



Terms of Reference (ToR)
For the Mid-term Review (MTR) of
Promoting Food Security through Sustainable Agriculture (PFSSA)
Project of Unnayan Dhara
September 2018

1. Background

Unnayan Dhara (UD) has been working with grassroots level poor and underprivileged people specially the small, marginal and landless farmers through holistic approach for improving quality of life by eliminating all kinds of discrimination and exploitation in the society and protection of human rights since its inception in 1992. UD believes that all efforts of rural development must go in vein without sustainable development of agriculture and farmer community who constitute more than two-third of the rural population of the country. In order to respond to the demand of the time the organization has taken Sustainable Agriculture as its core program.

Under the regime of corporate globalization the agricultural trade liberalization policies of WTO seem to alter the thousand years' old farmer-centred farming system of Bangladesh. Such change has obviously established corporate control over the agriculture of the country and kick out the farmers especially the small and marginal farmers from agriculture that must create unemployment of the huge population depended on agriculture resulting in worse situation of their livelihood as well as food security.

In the aforesaid context, UD has been implementing the project entitled “Promoting Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture” in Shailkupa upazila (sub-district) of Jhenaidah district since January 2008 and in Sadar Upazila of Magura district after a successful piloting phase (phase-I) during January 2005 to December 2007. The project has been entered into its fifth phase since January 2017 in extended form covering 40 villages (10 villages from each union) of Abaipur, Nittanandapur, Dudsar and Fulhari unions of Shailkupa upazila under Jhenidah district and 20 villages (10 villages from each union) of Hazipur and Hazrapur unions of Magura Sadar upazila. The total target people of the project are 6000 members (50% female) of 3000 farmer families on an average 40 families from each village. The farmer families of each village are organized as Independent Farmer Organization called Village Swadhin Krishak Sangathan (VSKS) that has one male and one female unit. The VSKSs under each union have formed Union Swadhin Krishak Sangathan (USKS). So, there are 80 units (40 male & 40 female), 40 VSKS and 4 USKS under the project. This is the 2nd year of the current phase. Hence, UD feels it necessary to assess the outcomes and impacts of the project interventions and approaches in order to find out the best way forward towards reaching the ultimate goal and objectives of the project mentioned below.

5.1 Development Goal

The project contributes to the promotion of Ecological Agriculture in Bangladesh.

5.2 Project objectives

Objective	Indicator
Objective- 1. Increased production of organic food.	1. By the end of project period minimum 1000 of the targeted farmer families of the project area have increased the production of organic food compared to the baseline status.
Objective- 2. Established effective market linkage of the organic food/products.	2. By the end of the project period 4 (four) outlets have been established for successfully marketing of the organic food products.
Objective-3. Developed effective farmer organizations.	3. By the end of the project period at least 30% of the farmer organizations (18 organizations) fulfilled the criteria of self managed organizations.

2. Overall Objective of the Assignment

To assess the overall effects and impacts of the PFSSA project on target people, society and environment of the project area along with its sustainability as well as to evaluate the relevance, effectiveness and future prospects of the activities of the project including the management system, monitoring and internal evaluation system, organisational capacities and staff capabilities of the organisation and to put forward necessary recommendations for future direction.

3. Specific Objectives

1. To assess the outcomes of the project in order to find out to what degree its objectives has been achieved.
2. To assess the strategies followed together with its appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency to promote sustainable agriculture among the farmers, developing market linkage of organic products of the targeted farmers as well as to develop independent farmer organization and their collective initiatives.
3. To identify major problems faced including their causes during the implementation of the project.
4. To identify the future directions and sustainability (organizational, financial and program sustainability) of the project as mentioned in the the project proposal.
5. To assess the ecological, economic, social and political impacts of the project on the target people and wider environment.

