

# Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation

## Promotion of Agriculture Production Clusters in Tribal Regions of Odisha

### Impact Assessment – Request For Proposal

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#### **Context**

Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) invites proposals from organisations for impact assessment of Phase 1 of the programme Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) in Odisha. The 5-year long Phase 1 of the Agriculture Production Clusters (APC) programme in Odisha concluded on 30 November 2023.

#### **Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation**

BRLF is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Rural Development set up by the Government of India in 2013. The organisation works for upscaling civil society action in partnership with the central and state governments for better outreach and implementation of government schemes. BRLF aims towards better allocation of funds from governments, banks, corporates, and other philanthropic foundations for various government programmes to empower rural communities, especially women and *Adivasi* communities. BRLF is currently supporting a variety of projects in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam and Telangana, having supported CSOs for implementing projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat earlier.

For more information about BRLF and its operations, visit [www.brlf.in](http://www.brlf.in).

#### **Agriculture Production Cluster Programme**

Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) entered into a collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Department of Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission of the Government of Odisha, and Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) to implement the flagship programme of the Odisha government: Promotion of Agriculture Production Clusters (APC) in tribal regions of Odisha in 2018. A total of 17 CSO partners including PRADAN implemented the programme with support from BRLF and the Odisha government. The objectives of the programme were:

1. To promote intensive livelihood with the objective of sustainably doubling the income of 100000 small and marginal farmers in the backward highland regions of the state

2. To establish the model of Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) in 40 backward blocks in 12 highland districts in the state as an effective method to organize production system and services of markets

The programme focused on empowering 100,000 small and marginal women farmers by doubling their income sustainably through collectivisation and synchronised production in the backward highland regions of the state. It also aimed at better control and access to farm income by women farmers. Phase 1 of the project is completed in November 2023. The project is extended for Phase 2 for five years. In Phase 1, the APC project was being implemented in 73 blocks of 14 districts of Odisha targeting to cover 2,19,000 women SHG farmers, out of which BRLF supported 121,223 women farmers in 40 blocks across 12 districts (names of blocks and districts attached in Annexure 1).

The originally proposed impact indicators include:

1. 100,000 small and marginal farm holders in 40 backward blocks of 12 districts in the state of Odisha
2. 650 woman-led Producer Groups (PG)
3. 30 APCs/PC across 40 blocks
4. Cultivation of high value crops in 20,000 acres of land
5. Irrigated agriculture in 16,000 acres of land by using the existing infrastructures and creating new irrigation infrastructure in the region
6. NPM practices in atleast 50% of the areas
7. Horticultural crops (vegetables, fruits, spices) and 40% of the families engaged in livestock rearing (Goatery and Backyard Poultry)
8. 750 market-linked agri-entrepreneurs as value chain enablers
9. Market routes and actors around the identified commodities in these regions.

Phase 1 of APC was successful in supporting more than 100,000 small and marginal women farmers in 40 blocks. In these blocks, 932 PGs have been established. Initial learnings from the field visits have also indicated changes in the financial and social status of women farmers. Better agronomic practices have been introduced, such as organic farming methods and the use of Non-Pesticide Management (NPM). The programme has been delivered through convergence across 11 line departments and government Missions working in tandem.

The overall impact of the implementation of this programme needs to be assessed in depth to understand what changes it brought in the field, along the following general themes:

1. Women empowerment
2. Entrepreneurial capacity development:

- a. included in the formal banking system through credit linkages;
  - b. Collective marketing by Producer Companies with value chain development
  - c. Improvement in entrepreneurial decision-making
  - d. Personal growth and development
3. Ecological Impact:
- a. Ecosystem restoration
  - b. Promotion of traditional and indigenous crops
  - c. Climate-resilient agricultural practices
  - d. Development of sustainable irrigation infrastructure eg. Lift irrigation and micro irrigation infrastructure
4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
5. Increase in climate resilience agriculture practices; including enhanced local-level food security
6. Organisational capacity development of small and medium-sized CSOs
7. Increase in income of the tribal women from agriculture and allied activities
8. Impacts on human migration

### **Impact Assessment of the APC Programme**

The key objectives of the assessment are:

1. To assess the effectiveness of the programme design and implementation in achieving the originally intended results
2. To assess the qualitative and quantitative impact of the interventions in improving the lives and livelihoods of the community members involved in the programme

The study is to be conducted across 40 blocks of 12 highland districts of northern, southern and western Odisha. The programme has impacted more than 1,20,000 Households during Phase 1. A Minimum of 5% of this number is expected to be covered while conducting the impact assessment study.

