

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, EXTENSION & TRAINING (TDET) GUIDELINES 2010

Background

Department of Wasteland Development was set up in July, 1992 and placed under the Ministry of Rural Development and was given the specific responsibility to evolve mechanisms for integrated development of non-forest wastelands through systematic planning and implementation, in a cost effective manner, especially to meet the needs of the people in the rural areas in respect of fuelwood and fodder. The Technology Development Extension and Training (TDET) Scheme was launched in 1993-94 to promote development of cost effective and proven technologies for reclamation of wastelands for sustainable production of food, fuel wood, fodder etc. Since that time, the watershed development has shifted its focus to other areas with a broadened mandate. There is a change in the watershed development models which have been developed giving priority to the empowerment of the community and other stakeholders. Integration of related schemes of IWDP, DPAP and DDP for strong synergy and coordination among the programmes and for integrated planning sustainable outcomes and clear conceptualization of rural livelihoods of the communities has become the important component of the programme, now known as the ‘Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)’. With this changed approach in the watershed programme, it has become imperative to bring out the new Guidelines of TDET Scheme in lieu of the previous ones to provide a scientific, holistic and innovative technological support to the multi-dimensional complex management of watershed areas under various agro-climatic zones in the country.

2. Objectives

2.1 To undertake package of activities which would comprise of the Innovative Technology Development Pilots and Action Research Projects, Replicable Demonstration Models, Extension & Training and should have the clearly defined objectives to address the contemporary problems in watershed management at the planning, implementation, monitoring and post project utilisation stages.

2.2 Generation and demonstration of New Science Tools for integrated watershed management based on Information and Communication Technology(ICT), spatial and non spatial data collection which

will help policy makers, planners, managers, implementers, monitors/evaluators, trainers and end users in further improving the watershed development programmes.

2.3 Demonstration of latest Science Tools like Remote Sensing Analysis of Satellite Imageries, Geographic Information System (GIS) in the planning of watershed works, facilitating cost and time optimisation in project implementation.

2.4 Use of modern technology on crop simulation models to estimate true potential of rainfed agriculture by integrated watershed management.

2.5 Undertake water balance studies using simulation models for estimating surplus run-off water quantity based on historical weather data to plan nature of land treatment needed for erection of structure and other nature of interventions.

2.6 Use of GIS technique for assessing soil quality in terms of nutrient deficiency to make farmers aware of soil nutrient status of their lands for taking up appropriate agricultural crops and following right practices.

2.7 To assess the Productivity/Yield Gap between the laboratory and field conditions coupled with technology development and extension to bridge this gap.

2.8 To disseminate research findings about strong technology inputs and application of such technologies for promoting watershed development.

2.9 To judge the effectiveness and utility of ongoing technologies, planning methodologies, Management Information System (MIS) etc. of the existing watershed development models.

2.10 To contribute immensely in assessing the actual impact of various activities in watershed development programmes in terms of changes in Geo-hydrological potential, soil and crop cover , run off etc. in the project area.

2.11 to take up pilot projects for watershed development through appropriate systematic integration with livelihood support activities such as animal husbandry, fisheries, dairy and vermin-culture etc.

3. EXTENT AND PATTERN OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

3.1 The TDET scheme deals with the development of innovative technologies their demonstration and promotion of research projects/extension. Hence, it would not be feasible to restrict such projects by rigid norms specially cost norms and area norms. However, during the technical scrutiny by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (reference para 7.2 of the Guidelines) these aspects will be examined in detail with specific comments on each project.

3.2 Under this Scheme, 100% Central grant will be admissible for implementing projects which are on lands owned by Governments/Governmental Institutions including universities

and village Panchayats from which the usufructs will flow to the community. For projects being executed on land belonging to private farmer/Corporate Sector, the cost of the project would be shared in a 60:40 ratio between the DoLR and the farmer/ Corporate body. However, in case of the land belonging to small and marginal farmers, the beneficiary share will be 10% and 5% respectively. The beneficiary share may be allowed to be contributed by the beneficiaries in the form of kind and/or labour.

In case of the projects of specific nature or/and involving SC/ST communities, the Steering Committee of IWMP (Project Approving Authority) will be empowered to waive the beneficiary share completely.

