

**Department of Agriculture Development  
and Farmer's Welfare, State of Kerala**

**Kerala Climate Resilient Agri- Value Chain  
Modernization Project (P178254)**

**"Negotiated"**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL  
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

**August 29, 2024**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The State of Kerala (the “Project Implementation Entity” or the “PIE”) will implement the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernization (KERA) Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmer’s Welfare (DoA), as set out in the Loan Agreement between India (the “Borrower”) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the “World Bank”) and the Project Agreement between the World Bank and the State of Kerala (collectively, “legal agreements”). The World Bank hereinafter the Bank, has agreed to provide financing (P178254) for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement(s).
2. The Project Implementation Entity shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the World Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Loan Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement.
3. 3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Project Implementing Entity shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring, and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the World Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the World Bank.
4. 4. As agreed by the World Bank and the Project Implementing Entity, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Project Implementing Entity through the DoA and the World Bank will agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Director of the DoA. The Project Implementing Entity will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
<b>A</b>	<b>REGULAR REPORTING</b> Prepare and submit to the World Bank regular monitoring reports on the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMPs), and Environmental, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS) performance of the KERA project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).	Submit Half-yearly Progress reports to the World Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing six months after the Project Effective Date. Submit each report to the World Bank no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period.	Project Management Unit (PMU) of KERA
	Half-yearly monitoring reports by the M&E Agency will report on the status of environmental and social compliances under the project as per the ESF instruments.	Half-yearly monitoring reports to be submitted within 30 days after the end of each reporting period	PMU of KERA
<b>B</b>	<b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b> Promptly notify the World Bank of any incident or accident related to the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury. Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and/or supervising firm, as appropriate.	Notify the World Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.  Provide subsequent reports to the World Bank within a timeframe acceptable to the World Bank.	PMU of KERA
	Subsequently, at the World Bank request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.		
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
<b>1.1</b>	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b> DOA of PIE will establish and maintain throughout the project period an organizational structure with qualified staff, and adequate programme budget, resources to support the management of environmental and social (E&S) risks. The Department will appoint suitability qualified (i) Environmental experts in PMU (1 no.) and RPMUs (3 nos.) (ii) social safeguard specialists in PMU (1 no) and RPMUs (3 nos.), (iii) environment and social nodal officer in all PIUs, (iv) two (2) supporting staff in the PMU to support the environment and social specialist, (v) additional short-term experts for specific task and assignment based on need.	Establish the organizational structure within the timeframe required under the Loan Agreement. Also recruit/assign the E&S Specialists within 90 days of the Project Effective Date, or before the start of physical activities of the Project, whichever comes first. Thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.	DoA, PMU of KERA

<p><b>1.2</b></p>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Implement the provisions included in the specific environmental and social documents, as required from time to time and report on their implementation progress.</p> <p>Adopt and implement sub-project Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for the relevant sub-projects (as applicable) as set out in the ESMF. The proposed sub-projects described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p> <p>Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) as part of the ESMF.</p>	<p>By Project approval, and thereafter implement the ESMF and other instruments throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PMU of KERA</p>
<p><b>1.3</b></p>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTORY CLEARANCE AND APPROVALS</b></p> <p>Obtain clearances, licenses/approvals, and permits under the existing legal framework that apply to the Project from relevant national, state and/or local authorities.</p>	<p>Before the start of the Civil Works</p>	<p>PMU, RPMUs, PIUs for KERA and Contractor</p>
<p><b>1.4</b></p>	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspect of ESCP, including, <i>inter alia</i>, the relevant E&amp;S instruments, the LMP, and the code of conduct into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter, ensure that the contractors and supervising firm comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p> <p>Include in the bidding document the deployment of an Environmental, Health and Safety Officer as key member of the Contractor Team and explicitly list resources that would be mandatory for effective ESHS implementation. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications in their respective contracts, including the Bank’s Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>During Tender document preparation and throughout the contract implementation.</p>	<p>Respective RPMUs and PIUs</p> <p>Respective RPMU and PIUs</p>
<p><b>1.5</b></p>	<p><b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b></p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the World Bank that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PMU of KERA</p>
<p><b>1.6</b></p>	<p><b>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPONENT</b></p> <p>a) Ensure that the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) Manual includes a description of the Environmental, Social, Health, and Safety (ESHS) assessment and management arrangements including, a CERC-ESMF Annex that shall be included or referred to in the CERC Manual for the implementation of CERC component, in accordance with the ESSs.</p>	<p>a) The adoption of the CERC Manual in form and substance acceptable to the Bank is a withdrawal condition under Section III.B.1 (d) of Schedule 2 of the Loan Agreement for the Project.</p>	<p>PMU of KERA</p>

