TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background:

The main objective of RCDC and Misereor project is about decentralized resource governance to exercise community control over local resources for environmental conservation, food and livelihood security of the tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers of 40 villages in Balangir and Rayagada district. The current project "Ensuring Sustainable Food and Livelihood Security of Tribal and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers through customary and ancestral practices and rights in the Districts of Balangir and Rayagada, Odisha' are focusedfor demonstrating and strengthening community-based food sovereigntythrough traditional and local food basket promotion,decentralized resource governance model promotion and its replication. Organic way of farming with reference to community tradition and culture, cultural food practices, indigenous seed collection, propagation and cultivation is the priority and the objective to keep the market away from that target communities.The whole project is based on People Led Development (PLD) approach where people themselves are agents of development transformation.That means the entire development agenda is identified, designed, led and implemented by the people.

Project objectives:
Objective- 1: To enhance the access of local communities, their federations and other stakeholders to information and implementation of different aspects of decentralized resource governance.
Objective- 2: To promote livelihoods through sustainable agriculture development, Minor Forest produce and non-farm options for target communities.
Objective– 3: To facilitate increased dialogue among various stakeholders for appropriate policies and practices for resource management.

Purpose of the Evaluation:

The overall purpose of this evaluation would be to assess the outcome of the project. The evaluation would focus on assessing relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of project interventions. In addition to this, it would also:

- To identify the strategy and interventions that have contributed in capacity building of communities and their organization for involvement in decentralized resource governance.

- Identify the programme actions that have contributed to promoting rural livelihoods through agriculture, forest produces and non-farm activities.
- Identify the key lessons and best practices relating to promotion of forest and agriculture related livelihoods
- To suggest scope for replication of project related interventionsand recommend for future program interventions

Scope:

The evaluation would primarily focus on outcome of the project and specifically look at the quality of the processes initiated towards community mobilization and empowerment and improving the management of natural resources, adoption of proven sustainable forest management principles. It would also focus on promotion and documentation on traditional and culture-based knowledge of local communities for livelihood dependency on agriculture and forest. There would be emphasis on identifying interventions that could be mainstreamed through government schemes and programs.

The recommendation of the evaluation will be useful for RCDC and Misereor for their future initiatives. The learning and best practices would be disseminated to other stakeholders.

The field study would be taken up in 2 geographical clusters, Khaprakhol Block of Balangir district and Chandrapur Block of Rayagada districtcovered in the project.

Coverage of Evaluation – Key Questions:

The following suggested questions would guide the evaluation process which includes:

- What are the key approaches / strategies do the project use to meet target community's expectation?
- What are the intended outcomes and unintended outcomes achieved through direct and indirect Interventions?
- What worked well and what did not work well and why?
- What are the different forms of community-based organisations (CBOs) promoted? How effective are these institutions in addressing the livelihood and other issues?
- Are there any synergies between these CBO's(PRIs, Farmers groups, Forest Rights Committee, Women Self Help Groups, Youth Clubs, Federation and other village level institutions) at grass root level?
- Are there any demonstrated evidences to highlight the collective action of CBO's tackling the local specific problems?
- How effective are the RCDC in building the capacity of the CBO's and staff members?

- How effective are these CBO's in working with PRI or in mobilising government resources?
- How effectively community forest rights claims are undertaken?
- How effectively projects sustainable forest management activity(forest food practices & its promotion) is addressing livelihood issues of the rural poor ?
- How value chain analysis of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) have benefitted the organisation, community and other stakeholders?
- How campaign on traditional seeds, fertilizers, bio-pesticides and agro-ecological agricultural practices (sharing, reflection, meetings, rally, leaflet, poster, social media) have benefitted the target groups?
- How Seed, Food and Culture based knowledge exchange have disseminated?
- How millets and traditional food habits have been promoted in the community?
- How organic farming through input preparation (vermi compost, biopesticides, jibamruta etc) and kitchen garden have been promoted?
- How nutrition deficiency families and left out families from food security schemes have been identified and linked to different schemes by using various platforms/workshops?
- What strategies and approaches worked well in order to achieve the sustainability of the project interventions?
- State key reasons with demonstrated evidences in scaling up/ continuation of projects / replicating the current project interventions
- If so, what are the factors that contribute to replicability/ continuation of projects of the action Interventions / interventions?
- Identify and state strategies and approaches worked well in replicating the project interventions?
- What are all the salient learning's pertaining to replicability Highlight with examples, different models derived from these projects, for large scale replication of project services?

Methodologies:

The evaluation has to be undertaken as a combination of assessment of the project documents, review of literature, meetings with the beneficiaries (household and in groups), interaction with project staff and in-depth interaction with key informants associated with the project. Overall, it would cover 10 Focus Group Discussions and 30 In Depth Interviews; which may be mutually decided based linking to optimum utilization of field visit.

There would be an Inception Meeting on starting of the assignment and debrief presentation to RCDC on completion of field work.

The process of evaluation would cover:

- Reviewing of documents, project proposal, project reports, reflection notes, workshop and training reports, resource materials, information pack, annual and monthly planning and monitoring reports/documents, etc

- Interaction with the senior members, project staffs, finances staffs, etc.

- Discussion with partner CBOs, local institutions on similar lines within the project districts and field level.

- Discussion with officials at village, Block and District levels

Duration of the Evaluation:

S No	Activity	Timeline 2022
1.	TOR released online	12 July
2.	Receive Expressions of Interest	22 July
3.	Shortlisting and finalisation of external expert	25July
4.	Signing of Contract and Induction Meeting	27 July
5.	Evaluation Roll Out	30 July
6.	Review of progress and course correction	15 Aug
7.	Draft Report	20 Aug
8.	Consultation and feedback	20 August
9.	Final Report	25th August

It is proposed to start the evaluation on 30 July 2022. The evaluation would be completed within one month of signing of contract.

Key Deliverables:

The following would be deliverables of the report:

1. Tools – Checklist for in depth Interaction and FGDs

2. Debrief Presentation

3. Concise Report of about 30 Pages in line with objectives of the Assignment. This would capture the key lessons and best practices of the project.

Evaluator:

An expert having considerable experience in undertaking such evaluation programs in areas like social mobilization, rural livelihoods, Forestry agriculture and food security, water management, natural resource management and community institution building.

The expert needs to be broadly familiar with project approaches, project cycle management and the logical framework approach. S/He should have wide experience in the development sector in Odisha. S/he will ensure that all reports and documents produced by the evaluation are consistent with the purpose and objectives of the evaluation.

Expression of Interest/ Proposal

Proposals should be no longer than 5 pages, (excluding CVs, budget and example piece of work).

The Proposals should include:

- Short overview of how the candidate meets the qualifications, experience and skills requirements (no more than one page)
- Description of proposed approach
- An example piece of work from a similar assignment

Maximum Budget Available

- Please note, the maximum budget available for this evaluation is: INR 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Exactly).
- This would include travel, food& accommodation.

Expression of Interest / Application

Applications for this consultancy should be emailed to rcdcbbsr@gmail.com by 5:00 pm IST on Saturday**, 22nd July- 2022** with **'RCDC-KZE Evaluation'** in the subject line.