

**Terms of Reference
for
Assessment of outcome and impact of Economic Livelihoods Development in
North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland
Areas (NERCORMP)**

Objective: To undertake an assessment of the development and change, particularly outcomes and impacts of the Economic Livelihoods Development interventions by NERCORMP in its programme villages in six districts of three states (Assam, Manipur & Meghalaya) in Northeast India, with particular emphasis on changes in the situations in the rural livelihoods and economic well being of the communities. Most of the economic livelihood assessment would be in the form of land and farm based and other non-farm based income generating activities (IGAs).

Project area: [a] Meghalaya covering 2 districts, viz. West Khasi Hills (Hq Nongstoin) and West Garo Hills (Hq Tura); [b] Assam covering 2 districts, viz. Karbi Anglong (Hq Hamrem) and North Cachar Hills (Hq Haflong); and [c] Manipur covering 2 districts, viz. Senapati (Hq Senapati) and Ukhul (Hq Ukhul).

Estimated Duration: 60 working days

Starting Date: As soon as possible

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 General

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (NERCORMP) was a jointly funded project of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India during the period 1999-2008. NERCORMP, as a livelihood and rural development project, aimed at transforming the lives of the rural poor, particularly the shifting cultivators, men and women, and, thereby, at eventually demonstrating a Developmental Model for the upland areas in the region. Since the closure of IFAD funding, the NERCORMP is now solely funded by the Government of India, North Eastern Council.

NERCORMP operates in three states, viz. Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya, covering two districts in each state. In Assam, the project is operating in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills, in Manipur it is operating in Senapati and Ukhul districts and in Meghalaya it is operating in West Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills. Currently, NERCORMP works in 860 villages in all these districts and states. The overall objective of NERCORMP is *“To improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management of their resource base in a way that contributes to preservation and restoration of the environment.”*

The programme interventions of NERCORMP include the followings:

- (a) Social empowerment and community institution building, viz. formation of the communities into Natural Resource Management Groups (NaRMGs), Self Help

Groups (SHGs) and their associations and federations; capacity building of these institutions, as well as capacity building local traditional village institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

- (b) Social sector development, viz. provision of drinking water supply, low cost toilets, community health care, etc.
- (c) Village infrastructures development, viz. construction of inter-village connecting roads, bridges/culverts, community halls, storage godowns, school buildings, etc.
- (d) Economic livelihoods development, viz. promotion of income generating activities, both farm-based and non-farm based, as well as development of terraces, minor irrigation, development of agriculture, horticulture, fishery, livestock, NTFPs, jhum development, kitchen gardens or home gardens, etc.; farming practices were particularly integrated with promotion of vermicomposts and biocompost to address the land productivity on sustainable basis.
- (e) Natural resource management, viz. promotion of community based biodiversity conservation.

These interventions were dovetailed with various other crosscutting issues and sub-sectors such as promotion of microfinance for microcredit, business development and marketing, gender mainstreaming, documentation and communication of successful case stories and lessons learned, monitoring and evaluation and, above all, systematic financial and programme management both at the Programme Support Unit (PSU) in the Hq and the Development Support Teams (DST) at the district levels.

1.2 Economic Livelihoods Development and Income Generating Activities in NERCORMP

NERCORMP promoted a wide range of economic livelihood activities in general and Income Generating Activities in particular, especially through the SHGs who facilitated training programmes and skill development, both for individual and group activities. Most of these interventions were for income generating activities ranging from land and farm based to non-farm based activities. Some of these were priority economic activities, others being agri-allied services such as livestock, plantation crops and non-farm activities. It may be mentioned that many of these economic or income generating activities were triggered by the provisions or availability of revolving funds to SHGs, besides their own savings and subsequent bank linkages. Therefore, the role of availability of microfinance for microcredit would form a part of current assessment in promoting sustainable economic livelihoods.

The major economic livelihood activities promoted by the NERCORMP could be summarized as below.

