

Terms of reference for Hiring of Technical Support Agency (TSA) to Develop Model Mulberry Farmers Producer Companies for Mulberry intervention in Seven District of Koshi Basin in Bihar

1. Background

JEEViKA - Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS) is an autonomous body under the Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar, has been designated as State Rural Livelihoods Mission under overall Framework of National Rural Livelihoods Mission to scale up the model of poverty alleviation through different interventions. JEEViKA focuses on socio economic development of rural HHs through the formation of 3 tier structure of community-based organizations of women i.e. Self Help Group, Village Organization and Cluster Level Federations, besides activity-based Producer collectives. Across the state, under JEEVIKA, till now total 8,17,846 SHGs have been promoted, which federated into Village Organizations which are 53,822 and further 890 cluster federation have been formed. CLF has been designed to support the VO and SHG in their sustainability and Producer collectives for activity-based enterprises.

To develop a Mulberry cluster in Bihar JEEViKA has been designed by the Department of Industry to implement mulberry intervention aiming to provide additional livelihood option to the minimum 6,000 JEEViKA HH. This is a value chain project from Mulberry plantation to production of silk fabric (soil to fabric) till marketing of products. Key objective of the project a to create opportunities for employment/income to 6000HHs JEEViKA HH and indirect benefit to 17000 individuals by ensuring participation of more than 80% of women through plantation of mulberry in 2900-acre land.

The project has been started in convergence with department of Sericulture Bihar, MGNREGA and JEEVIKA (BRLPS) in Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura during first phase with 600 farmers and in 2nd phase another four district Katihar, Araria, Purnia and Kishanganj has been added. Since JEEViKA has strong reach to community and HHs, it will facilitate in identification and in accessing the credit to farmers through self-help Groups.

In this partnership the role of the MGNREGA is clearly defined that mulberry plantation and its care cost will be given to the beneficiaries under social forestry scheme of MNREGA and technical expertise from cocoon production, rearing and marketing will be role of Industry department besides defined role of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, JEEViKA and Central Silk Board.

2. Need of Technical Support Agency (TSA)

The Productivity of Mulberry cocoon in Koshi region of Bihar is promising considering agro-climatic conditions and present agriculture pattern. At present average cocoon production was found to be 14 kg per 100 DFLs, though in specific case it was 47 Kg/ 100 DFLs in the existing project area. Whereas national average production is 58.76 Kg per 100 DFLs. To promote and Project "Kausihiki" further and stabilize the productivity of Mulberry cocoon, it is important to ensure sustainability for attractive monetary gain to producers. The project further visions to improve the production of cocoon and to attain uniform productivity by all the farmers which is closer to national average. As we experienced, expert and continuous handholding support is key bottleneck for the potential outcome of the Project. Hence it is required to hire the services of a competent institution/organization/body who has such detailed engagement expertise and can extend services in managing the handholding support to PG and form six Model Farmers producer with blend of training and exposure to producers at respective place of production.

Till time Mulberry cocoon producers are operating with limited support, now they need to have a platform of togetherness and scale of economic significance to gain confidence & bargaining power to operate in accordance with value chain. This can be dealt with organizing formed PGs into Farmers Producer Company. So, it is needed to engage a competent agency/organization which has such capability and experience to facilitate similar FPC of Mulberry Cocoon Producers.

Along with above all the scoping study of Mulberry Cocoon Production in Koshi Basin of Bihar Needed to be done which shall help identifying the baseline and Gaps in the value chain to articulate stepwise movement in Project?

3. Objective of the assignment

- (i) Promotion of Mulberry Cocoon Production cluster in a radius of about 20-25 kms comprising 15-20 villages

- a. Each cluster will have an outreach of 500-700 women farmers.
 - b. Establishment of 6 such Mulberry Cocoon Production clusters with an outreach of 4,000 marginalised women farmers.
- (ii) Establishment of 6 Mulberry FPCs with an average Productivity of Mulberry Cocoon at 40 Kg per 100 DFL.

4. Scope of the assignment

To conduct a scoping study for having first hand information of baseline to monitor the progress of work in the field of stabilizing Productivity of Mulberry Cocoon Production and allied engagements.

To reach at least 80% Productivity of National average (i.e. 40Kg per 100 DFL) should be targeted to make the project a success. The effort for stabilizing the Productivity will depend on the adoption of modern practices by producer which can only be possible when required handhold support to community is extended. This can be done by one who must possess the skills & know how of the mulberry Cocoon production activity with required finer & relevant technical interventions and their implications. This should be ensured by mix of training, exposure & handholding support to producers for three to four years.

