

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

<b>Title of the Position</b>	<b>Project Associate – Agriculture (11 Positions)</b>
Nature of Engagement	Temporary, on contractual basis
Duration	12 months (extendable, based on performance)
Professional fees	Rs. 25,000/- per month (consolidated) + Travel and Mobile allowance as per the cost norms of Mangrove Foundation

Sr.No.	District	Target landscapes
1	Palghar	Palghar and Dahanu
2	Raigad	Alibaug and Shrivardhan
3	Ratnagiri	Dapoli, Guhaghar, Rajapur and Ratnagiri
4	Sindhudurg	Devgad, Malwan and vengurla

The Project Associate could be posted at any of the field locations and shall be required to travel as often as necessary as per the exigencies of work.

### BACKGROUND

To achieve the goals of coastal and marine biodiversity conservation in Maharashtra, a dedicated institution, the Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation of Maharashtra (or Mangrove Foundation) has been established by the Government of Maharashtra to focus on research and education, livelihood development, ecosystem conservation, policy development and interventions enabling participatory conservation of this unique ecosystem. Mangrove Foundation is an autonomous body registered under Society's Registration Act 1860 under the Revenue and Forests Department, Government of Maharashtra.

The Revenue and Forests Department, GoM, is State Nodal Department for implementing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded project "Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities" to enhance the resilience of the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations, particularly women, in the coastal areas of India to climate change and extreme events, using an ecosystem-centered and community-based approach.

This project will enhance the resilience of coastal communities throughout India, through the implementation of interventions under the following inter-linked outputs:

Output 1: Enhanced resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems and their services.

Output 2: Climate adaptive livelihoods for enhanced resilience of vulnerable coastal communities; and

Output 3: Strengthened coastal and marine governance and institutional frameworks for climate resilient management of coastal areas

This above will be achieved through interventions in target landscapes in Maharashtra State to i) protect and restore ecosystems such as mangroves, watershed and corals, and the services they provide, especially buffering storm surges, and ii) help communities adopt climate-adaptive livelihoods and value chains iii) mainstream EbA principles into coastal planning and governance, enabling intersectoral coordination for addressing climate risk across all of India's coastal states.

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

The candidate will work under the direct supervision of the **Taluka Agriculture Officer (TAO) / District Coordination Officer (DCO)** of the respective district. S/he will assist DCO in the district for coordination and overseeing implementation of all activities promoted by Agriculture Department under the project. This includes holistic stakeholder management, liaising with government counterparts, data collection for monitoring purposes and facilitating capacity building programs for local communities. The candidate shall be focused on promoting Agriculture related livelihood development activities, at the village level.

## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Collecting primary/secondary data /information relevant to the project activities at the district level
- Assist TAO in planning for the Climate Resilient Agriculture practices to be promoted under the GCF project
- Identification of potential beneficiaries for undertaking Climate Resilient Agriculture activities in targeted landscapes
- Mobilize community groups for undertaking eco system restoration work and Climate Resilient Agriculture activities as proposed in the project.
- Assist TAO/DCO in organizing respective project workshops, exposure visits and capacity building programs ensuring participation from communities and government counterparts where necessary.
- Develop rapport with Agriculture Department at Village, Block and District level.
- To assist the DCO to develop district level management plans to be incorporated in the state level work plans for effective coordination at all levels and assist DCO for timely and effective implementation of the district level management plans.
- Provide hand holding support to community groups for promotion of Climate Resilient Agriculture activities such as
  - **Adaptation of appropriate mitigation technologies such as**
    - Promotion of Deep-Water Salt tolerant paddy varieties in low land areas,
    - Promotion of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in Mid land areas,
    - Promotion of Zero tillage/Suguna Rice Technique for upland areas.
  - **Integrated Soil Fertility Management –**
    - Soil Health Cards
    - Conservation agricultural practices to build soil organic carbon and to build congenial environment for plant growth, manure management, use of organic and inorganic fertilizers, in addition to farmyard manure, vermicompost, and crop residue for sustaining soil health for the long term
  - **Water and Nutrient Management for efficient productivity**
    - Use of Neem Coated Urea
    - Use of Water Smart Technologies

- **Improved access and utilization of technology / Crop Advisories –**
  - Fine tuning the gap between current management practices and essential agro-advisories. Training need assessment.
  - Farmer Field Schools
  - Demonstration Plots, Trainings, Exposure visits etc.
  - Collaboration between farmers, research institutions, funding agencies, governments, and non-government organizations and private sectors combine strengths to promote CRA
- **Restoration degraded watersheds –**
  - Identification of the degraded watershed areas in the target landscapes
  - Coordinate with concerned officials for preparation of estimates and getting necessary technical and administrative sanctions
  - Monitoring and execution of the degraded restoration works in the target landscapes.
- **Convergence of existing government schemes and programs –**
  - Coordinate with concerned officials for convergence of existing schemes and programs of agriculture department in the target landscapes.
- Periodically monitor progress at landscape level and report back on developments to the DCO and TAO
- Support the DCO in district administration in day-to-day coordination required for smooth implementation of various activities in the districts

## **OTHER DUTIES**

- The Project Associate will be posted in any of the aforementioned coastal districts of Maharashtra and will be stationed at respective talukas preferably in the villages assigned and required to travel (mostly within their allotted talukas).
- Any other duties related to the project as assigned by the Taluka Agriculture Officer and District Coordination Officer

## **EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture (B.Sc. Agriculture) from a recognized university with minimum 55% marks. Adequate weightage will be given for higher education qualification.
- Minimum 1 years of experience in similar assignments.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND DESIRABLE**

- Knowledge/Understanding of village dynamics in the coastal areas of Maharashtra.
- Candidates residing in the coastal areas of Maharashtra and who can speak fluent Marathi language will be preferred.
- Experience in working with Government, Civil Society Organizations and private sector related to Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry.
- The candidate should be enthusiastic and willing to work in coastal areas involving visits through creeks and long walks in difficult terrain.
- Effective written and oral communication skills in English and Marathi.