<i>ECONOMIC LIVELIHOODS ACTIVITIES</i>	
<i>Component</i>	<i>Profiles of key interventions</i>
Agriculture	Jhum / Jhum modification [multi-cropping], Terrace development [Rice cultivation], Wet Rice Cultivation
	Perennial crops: Orange, Pineapple, Banana, Passion fruit
	Annual crops: Vegetables (Tomato, Potatoes, Brinjal, Capsicum, Peas, Tree Tomatoes)

Horticulture	Spices: Turmeric, Ginger, Bay leaf, Cinnamom, Large Cardamom, Black pepper
	MAPs: Gondhu Kochu (flower & tubers with essential oils), Patchouli (leaves with essential oils), Aloe vera, Stevia (natural sweetener).
	Cash crops: Cashew, Arecanut, Tea
Livestock	Piggery, Poultry, Beef cattle, Dairy, Goat rearing
Fishery	Pond fishery and Riverine fishery
Apiculture	Honey production
Sericulture	Muga, Eri and Mulberry
Home garden	Vegetables, mixed agro-horticulture species.
Agroforestry / Agro-horticulture	Mixed agro-horticulture plantations, either as home garden or orchards.
NTFPs	Dhuna (resin for dhoop), Amla, Dimbil (wild fig bark for natural dye), Lac (lichens for natural dye), wood lichens, broom grass, bamboo, cane, thatch grass.
Plantation crops	Gamari and Agar (for future income on a long-term basis), often mixed with orchards or cultivation of pineapples and banana.
Vermicompost	Vermicomposting (for sale, besides self uses)
Non-farm	Transport/vehicles (Tata Sumo, Pick up vans, bus), handloom, handicraft, mini rice mills, small grocery shops, candle making, soap making, sweet candy making, etc.

2. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

2.1 Purpose

To undertake an assessment of the development and change, particularly outcomes and impacts of the Economic Livelihoods Development intervened by NERCORMP in its programme villages in six districts of three states in Northeast India, particularly changes in the situations (improvement) in the rural livelihoods and economic well being of the communities. Most of economic livelihoods assessment would be in the form of land and farm based and non-farm based income generating activities (IGAs). Extent of outcome and impact in the matter of eradication of poverty in the project areas would also have to be studied in details

2.2 Scope of the work

The scope of the work will be broadly as follows, considering the key diverse economic livelihoods activities for income generations outlined in the background note above, but not limited to the same. However, the consultant is expected to identify new areas and opportunities based on field interactions, field observations and lessons learned.

- (a) Assessment of the changes in the conditions of overall economic livelihood situations in programme villages, including changes in the income generating activities adopted by the communities, both land/farm based and non-farm based.
- (b) Assessment of food and nutritional security as impacted by the adoption of various income generating activities particularly among the poor households.
- (c) Assessment of level of appreciation, increase in awareness and valuation of various livelihood training provided to the communities as well as impacts of financial management trainings to the SHGs and NaRMGs on better financial management at households level, thereby contributing to more secured livelihoods activities.

- (d) Assessment of outcomes and impacts of economic livelihood activities, particularly impacts on improving income and savings of the women and poorest households, and thereby ensuring household food security.
- (e) Assessment of facilitating impacts of revolving funds / microfinance to improving and diversification of rural livelihood opportunities.
- (f) Assessment of constraints and gaps to the optimum development of various livelihood activities and recommendations on effective methods to bridge these gaps and constraints.
- (g) Assessment of overall impacts of NERCORMP's interventions in building the social capitals of the communities, thereby, impacting in their overall livelihoods strategies on sustainable basis.
- (h) Assessment of opportunities for linking the current programmes of economic livelihoods activities with existing government programmes (such as NREGS), including assessment of impacts or influence of NERCORMP to more efficient implementation of government programmes (such as NREGS, SGSY) as well as demonstration of efficient public expenditure.
- (i) Assessment and identification of further opportunities how NERCORMP can strengthen this intervention as also how the communities could enhance their benefits from the economic livelihoods interventions.
- (j) Assessment of the lessons learned and recommendations for achieving the same results in different and innovative ways.

3. METHODOLOGY

- ◆ Desk review of secondary literature on the subject matter, mainly the reports and publications of NERCORMP.
- ◆ Interactions/consultations/meetings with key stakeholders of NERCORMP and the communities including government and non-governmental organizations, academics and research institutions involved with NERCORMP.
- ◆ Field visits to all the programme districts, viz. West Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills districts in Meghalaya; Senapati and Ukhrul districts in Manipur; and Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills in Assam; interactions with DSTs, partner NGOs and line agencies; visit of selected villages and interactions with the communities (NaRMGs, SHGs and traditional village institutions).

