Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase-2)

FOREST DEPARTMENT, RAJASTHAN
THE PROJECT

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project, Phase-2 (‘RFBP-2’) is a JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency), assisted project being implemented across 15 districts of Rajasthan and in 7 Wild Life sanctuaries. The 8 year Project, started in 2011-12, involves taking up activities in the field of Afforestation, Soil and Water Conservation, Biodiversity Conservation, Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Improvement in selected 650 villages of the project area through active people's participation under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach. The project envisages active involvement of NGOs in the field of community mobilization and development. International Consultants, Resource Organizations & various institutions are associated with PMU to support in specialized fields.

The Project is being implemented by Rajasthan Vaniki Evam Jaiv Vividhata Sanarakshan Society registered under Rajasthan Societies Registration Act 1958 (Reg. No. : 1207/Jaipur/2010-11). The Society forms the State level Project Management Unit (“PMU”) of the Project.

THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE

“To enhance forest cover and livelihood opportunities for the forest dependent people and to conserve biodiversity by undertaking afforestation and biodiversity conservation measures through JFM approach, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and socio-economic development of Rajasthan.”

THE PROJECT AREA

The Project is being implemented in following 15 districts and 7 wildlife sanctuaries of Rajasthan:

Desert Districts
♦ Barmer  ♦ Jhunjhunu
♦ Bikaner  ♦ Jodhpur
♦ Churu    ♦ Nagaur
♦ Jaisalmer ♦ Pali
♦ Jalore   ♦ Sikar

Non Desert Districts
♦ Banswara ♦ Bhilwara
♦ Dungarpur ♦ Jaipur
♦ Sirohi

Wildlife Sanctuaries
♦ Bassi WL Sanctuary
♦ Fulwari Ki Nal WL Sanctuary
♦ Jaisamand WL Sanctuary
♦ Keladevi WL Sanctuary
♦ Kumbhalgarh WL Sanctuary
♦ Raoli Todgarh WL Sanctuary
♦ Sitamata WL Sanctuary
THE PROJECT SCOPE
All project activities at the village level are being undertaken in Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode. These activities have started with Community Mobilization. For the activities in JFM mode, services of NGOs have been sought to catalyze societal input much needed for long term sustainability of the project activities.

The brief scope of RFBP-2 is:

Location: 650 villages in 15 districts of Rajasthan

- 590 villages for Afforestation, Agro Forestry, Water Conservation Structure activities (340 villages in desert area, 250 villages in Non-desert area)
- 60 villages for Biodiversity Conservation activity in fringe areas of 7 Protected Area (Sanctuaries)

Activity wise scope is as under:

- All activities in Afforestation, Agro-Forestry and Water Conservation Structure are being undertaken by Village Forest Protection and Management Committee (VFPMC).
- Activities of Biodiversity Conservation such as Drainage Line Treatment works, development of water points, closures for biodiversity conservation are being conducted by Eco Development Committee (EDC).
- Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Improvement and Capacity Development component is being undertaken in all project villages.

I. Afforestation:

   Target Area: 590 Villages in Ten Desert and Five Non Desert Districts

   Activities: Total area 83,650 ha

   In desert area 56,650 ha

   - Canal Side Plantation 5,000RK (1650 ha)
   - Sand Dune Stabilization cum Pasture Development (25,000 ha)
   - Silvipastoral Plantation (25,000 ha)
   - Block plantation (5,000 ha)

   In Non-desert area 27,000 ha

   - Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests-I (6,000 ha)
   - Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests-II (6,000 ha)
   - Assisted Natural Regeneration (7,500 ha)
   - Productivity Enhancement Operations (2,500 ha)
   - Fuel Wood Plantation (10,000 ha)

II. Agro Forestry

   Target Area: 590 Villages in Ten Desert and Five Non Desert Districts

   Activities: In both desert/Non-desert area

   - Raising seedlings by SHGs (130 SHGs)
   - Training to SHGs (130 SHGs)
   - Selling seedlings to villagers

III. Water Conservation Structures

   Target Area: 590 Villages in Ten Desert and Five Non Desert Districts

   Activities:

   - In Non-desert area

     - Anicut Type-1 (600 numbers)
     - Anicut Type-2 (400 numbers)
     - Check Dams (200,000 m3)
     - Contour Bunding (500,000 Row meter)
     - Silt Detention Structure (300 nos)
     - Gabion Structure (500 numbers)
In both desert/Non-desert area

- Percolation Tank (700 numbers)
- Renovation/Restoration of traditional water harvesting structure (200 numbers)

IV. Biodiversity Conservation

Target Area: 60 villages in the 2km fringe areas of 7 Protected Areas (Sanctuaries)

