

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

(Under Himachal Pradesh – Horticulture Development Project)

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) is implementing World Bank funded project on Horticulture Development in the State of Himachal Pradesh (H.P). The project will address key, well known gaps and deficiencies in the horticulture sector in Himachal Pradesh and transform the sector (and the overall rural economy) to be more productive, efficient and profitable. By doing so, it will contribute to the key aspects of the GoI, GoHP and the Bank’s strategic objectives related to faster and broader agriculture sector growth and inclusive development. The proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is “to support small farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in Himachal Pradesh to increase the productivity, quality and market access of selected Horticulture commodities”.

The Key Project Indicators (KPI) will be: (a) Productivity (in ton/ha) (i) of rejuvenated apple orchards; and (ii) of new plantations of selected horticulture crops. (b) Percentage of Apple Grades A, B and C. (c) Share of selected horticulture commodities sold through new marketing channels for (i) Apple, and (ii) Tomato. (d) Direct project beneficiaries (number), of which female beneficiaries (%).

The project will achieve the PDO by: (i) improving producer’s access to knowledge and horticulture production technologies (including climate resilient technologies), and access to financial services so that they are able to better respond to climate variability and emerging market opportunities; (ii) promoting investments in agribusiness, fostering backward and forward linkages in the value chains for horticulture products, piloting negotiable warehouse receipts for horticulture commodities, and facilitating access to financial services for agribusiness enterprises, including collectives such as producer companies; and (iii) supporting the development of an improved platform for market-related information and intelligence, developing new e-market channels outside of regulated markets, and improved services provided by modernizing the promising traditional wholesale markets.

OVERALL PROJECT STRUCTURE

The activities of the project are clustered around three main interlinked technical components that have the following purpose: (i) improving producer’s access to knowledge and horticulture production technologies (including climate resilient technologies), and access to finance; (ii) promoting investments in agribusiness, fostering backward and forward linkages in horticulture product value chains, facilitating access to finance for agribusiness entrepreneurs, and, piloting negotiable warehouse receipts for horticulture commodities; and (iii) supporting the development of an improved platform for market-related information and intelligence, and upgrading and modernizing the promising traditional wholesale markets.

Component A: Horticulture Production and Diversification: The objective of this component is to enhance horticultural competitiveness at the farm level by supporting access to knowledge, technology and finance in order to increase long term productivity and farm incomes in an environment marked by changing market patterns and increased climate variability. This will be achieved by: (i) enhancing producer's access to disease free elite planting materials; (ii) supporting sustainable intensification and diversification of horticultural production through technology and knowledge transfer, including harvest, capture, collection, delivery and distribution of water; (iii) strengthening applied research and development; and (iv) enhancing the access to and use of financial services by producers.

Component B: Value Addition and Agro-enterprise Development: The objective of this component to improve value realization at the farm level, promote investments in agribusiness, fostering backward and forward linkages in the value chains for horticulture products, support supply chain infrastructure that prevents wastage and value erosion; and enable secondary and tertiary processing that create higher value for the produce. This will be achieved by: (i) building community/farm level marketing capacities and supporting them through matching grants to acquire productive assets; (ii) establishing a modern supply chain comprising pack-houses, controlled atmosphere (CA) stores, and processing facilities to be operated under operational management arrangement with private partners; (iii) piloting warehouse receipt systems linked to commodity exchanges; identifying, mobilizing and supporting agro entrepreneurs; and (iv) co-financing investments and facilitating access business advisory and to financial services for agribusiness enterprises, including collectives such as producer companies

Component C: Market Development: The objective of this component is to provide an improved platform for market-related information and intelligence, expand market access through alternative marketing channels, enhance transparency in the price discovery process, and improve market infrastructure. This will be achieved by: (i) supporting market information and intelligence services; (ii) introducing of e-marketing platforms; and (iii) upgrading wholesale markets.

Component D: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning: This component will ensure the effective implementation of the project activities and monitor and evaluate project implementation progress, outputs and outcomes, building on implementation experience. This component will support: (i) establishment and operations of Project Coordination Unit (PCU), which will oversee and coordinate activities of the implementing agencies of the project; (ii) establishment and operations of Project Implementation Units in the respective implementing agencies; and (iii) setting up of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the project, including a project management information system and contracting an external M&E agency to monitor project activities and impact. The component will also finance dedicated staffing for the project activities that are attributable to the outcomes of the project, consultancies, training and related material, office equipment, and operational costs

BACKGROUND OF THE ASSIGNMENT

In view of the Project design and spread of the Project activities, exhaustive consultations were held with all the stakeholders during the preparatory phases of the project. Environment and Social Specialists were specifically hired for this purpose, who interacted with the NGOs, farmers associations and other stakeholders and spelled out the likely risks during the implementation of the project activities and after the commissioning of the infrastructure envisaged under HPHDP. Based on the ground realities and the discussions held as well as the primary and secondary data collected on various aspects of horticulture industry in the State, Environment and Social Management Frame Work (ESMF) has been formulated which elucidates the likely risks and commensuration mitigation measures to be under taken before and during the implementation of the project activities at the sub project level. The implementation of ESMF and ESA in true sense will help in environmental sustainability and social inclusion. For this it is important to educate the project implementation entities and the beneficiaries, particularly the farmers, women and other stakeholders. To monitor and implement the ESMF and to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) and to formulate Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) for at sub-project levels, services of District Environment Specialists (5 No.) are required for the PIUs of HPMC and HPSAMB one each; 3 for the PIU Horticulture at district level (1 no. for the district of Shimla, Kinnaur, Solan & Sirmaur, 1no. for the district of Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Kangra and Chamba; 1no. for the district of Mandi, Bilaspur, Una and Hamirpur)

OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT:

1. Support the implementation of the project's ESMF by providing technical and operational support for training and capacity building, monitoring and reporting on ESMF, as required.
2. Identify and assess the potential environmental impacts and risks of the interventions proposed under HPHDP and recommend mitigation measures.
3. Identify opportunities for enhancing environmental benefits.
4. Ensure compliance with national and state environmental regulations and the World Bank's Environmental and Social safeguards policies that apply to HPHDP; and
5. Ensure the environmental sustainability of investments under the Project.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Essential: B.Sc. Forestry (4 years' degree programme)/ B.Sc. Bio Sciences/ B. Tech/ B.E. (Civil/Environment) from a recognized University and M.Sc. (Environmental Sciences/Forestry)/M. Tech (Civil Engineering with specialization in Environment) from a recognized University.

Experience: Minimum 3 years' experience in conducting EIA/ESIA and preparation of Environment Management Plan. Preference will be given to the Specialists having practical experience in conducting EIA and preparation of EMP and having familiarity with environmental policies and Acts

related to the similar project and previous experience of working in externally aided projects in hilly areas.

KEY TASKS

1. To coordinate with the concerned PIUs and E&S Cell of PCU to develop annual action plan and assist to implement and monitor Environment & Social Management Frame Work (ESMF) of HP Horticulture Development Project.
2. To develop relevant IE&C material and conduct awareness on various provisions of ESMF in co-ordination with PIU and PCU for all the stakeholders.
3. To Conduct TNA and formulate training plan & Training Modules w.r.t. *Environment Management Frame Work*, for the capacity building of the manpower directly involved in the implementation of project activities in the field, on all aspects of environment related risks and their mitigation measures.
4. To assess the dimensions of sub-project interventions and describe relevant physical, biological and socio-economic conditions including any change anticipated before the project commences.
5. To develop relevant environment base line data from desk review and from the field with the assistance of frontline staff of the BIU and or/ facilitators and submit the same to E&S Cell of PCU.
6. To undertake environmental screening of Project interventions to ascertain impacts, levels of intervention required and develop reports on environment risks associated with the implementation of these activities suggesting mitigation plan and submit the same for the further scrutiny by E&S cell of PCU.
7. Coordinate with PCU and external agency hired by the Project to conduct EIA and preparing EMP and provide relevant data and information.
8. Review EIA and EMP for the sub-projects and make recommendations on the adequacy of assessment and providing guidance to address the outstanding issue satisfactorily.
9. Assist in formulation and implementation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP)/ mitigation plan for project activities being implemented at sub project level and incorporate the same in the implementation plan with adequate provisions of fund.
10. Monitoring of EMP parameters and inclusion of required mitigation measures included in the contractor's TOR with adequate provisions of budget for implementation of EMP and/ or mitigation plan etc.
11. Monitoring of Environment Management Frame Work before and during construction and operation phases of sub-projects and submit monthly progress of implementation of ESMF to the PCU.

12. Ensure that project activities being implemented are in accordance with the existing Central, State and World Bank's environment and social policies.
13. Expert will ensure that the infrastructure to be developed by the project implementation entities should strictly comply with the prevailing regulations and safeguards policies of the World Bank.
14. The expert will also ensure that environmental guidelines with required mitigation plan are followed in case of low to moderate environmental risk activities and in case of moderate to high environmental risk EIA is done and EMP is part of DPR of such activities being undertaken in the Project.
15. To ensure safe disposal of the solid and liquid waste from the processing plants.
16. To ensure that the forest areas and other natural habitats are not encroached or disturbed due to the implementation of the project activities.
17. Devise reporting formats to be used by the field functionaries of PIUs.
18. Submission of monthly progress report (MPR) and half yearly progress report on implementation of environment management frame work to the PCU.

Deliverables:

1. Report on Training needs assessment (TNA) along with Training Modules and annual training plan for various stakeholders w.r.t. environment management frame work (EMF).
2. Organize awareness programs, exposure visits w.r.t. ESMF and progress report.
3. Sub-project based environmental screening report comprising of assessment of likely positive and negative impact in quantitative and qualitative terms including mitigation measures.
4. Development of monitoring plan and progress of Environment Management Frame work.
5. Development of sub-project based environmental base line data and photographs, video etc. related to project interventions.
6. Monthly Progress report of implementation & monitoring of ESMF.
7. Half yearly progress report on ESMF.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

The Environmental Specialists are required to undertake field-visits and tours as per the project requirements.

REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

District Environmental Specialist will report to the Project Director of HPHDP. The work and performance of the Environmental Specialist shall be reviewed by the project director on a periodic basis.

TIME FRAME

The assignment is full time based in Shimla for PIU HPMC & HPSAMB and for District Implementation Units (DIUs) of PIU Horticulture at regional HQ at district level in Himachal Pradesh. The assignment is likely to continue for the project period and renewable on year to year basis depending upon the satisfactory performance of the Specialist.

Remuneration and payment terms:

A fixed monthly consolidated remuneration/ consultancy fee of Rs. 70,000 will be paid to the Specialist and this monthly remuneration/fee shall be subject to applicable TDS deductions. The remuneration/fee will be enhanced on annual basis, in accordance with the provisions of HR policy of Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Society.