

Livelihood Improvement and Empowerment of Rural poor through Sustainable Farming Systems in North East India (ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region)

Environmental and social safeguards Management in NAIP

No. of Consortium Partners : 10

- i. ICAR Research Complex for North-Eastern Hill Region, Barapani, Meghalaya
(Lead Centre)
- ii. Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal
- iii. Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram
- iv. SASARD, Nagaland University, Medziphema, Nagaland
- v. North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- vi. Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Regional Centre, Gangtok, Sikkim
- vii. International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- viii. International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- ix. Zilla Parishad, Dhalai, Tripura
- x. Rural Resource Training Centre (RRTC) Umran, Meghalaya

No. of districts covered : 07

Duration : 5 Years (2007-08 to 2011-12)

Budget : 2325.53 Lakhs

Project objectives

1. Evaluation and validation of indigenous and improved farming system models for enhancing production in agro ecosystem of disadvantageous areas of NEH region for sustainability and competitiveness.
2. Addressing the constraints of deliverables to facilitate the community/people to harness optimum from agriculture sector.
3. Capacity building, skill up gradations, information access and promotion of activity specific SHGs.
4. Employment generation through agro-processing and value addition including storage, packaging, transportation and marketing of the products.

Brief project Description

This is the multi disciplinary project which will be implemented in seven districts, one each in the seven N-E States with an ultimate goal to enhance productivity, profitability, employment opportunity, knowledge empowerment and to ensure growth with equity in the disadvantageous districts of North Eastern hill regions of India having fragile ecology and poor rural mass.

Environment category

B

Major issues in the sub project

Social

The project aims at empowering the rural poor with information update and technology, skill for better economic return without touching/introducing any element to breach social fabric- thus it ensure social safeguard.

Environmental

1. The envisaged project will have a great concern on environment as it is mostly focuses on rehabilitation of *jhum* land, conservation of soil through terrace farming, water harvesting through Watersheds, Jal kundis etc., conservation of biodiversity,
2. Interventions of the project will aim on minimizing use of expensive chemical fertilizers in the soil through promotion of vermicompost, FYM etc.

Safeguards policies triggered (world Bank Policies)	Yes	No
Environmental assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X	
National habitats (OP/BP 4.04)		X
Pest management (OP 4.09)	X	
Cultural property (Draft OP 4,11-OPN 11.03)		X
Involuntary resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)		X
Indigenous peoples (OD 4.20)	X	
Forest (OP/BP 4.36)		X
Safety of dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X
Project in disputed areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X
Project in international waterways (OPBP 7.50)		X

4. Risk related issues (not covered under above 3 but perceived to be important in the sub-project)

In addition to the issues covered in the table above, the issue of interface with the communities is also important to the subproject. Measures to address this issue is given in 8(b). Further, the states of NE are one of the region facing problems of insurgency where the infrastructure facilities including communication (roads, telephone), input supply, marketing are also major issues.

5. Impact assessment (enclosures I and II)

The project will have positive impact as it aims in improving the ecological integrity, social equity, natural resources management, economic efficiency and enhancing the productivity and profitability of crops and animal through improved and innovative farming systems approaches. Where negative impact is perceived through individual interventions, approaches mitigation measures have been planned which are detailed in enclosures I and II.

6.Potential indirect and or long-term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project areas (assessment of anticipated conflict/complimentarily with the current as well as those proposed for the next five years) in the areas of the sub-project.

The project aims at interventions focusing on the empowerment of rural poor, improving the quality of natural resources and providing employment opportunities to the village peoples etc. The State line Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry are playing major role for the development of agricultural sector in the identified districts. For attaining complementarities in the project goals special emphasis has been made for linkage with National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (NREGP) and Horticulture mission – the key programs of Govt. of India. Wherever possible, the technological back up and infrastructural support from different agencies will be integrated and routed through a single window in partnership mode with the involvement of reputed Non-Governmental Organizations, Universities and Panchayati Raj Institutions (local self governance).

