**ToR for hiring “Individual Consultant” ( Short – Term Assignment) to conduct**

**Impact Assessment Study of “Seed Village” Program supported by TRIPTI .**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

Government of Odisha is committed for reducing the incidence of poverty in the state. A project called “Targeted Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure” (TRIPTI) assisted by World Bank is being implemented by the Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM). The project’s aim is to enhance social and economic empowerment of the rural poor in 1020 GPs of 38 blocks of 10 coastal districts Odisha through development of their self-sustained and community managed institutions. Promotion of sustainable livelihoods is one of the important components of the Project. Identification of Sub-sectors and implementation of pro-poor focused Value Chain is the key project approach for promotion of Livelihoods. The Value chain in the identified sector is promoted through producer groups at the field level. These producers groups are guided and strengthened to Producers’ federations/ Producers’ company in the relevant sector so that they will be self sustainable institutions in future

The Project has been supporting Seed Village programme since Kharif , 2011 ( Piloted in Tirtol Block of Jagatsinghpur district) to improve Seed Replacement Rate(SRR) in Paddy especially for Small and Marginal Farmers to enhance productivity in 5 blocks of three districts ( **Tirtol, Balikuda and Kujanga Blocks of Jagatsinghpur District , Gop Block of Puri District and Mahakalpada Block of Kendrapada District** ) .

**2.0 Agriculture sector and Paddy Productivity Issues in Odisha**

Agriculture is the mainstay of State economy & substance of life of the people. The Kharif paddy is the main crop of the State. Most of the paddy areas are cultivated under un-irrigated conditions during khariff season. Hence, the food grain production in Odisha, depends upon the production of paddy & subsequently this production depends upon weather & distribution of rainfall system during kharif season. Compared to the all India average, the yield rate of rice production is less. In 2008-09, it was 15.29 quintal per hectare against the national average of 21.86 quintal per hectare. Again a large percentage (83%) of farmers of Odisha is small and marginal farmers. For these families; with average landholding is about One acre - usually with no irrigation; the options in agriculture are limited to production of cereals and pulses for subsistence; and in some cases taking a small second crop. The average productivity of Paddy of Small and Marginal farmers varies from 8 Qtls/ha to 25 Qtls/ha .Further, a large proportion of Schedule Caste families are landless; depending heavily on share cropping. Understandably, the group, constituted of marginal farmers and landless households is the largest in the State and among the more vulnerable section of the rural poor. A large majority of them migrate to different parts of the country in search of employment in unskilled vocations. The income earned is however inadequate to create enough surpluses to withstand severe shocks on household economy.

**Importance of Seed**

The Seed, a basic unit in Agriculture plays a crucial role in boosting up the productivity and economy of the country. Without the use of good quality seed, the investments incurred on fertilizers, pesticides and water will not pay dividend which ought to be realized. Only seeds with assured quality can be expected to respond to fertilizers and other inputs in the expected manner. The Critical role that good-quality seed plays in crop production is well known, more so to the farmers. Yet, in India no more than 14% of the farm land is planted with freshly produced good quality seeds every year. The remaining 86% of farm land is sown with the seeds saved by the cultivators from their previous harvest. This indeed is not the only problem where seeds are concerned. The rate of substitution of old seeds with fresh ones (Technically called the seed replacement ratio or the seed replacement rate, SRR), too, is woefully low. This is especially so in the case of self-pollinated crops that include several crucial ones such as rice, wheat, groundnut, pulses etc.

The Seed when scientifically produced (Such as under Seed Certification) is distinctly superior in terms of seed quality viz. the varietal purity, freedom from admixtures of weeds and other crop seeds ,seed health, high germination and vigor, seed treatment, safe moisture content etc and thus expected performance is known. A grain on the other hand is meant for human consumption.

To address the quantum increase in agricultural productivity, production and distribution of high quality seeds of improved varieties/ hybrids to the farming community is becoming increasingly important. The expansion of agriculture under tropical conditions due to the improvement of cultivars with juvenile period imposed scientific and technological challenges concerning the seed production under different environmental conditions. Quality seed is the key input for realizing potential productivity. As the quality deteriorates during subsequent generations the old seed must be replaced with fresh lots of quality seeds. Ideally seed should be replaced every year for hybrids and every three to four years for non-hybrids. Therefore it is necessary to improve the availability of quality seeds to raise the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR).

