

Terms of Reference (ToR) of Agriculture Consultant

Background: Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS) is an independent society under Department of Rural Development, Government of Bihar is implementing JEEViKA with support from the Government of Bihar, Government of India and The World Bank. The goal of the project is to improve the rural livelihoods by enhancing social and economic empowerment of rural poor. The specific objectives are (i) developing and strengthening institutions of the poor (ii) building and establishing pro-poor savings promotion and livelihood support organizations (iii) financing livelihoods business plans and investing in increasing the size of livelihood economy for the small producers and the poor (iv) creating and enabling environment for implementing and scaling up innovations for rural livelihood development and service delivery.

JEEViKA has formed more than 7 lakhs Self Help Groups (SHGs) by mobilizing nearly 84 lakhs poor households, 25000 Village Organizations (VOs) and 318 Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) in all the 38 districts till date. In order to improve the income & food security of the poor households; agriculture based livelihoods is carried out in the project. In the agriculture livelihoods; JEEViKA is supporting smallholders by enhancing their agriculture productivity by providing training, demonstration and handholding support in various improved package of practices for different crops. JEEViKA is pioneer in System of Rice Intensification (SRI), System of Wheat Intensification (SWI) and support farmers in adopting the same. Based on the result and adoption among smallholders; Government of Bihar has included SRI as part of the Agriculture Road Map of Bihar in 2011. Apart from these technologies; the SHG members are also supported to adopt Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), Zero Tillage (ZT), etc. In order to reduce the cost of cultivation; the project is also promoting eco-agriculture activities among these farmers by producing & using vermi-compost, extracts derived from cattle & plants. Participatory. Backyard Nutrition Garden is also promoted among the SHG households to afford & access vegetable requirement of the family members. Till date; more than 5 lakhs SHG households have adopted the productivity enhancement technologies & practices under the agriculture intervention.

Community Managed Extension System (CMES) is initiated and scaled up in the project to develop local level agriculture resource persons, who will be available in their villages to provide extension services to the participating SHG households. In every village; a Village Resource Person (VRP) is identified by the Village Organization (VO) and trained systematically through modular training programs by project staffs on different Package of Practices & Technologies. These VRPs in turn train, demonstrate & handhold the participating SHG households in successful adoption & further scaling up of these practices to improve productivity and income. Nearly 4,500 trained VRPs are offering extension services to these households.

Based on the current success of productivity enhancement program through CMES; it is decided to further promote and scale up agriculture program in all the districts. Considering the varying land type and different cropping pattern in every district; the project has decided

to promote relevant Package of Practices in each districts such as SRI in upland, DSR in low & medium land and so on. The scaling up of productivity enhancement program demands large pool of VRPs to provide extension services to the new SHG households. Developing large number of VRPs require agriculture experts to train them in various Package of Practices, Technologies. Considering this requirement, it is decided in the project to hire Agriculture Experts as consultants. One consultant is required for 2-3 districts depending on the size of the districts and numbers of VRPs to be trained.

Objective : The objective of hiring agriculture experts as consultants to develop VRPs with expertise in SRI, SWI, DSR, ZT, Vermi-composting, NADEP-composting, Nutrition Garden, Seed Production, Eco-Agriculture, etc. The consultants have to train, demonstrate & handhold VRPs on various Package of Practices & technologies to provide extension services to SHG households to adopt & scale up the recommended PoPs for productivity enhancement.

Outline of the task:

1. Impart at least three training per month at District / Block level, as decided by the concerned DPCU team members for staff or cadres.
2. Develop at least 3 training Material in a quarter on SRI, SWI, DSR, ZT, Vermi-composting, NADEP-composting, Nutrition Garden, Seed Production, Eco-Agriculture, etc as per requirement of district.
3. Imparting at least 2 modular training to VRPs in month.
4. Organize at least 50 demonstration plots per crop season (Rabi/Sharif/Zayad) per district for VRPs during the training program.
5. Convergence with Line Department.
6. Visit at least 30 farmers field per month to see the output of the VRP training and also suitably modify the training modules as appropriate.
7. Review the existing videos on different PoPs and support in modifying existing videos or developing new videos through Digital Green.
8. Support district team in Vedio production through Digital Green on Different POP at least one in month.
9. Provide field solutions to VRPs for handling farmers problems / constraints faced by the farmers in adoption
10. Prepare training reports
11. Visit at least 10 Community Institutions per month and demonstrate new technology in agriculture for scale up in other areas.
12. Support SPMU in development of modules and trainings.
13. Any other task related to agriculture interventions of JEEViKA across Bihar.

Reporting Arrangement:

The consultants will report to Project Manager – Farm (Livelihoods) at SPMU and DPM at concerned DPCU. The consultants have to attend the monthly review meetings organized at BPIU & DPCU level & quarterly review meeting at SPMU level. The Activity calendar will

be placed in the concerned district before to the placement of consultant by concerned Manager-LH in consultation with the PM-LH. These tasks should reach one week before the start of the month. After the completion of monthly tasks; the consultant has to provide a work done report, which will be certified by the concerned Manager – Farm (Livelihoods) and approved by the District Project Manager. This is a prerequisite for releasing payment. The consultant has to submit a quarterly training report to the concerned DPM at the place of posting and Project Manager – Farm (Livelihoods)

Placement of Consultants:

The consultants will be stationed at the district level. S/he will be stationed at one District decided by SPMU and will also look after additional 1-2 districts apart from allocated districts. S/he has to travel to remaining allocated districts for the defined work. Consultant will seek tour approval one time for month excluding Sunday from PM-LH, SPMU.

Duration of the Assignment:

The initial contract is for 11 months and will be extended as per the requirement of the assignment. However, the contract may be shortened depending on the performance of the consultant as appropriate.

Qualification & Experience:

1. Bachelor in Agriculture or Masters in Agriculture (soil science / agronomy / plant pathology/plant breeding/ entomology) from a reputed university
2. More than 15 years of work experience in agriculture field either in Government or in Development sector, out of which at least 10 years in agriculture extension work
3. Willing to train Village Resource Persons (village level extension workers)
4. Have the capacity to develop VRPs as Skilled Extension Workers (SEWs) who are one cadre higher in 1-2 years
5. Willing to travel to remote locations districts / blocks / villages for training Village Resource Persons, farmers etc
6. Willing to take up multi tasking such as developing training module as per the requirement of JEEViKA, supporting in developing small videos on different PoPs, demonstrate the PoPs in the agriculture field for VRPs and farmers.
7. Exposure in natural farming system

Payment:

Agriculture consultant will be paid monthly honorarium as per BRLPS consultant policy and will be paid by District at the place of posting on the basis of monthly progress report counter signed by PM-LH.

Apart from the monthly honorarium he/she will be entitled for the below mentioned details:

Consultant will be entitled for reimbursement of to & fro travel expenses upto 2nd AC, upto 750/day for use of local conveyance or personal vehicle for official purpose and stay upto limit prescribed for category –II staff of BRLPS.

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TEMPLATE – 1

(Work plan to be given to the Consultant)

Date	Day	Work – Training / Demonstration / Video Work / Village Plot visit	Venue	Remark
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Prepared By

Approved By

TEMPLATE – 2

(Work Done Report to be submitted by the Consultant)

Date	Day	Work – Training / Demonstration / Video Work / Village Plot visit	Nos. of Participants (VRPs) / Demonstrations done /	Venue	Remarks
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