

## Operational and Management Issues raised by the Ongoing Consortia 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008

### Launching of the project

- Can launch workshop be organized after the release of funds to all partners?
- Can resource utilized for launching the project at field/cluster level?
- It should be organized immediately after the sanction of the project as far as possible. However it is mandatory to hold the workshop within a month of receiving funds. It is the first opportunity to meet and share the approved project with the partners and CAC for understanding the project including roles, responsibilities, resources etc
- Launch workshop should be conducted in the lead center by inviting all the partners. Further meetings however can be arranged at field/cluster level.

### Formation of Committees

- Roles of CAC
  - Technical/Monitoring role is clear
  - Do they have responsibility for financial oversight as well?
- Can the project hire new consultants if needed in future & who can approve such decisions?
- Is there a special role for the CMU for component 4 projects?
- PMC has decided that CAC has authority for financial oversight as a part of oversight of the project but the delegated powers of reallocations of funding are defined. Beyond the defined powers, they have to recommend it to the PIU.
- RPC approves consultancies mentioned in full project proposals only. The proposals for new consultancies have to be submitted to PIU, NAIP after recommendation from CIC/CAC and PIU will take it up with the competent authority.
- Yes. The requirement of keeping a social scientist in the CMU has been made because the social scientist will be professionally better equipped regarding the concept and operation of M&E systems. CAC only gives a set of monitoring indicators and CMU will assist the CAC and the PIU in monitoring and they will liaise with the M&E consultants. The CMU will also facilitate all necessary reporting in collaboration with the CPI and CCPIs.

### Authority levels / powers for decisions & sanctions

- Is there any possibility that the P.I. gets an authority to change equipments and adjustment of contingencies within the limit of the budget?
- Not permitted. PI has to approach with full justification, the CAC if it is within the assigned powers of the CAC or the PIU through the CAC if it is beyond the powers of the CAC.

### Communication

- Budget provision for connectivity is required for the smooth functioning of the project
- Provision of mobile phones is also desirable as the operational site is in the remote and hill terrains.
- Proposal may be sent to PIU, NAIP for consideration.
- Mobile phones not agreed. Reimbursement for functional necessities may be possible under operational expenses.

### Establishing thematic sub groups/ Clusters/Components issues

- Role of experts/scientists in a situation where their individual name is referred & not their organizational name.
- Such experts/scientists encountered difficulty in securing the institutional approval for engagement
- ICAR allows deployment of scientists from particular institution. Scientists have to take prior approval of the institution.

## Operational and Management Issues raised by the Ongoing Consortia 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008

### Recruitment process

- A Major challenge to be addressed. Extremely difficult to get engineering and veterinary graduates as SRFs. High attrition.
- With uniform pay scale, employment in urban centres unattractive to SRFs. In rural centres inadequate talent availability.
- Discussions solicited on alternative options for sourcing scientists
- Problem mostly in component 3 projects. Short term contract jobs can be explored using retired scientists/other available technical personnel in lieu of SRFs; however PIs need to get it recommended through CACs and sent to PIU,NAIP for consideration/approval.

### Technical issues (Environmental, Social safe guards, Benchmark assessments)

- More information/inputs/guidelines are necessary on the “basis” of SEMF
- WHY SEMF?
- Helpdesk has to play a proactive role in explaining this to all the PIs through a model developed for the purpose.

### Budgeting & fund flow system

- Lead center sometimes not getting information on head wise release to centers
- Provision to allow the partners also to recruit one accounts cum administrative assistant on contract basis
- PIU will ensure that this information will be sent from now onwards.
- Not approved

### Accounting system

- Centers are still not clear about accrual accounting system.
- Schedule for training is needed at the inception level for NAIP accounting systems software
- Guidance & training needed for accounting norms relating to depreciation & other accounting intricacies to be provided in order to be familiar with double entry/accrual system of accounting
- Training to start in 5 batches from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008 up to February 8, 2008. PIU will keep the PIs informed on this front. However, any accounts expert like a chartered accountant can explain what is an accrual system.