Despite implementation of the organized seed programme, the seed replacement rate has only reached **14 per cent** and there exists an alarming gap between the demand and supply of quality seeds. The role of private seed industry in the production and distribution of quality seeds is well recognized in the Indian' seed industry. However, they remain generally in the production of low volume high value seeds, which cater to the needs of only few selected farmers.

**Seed Replacement Rate in Odisha**

The average seed replacement ratio (SRR) of paddy in Odisha is **6.4%. While this figure is as low as 5.87% in Kharif, it is slightly better with 14.16% in Rabi.** The average SRR of pulses is hovering around 2%. Low SRR is suggested to be the chief reason for low productivity of the crop in the state which is hovering around 2360 kg per hectare. The low SRR in the state can be attributed to wide gap between seed (certified) demand and supply. Seed supply and SRR can be improved in two ways:

Direct supply cannot be a sustainable solution and thus there is a need to address the issue by promoting self reliance through local production. Therefore, the latter one is a long term strategy wherein production of certified seed is attempted in selected villages, named as ‘**seed villages**’, through a **Seed Programme**.

1. . **Objectives of Seed Village Program (TRIPTI)**

* To transfer the technique of seed production (Paddy and Pulses) to the small and marginal farmers of selected villages especially poor category thereby attaining seed self sufficiency at the village level which will help to attain the ideal seed replacement rate.
* To establish a community managed extension mechanism by creation of a network of Community Resource Persons – Seed for handholding selected farmers on package of practices of certified seed production.

**4.0 Needs of Consultancy Service**

The Project is closing on 30th June, 2015. Hence, the proposed impact assessment study of Seed Village Program supported from 2011-12 to 2014-15 will help the project to understand the achievements against the objectives of Seed Village Program promotion and the sustainability of the activities and potential for continuity beyond the project period.

1. **Task of the Consultant required to undertake are as follows:**

* To undertake study on impact of seed village program against the desired objectives.
* Collection and analysis of Sample data on Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) among farmers of various categories ( Share Croppers, Small, Marginal and Big Farmers) in seed village promoted villages and improvement in paddy productivity among farmer of various categories inside the Seed Village promoted project villages and adjacent project villages due to project interventions and comparison of SRR between normal seed replacement through supply of Seed by Govt/Private Agencies/company and through TRIPTI interventions.
* **To capture/document the process of community mechanism and seed marketing and usage of quality seeds and the impact/outcome of such intervention.**
* To Assess the Capacity Building improvement aspects of farmers, CRPs, M-CRPs, RP and adoption of new technology.
* To Access enhancement of income by the seed producers through project.
* Finding Process Gap in Seed Production and suggest recommendations.
* To Study the Process and continuity of Community led marketing of Seed and its impact under Seed Village Program.
* Study the Scope of creating higher level of organizations like Seed Producers Company for sustainability of the Seed Village interventions and suggest recommendations including roadmap for it.
* Assess impact of Community managed extension system like Producers ‘Groups, Producers Association established by the project and their future role.
* Documentation of Best Practices / Success Stories of Farmers (including pictures) who have benefitted from Seed Village Program and improved their productivity directly or indirectly through participation in the seed village program.
* Access Networking and Linkages with Govt Seed Supply and Certification Agencies and its impact.
* **To develop the vision plan/road map for the Producers’ Collectives as well as a financial business plan. Need to disseminate the findings as well as the vision plan /road map (with the business plan) with the selected project team members as well as with the community leaders through two separate workshops.**
* Suggest measures for post project sustainability and scope for expansion in other districts of the state.

**6.0 Scope, Methodology and Period of consultancy:**

**The services of the Individual Consultant will be hired for a period of 30 work days spread over 2 months from the date of signing of the contract** and the study will be conducted in three project districts where Seed Village Program has been supported by TRIPTI .

**Indicative Methodology of Study**: The Study will be conducted with 330 Seed Producers and Non-seed producer farmers ( 180 seed producers and 150 Non-Seed Producers) in 3 Blocks of 3 districts namely Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Kendrapada (where Seed Village Program has been supported by TRIPTI) . There will be FGDs with Seed Producers’ Groups (SPG), Seed Producers Associations (SPAs) ,KII with GPLF Leaders, CRPs, MCRPs and other stake holders. 9 Seed Producers’ Groups (SPGs) from three Blocks ( 3 SPGs from each Blocks) will be selected for the study and at least 20 farmers will be selected from each SPG.

