mentioned that the physical submission of vouchers from the CRPs from the Mamit District is being delayed due to the longer travel time to reach the GLIU office in Lunglei from the Mamit District. The chairperson advised the state to ask the CRPs to submit their vouchers to the district support officer (DSO) by the 25th of every month, and the DSO can submit the vouchers to the GLIU. He further advised all the states to resolve the issue timely. In Rajasthan, the state developed an API to link all the interventions that have been done by the line departments under co-financing with the MIS. Sh. Sinha requested the chairperson advise all the OPs to do similar interventions to share the co-finance data. The chairperson mentioned that a DO letter can be issued by the secretary of agriculture to all the OPs for sharing the co-finance data through an API from the project landscape.

5. Sh Sinha further briefed the challenges faced by NPMU with different OPs. He mentioned that in Uttarakhand neither SPMU nor GLIU is able to get the required convergence with most of the line departments. The chairperson advised the State team that the project is not a standalone project and that convergence from different line departments has to be ensured. He also added that all the line departments need to be sensitized and the State project team should take a proactive role in the discussions with the line departments.

6. Following agenda items were also discussed during the meeting :-

- i. **Convergence of DAC&FW schemes such as MIDH, NFSM, PVKY etc. with the project:** On this, the chairperson ensured that a DO letter will be sent to all the Joint Secretaries to in the Department requesting them to take up the matter with State Secretaries of OPs to ensure convergence under different programmes and schemes.
- ii. **Linking of Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) with the website of KVKs:** The project aims to provide kiosks/computers with staff at every panchayat level in the project landscape through which the farmers can access the SDSS system. He requested that the chairperson provide the necessary advice to link the SDSS with the website of KVKs in the project landscape so that the farmers can access it directly. Shri Rajbir Singh mentioned that a WhatsApp group may be made with KVK for advisory to the farmers on this matter. Shri Singh also assured that this would be facilitated.
- iii. **Strategy to mainstream indigenous seed varieties under different schemes:** The chairperson informed that the Secretary Agriculture, advised to consult with the Seeds Wing since it is related to the promotion of indigenous seeds. He also added that a committee is being formed and anyone from this group can co-opt for the meeting. Shri Sinha requested that the representative from the Green-Ag team may be added as a special invitee in the committee.

7. In his closing remarks, the Chairperson appreciated the presentation made which was quite comprehensive. He also appreciated the achievements of Mizoram and Odisha. He requested the OPs to accelerate the pace of implementation to achieve the project targets on time. He further added that the SSC and TSG meetings are the foundation of all the activities, and therefore need to be conducted regularly. He then directed that from the next NPMC meetings, the OPs have to present the project progress and NPMU will be presenting the compliance report only. He expressed his concern over the backlog of activities in Rajasthan, and advised the Rajasthan team to establish the State Project management Units as soon as possible. He also advised to mobilize all the agricultural supervisors in the project landscape and initiate the project activities as soon as possible. Sh Sinha requested the chairperson to advise ADG wildlife and Chief wildlife warden Rajasthan as they are not cooperating with any intervention that has been planned in DNP. The chairperson said that convergence is important for this project and that can be achieved by involving the district magistrate effectively in this project. He further added that policy dialogues and studies are crucial for this project, which is lagging in every state. He advised all the OPs to complete the studies and policy dialogues on time.

8. Shri Konda Chavva informed the panel that the midterm review of the project is going on and he sought the availability of JS for the meeting with the midterm review team. After detailed discussion, following action points emerged:

Action points:

1. From the next NPMC meeting onwards States have to present the project progress based on the achievements and timelines against the project's overall target under each activity. **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
2. Prepare a work plan to achieve all the targets on time. **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
3. State operational partners should have regular monthly meetings to monitor the progress. **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
4. OP should get in touch with ADG, ICAR to facilitate coordination between Pauri Garhwal KVK and the project team. **(Action: OP, Uttarakhand and ICAR)**
5. Studies and policy dialogues have to be completed without further loss of time. **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
6. SSC and TSG meetings have to convene on time. **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
7. Complete the recruitment process of state project management units within 3 months. **(Action: Rajasthan)**
8. Inclusion of crop-wise NICRA technologies on KVK websites. **(Action: ICAR)**
9. Linking the KVK website with the GLIP **(Action ICAR and respective OP)**
10. Mobilise and train the agriculture coordinators in the project landscape to initiate the field-level interventions and document all the achievements at the field level. **(Action: Rajasthan in coordination with NPMU)**
11. Complete all the pending entries on physical MIS within one and half months. **(Action: All Operational Partners)**
12. DO letter from the Secretary, Agriculture to all the OPs for sharing the co-finance data through an API from the project landscape. **(Action: DA&FW)**
13. DO letter from JS (RFS) to all the Joint Secretaries in the Department requesting to take up the matter of convergence under different programmes and Schemes with all State Secretaries of OPs. **(Action: DA&FW)**

List of Participants

S. No	Name	Designation/Office Address
1	Shri Franklin L Khobung	Joint Secretary (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
2	Dr Rajbir Singh	ADG (AAFCC), ICAR
3	Ms. Sunita Bhardwaj	Senior Statistical Officer (RFS), DA&FW, MoA&FW
4	Mr. Narendra Kumar	STA,RFS, DA&FW, MoA&FW
5	Dr Prashant	Director (Watershed Development), NRAA, DA&FW,
6	Mr. Pramil Kumar Swain	Director, IMAGE, Odisha
7	Mr. Niranjana Sahu	AEE, DSC&WD, Odisha
8	Mr. Arjun Lal	Joint Director (ATC), Nodal officer, Green-Ag Project, Rajasthan
9	Dr Keny Vanlalhriatpuia	State Technical Coordinator, SPMU, Green-Ag, Mizoram
10	Mr. Lalmalsamwa	Joint Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Mizoram
11	Mr. S C Singadia	Additional Director, Department of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh
12	Mr. Gopal Singh Solanki	Assistant Director, Department of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh
13	Dr Sujana 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	Mr Sailendra Narayan Naik	Joint Director, Soil Conservation and Watershed Development
17	Dr Konda Reddy	AFAOR, FAO
18	Mr. R.B. Sinha	Project Director, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
19	Mr. Manoj Mishra	Mid-term review Manager- Green-Ag, FAO
20	Ms. Devashree Nayak	Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
21	Ms. Athira R. S	Junior NRM Specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO
22	Mr. Ajay Singh	Junior NRM & BD Specialist, Green-Ag, NPMU, FAO