

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (ME&L) under IWMP

1.0 Background:

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) is one of the flagship programmes of the Govt. of India and is being implemented by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in all states of the country having an outlay of around Rs. 29,000 Crores for the 12th Plan. In addition, a new programme assisted by the World Bank called Neeranchal is being initiated. The programme envisages to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover & water through watershed management initiatives.

2.0 Need for Monitoring & Evaluation (ME&L)

The project has adopted a functional result based monitoring system during the life of project itself. It is a near real time monitoring system including high learning option with on course corrective mechanism. The policy linkage option is kept open throughout the project, which provides critical input in the subsequent phases of project. Thus greater emphasis is being laid on the learning aspects through the M&E system.

3.0 Objectives of the Assignment

In the above context it is proposed to **assign the ME&L task** to external independent agencies. This is to ensure objectivity in the field of M&E. Third party monitoring would enhance the transparency and credibility of the programme. This would specifically help to inculcate a learning process during the project cycle enabling the adopting of corrective measures.

*It is proposed to deploy separate agencies for **South** (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka & Kerala), **East** (West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh), regions separately. The states and areas to be treated in each region are annexed to this TOR.*

4.0 Scope of work of ME&L agencies at DoLR: -

- I. Design **ME&L** framework & carry out a impact assessment at national/regional level.
- II. Support DoLR for effective functioning of MIS system.
- III. Conduct a 'process check feedback' and pathway analysis.
- IV. Conduct a Meta-Evaluation of work carried out by ME&L agencies at the SLNA level.
- V. Support DoLR in Capacity Building with respect to ME&L at national/regional level.
- VI. Support DoLR in synthesizing **ME&L** findings at regional/national levels & develop policy linkages.
- VII. Conduct thematic studies and record best practices & case studies.
- VIII. Develop & operationalize dissemination and learning mechanism.
- IX. Develop a **ME&L** Manual for IWMP.