Further, the study will cover non seed producers to know the impact of Seed Village Program relating to Seed Replacement and there by enhancement of productivity in the same /other GPs inside the Block. 150 farmers from 15 GPs of three sample selected blocks ( 10 farmers per GP x 5 GPsX3 Blocks from three selected blocks) will be covered through KII/FGD ( Key Informants Interview ) method. The Consultant will also refer the Seed Usage data and the impact of quality certified seeds usage data to be provided by the Project Staff/Community Institutions.

**7.0 Schedules for Completion of Task:**

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| **Deliverables** | **Time Period**  **( 30 work days spread over 2 months)** | **Payment to the Individual Consultant** |
| Develop methodology, frame work for Impact Assessment, Submission of Inception Report and submission plan and after going through all guidelines on Seed Village Program and PG related to it . | **By 7th day after signing the contract** | 25% of Consultancy Fee of the Individual Consultant upon submission of Finalization of Methodology , Framework, Inception Report and Work Plan for the Impact Assessment Study. |
| Data Collection, conducting interview with all stake holders and meeting with GPLF & PG members, DPM,BPFT, Representative of Govt. and TSA | **By Two months after signing the contract and upon completion of Final Report and other documents as mentioned in Table 8.0** | 75% of Consultancy Fee of the Individual Consultant after collection, compilation, analysis, documentation of best practices and submission of final report of Impact Assessment Study. |
| Compiling and Analyzing data |
| Report Writing and Submission of Draft Report |
| Submission of Final Report |

**8.0 Final outputs that will be required from the consultant:**

The consultancy will consist of the following key outputs that will be submitted to OLM. (a) An Inception Report that would describe the data required for review and identifies how the information is to be collected. All this would result in a work plan that assigns responsibilities and discusses implementation arrangements for data analysis etc.

(b) A draft report and subsequently the (c) Final report.

Finally the consultant will submit the following :

i. Three hard copies of final report including success stories .

ii. All the raw data collected (Hard copy)

iii. All the data tables and data in a CD (digitized copy)

iv. Reports in a CD (digitized copy)

**9.0 Review Committee:**

The consultant will be reviewed from time to time by a committee comprising of Addl. CEO (Operation), Dy. CEO ( CM,IB,CB), Project Manager (Livelihoods –Incharge) and Project Manager ( Procurement) of OLM on the basis of the deliverables and output of the consultant vis a vis objectives of the task. The committee will also review the draft report submitted by the Consultant. . Project Manager (Livelihoods-In charge) will be the Nodal Person from SMMU, OLM to co-ordinate all activities during Impact Assessment Study on Seed Village.

**10. Consultants Qualification and Experience:**

**a.** Minimum Qualification: **Post Graduate Degree.**

**(An Agriculture Graduate may be preferred. More Preference will be given to candidates who have done their Post Graduation from Premier Management Institutes like IRMA/IIMs/IITs/XLRI/XIMB etc.**

b. The consultant should have overall 15 or more years of experience in conducting impact assessment studies and atleast 5 **years experience/expertise in conducting studies relating to Agriculture Productivity Issues especially Seed related issues having expertise on Community Managed Extension Mechanism viz. Producers Groups, Collectives/Company** for Externally Aided Projects/Govt. of India supported Schemes relating to Agriculture Sector.

c. Consultant should have excellent documentation skills on preparation of this kind of study.

**11. Payment and Support System:**

* Arrangements like vehicle for field visit, cost for organizing need based workshop at State/District/field level will be borne by OLM.
* 25% of the Consultancy Fee of the Individual consultant will be released after finalization of Methodology, Framework, Inception Report and Work Plan .
* Remaining 75% of the Consultancy Fee of the Individual Consultant will be released to the consultant after completion of all task assigned to the consultant and upon submission of Final Report.
* The Consultant will work closely with Project Manager (Livelihoods-Incharge) at SMMU,OLM, Bhubaneswar for implementation of the workplan and submission of final report.

**12. Facilities to be provided by Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) to the Individual**

**Consultant during Impact Assessment Study.**

* OLM will provide all related data and reports available at SMMU ,DMMU and BMMU level related to seed village program
* OLM Staff will co-ordinate the Individual Consultant during field visit for arrangement of meeting with the Gram Panchayat Level Federations (GPLFs), Members of Seed Producers Groups / Association etc.
* OLM will reimburse the accommodation Cost of the consultant during stay in Bhubaneswar/ other Districts as per requirements while conducting the study.
* OLM will arrange vehicles during field visit by the Individual Consultant.

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