3.3 Items to be funded :

- (i) Treatment of problematic lands such as saline, alkaline, ravenous, waterlogged areas etc. warrant special financial provision with some additional inputs to bring the desired improvement in soil conditions of these lands. Such funding requirements will be approved subject to the adequate justification provided by the promoters of the project.
- (ii) Repetition of the similar projects in terms of technology, area and problem addressal will not be undertaken under the scheme.
- (iii) Permanent structure will not be funded in the project under TDET Scheme. Only need based equipments essential for the specific research purpose would be supported.
- (iv) The cost on contingency, POL, TA/DA should be provided under the “Overhead Charges” and ordinarily be restricted to 20% of the cost of the project.

3.4 Staff :

Permanent staff will not be sanctioned under the scheme. The agency implementing the project must provide the staff for the implementation. Only need based contractual research staff will be supported with the funds under the project.

4. The implementing Agencies

4.1 The implementing agencies will include Governmental agencies, Technical Universities/Institutions, Agricultural Universities, Public Sector Undertakings, NGOs, United Nations (UN) Institutions etc. Proposals of the Universities which are to be implemented on the land of farmers/other beneficiaries/Panchayat will be considered for financial assistance. The Technical

Advisory Committee will specifically judge the capability of PIA for implementing the project before making the recommendation. The project proposals only from those registered NGOs to be considered which will have collaboration with reputed technical institutions, except when the NGO itself is a Research Foundation with minimum 10 years experience in watershed development and proposals are recommended by the concerned department of the State Govt. Funds will be released to the Institute having technical collaboration with the NGO and in turn the Institute, who will be accountable for proper utilisation of funds, will take the responsibility to release the funds to the NGO. Specific affidavit will be submitted by the NGO with the project proposal that they are not blacklisted or have been debarred from finance by any govt. agency.

4.2 Projects from state governments/agencies should be recommended by the Head of the concerned department of the State government with specific indication whether funds should be provided to the PIA through budgetary process of the Govt. or directly in the form of bank draft by DoLR as is done for other autonomous bodies.

4.3 In case of the State Govt. agencies, the project is to be submitted through the Departments dealing with watershed programmes in the State Govt. In case of the other agencies like universities, research/technical institutes, the project proposal is to be submitted through the Heads of respective agencies.

5. Project Duration

The duration of the project will ordinarily be 2 to 5 years. Request for extension of the project duration normally will not be entertained in the /department. However, in exceptional cases where PIA is able to give adequate justification, the extension will be considered by the Department on its merit and on case to case basis. If PIA is not able to complete the project by the extended period, it will have to refund the entire cost of the project along with the bank interest on that account.

6. Training and extension

Adaptability of land use technology for developing watersheds depend primarily on the skill and capability of the farmers and other stake holders to take up new and improved methods of land use. Therefore, capacity building of stakeholders through trainings and extension will be an important part of the scheme. Training and orientation courses for the farmers and the officials will be funded by the DoLR as follows:

- (i) The training and extension programme for farmers will be funded in respect of direct costs, i.e. training material, fee for resources personnel and other direct expenses of trainees. Costs on the items like creation of permanent structures, purchase of costly equipment and vehicles, salary of the staff etc. will not be financed in the project.
- (ii) Training as an isolated activity will not be taken up and it will have to be related to the project being implemented under TDET scheme.
- (iii) On successful completion of the project, training and extension relating to that project will also be carried out in other areas outside project.
- (iv) If the project is not successful and is not giving desired results, as will be evident at the time of its mid-term evaluation, then the training and extension activities under such a project will not be carried out and funds provided/approved for these items in the project will not be utilised/released by the PIA.
- (v) Since training and extension are integral and important component of the TDET Scheme, minimum 10% of the total project cost will be incurred on these activities.

7.0 Approval of proposals:

For scrutiny of the project proposals, there will be a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with experts as special invitees in the DoLR. Technical Advisory Committee will comprise of the following :

- Representative of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) not below the level of Director – Member
- Representative of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture not below the rank of Director – Member
- Two experts from reputed Govt. Institutions related to the subject of the project (to be nominated by AS(LR)) – Member
- DIG(TDET)/Dir.(TE)- Convener

Nominated experts will be given suitable remuneration as fixed by the Department for attending the meetings of the Advisory Committee and scrutiny the proposals.

Recommendation of the TAC will be considered in the Steering Committee for Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of the department for approval.

