

PTSLP Implementation Support Mission

7 to 11 January 2019

1)Key Recommendations

Agreed action	Responsibility	Agreed date
1. <u>Mango pulp unit</u> - Monitor on a daily basis to ensure completion of the plant by March and commencing of operations by April. PMU Executive Engineer to visit the site on a weekly basis to follow up and obtain daily reports of activities.	ADRD, EDM, EE	January 2019
2. Post an Executive Engineer at the site on full time basis, till the structures are fully completed, to fast track the construction and also ease the coordination between the contractors and the NOFPCL/TKVK.	PD,ADRD	January 2019
3. Ensure MOU between NOFPCL and CCD for 5 years for continued hand holding support	ADRD, EDM	March 2019
4. Dairy HIH- Continue the support of the consultant, all stakeholder monthly review meetings to be conducted, Enter into no cost MOU with HIH or continued handholding of dairy federation.	PD, ADRD, EDM	April 2019
Additional districts		
5. The current DIOs' skill sets and proactivity in the Districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Pudukottai are not meeting the standards required and it is recommended that these officers may be replaced and candidates from the market be engaged and posted at the earliest.	PD,ADRD	March 2019
6. Ramanathapuram, being the largest district, has a number of civil works spread over vast area and one additional Engineering staff at appropriate level may be engaged and posted at Ramanathapuram DIO at the earliest.	PD,ADRD	February 2019
7. Assess the scope for market improvement, sanitation and hygiene in the fish markets including those in town panchayats in coordination with fisheries department and include these in AWPB 2019-2020; assess the need for cyclone/natural disaster shelters in Thiruvarur/Thanjavur	PD, ADRD,EE	February 2019
8. To meet member needs, seek proposals for a) scaling up existing sub sector proposals to cover additional members, b) additional sub sector proposals from existing partners, c) new proposals where PLFs will be implementing the project with technical assistance from NGOs/ technical institutions (country chicken, palm leaf products, papaya cultivation, sea weed collection, packed tender	PD, ADRD, EDM	February 2019

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coconut, bags making, pith bricks).		
9. Assess the performance of current sub sector proposals and provide need based extension for completion/scaling up.	PD, ADRD, EDM	March 2019
10. Ensure timely credit to ensure implementation of activity (procedures for BDC, commission time taking)	ADRD, SRFM	January onwards
11. Tailoring training – a) revise the AWPB as per cost norms agreed with C.DOT and b) roll out the first batches in Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Pudukottai districts to be completed till march 2019, c) Additional batches to be considered once formal approval from IFAD management for one year extension is received.	ADRD, EDM	January onwards
12. <u>Sea shell craft training</u> : Revise the proposal a) for enabling craftswomen to cater to local markets largely, b) provide trainings in the districts providing tool kits that the women will use subsequently, c) 10% of the cost of tool kits to be borne by the trainees, d) 200 women to be trained in the first phase and based on follow up for two months, make suitable revisions to trainings and conduct training for another 300 women, e) NIFT to follow up on trainings and provide suggestions for product improvement for three months after the trainings.	PD, ADRD, EDM	January 2019 onwards
13. <u>Goat rearing</u> : Identify the project beneficiaries clearly and along with the animal health camps provide them half day training on improved practices; CLVs also to report on services provided to the project beneficiaries.	ADRD, EDM	January 2019 onwards
14. Revise the proposal for Thiruvarur and Thanjavur districts in anticipation of extension to include a) structured trainings for rearers, b) close follow up of rearers through CLVs, c) utilise the budget proposed for purchase of goats and rewards for covering additional beneficiaries.	PD, ADRD, EDM	February 2019
15. <u>Moringa cultivation and value addition</u> - Stella Maris to give monthly progress report against the project outcomes; prepare the viability for the new machinery proposed and furnish the details to the PMU which will be studied and if found suitable will be approved.	ADRD, EDM	February 2019
16. <u>Millets and traditional rice value addition – CCD</u> ; a) CCD to submit the viability for new machinery proposed, b) include the producers as shareholders in the existing FPO, c) provide in depth technical training on both traditional rice as well as millets.	ADRD, EDM	February 2019
17. <u>Jasmine value addition</u> ; a) ensure timely credit, b) the acreage to be increased to 200 acres from the present 79 acres, c) members to record expenditure and income in weekly JLG meetings and monitor the income increase which is a key outcome, d) technical trainings to be imparted.	ADRD, SRFM, EDM	January 2019 onwards
18. <u>Fisheries</u> - While external factors of frequent cyclones, and	PD,	March 2019

