

**Title: Sustainable Rural Livelihood Empowerment Project for Northern Disadvantaged Districts of West Bengal**

Template for Environmental and Social Safeguards

No. of consortium partners: 5

- Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, Cooch Behar, W.B.-736165. – **Lead Centre**
- Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia, West Bengal
- North Bengal University, Shib Mandir, Darjeeling, West Bengal – 734013.
- National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT), 12 Regent Park, Kolkata – 700040.
- EcoDev. Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., \_-134, First Floor, Block B, Lake Town, Kolkata

No. of States/UT : One (West Bengal)

No. of districts covered: 4 (Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda & Murshidabad.)

No. of beneficiary farmers : 1280

Duration : 4 years (2008-09 to 2011-12)

Budget : Rs. 549.628717 lakhs

**Project Objectives**

- To identify, validate and assimilate target groups-specific technology options for increased productivity and profitability.
- To create a sustainable institutional platform to link stakeholders for effective and efficient service delivery.
- To customize systems for effective scaling up of successful learning experiences through institutionalization of appropriate forward linkages.

**Brief Project Description**

The main purpose of the Project would be to bring about change in the quality of the life through widening of the choice basket of the target communities, information facilitation of capability upgradation and affective process management. The project activities will be implemented in the four backward districts viz. Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda & Murshidabad in the state of West Bengal. The present research project envisages employment of a matrix approach with the blends of research-led technology mediation.

**Major technological interventions proposed**

- Soil health management & soil test based crop nutrition scheduling
- Crop sequencing, diversification and varietal manipulation as per agro-ecological suitability and potentials
- Formulation of integrated farming strategy
- Harnessing of available aqua-wealth : open flowing as well as ponds, *beels* and *baors*
- Performance improvement of backyard and homestead based miscellaneous production systems
- Value addition for better resource appreciation
- Mechanism of effective linking of the produces and products with markets

Environmental Category : B

**2. Major issues in the sub-project**

**Social**

1. To provide the target communities better access to natural, physical, social, human and financial capital and assets
2. Sustainability of productivity gains
3. Demonstration of economic benefits of the interventions

**Environmental**

1. Effect of use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides on the environment
2. Biodiversity and its conservation arrangements in the local areas

**3) Safeguard policies triggered (World Bank policies)**

<b>Safeguard policies triggered (World Bank Policies)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Environmental assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X	
Natural 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	
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)		X
Safety of dams (OP/BP4.37)		X
Projects in disputed areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X
Projects on international waterways (OPBP 7.50)		X

4)	<b>Risk related issues (not covered under 3 above but perceived to be important in the sub-project)</b> Another important issue is to mobilizing the local communities and interface with the community.
5)	<b>Impact assessment (enclosures I and II)</b> The said project will have positive impact as it highlighted the governing principles of participatory action research through land productivity enhancement, harnessing of aquatic niches, value addition for alternative employment through product development certification and marketing link of jute and banana fibers, breeding and cultivation of indigenous ornamental fish sp and the negative impact is realized through baseline survey with the help of PRA and secondary information from different line departments and appropriate mitigation measures are also been undertaken. (enclosures I and II)
6)	<b>Potential indirect and/or long-term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project areas in the areas of activities of the sub-project.</b> It is expected that no conflict will arise between the future activities / programmes to be implemented under this project and the various agricultural and rural development