8.0 Release of funds :

8.1 The projects approved by the Steering Committee of IWMP will be processed on files and IFD concurrence would be obtained before release of the funds to Project Implementing Agency (PIA). On approval of a project and with the concurrence of IFD, the Department will issue the sanction order and will release the Ist instalment of the project.

8.2 The PIA will indicate specific date of starting the project (Project Grounding) before the sanction of the project is issued by the Department.

8.3 A project Coordinator to be identified by the implementing agency for the whole period of the project and communicated to DoLR before the issue of sanction order of the project. The PIA will select only such person as coordinator of the project who will not be retiring during the project period and is likely to stay on this position for the entire period of the project. In cases where State Govt. departments are the implementing agencies, the undertaking on retaining the officer nominated as project coordinator for the entire project period will be obtained before the sanction order is issued. In case of other agencies, this condition will be included in the MOU. Any change in the coordinator will be done with the consent of DoLR in case of exigencies.

8.4 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DoLR and the Project Implementing Agency should be signed prior to releasing of funds except when the funds are released to the State Govt. MOU will have suitable Penalty clauses for defaulting Terms of Reference.

8.5 Release of funds should ordinarily be made in 3 instalments in the ratio of Ist instalment 50%, 2nd instalment 30% and last instalment 20%. However, Steering Committee of IWMP while approving the projects may vary the instalments as per specific need of the project. The Ist instalment will be released at the time of sanction of the project. Subsequent instalments will be released as per the action plan approved for the project after the utilisation of minimum 80% of the funds released previously in the project. Funds beyond 50% of the total sanctioned amount under the project will be released only after a mid-term evaluation has been carried out by DoLR through independent agency/evaluator. The last instalment will be released after successful completion of the project.

8.6 After the release of the first instalment, release of the subsequent instalments will be made subject to satisfactory level of physical and financial performance as envisaged in the project at the time of approval and on submission of other documents like Progress Reports, Utilisation Certificates, Audited Statement of Accounts etc, as prescribed by DoLR.

9.0 FORECLOSURE OF THE PROEJCT:

Despite the best intentions on part of the PIA, there could be instances of project which may get stalled due to the reasons beyond their control. Such projects, on the specific request of PIA will be considered for foreclosure under the conditions as decided by the DoLR, such as, refund of the amount released or unutilized and report on the achievements made with the funds utilized etc.

Further the Department will also be able to initiate suo-motto foreclosure in case of the circumstances like consistent apathy on the part of PIA towards the project, non-submission of progress reports, utilization certificates and other documents within the prescribed time limits, not implementing the project as per the approved work plan and any other reason which justifies the foreclosure as decided by the DoLR from time to time. In such circumstances the PIA would have to refund the total amount released along with the bank interest and the penalty imposed by the Department. Specific provision to these effects would be made in the MOU between the Department and the PIA.

10.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

10.1 The implementing agency will submit progress reports on half-yearly basis in respect of approved programme in the prescribed format as described in the MoU. Besides an Annual Report for the full financial year along with Funds Utilization Certificate and Audited Statement of Account (ASA) would be submitted. In case of governmental organization including research institution and universities, financial utilization certified by the appropriate Accounting Authority of that organization would be acceptable in place of ASA.

10.2 The agency concerned will maintain a separate account for the project which will be open for inspection by officer (s) of DoLR and CAG authorities.

10.3 The implementing agency will evolve its own internal review and reporting system. A Technical Committee would be set up by PIA to review the progress of the Project once every six months.

10.4 The Department of Land Resources will adapt to Online Monitoring of the project and through the field visits to the project area.

10.5 DoLR may direct for the evaluation of the project at any stage during its implementation.

10.6 At the completion of the project, the agency concerned will prepare a detailed Project Completion Report (PCR) of the results obtained and submit the report alongwith a soft copy to DoLR within 3 months of project's completion.

11. DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATION:

After completion of the project, PIA will make a presentation in DoLR. After the presentation is made and its findings are approved by the Department, the significant results/data and models worth replication will be compiled, documented, printed and made available by PIA in 5 copies alongwith a soft copy to DoLR. In case the Department desires, PIA will also make presentation on the completed project before other audiences including State Govt. officials as suggested by the Department. The Department of Land Resources will have the Copyright on all the reports, results, data and models etc. generated through the implementation and on the conclusion of project.