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also usage of banned gear are affecting the performance of FMS, there are internal factors for sub optimal performance. Vrutti can be engaged for providing trainings to governing body and staff of federation and FMS based on the manual they are preparing	ADRD, M&E	
19. Closely monitor the sales through FMS and overdue position in new districts	ADRD, M&E	January onwards
20. Amend the mOU with SIFFS to ensure closer monitoring by SIFFS and also bi monthly performance review of all staff of federations and FMS and these costs can be supported by the project. SIFFS and key experts to provide intensive training on loan management.	PD, ADRD, M&E	February 2019
21. Develop mechanisms for recovery of loans not only from marketing of produce but also on fixed instalment basis as well to ensure full recovery	ADRD, M&E, SIFFS	February 2019
22. Monitor the renewal of policies under PFARM and ensure additional enrolment of 10,000 polices in co operation with fisheries department.	ADRD, M&E	July 2019
23. Department of fisheries have given three proposals – a) laying of shore walls to stop sea intrusion in Villupuram, for which no funds are available and beyond the mandate of the project, b) Forming JLGs of women already trained in sea weed cultivation by DOF in new districts and arranging for bank credit which can be supported after market study since marketing is an issue, c) training youth for scuba diving and setting up enterprises, can be supported after thorough study	PD, ADRD, M&E, EDM	June 2019
24. Patient capital – reconcile the differences in loan outstanding and overdues within a month and take final action of adjustments in the suspense account and arriving at the right balances in the old districts.	MD NABFINS, ADRD, SRFM	February 2019
25. Initiate processes for conversion of patient capital first tranche to equity which has been scheduled for 2019 and before that reconcile the balance differences	PD, ADRD, SRFM	February 2019
26. Since the interest rate has been negotiated, initiate further submission of loans to NABFINS in order to utilise the patient capital facility fully	PD, ADRD, SRFM	January 2019 onwards
27. For repeat loans, the JLGs have to be given the options for credit linkage and PLFs have to facilitate the linkages as per their choice.	ADRD, SRFM	
28. National Insurance conference – Conduct a thematic study on insurance by May 2019; call for papers on mutual insurance and also micro health insurance from experts; present these in the conference to be held in August 2019 resulting in good knowledge management product and policy briefs.	PD, ADRD, M&E	July 2019

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29. <u>BDC arrangement</u> - Banks to provide loan portfolio statement every month and the project has to report these details. Banks to provide commission to be paid and actual disbursement details every month.	SRFM, M&E,	February onwards
30. Ensure for large PLFs with more than 100 SHGs and JLGs, BDC arrangement with one more bank/financial institution since dependence on Indian Bank and Indian bank sponsored RRB is very high.	PD, ADRD, SRFM	March 2019

2) Exit Strategy, key activities and time lines;

The project activities are largely implemented through PLFs and FMS and federations; PLFs to be handed over TNCDW and the FMS and federations to SIFFS. The PMU and DIU will need to manage the communication on exit well in order to ensure that activities continue and loans are getting repaid.