The methodology of the impact assessment is to be developed using systems principles to map the expected as well as the unanticipated results accomplished during the first phase of the APC Programme. It would be helpful for the study to assess the cumulative results around the following –

- a. Agency building of agri entrepreneurs and other community members
- b. Ecosystem and organizational strengthening through equitable participation of all
- c. Long-term stewardship of ecological resources such as forests, water bodies, flora etc.

The agency may add to these principles and impacts further based on previous experience and initial findings from the study.

Data is to be collected using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) tablets having the feature of GPS location. CAPI devices along with internet facility needs to be arranged for the proposed survey by the selected survey agency. The study tools are to be developed by the agency in consultation with BRLF. The selected agency would be required to translate the tools into Odiya language and adapt them to their preferred CAPI application (in consultation with BRLF). The data collection team is to be provided with prior training to equip them with the information to ask the questions appropriately and fill out their responses in the CAPI. After the training, pilot exercises would be carried out. After the survey is launched, the survey agency would be providing the cleaned data to the BRLF at predecided intervals.

### **Key deliverables**

The impact assessment conducted using multiple methods is expected to produce the following minimum results –

1. Study design and research tools within the first 4 weeks of commissioning the study
2. 1 Interim Reports within 3 weeks of commencing the data collection process
3. All raw data, pictures, videos, audios and other outputs supporting the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the assessment study
4. 1 draft report from the initial findings of the study
5. Final Report

### **Proposal Submission**

1. Mandatory documents – Registration details, PAN, GST no.
2. Technical Proposal consisting of –
  - a. Organisational Profile
  - b. Team composition with experience and qualification
  - c. Organisation's and team's experience with similar assignments
  - d. Programme appraisal
  - e. Study design
  - f. Timeline
3. Financial Proposal with detailed budget and anticipated overheads (if any)

Proposals with demonstrated experience in the region and familiarity with the thematic context are preferred.

The proposals will be assessed with 70% weightage given to the Technical and 30% to the Financial proposals.

Changes and revisions to the proposal shall be accepted up to the deadline. The last version received before the deadline shall be treated as the final submission.

***The closing date for receiving all submissions is Wednesday, 10 January 2023.***

**Contact Information**

Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation

Email: [procurement@brlf.in](mailto:procurement@brlf.in)

Phone: 011-46061935

### Annexure 1: List of Blocks

Sl. No	Name of the District	Name of the Block
1	Balangir	Belpada
2	Balangir	Tureikela
3	Balangir	Muribahal
4	Balangir	Bangomunda
5	Balangir	Khaprakhol
6	Boudh	Kantamal
7	Dhenkanal	Kankadahada
8	Jharsuguda	Kolabira
9	Jharsuguda	Laikera
10	Kalahandi	Golamunda
11	Kalahandi	Lanjigarh
12	Kalahandi	Thuamul Rampur
13	Kandhamal	Phulbani
14	Kandhamal	Balliguda
15	Kandhamal	K Nuagaon
16	Keonjhar	Harichandanpur
17	Keonjhar	Keonjhar Sadar
18	Keonjhar	Jhumpura
19	Keonjhar	Patna
20	Keonjhar	Banspal
21	Koraput	Nandapur
22	Koraput	Lamtaput
23	Koraput	Boipariguda
24	Koraput	Dasmantpur
25	Koraput	Pottangi
26	Koraput	Semiliguda
27	Koraput	Kundra
28	Koraput	Boriguma
29	Mayurbhanj	Khunta
30	Mayurbhanj	Karanjia
31	Mayurbhanj	Jashipur
32	Mayurbhanj	Thakurmunda
33	Nuapada	Khariar
34	Nuapada	Boden
35	Rayagada	Kolnora
36	Rayagada	Bissamcuttack
37	Raygada	Muniguda
38	Raygada	Kalyansinghpur
39	Sambalpur	Jamankira
40	Sambalpur	Kuchinda