



Phone: +91 9448136074

GRAMA VIKAS

(REGISTERED UNDER K.S.R. ACT 1960 NO. 248/79-80)

Project Office:
Grama Vikas, Honnsethalli,
Yelagondahalli P.O. 563 127
Kolar District
Email: gramavikas1@rediffmail.com

Proposal to Strengthen Farmer Interest Groups promoted by Five Farmer Producer's Organisations of Green Logistic Project.


Introduction

Under the bilateral cooperation, German International Cooperation (GIZ), is cooperating with Department of Horticulture- Government of Karnataka. The objective of the project is to strengthen the supply chain of fresh fruits and vegetables at the FPO level. The project while cooperating with Farmer Producer Organisations, has realised that the Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) which are micro units for setting up the supply chain have weak relationship with Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). There are various reasons for such weak cooperation, however addressing them is a priority as these units serve as backbone to FPOs.

In rural India, building and sustaining people's collective is a big challenge. With some exceptions, as majority of such organizations are unable to establish relevance to their member's lives, the ownership among the members remains weak. It is to be noted that members of such organisations have multiple needs and access to better income is one among many. Therefore, there is a need to understand the needs of the members, priorities them and facilitate access by establishing contacts with relevant institutions and organisations. Gram Vikas (GV) has long experience of working with farmers and Self-Help Groups of women involve in micro finance in Karnataka. The competencies of GV in institutional building at the grass root level will support the project to strengthen the relationship between FPOs and FIGs

Goal Strengthen the capacities of the FPOs so that they work towards bringing qualitative change in the lives of its shareholders (FIGs).

Objective The objective of this cooperation is to strengthen FIGs so that the communication and business relationship between them and FPOs is strengthened.


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Stake holders:


- Share holders
- BoDs
- CEOs
- Local NGOs who are working to Livelihood and Economic Enhancement of farmers
- Livelihoods improvement standing committee in the concerned GPs where company is operating
- SIRD resource persons in the taluks where the companies are existing
- National Rural Livelihood Mission trainees(NRLM) in the existing areas
- Others, if any

Approach

Gram Vikas is working with farming community for the last four decades. The agency has followed integrated approach to address the issues of the farmers/ Self Help Groups etc and believed in strengthening the capacities of the members and the institutions the members belong. In the proposed cooperation with FPOs and FIGs, the organisation will follow the same approach. Gram Vikas believes that members farmers of the FPOs must realise the importance of FPOs in their economic and social life and FPOs must look into both economic and non-economic needs of the members. It is to be noted that Gram Vikas does not suggest that FPOs themselves should cater to member's need. However, the Board of Directors should facilitate access to various departments/ organisations and institutions (Anganwadi, School or ASHA programme) who can support member farmers of FPOs. These linkages will not only support company in strengthening the member farmers with larger agenda but increase trust between them.

Strategy

The FPOs are collectives of the farmers. The agency would like to develop the vision of the FIGs so that they own the company, its functioning and set both bottom up and top down accountabilities for all the stakeholders. The agency would like to familiarise the farmers about the role and responsibilities of FIGs in the context of FPOs. This will be in done in consultation with BoDs and CEO of FPOs. As the project is working with other consultants/ agencies, they will also be roped in from time to time to strengthen their interface with FIGs. As each FIG has

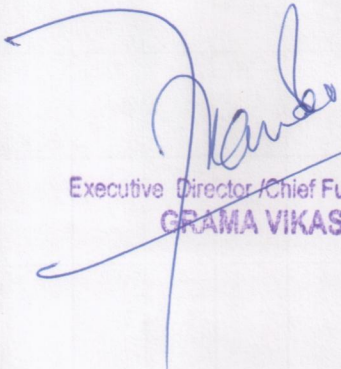

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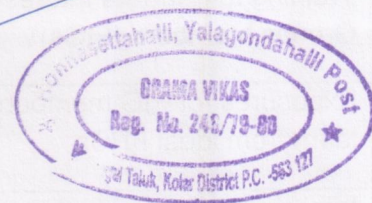


Leader 1 and Leader 2, the agency will build their capacities and set up systems and procedures so that they are aware of their roles, responsibilities and functioning of the FPOs. More details will be worked out after the visit to FIGs is over.

To sustain the interest and work towards the sustainability of FIGs and micro institution, the agency will map all the important stakeholders in the ecosystem of FPO and FIGs. Following this the agency in consultation with FPOs will identify and document their role in strengthening of FIGs and FPOs. The agency will collate and disseminate the required information which will enhance knowledge and ability of the member farmers (for ex: MP LAD and it can be used to strengthen the FIGs and FPCs, about Food processing units). Similarly, the agency will identify local NGO staff and work with them to strengthen the FIGs. At the Gram Panchayat level, the Government of Karnataka, has setup Livelihood standing committees. These committees are mandated to take care of welfare of farmers. The agency will facilitate the linkages of FIGs to these committees and also introduce the FPOs to these departments. Similarly, the linkages with other relevant departments will also be facilitated.

GV plays the role of facilitator in all identified capacity building initiatives, interface between FPOs and FIGs, with government departments and other relevant institutions. The agency will take lead in organizing and facilitating conduct of meetings etc with the actors. The documentation of the meetings (agenda proposed, mts of the meetings, actions agreed etc) will be done by the agency and submitted to FPOs for their record and follow ups from time to time. The agency will identify the field staff and assign, monitor and supervise their work from time to time.


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Project Execution Timelines from October- 2018 to September 2019

Sl. No.	Activities	Project Period from October - 2018 to September – 2019											
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	SIRD resource person identification and orientation												
2	Visit and getting familiarity with Board of Directors												
3	Maiden meeting in which FPOs representatives and Grama Vikas, Horticulture DPT& GIZ												
4	Existing situation analysis / environment scanning of FPCs												
5	Tool kit preparation, finalization and utilization												
6	Training to Farmer Producers Companies Board of directors (BoD)												
7	Livelihood Standing committee members of the Grama Panchayats												
8	Training to Farmers Interest Groups members (FIGs)												
9	Exposures for FIG members to learn from ideal FPCs												
10	Interface meeting with line departments and the other stakeholders												

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Progress report

Based on Project execution timeline, the agency will submit progress report every quarter to GIZ.

Proposed Quantitative indicators

- 240 monthly meetings are held at 120 FIGs by the end of quarter

Means of verification (Register maintained and minutes of meetings)

- Minimum of 40percent of FIGs have establish functional relationship with FPOs

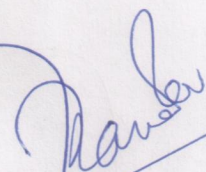
Means of verification (business records, participation of the Leader 1 and 2 in meetings with FPOs)

- 250 member farmers will establish rapport with government departments in a quarter

Means of verification (number of benefits facilitated to member farmers)

Qualitative indictor

Development of Operational tool kit to strengthen the relationship and communication among FIGs and FPOs to project.


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