Activities	Timeline	Exit strategy	Remarks
Existing district management units and CRC staff	April 2019	Discontinue with DIO staff. Post one Nodal Officer and two support staff; 2 staff in each CRC till July and reduce to 1.	These staffs are required for project completion activities and handholding during exit period. Nodal Officer to be at the level of EDO or CDO. They will use the nearest CRC office. Operating costs to be provided. Vehicles and assets to be recalled to PMU for deploying in PMU and in Additional districts.
Exit from PLFs			
PLFs hand over to TNWDC	If no extension, by February-March 2019. If extension is agreed, to hand over by October-November 2019 in old districts and by April 2020 in new districts	PLFs to be handed over to TNCDW. <u>Convene the meeting of the committee set up in the third week of January. Conduct district level field visit cum experience sharing workshops in February and March.</u> Share the thematic studies and other knowledge management products, PLF Manual, Guidelines issued for procedures with both state and district level teams. Designate nodal officer in TNCDW in each district and block for smooth hand over.	Prepare complete documentation on each PLF funds provided, funds position as on handover, PLF assets, details of SHGs, with the details, trainings provided,
Enterprise JLGs		Cluster staff to be withdrawn and Book Keeper to attend Centre	The smooth transition to be ensured by CRC staff

		meetings	
SHGs		Book keepers and PLF leaders will continue monitor and nurture	
PLF Manual training	March 2019	The manual will have all the procedures and processes for sustainability for post-project	The adoption of the procedures will be closely reviewed by the two CRC staff till October 2019; special attention to the weak PLFs.
PLF Book Keepers training	March 2019		
PLF Buildings and other assets.		On completion entered in the Panchayat books. The list to be provided for future maintenance.	Provide details to TNCDW as part of handing over
Micro credit – BDC arrangement with banks and financial institutions	September	Extend the MOU with banks for three years. Firm up arrangements for commission flows between branches and PLFs	Share these details and MOU with TNCDW; inform banks that TNCDW will continue to monitor
Insurance products		MoU to be entered between PLF and the Insurance company with a duration of 3 years	and MOU with TNCDW
Biogas fund		As no more biogas units are intended, merge with IGA fund.	
Kitchen Garden and rooftop garden		Merged with IGA fund	
Book keeper Salary	March 2019	Current 50% support to end by March.	Provide the Dept. rate for Office Assistant to PLFs and facilitate fixing of remuneration at 50% of the daily rate as part of business planning exercise in the manual training
Insurance Spearhead	March 2019	Support to end by March 2019	As part of training for exit ensure that they receive adequate compensation
Fisheries related activities - exit			
FMS and federations		SIFFS to be handed over the status of all funds provided	
FMS		All assets including building to be handed over to the District Fishermen Federation.	MoU between DIO, FMS and District Federation.
Boat Yard (4) and OBM (3)		SIFFS	
Asset Insurance (PFARM)		Will Continue as it is now.	
Fish Vending JLGs		District Fisher Federations will continue to monitor them; The revolving funds provided is ring fenced will be utilised for on lending to women.	
Sub sector related			
Mango pulp unit		MOU between CCD and	The observer has to be

		NOFPCL; an advisor to be appointed by RD as an observer.	an expert and not any official.
Dairy Federation by Hand in Hand		Obtain commitment letter from HiH for continuously supporting the Federation for at least 3 years.	Inform PLFs on the status of dairy federation and loan status by March 2019
Common works			
Community infrastructure		On completion entered in the Panchayat books. The list to be provided for future maintenance.	
Artificial reefs	Existing districts – April/May Additional districts – January 2020	Location details with GPS coordinates to be provided to Fisheries Department	
Project completion related activities (detailed TORs provided in the last supervision mission report)			
Impact Evaluation	If project is extended, to be completed by November 2019; If no extension then by July.	RIA, IFAD to conduct this.	
Thematic studies on artificial reefs, support to fishers, BDC, Insurance, VRF, Patient Capital and JLGs, Fish vending JLGs, Bio gas, Mango sub-sector	To start the engagement of consultants by February and studies delivered by June, 2019	These will aid the completion process.	National Insurance conference to be held in July 2019 where thematic study will be presented. The thematic studies can also be published as KM products.
PCR report	May 2020 If no extension by July 2019	4 team members – team leader, grass root institutions/RF expert, enterprise expert, fisheries expert.	Project to contract these experts for 20/25 days and the report should be furnished as per format.