Activities:
- Drainage Line Treatment Works (12,000ha)
- Development of Water Points (100 numbers)
- Closure for Biodiversity Conservation (5,000 ha)
- In-Situ Conservation of Germplasm
  - Great Indian Bustard in the Desert National Park, Jaisalmer
  - Four Horned Antelope in Kumbhalgarh & Sitamata Wildlife sanctuaries
- Creation of a MACHIA Biological Park, Jodhpur
- Development of Biological Parks
  - SAJJANGARH Biological Park, Udaipur
  - NAHARGARH Biological Park, Jaipur

V. Community Mobilisation

Target Area: All 650 Villages

Activities:
- VFPMc/EDCs Formation and Strengthening
- Micro Planning
- Construction of Meeting Center for VFPMc/EDCs
- Entry Point Activities
- Communication Extension and Training (CET) Activities

VI. Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Improvement

Target Area: All 650 Villages

Activities:
- Formation and Selecting SHGs (1,950 SHGs)
- Capacity Building of SHGs (1,950 SHGs)
- Encouraging Livelihood Activities of SHGs through loans (1,950 SHGs)
- Technical Training and Skill Upgradation of SHGs Members (390 trainings)
- Development of Eco-Tourism sites (7 sites)
- Support for Marketing and Value Addition

VII. Institutional Capacity Development

Target Area: All 650 Villages

Activities:
- Training of Forest Department Staff.
- Training of VFPMC members.
- Exposure Visits of forest official and VFPMC members to other states.
- Overseas study tours of officers.
- Overseas training of officers

PROJECT: Salient Features

- Micro plan is the base document
- Focus on Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Improvement
- Life time Community participation
- Improved Agro-Forestry model
- Customised web based MIS
- Special thrust on developing adequate market linkages
- Extensive NGO involvement
- Villages are the basic unit for development
- In-situ conservation of Germplasm
- GIS based Monitoring and Evaluation
- Exclusive Project Management Consultant (PMC)
PROJECT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

The High Powered Committee (HPC), headed by the Minister in charge of Forest Department has been constituted by the State Government as the highest decision-making body for the Project. The HPC also serve as the integrating and consolidating body to integrate and synergize the efforts of various departments and other institutions for the smooth and effective implementation of the project.

The Governing Body (GB) headed by the Additional Chief Secretary has been created as required by the Society Registration Act. The GB monitors the financial and physical progress to review the work of PMU and provide necessary assistance and direction from time to time.

The Project is being implemented by Rajasthan Vaniki Evam Jaiv Vividhata Sanrakshan Society registered under Rajasthan Societies Registration Act 1958. PMU takes the overall managerial charge of the implementation of the Project.

PMU functions for the overall project coordination, procurement management, financial management including collating the expenditure statements from field offices and preparation and submission of reimbursement claims to JICA.

At the field level, 27 Division Management Units (DMU) and 80 Field Management Units (FMU) have been established, and the functioning of FMU is monitored by concerned DMU.

For the project purpose each Divisional Forest Office (DFO) has been named as DMU. DMUs are not registered as autonomous society. They implement the activities of the project in selected FMUs in the Division and assist the PMU in planning, fund management, work progress monitoring and documentation. The DMUs receive project fund from PMU for the execution of the works and disburse it to project implementers such as VFPMCs/EDCs/NGOs.

FMUs have been created within the office of Range Officer (RO) and are not registered as autonomous society. FMUs are responsible for execution & monitoring of works, technical support to VFPMCs / EDCs/SHGs, coordination with partner NGOs, etc..
2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS (PMC)

The PMC assists PMU in planning, implementation and monitoring of the project and as per JICA guidelines consists of International & Local consultants.

The target area for Consulting Services is all 650 villages and involves 39 Man Months' consulting by international consultants and 113 Man Months' consulting by local consultants besides services of supporting staff.

The disciplines and duration of consulting are as follows:

**International Consultants**
1. Team Leader / Afforestation Specialist 22 man months
2. Desert Afforestation Specialist 17 man months

**Local Consultants**
1. Biodiversity Conservation expert 21 man months
2. Community Development and Capacity building Expert 34 man months
3. Micro-enterprise and Income Generation Activities Expert 33 man months
4. Monitoring & Evaluation Expert 25 man months

**The PMC for this project is a consortium of:**
- Nippon Koei India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India
- Nippon Koei Co. Ltd., Tokyo Japan
- Earth Care Consultants (P) Ltd., New Delhi, India

The selection was done after taking due concurrence of JICA and the basis of selection was "Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).

3. SUPPORT SERVICES TO PMU THROUGH CONSULTANT ORGANISATION

To provide various support services the PMU, The Louis Berger Group, Inc. was selected as the consultant organisation. The selection was done through open bid tender and as per JICA Guidelines Quality Based Selection (QBS) mode was adopted.

LBG has provided at least one subject matter specialist along with necessary supporting technical and managerial staff for each of the following disciplines:

- Afforestation and Biodiversity Conservation
- Livelihood Promotion
- Joint Forest Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Geo-informatics and IT Enabled Services
- Capacity Building, Training and Research
- Extension, Publicity and Documentation
- Project Administration

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