To engage with collectivization of producers Group (PG) into formal Farmers Producer Company (FPC) is need of the hour so that such platform will be able to engage meaningfully for all the stake holders in Value chain. Also, the potential poor families those who can become Mulberry cocoon producer be guided and supported by such FPC. It is desired to promote & nurture FPC with values & ethics in such manner that, its primary focus remains the Sustainable Mulberry Cocoon Producer's engagement & their wellbeing.

5. Role of TSA

As it is clear from the scope of study that the TSA is an independent agency but will be integral to project implementation processes and work as partners with the project to stabilise the desired Productivity of Mulberry Cocoon Production & FPC promotion. Their role is

- a) To conduct a scoping study for Status of Mulberry Cocoon Production in region and its stakeholders' engagement.
- b) To report in standard formats at various levels with programme output indicators for various activities, community cadres etc.
- c) To support in maintaining the MIS for regular review and monitoring of the mulberry sericulture programme.
- d) To facilitate in identification and nurture a pool of Community Cadres- CRPs for implementation at grass root level and for replication by maintaining incentive-based remuneration.
- e) Review the progress of the entire initiative and provide regular feedback to the District and State Project Management Unit on the status and progress periodically.
- f) TSA will place staff at State and at cluster of Project districts as per convenience with responsibility to take care of the projects with movement to project areas and work closely with state Project Management Unit (Mulberry), Manager Social Development, representatives of the line departments, Central Silk Board and the respective district teams for successful implementation of mulberry sericulture programme.
- g) TSA will place technical experts to capacitate & handhold the Producers.
- h) TSA will facilitate recruitment, training & nurturing of professionals/staff from open market for FPCs.
- i) To provide structured training for capacity building of Staff of FPC, Cadres of Mulberry Cocoon Production, chawki rearer, Cocoon Producers & representatives of Vos and FPCs.
- j) To provide hand holding support to the producers and their institution to resolve their day to day technical issues involved in various activities.
- k) To develop chawki rearing Centres for input supply for chawki worms and extension support.
- l) To establish FPC for integrated Mulberry Production System

6. Duration of the assignment

In the beginning the services will be hired for a period of three Years (3), however, there is a possibility of extension of contract for another one year upon satisfactory performance & need of the Project. The performance evaluation criteria would be agreed with the TSA before signing of the contract.

7. Key Deliverables for TSA & Support from the Project “Kaushiki”

Key Deliverables

- (i) 3300 No. of families participating in at least 2 cycle of Cocoon Production in a Year.
- (ii) 11 No. of Chawki rearing Centre working to fulfil the demand of worms.
- (iii) 6 FPCs integrating the Production Support of Mulberry Cocoon.
- (iv) All VRP (mulberry) and VRP Nodal centre of JEEViKA in assigned geography are trained.
- (v) Staffs of FPC are capacitated & trained.
- (vi) Representatives of PG & FPC are trained.
- (vii) Monitoring and Facilitation of PGs and FPC as per Annexure A

Support from the Project

- a) All the financial support to execute the project deliverables will be made available from Project.
- b) The infrastructural support will be facilitated under convergence from converging departments and institutions as per Annexure B & C

8. Desirables & experiences of TSA

- a) Organization of national repute in direct implementation of grassroots development Projects for more than 10 years.
- b) Organization with good track record of working for Livelihood enhancement of marginalized & weaker community exclusively with women farmers/producers.
- c) Organization with experience of working for Mulberry Cocoon Production system.
- d) Organization who have Promoted successful Community based Mulberry Cocoon Production Company (which is profitably functional for at least 5 Years).

Profile of TSA staff

S. No.	Designation	No.	Qualification & Experience
1.	State Project Lead	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Having minimum 16 years of regular education with first class degree of highest qualification.▪ Experience of 10 years of Livelihood project management.
2.	Project Coordinators	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Having minimum 16 years of regular education with first class degree of highest qualification.▪ Experience of 6 years of Livelihood project implementation.▪ Exclusive experience of at least 03 years working for Mulberry/Tasar.

9. Review committee to monitor the Progress of Project

The Chief Executive Officer in association with the SPM SD/PM - Entitlements Domain shall be responsible for reviewing and monitoring the Progress of work of TSA. S/he may constitute a review/steering committee to monitor the progress and interact with the TSA.

10. Reporting

TSA would be required to submit quarterly progress report in prescribed formats. TSA will participate in desired review meetings at state with all the information related to project and its progress as & when asked.