6. **Identify the key stakeholders and describe mechanisms for consultation with and to them done/discloser so far done including pre-project consultation with the stakeholders, workshop before formulating the full proposal, discussing the full proposal with some stakeholders before submission to the PIU.**
7. NARS institutes State Universities, other research institutes, CG centers, Panchayati Raj institutions, Government and non governmental institutions engaged in improving rural livelihoods through sustainable farming systems are the key stakeholders for this project. Frequent field visits to rural households and farm workshops, trainings and discussions with stakeholders were organized during the pre project consultation. After the launching of the project several meetings and discussions were held in each cluster for better interaction between the Stakeholders, Scientists, State Govt. Departments and Banks. At the entire selected clusters, baseline survey and PRA exercise in identifying issues and possible innovative interventions were carried out for the improvement of village people. So as to review the progress of the project from time to time a district advisory committee has been constituted at the district level drawing from all the line departments

Measures to address issues

The subproject designed includes following measures

- i. **Environment-** The very purpose of the sub project is to sustainably improve the degraded environment existing in coastal lands.. The screening of environmental issues has been done to include possible impacts and appropriate mitigation measures are proposed (enclosure I)
- ii. **Pest management** – Encouraging the use of Integrated pest management practices will discourage the use of chemical pesticides. This will provide advantage of environment and health security to the farmers. Field demonstrations and training of farmers on IPM and INM are integral part of the subproject.
- iii. **Indigenous people**

The tribal population in the project area is more than 70 %. The proposed interventions are either through augmenting or making adjustments in the livelihood system of the indigenous people without causing any major changes in their way of

life. It will only improve their income, nutrition and livelihood security. However, planned efforts would be made to ensure that tribals are included and derive full benefit from the projects intervention.

8(b)

i. Interface with the communities

The selection of beneficiaries will be made through involvement of local institutions and communities; preference will be given to a willing partner. The selection of the families would have proportionate representation from the following groups:

- a.** Small, marginal and landless farmers
- b.** Women
- c.** SC and ST group

Subproject implementation plan would be prepared and agreed with the communities and displayed. Participatory approach and transparency in the implementation would be maintained.

9. Consultation/disclosures to be done in future

Disclosure through mechanisms like organizing launch workshops, seminars, trainings, monthly meeting of SHGs which has already formed, and soliciting feedback of the sub-project implemented, updating the reports such as Mid-Term Review, Half Yearly and Annual reports on the website. The project brochures have already been distributed in local languages and through the implementation of entry point activities in different selected project areas all means of affective local communication will be ensured.

Consortium PI

National Coordinator

National Director

Safeguards Template for NAIP Projects

A: Environmental safeguard: Activities, Issues, Impacts and Mitigations Measures

Table 1: Environmental safeguards: Activities, Issues, Impacts and Mitigations Measures

Activities ¹	Issues ²	Anticipated level of ³ impacts		Mitigation measures ⁴ (negative impact)
		Positive	Negative	
Identification of critical erosion prone areas and preparation of conservation measures	Reduced soil erosion across the slope, nutrient loss, Soil acidity through appropriate soil conservation measures	√ (3)		
Use of high yielding varieties and high value crops.	Use of agro chemicals		√ (1)	Measures like INM would be employed for a balanced approach
Rain water harvesting in upper ridges	Reduced soil erosion, enhanced availability of water for agriculture and small animal farm units through 'Jal Kund' concept	√ (3)		
Agro forestry programmes in shifting cultivation pockets	Soil health improvement through Soil and Water conservation,	√ (2)		
	Use of agro chemicals		√ (1)	Adoption of site specific INM, IPM, soil and water conservation measures
Intervention to address Technology of lime application to address acid soil problems	P ^H of the soil		√ (1)	Optimizing dosed of lime application

Enclosure II

B: Social Safeguards: Activities, Issues, Impacts and Mitigations Measures

Table 1: Social safeguards: Activities, Issues, Impacts and Mitigations Measures

Activities ¹	Issues ²	Anticipated level of impacts ³		Mitigation measures (negative impact) ⁴
		Positive	Negative	
Improved farming system models for enhancing production	Enhanced income, employment, food and nutritional security through Use of high yielding varieties and Crop diversification, live stock, fishery interventions	√ (3)		
	Unequal access to inputs		√ (1)	Participatory approach, proper planning for overall increase in nutritional security and income, measures would be employed to make inputs available particularly to small and marginal farmers.
	More dependence on external resources,		√ (1)	Measures like emphasis for generating organic fertilizers and use of locally available material would be adopted
	Change in occupational pattern		√ (1)	Participatory approach and skill upgradation
Formation of SHG	Enhanced income through marketing linkages, linking to micro financing	√ (3)		
	Social conflicts		√ (1)	Will be carried out in a participatory mode by taking in confidence of all sections of the community and with the involvement of village leaders.