

**ARIAS SOCIETY**  
**ASSAM AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (APART)**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**OF**  
**SOCIAL ASSESSMENT, RESETTLEMENT**  
**FRAMEWORK AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
**FRAMEWORK REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Assam through the Government of India has applied for a credit of US\$200 million from the World Bank for implementation of the proposed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). This project supports value addition in the production and post-harvest segments of selected agriculture value-chains; facilitate agribusiness investments through inclusive business models that provide opportunities to small farmers as well as stimulate the establishment of new, small and medium agribusiness enterprises; and support resilience of agriculture production systems in order to manage increase in production and commercial risks associated with climate change in the project districts. The project adopts a cluster strategy within the targeted districts, to generate economies of scale, promote vertical and horizontal links between local agricultural enterprises, enable diffusion of innovations, leverage network of externalities, and channel public support for services and infrastructure in order to enable all the value chain participants to develop competitive and innovative products that meet market demands rapidly and successfully.

APART is proposed to be implemented in 16 districts of Assam namely, Barpeta, Cachar, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar and Sonitpur. These districts have been chosen based on the status of agricultural production and industrial base. APART has four key components (i) *Component A: Enabling Agriculture Enterprise Development*, (ii) *Component B: Facilitating Agro Cluster Development*, (iii) *Component C: Fostering Market Led Production and Resilience Enhancement* and (iv) *Component D: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning*.

## 2. SCOPE OF THE SOCIAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

The scope of Social Assessment (SA) study includes preparation of Social Assessment Report, Social Management Framework (SMF) and Tribal Development Plan (TDP). The SA has been carried out based on a sample set of sub-projects proposed for implementation under respective sectors such as agriculture, fishery, dairy, piggery, handloom & textiles, sericulture and enterprise.

## 3. METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The SMF includes collection of both the primary and secondary data/information. The assessment involves desk review and assessment of the relevant social and sectoral policies and regulatory framework at national and state level. Socio-economic survey has been collected through field visits identified for the projects proposed to be implemented.

The project has identified 9 (nine) sample districts (Darrang, Sonitpur, Jorhat, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong, Kamrup, Nagaon, Sivasagar and Cachar) for socio-economic analysis based on ranking of the districts for enterprise cluster and production cluster.

## 4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Secondary data analysis of the state has been undertaken in respect of its population, poverty, sex ratio, human development indicators, literacy, religion, per capita income, work force participation,



economy, land holding size, status of women and SC/ST population. Primary data survey and analysis has been carried out in the sample districts for social assessment.

Key findings of the analysis include: high literacy levels for men and women (also in tribal areas), majority of the total land holdings are of small and marginal farmers, significant proportion of women participation in piggery sector, limited access to financial services, presence of agents/aggregators/middlemen, inadequate storage facility and training gaps on modern farming practices among the farmers .

## 5. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Several Acts and rules of the Government of India and the Government of Assam exist that are relevant to the project. Relevant legal policies have been reviewed so that the project activities can be carried out in compliance with the State, National as well as with the World Bank's legal and policy requirements.

## 6. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Stakeholder consultations have been undertaken to identify likely social issues that needs to be designed during project preparation, understand current practices from production to marketing, access to financial services, level of awareness about government schemes, constraints faced, existing extension services, learnings from previous projects etc. Sector specific consultation has been carried out in 9 project districts with **Primary producers** (Farmers/ fisherman/ livestock farmers/ rearers/ weavers, etc.), Women, SC & ST communities, marginalized communities and small scale players and Value chain players (input suppliers, aggregators, traders, processing units, community based organizations, farmer groups, cluster groups, producer company, Line department personnel, etc.). The objectives of the community consultation are – (i) improved coordination and integration, (ii) reduced complexity, (iii) better communication and participation, (iv) effective land use controls, and (v) development of efficient processes for plan making and review.

**Institutional level consultations** have been conducted with the officials of various line departments to understand aspects such as, (i) farming practices followed in project districts, (ii) functional mechanism of line departments at the grassroot level, and (iv) ownership pattern and user rights over community land.

## 7. INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

To ensure the compliance of the project components as per the SMF, a systematic institutional arrangement has been designed in the organizational structure for APART at State, District and Block/Cluster Levels to ensure compliance with the SMF. Moreover to, oversee the social aspects of the project existing Social Management Unit will be strengthened. Capacity building of the implementing Departments/ Agencies will be done to implement the sub projects in compliance with the SMF.