4. ANTICIPATED DELIVERABLES / Contents of Assessment Report

- ◆ Detailed Assessment and Analytical Report that will contain, inter alio, as described in para 2.2 above (scope of work).
- ◆ Executive Summary of the report.
- ◆ All the relevant literature referred to as references.
- ◆ All final deliverables both in soft copies (2 copies) and hard copies (five copies).
- ◆ Analysis of the replicability of the model and the conditions thereof.

5. FORMAT OF REPORT

- ◆ The proposed format of the report / contents of the assessment report will be presented by the consultant and to be reviewed by NERCORMP prior to the writing of the final report.
- ◆ The final report should be presented in Arial 11 font, single spacing.
- ◆ All abbreviations or acronyms used have to be expanded.
- ◆ All units of weights and measures should follow standard Indian system.

6. VERIFICATION OF REPORT

The first drafts of the REPORT should be submitted to NERCORMP in hardcopy and in electronic form through email within the specified time frame. NERCORMP reserves the right to get the Draft Report reviewed by experts as may be identified or deemed appropriate by NERCORMP.

Final versions of the REPORT responding to and where necessary incorporating comments and feedback received from NERCORMP should be submitted to NERCORMP within 5 working days after receipt of the feedback from NERCORMP.

7. TIMEFRAME

It is estimated that the assignment will need 60 working days or person days to be accomplished

8. TOTAL BUDGET & PAYMENTS

- ◆ The budget should include consultancy/professional fee, local travel and logistic cost, including that for preparation of the report.
- ◆ 40% of payments of total contract amount will be released on signing of the contract; 20% would be released on receipt of the first draft by NERCORMP; and the remaining 40% will be released on final acceptance of the report.

9. COORDINATION OF THE ASSESSMENT

The assessment study, including the field visits, will be coordinated and facilitated by NERCORMP with its Hq in Shillong and by its District Hq located in all six districts as mentioned above (on the first page of this ToR). The focal point within NERCORMP for this study will be the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer. However, the costs of such field visits are to be borne by the Consultant/ awardee of the contract.

10. COPY RIGHTS

NERCORMP will be the sole owner and copy right holder of the report generated by this consultancy. The consultant or the organization to which he/she may be affiliated cannot publish the report in whole or to any substantial extent without the prior permission of NERCORMP. However, information or data can be quoted in parts in any scientific and non-profit publication with due acknowledgement to NERCORMP or the source. Any reproduction of any portion of more than 500 words of the report would require the permission of NERCORMP.

11. OTHER ISSUE: Expected and desirable qualifications of the consultant(s)

- ◆ An advanced degree in related fields and/or equivalent work experiences.
- ◆ Proven real experience, of at least 10 years, in the subject area.
- ◆ Good understanding of biodiversity issues as well as sustainable development issues.
- ◆ Policy and institutional knowledge in the subject matter.
- ◆ Experience in, and a thorough understanding of, national and/or international best practices in the subject areas.
- ◆ Solid analytical and conceptual skills and the ability to think creatively.

- ◆ Good knowledge of local context (culture, politics, and geography); familiarity with the situations in Northeast India will be added asset.
- ◆ Pro-active, independent and responsible personality.
- ◆ Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.

HOW TO APPLY

PART A

- Interested individual Consultant or Consulting Firm/ Agency/ Organization may submit their proposal, separately for Technical and Financial bid under sealed cover, latest by February 1st, 2010 [up to 1200 hours noon] addressed to **PCDS, NERCORMP, Sympli Building (Near Shillong Law College), First Floor, Dhankheti, Shillong 793 001.**
- The technical proposal, may ideally contain (a) plan / design of work for analysis, (b) probable structure of the report; (c) short CVs of the consultants and (c) evidences of experiences and capabilities in undertaking the task, inter alia.
- Financial proposal must provide details of the cost of experts and survey staff, travel, accommodation and subsistence, report production and any other associated cost.
- If required, only short listed offers/ bids will be invited to interact with the Project Authorities / Committee constituted for this proposal; they may also be required to give a presentation (oral and / or Power Point) if the Project Authorities/ Appropriate Committee desires so at the time of interaction.
- If Interaction is required for the purpose, the same will be held in the project office at Shillong in the above mentioned address. All consultants/firms attending the interaction session will however do so at their own cost.
- Ceteris paribus, knowledge and familiarity with the region, structure and philosophy of similar project and project areas will be added advantage.

PART B

- A separate MoU will be signed between the Project and Consultant/ Consulting Firm/ Agency being awarded the contract.