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Environmental Benefits of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNGREA-EB)

Terms of Reference for Rapid Assessment of Technical Designs vis a- vis Environmental Benefits in the shelf of works of MGNREGA

1. BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

In 2005, Government of India passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which started an employment generation scheme in rural India with an annual budget of around Rs. 42,000 crores (approx. 5 billion Euro). The objective of the Act is to ensure livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing at least 100 days of wage employment per year to approx. 50 million rural households whose adult members volunteer to provide unskilled manual labour. One of the core objectives is to enhance sustainable rural livelihood through rejuvenation of the natural resource base (soil, water, vegetation) and the creation of respective productive assets of prescribed quality and durability[1].

The Indo-German project "Environmental Benefits of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA-EB)" aims to contribute to the improvement of the livelihood resource base of the rural population by promoting conservation, replenishment and sustainable use of natural resources. GIZ supports the Union Ministry of Rural Development as well as Government Departments in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in implementing MGNREGA works with high quality, taking environmental aspects into consideration. To ensure sustainability of MGNREGA works, the project operates at the local, state and national level under the following five components:

1. Information, education, communication
2. Technical designs and guidelines of MGNREGA works
3. Maintenance of MGNREGA works
4. Monitoring of environmental and gender effects
5. Capacity development

Model project sites are implemented across following 6 districts in 12 Gram Panchayats.

District	Block/Mandal	Gram Panchayat
1. Anantapur (AP)	1.Bukkapatnam	1.Bukkapatnam, 2. Agraharam
1.Medak (TS)	1. Zaheerabad 2. Jahrasangham	1. Ranjole 2. Vanampalle
1. Rajnandgaon (CG) 2. Dhamtari (CG)	1. Dongargarh 2. Kurud	1.Jhandatalab, Shiwnikala 2.Nari, Parkhanda
1. Chittorgarh (RJ) 2. Bhilwara (RJ)	1. Chittorgarh 2. Kotri	1.Abhaipur, Sehnwa 2.Nandrai, Kankroliya Ghati

[1] Operational Guidelines for MGNREGA - 2013

It is of utmost importance to ensure good quality and durability of assets being created under MGNREGA. An effective Quality Management mechanism can help achieve this objective. As the number of works taken up under MGNREGA is very large, designing an appropriate Quality Management mechanism poses a serious challenge. While external monitors may be engaged for independent monitoring, the system has to largely rely on internal staff for
actual delivery of quality.

It is therefore necessary to first carry out the in-depth study to ensure that the created assets achieve the objectives. This implies that the functionality of the asset in terms of location, design, operational management and maintenance is adequate to ensure that the asset is durable, positioned at the right location and that it is constructed confirming to sound engineering standards in terms of design, materials and workmanship.

2. OBJECTIVES

The specific aims of the proposed study are:

1. Evaluation of the efficacy and effectiveness of the existing works (including technical designs[2] / plans /institutional arrangement etc.) in the shelf of works vis-a -vis its environmental benefits associated
2. Assessment of the procedures and practices for effective implementation of works as per approved designs by various institutions responsible
3. Recommendation of at least two specific works in each project district that qualify as "quick win" according to the project objectives.

3. KEYS TASKS

The specific tasks related to the consultancy are to:

1. Carry out an engineering and quantitative analysis of existing works and their respective designs, plans, tools and materials (relevant to environmental benefits only). Please refer to annexure[3] for latest schedule of MoRD for list of works.
2. To assess the designs according to the following suggested parameters other than engineering:
    i. Simplicity of the design to be understood by the Mates / Technical Assistants or any other supervisor at implementation level
    ii. Ingredients / raw material recommended is available locally and comply with environmental policies
    iii. Pre-defined outcomes are met by a specific design (e.g. if the outcome is to harvest XXX litres of rain water in a farm pond then dimensions in design should provide matching volume)
    iv. Maintenance schedule is part of the design
    v. Estimated cost of each of the works (standard formula)
    vi. Institutional arrangement
    vii. Any other (from consultant's perspective)

[2]Design is *a roadmap or a strategic approach for someone to achieve a unique expectation. It defines the specifications, plans, parameters, costs, activities, processes and how and what to do within legal, political, social, environmental, safety and economic constraints in achieving that objective*

[3] *Notification of MoRD Schedule –I dated 3 January 2014*

3. Comprehensive qualitative assessment of the procedures and practices to implement an approved work vis-à-vis design approved, by the implementing agencies (mostly Gram Panchayat and or CSO / CBO). The suggested outcome of this task could be :
    a. Gap analysis of the works implemented vis-à-vis original designs affecting the quality of the works
    b. Document the capacities of the implementing and supervisory agencies /institutions and workers (gender wise) to execute the approved design in context to their skill, time availability, etc.
    c. Any other

4. Recommend and provide implementation plans for at least two specific works concomitant to provide enhanced environmental benefits especially in the selected demonstration sites (12 GPs) with their respective implementation manual which will include:
    a. outcomes and / or impact
    b. estimated cost (person days & materials complying with MGNREGA guidelines)
    c. Capacity building needs in context to implement and replicate such works at district / state/ national level
5. Send the same team of experts to all the project GPs (not to be outsourced to other agencies, CSOs etc.
6. Coordinate and cooperate with consultant performing the "Environment Matrix" staudy simultaneously in the same GPs.

4. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT : 1 November, 2014 to 31 January, 2015

5. PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT : Gram Panchayats as mentioned in background section and GIZ / MoRD, New Delhi

6. SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF TASKS

Task	Suggested mode of assessment	Days of completion from date of award of contract
Task 1: Engineering analysis of existing works, designs ,plans, tools and materials and institutional arrangements	25 % desk; 75% field	40 days
Task 2: Comprehensive and qualitative assessment of procedures and practices to implement a work vis-à-vis approved designs	50 % desk; 50 % field	60 days
Task 3: Recommendation & implementation plan for at least three feasible EB related works across all demo sites	75% desk; 25% field	70 days

7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Inception report with approach of assessment within 2 week of the award of the contract.

2. Draft report within one week from date of completing all tasks but not exceeding 11 week from the date of award of the contract

3. Final presentation and submission of final report within one week after getting comments from GIZ on draft report and not later 12th week from the award of the contract.

Note: All soft and hard copies of documents (strategy, plans, etc), reports, tools and materials developed and submitted by the consultant agency will become and remain the property of the GIZ and they will not have any rights to copy, retain, reproduce, use the documents (strategy, plans, etc), reports, tools and materials without written approval of GIZ. The consultant /agency will, not later than upon termination/ foreclosure or expiration of the contract, deliver all soft and hard copies to GIZ, together with a detailed inventory thereof. All approved documents, reports, tools and materials will be converted in downloadable formats and posted on the national programme website for easy access.

8. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The consultant / agency must have the following qualifications and experience:

i. Scientific applied research in the field of soil and water conservation, horticulture, wasteland development
ii. Registered as national organisation or entity
iii. Relevant technical knowledge, skills and extensive work experience in: Assessing the technical designs of different civil structures especially related to soil and water conservation and other climate resilience measures and in capacity building
iv. Experience in providing consultancy services in rural development
v. Excellent track record of completion of tasks according to time lines with MoRD , MGNREGA and other Govt. Departments
vi. On ground work experience with MGNREGA in the area of environmental benefits
vii. Excellent reporting ,writing and presentation skills
viii. Highly qualified professional staff

9. ESTIMATED COST

Person days: up to 160 days

Travel days: up to 60%

10. ANNEXURE

MoRD notification dated 3 January, 2014 for Schedule – I suggesting works and categories under MGNREGA