3) PTSLP Impact Assessment – Key steps

- Pending on project extension approval, it is decided that the IA will focus only on old districts and will be carried out in two stages with tentative deadline for all IA activities to be completed by October 2019. The stages are:
 - Qualitative survey (FGDs and KIIs) and enumeration exercise to be conducted before elections period (by end of March).
 - Quantitative survey to be conducted after elections period (data collection to be started in June/July)
- In order to be able to schedule the work in due time, RIA recommends that the ICO communicate the decision on project extension and that the PTSLP team informs RIA about the exact date of the elections as soon as possible.
- The possibility of staying within the agreed timeline depends on being able to select the firm for Stage (1) through single source selection process. It was discussed whether the firm that conducted the Mid-term evaluation of the project (JCT) has the capacity to

perform qualitative data collection and enumeration exercise. Some doubts have been raised specifically on their ability to conduct the latter. However, since the meeting held during the mission with JCT management was not informative enough, it was agreed that the PTSLP team will set up a Skype-call between RIA and JCT senior research staff by January 15th, 2019. This would allow RIA to make a better assessment of the firm's capacity and decide whether to hire them through single selection. It was discussed and agreed with PTSLP team that one option could be for JCT to hire a consultant that has experience on conducting censuses and/or large quantitative data collection to lead the enumeration exercise. RIA will have to review the consultant CV and judge whether the identified person possesses the adequate profile to perform the task. If conditions hold for the single source selection of JCT, the PTSLP team confirmed that this process will take about 2 weeks. RIA expects the firm to be on board by the second half of February, 2019 and start field work during the first week of March, 2019.

4. Upon return to HQ, RIA will immediately start working on the IA plan and on updating the ToRs for Stage (1) and send them to the PTSLP team by end of January, 2019. It was agreed that the PTSLP M&E manager will provide all data available needed for the sampling strategy (see appendix for detailed list) and, if needed, facilitate access to Census Data from the National Statistical Office.
5. If RIA assesses JCT capacity not up to standards in conducting Stage (1), there are two possible options:
 - (i) Local procurement process. PTSLP team informed that time requirement is about 2 months.
 - (ii) RIA procurement process through mini-tender to be issued in early March and contract signing with selected firm by mid-April.RIA recommends that under this scenario the same firm conducts both Stage (1) and (2) which will both be started after elections.
6. RIA also recommends that under scenario (i) RIA and PTSLP team work together in identifying a pool of qualified local firms to be invited to the tender. RIA will have to be involved in the evaluation of the technical proposals.
7. Regarding Stage (2), PTSLP team and ICO should communicate to RIA:
 - a) Details regarding available project's funds (i.e. amount USD) to cover IA activities (excluding quantitative data analysis as this will be conducted by RIA).
 - b) Project's data and reporting requirements:
 - Indicators needed by the PTSLP team for reporting purposes.
 - Reporting of results. RIA will only provide IA results in the form of IA report. RIA can contribute to the PCR by writing a specific paragraph that summarises the results of the IA Report, however RIA will not perform additional data extrapolation beyond the scope of the IA. We recommend that PTSLP hires a consultant to perform this task. RIA will share the data and provide support.

8. It was agreed that the PTSLP team, in the person of the M&E Manager, will provide support to the selected data collection firm in liaising with PLFs, DIOs and FMS (both in treatment and control areas) to get access to lists of SHGs and other groups members and facilitate the entry of field teams to the communities during data collection.
9. During discussions with the ISM team, it emerged that at least two project sites were severely affected by cyclones in December 2017 and November 2018 (25 panchayats in 2 districts). This had negative consequences on project roll out as many of the progresses made in implementation were offset by this catastrophic event. It has been noted that this exceptional circumstance should be accounted for in the design of the IA. Further discussion has to be made in order to make a decision on whether these project sites should be excluded from the sample or else kept in to assess the impact of some of the coping mechanisms put in place by the project provided that a proper control group can be found.
10. The project informed RIA that it has to report on the impact on children malnutrition using anthropometric measures. RIA noted that this would require further discussion mainly due to the expected length of the questionnaire and the time requirements for this type of exercise. This will need to be calculated as part of the IA. A decision has to be made on whether this indicator will be calculated as part of the IA conducted by RIA or as a separate exercise to be carried out by the project.