APART has the provision of utilizing services of support organizations to facilitate implementation of SMF and mobilization of farmers/producers for collective agri-business from community mobilization to consolidation of activities through formation of Farmer Producer Organizations. Social Audit Committees (SAC) shall be constituted in all the institutions promoted under APART for providing opportunity to stakeholders especially the marginalized and vulnerable to give opinion/views on



functioning of an organization in terms of social performance. There will also be an External Monitoring Agency to monitor the implementation of SMF and a Project Management Information System to coordinate the activities of various stakeholders in the project.

## 8. LAND USE

The project will not take up any activities where land acquisition is involved. The screening checklist for land use and the Resettlement Entitlement Framework is provided as part of the SMF.

## 9. TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Free, Prior, Informed Consultation (FPIC) intends to fully identify the views of indigenous community and ascertain their broad community support for the project. In order to address the issues related to tribal communities and to ensure implementation of the project in compliance with the State, National, and World Bank safeguard policies, Tribal Development Plan has been prepared as part of SMF.

## 10. HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN AND CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

To ensure the health and safety of the workers engaged in various project related activities, the implementation of various labour laws is essential. The PIUs need to monitor the compliance of the existing labour laws with respect to daily working hours, payment of wages, welfare and compensation etc.

## 11. GENDER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The base line survey analysis, focused group discussions with women groups and stakeholders consultation helped to identify gender issues that are relevant to the proposed project. Key observations from these discussions are, less participation of women in any development program, lack of recognition in agricultural activities inspite of their significant involvement, lack of ownership of agricultural land, limited access to markets, lower wages paid as compared to men.

The project-specific gender development strategy is prepared to ensure social inclusion and participation of women to opportunities and resources, exercising their rights and potential in project activities.

A gender action plan (GAP) is prepared in order to address the gender issues and ensure women participation at each stage of the project cycle – planning, implementation and operation.

## 12. CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

**Social Audit** and Citizen Feedback System have been designed for Citizen Engagement in APART. Social Audit enhances the social development aspects of inclusion, transparency and accountability leading to good governance. APART will promote number of local institutions like CIGs, FPOs, CSCs, Beel Development Committees, producer cooperatives/institutions/groups etc., hence, social audit mechanism shall help project implementation in compliance with the social development principles. There will be a Social Audit Committee (SAC) in each of these local institutions to carry out social audit of that particular institution.



**Citizen Feedback System (CFS)** is required in the implementation of the project in order to improve service delivery, corrective measures, project performance assessment and finally better project implementation. The potential CFS users are beneficiaries, stakeholders and common citizens.

### 13. GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) shall function in compliance with the provisions of The Assam Right to Public Service Act, 2012. The project will have in all the project implementing units, a concerned officer designated as a Grievance Redressal Officer (GRO) and Appellate Authority for their respective offices, at state and district level to deal with all matters related to public grievances. GRM will be linked with the Project Management and Information System for effective monitoring.

### 14. SCHEME CYCLE

The broad objective of APART scheme cycle is to provide an outline on achievement of social development principles at various stages of the project life. The scheme cycle aims to bring:

- transparency in the implementation of the scheme;
- confirm accountability of the various stakeholders in project implementation;
- facilitate taking up necessary actions by responsible agencies at appropriate time.

### 15. MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND REPORTING

The concerned PIUs under the guidance of PCU shall prepare reports on the implementation of SMF guidelines and achievement of social development objectives on periodic basis during the execution of the project. The reporting shall cover various aspects such as implementation of GAP, labour related guidelines, occupational health and safety, HIV/AIDS prevention plan, TDP, performance of FPOs, GRM etc.

### 16. CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN

The basic tenet for success of any project is competent and skilled human resource. It is therefore important that the concerned project staff and other project stakeholders are adequately trained and capacitated to undertake project responsibilities. The SA report includes a broad training plan for different stakeholders.

### 17. SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Social Management Framework (SMF) is developed to incorporate social concerns into the main project planning, preparation and implementation that will be applied to all the sub-projects. The SMF incorporates key issues pertaining to social inclusion, participation, transparency, gender equity, tribal development, capacity building and institutional arrangement. The framework also includes screening process of sub projects and monitoring measures.

### 18. BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SMF

A tentative budget estimate has been prepared for the implementation of SMF including Tribal Development Plan, Health & Safety Plan, HIV/AIDS Prevention Plan, M & E and Training and Capacity



Building. The tentative budget for the implementation of SMF is estimated to be approx. **Rs.16.90 Crores.**

## **19. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

The summary of the draft Social Assessment report has been disclosed for the review and comments of the stake holders. The documents will be available in the office of ARIAS Society and the soft copy of the document will be uploaded in the official website of the ARIAS Society.