	<p>programmes already undertaken by the different line departments, namely Department of Agriculture, Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Department of Animal Resources Department, Department of Fisheries and Aqua Resources through the Panchayet Raj Institution in the target areas. In this connection we have already received the consent letter from the Zilla Sabhadhipati's of the target areas. It is worth mentioning that a Gram Uduyog Samity will be formed in each cluster consisting of representatives both from PRI's and CRPGs who would take care of the designing, planning, execution, marketing as well as monitoring and impact assessment of the said project.</p>
7)	<p><b>Identify the key stakeholders and describe mechanisms for consultation with and to them done/disclosure so far done including pre-project consultation with the stakeholders, stakeholders' workshop before formulating the full proposal, discussing the full proposal with some stakeholders before submission to PIU.</b></p> <p>Farmers, Rural wage laborers, landless laborers, farm women, small holder livestock farmers, fish farmers, rural artisans, small entrepreneurs, self-help-groups, cooperative society, panchayet raj institutions, different research institutions, government and non-government organizations involving improving the quality of life of the rural people are the main stake holders of this project. The said project was developed through intensive discussion among the core and associate partners, experts as well as the peers in the cluster level. For this purpose, to gain better cluster realities a first hand baseline survey was conducted through different KVK's situated in the target areas. On the other hand the various inputs received from two presentation workshops held at NASC and KAB-II as well as the TAG meeting was duly incorporated.</p>
8)	<p><b>a. . Environmental issues</b></p> <p>An environmental screening has been done for environmental impacts and appropriate mitigation measures have been prepared as indicated in the Enclosure 1.</p> <p><b>ii. Pest Management</b></p> <p>Traditionally excess use of pesticides application is an environmental risk especially in terms of pollution and pest resistant (insect, weeds&amp; harmful bio-agents etc.) which is to be mitigated. IPM is one of the important mitigation measures towards that direction. IPM systems for the various crops included practices that involved management of soil and nutrients, weeds, insects, and diseases as well as a farmers' education component.</p> <p><b>iii) Indigenous people:</b></p> <p>The proposed interventions are either through augmenting or making adjustments in the live system of the indigenous people without causing any major changes in their way of life. It will 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</p>
	<p><b>b. Interface with communities :</b></p> <p>The selection of beneficiaries will be made through formation of community research partner groups (CRPGs) based upon existing activities and interest of the rural stakeholders. Farmer Field School (FFS) would be taken recourse to. While gender disaggregated production group, value addition group and market group would be the core functional units of CRPG at each cluster. A Gramodyog Samity consisting of representative from both PRI &amp; CRPG would be take care of the designing, planning, execution, marketing as well as monitoring and impact assessment of the project. <b>Gender issues</b> would be adequately addressed when taking care of the livelihood improvement of the rural people in our cluster areas</p>

9)	<b>Consultation/disclosures to be done in future :</b>
	<p>Creation and dove-tailing of knowledge networking through using e-highway would be an important process application and one community kiosks would be set up at each cluster and identified educated youths in the cluster areas would be empowered through hands on skills training to run and manage those kiosks even beyond the project tenure. Different sharing workshops of research result with PRIs and relevant state governments line departments, bi-annual sharing workshops with CRPGs, SHGs, patenting of low cost hydroponics device for crop production, research process documentation, extension literature in vernacular language, monograms and occasional papers, development of knowledge product kits and one video film from each cluster, as a learning tool, customization of choice basket for target communities at least three per households would be developed.</p>

**Consortium PI**

**National Coordinator**

**National Director**

**A: Environmental safeguard : Activities, Issues, Impact and Mitigation Measures**

Table 1: Environmental safeguard: Activities, Issues, Impact and Mitigation Measures

Activities <sup>1</sup>	Issues <sup>2</sup>	Anticipated level of impacts <sup>3</sup>		Mitigation measures (negative impact) <sup>4</sup>
		Positive	Negative	
Validate and assimilate target groups-specific technology options for increased productivity and profitability.	Improvement in soil health through proper management & soil test based crop nutrition scheduling	3		
	Impact of use of agro chemicals		1	Use of INM and IPM practices. Field demonstration and farmers training on INM & IPM are an integral part of the sub project
	Crop pollination intensification due to promotion of Apiary	2		
Crop-fish-livestock integration, Fish and table fish production in pens and cages	Soil water biological status.		1	Use of bio fertilizer
	Improvement in accumulation of organic matter	2		
Enhancement of livestock based backyard system performance	Reduced mortality and disease control through vaccination and health care	4		

**B. Social Safeguards : Activities, Issues, Impact and Mitigation Measures**

Table 2: Social safeguard : Activities, Issues, Impact and Mitigation Measures

Activities <sup>1</sup>	Issues <sup>2</sup>	Anticipated level of impacts <sup>3</sup>		Mitigation measures (negative impact) <sup>4</sup>
		Positive	Negative	
Crop-fish-livestock integration	Increased farm income efficiency, system productivity, More local labour employment	4		
	Glut of production in the local market		2	Market Group will be formed to act as linker between Production Group and City Market and upcoming retail chain
Validate and assimilate target groups-specific technology options for increased productivity and profitability	High productivity as more income through less water, less seed and less input in SRI cultivation	4		
	Increase in farm productivity, Cost and Time saving through Zero tillage	3		
Homestead based multi-tier horticulture	Augmented family income, Gainful employment of farmwomen , reduced drudgery, Better family nutrition	3		
	Difficulty in marketing surplus produce after family consumption		3	Market Group Formation to act as linker
Enhancement of livestock based backyard system	Augmented family income, Gainful employment of farmwomen	3		
Promotion of aquaponics practices	More income round the year, Gainful employment	3		
	May inflict loss due to filch of floating base		3	Linking with Fishermen's Cooperative for development of larger Fisher Group within the Cluster.