4. Scope of Works

The assignment will concentrate on the following points:

- a- Assessment of the overall project design including relevance of expected results and project objective for the desired overall project objective, relevance and appropriateness of activities selected and carried out as well as effectiveness of implementation of project activities including application of target people selection criteria.
- b- How far the awareness of the farmers and the consumers has been raised on sustainable agriculture, soil health development, environment protection, biodiversity conservation and farmers' rights specially seed rights in the context of national and global policy phenomenon of agricultural trade.
- c- How far the targeted farmers have built up their capacity in managing their own organization and sustainable agricultural practices.
- d- Whether the project support services were sufficient in increasing socio-economic condition of the poor farmers.
- e- Assess the positive or negative, anticipated or unanticipated changes occurred as outcomes of the interventions of PFSSA project. Also identify the significance of the changes for the target people, the factors responsible for occurrence of the changes, associated process of changes and their relationship to the project.
- f- Up to what extent a multiplier effect in promoting sustainable agriculture can be observed.
- g- To what extent the project interventions and strategies worked in bringing the changes? What were the limitations/constraints in achieving the impacts? and provide suggestion/recommendations for appropriate strategies and activities to enhance the impacts.
- h- Assessment of the ecological, economic, social and political impacts of the project in terms of promoting organic farming practices among the farming households and enhancing their food security, increasing biodiversity, reducing dependence on inputs such as seeds, agro-chemicals as well as developing independent farmer organization etc.
- i- Assess to what extent and in which gender aspects are considered in the project. Whether the project has any positive effects of the living conditions and social status of women. How far the attitude of the male members has changed towards female partners of the farmers' community.
- j- Assess the decision-making power at family and village level that the women are gaining through the project.
- k- Assess the quality of indicators set in the log-frame of the project and suggest for improvement of indicators.
- l- Assess the project sustainability as mentioned in the project proposal.
- m- Are the existing implementation strategies of the project helpful? What changes or additional strategies would better achieve the objectives?

- n- To assess the overall strength and weaknesses of UD as an institution (decision making process, division of management tasks, cooperation, etc.).
- o- To assess the staff capacities in relation to requirements for project implementation. To assess the existing staff pattern. Identify the gap of staff pattern.
- p- Assess the broader context of the project e.g. changes in relevant national and global policies, actions that positively or negatively influenced on the changes of the project.
- q- To put forward necessary recommendations for overall improvements of the organisation.

5. Reporting

- a- The reporting will be done in a detailed manner according to the above-mentioned questions and points that should include the effectiveness and efficiency of the project interventions and strategies in bringing the changes as well as suggestion/recommendations for appropriate strategies and activities to enhance the impacts.
- b- The evaluator will discuss their findings with UD authority/staffs after completion of the draft assessment report. UD authority will review the draft report and the evaluator will sit with the UD staff to hear their comments. UD staffs shall also listen to the explanations/arguments of the evaluator in favour of their comments. Finally, both the parties will come to a conclusion and the report would be acceptable to both parties.

6. The Review Team

The MTR team will consist of the person(s) who has/have proven skill. The evaluator should have good track record in the development field and good understanding on project context.

7. Methodology

The methodologies, data collection tools, data source and sample size will be fixed after discussion between UD management and the evaluator which will be mentioned in details in the agreement. However, the methodology should include the following points.

- a- Study and review of the relevant project documents such as: the ongoing plan/ proposal, concept papers (if any), secondary documents relevant to project context, available relevant secondary data and the last evaluation report.
- b- Field visit, observations & discussion.
- c- In-depth interview of the target people and key informants.
- d- Focused group discussion with the target people.
- e- Conduct case study.
- f- Using relevant PRA tools to measure the impacts or changes.
- g- Discussion and interviewing the field level and central level staffs.

h- Organising a debriefing workshop at UD office with central level staffs.

8. Time schedule

The MTR will have to be accomplished within the period of 25 September to 25 November 2018. The evaluator will prepare an action plan based on the methodologies set for the assessment upon discussion with UD management.

9. Cost & Payment

The organisation (UD) has a budget provision of BDT385,000 (Taka three hundred and eighty five thousands only) for the entire assignments including consultancy fees, long travel costs and local conveyance, organizing and holding meetings/FGDs/workshops, logistics, etc as per suggested/ detailed out methodology and approaches as well as VAT/Tax.

10. Other Conditions for the work

- a- The selected evaluator will have a discussion meeting with the central level staffs of UD before they start for the field. During that meeting a travel and work schedule will be prepared together.
- b- UD will provide all necessary information and documents to the evaluator in the interest of the study. UD will also extend all necessary cooperation to the evaluator.
- c- The evaluator will maintain secrecy of the information of UD and after completion of the whole work the evaluator will return all documents and papers to UD.
- d- UD will remain responsible for payment of fees to the evaluator. A separate contract will be signed between the evaluator and UD.

11. Expected deliverables

UD will get both soft and hard copy of the final report, prepared following the objectives, and scope of works as stated earlier.

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