	b) Upon activation of the CERC, prepare, consult, adopt, and disclose any environmental and social (E&S) instruments that may be required for activities under the CERC component of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual, CERC-ESMF (prepared as Annex to ESMF) and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S instruments.	b) Upon activation of the CERC, submit the respective E&S instrument for the Bank’s prior review and approval, and include it as part of the respective bidding process, and in any case, before carrying out of the relevant Project activities for which the E&S instrument is required. Implement the E&S instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.	PMU of KERA
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
<b>2.1</b>	<b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b> Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for all types of employees and workers likely to be involved in the Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, labor camp management, workers and management relationships, payment of minimum wages, occupational health and safety (including use of personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), prohibition of forced labor and child labor, age of employment, grievance arrangements for project workers, method of engaging with community workers, key roles and responsibilities related to LMP implementation and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors and primary suppliers in line with World Bank ESSs and applicable national and state labor regulations.	Adopt LMP prior to the Project approval, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation	PMU of KERA
	Key provisions of LMP will be included in General and Particular Conditions of the Contract/ bid document for all contracted agencies to implement.	During Bid / Tender document preparation and contract preparation and thereafter implement throughout the contract.	PMU, RPMU, PIUs of KERA
<b>2.2</b>	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b> Establish, maintain, create awareness about and operate a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for all categories of project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. The GRM will be responsive to SEA/SH complaints.  Monitor GRM provisions on regular basis.	Prior to the hiring of project workers and maintained throughout Project implementation.  Include details of grievances received, acknowledged, responded to, and resolved in the half-yearly E&S monitoring report to be submitted to the World Bank.	PMU and PIUs of KERA
<b>2.3</b>	<b>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</b> Develop, adopt, and implement OHS measures as specified in the LMP to maintain safe working environment and workplace.	OHS plan will be prepared by the contractor prior to site mobilization and implemented during civil works.	PMU and PIUs of KERA
	Regularly monitor and supervise OHS at all sites	Supervision and Monitoring during civil works (pre-construction, construction, and operation stages) as an integral part of construction supervision and quality assurance.	PMU and PIUs of KERA

<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
<b>3.1</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL SOURCING PLAN</b> Prepare, adopt, and implement a construction material sourcing plan as a part of the ESMP for Agri Park construction and irrigation canal repairing work, consistent with ESS3. The resource required for civil works will not be sourced from unauthorized sources.	Throughout the Project implementation	PMU, RPMUs, PIUs of KERA and Contractor
<b>3.2</b>	<b>ALTERNATE MATERIALS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES</b> Design for civil construction to use alternate materials and new technologies in 15% of total civil construction for achieving resource conservation. Also Design for agri-park and renovation of an office building to consider building orientation, solar access and ventilation, universal access grey and stormwater management.	Throughout the Project design and implementation	PMU of KERA
<b>3.3</b>	<b>EFFICIENT USE WATER</b> ESMP to include the Project’s specific water use and water conservation measures and other resource sources & use and conservation.	Throughout project implementation	PMU and PIUs of KERA
<b>3.4</b>	<b>HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> ESMPs to include Hazardous Waste, Construction and Demolition Wastes and Solid management plans.	Throughout project implementation	PMU and PIUs of KERA
<b>3.5</b>	<b>INTEGRATED PEST AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT (IPNM) PLAN</b> Package of Practices (PoP) to include Integrated Pest and Nutrition Management Plan (IPM) to reduce use of pesticides and mitigate adverse environmental impacts of use of pesticides, maintenance of soil fertility and of plant nutrient supply at an optimum level, where applicable.	Adopt, implement & monitor throughout the project period.	PMU and PIUs of KERA
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
<b>4.1</b>	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b> Adopt and implement community health and safety measures included in the ESMPs in accordance with the ESMF, consistent with ESS4. .	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMP.	PMU of KERA
<b>4.2</b>	<b>GBV AND SEA/SH RISKS</b> Adopt and implement Gender-Based Violence/ SEA-SH Mitigation measures included in the ESMF to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMP.	PMU of KERA
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
ESS5 currently not relevant to the Project.			
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
<b>6.1</b>	<b>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</b> Adopt and implement biodiversity impact mitigation measures (where applicable) included in the ESMF, consistent with ESS6.	Throughout the Project implementation	PMU and PIUs of KERA
<b>ESS 7: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
<b>7.1</b>	Adopt and implement an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS7.	Prior to completion of Project appraisal, and thereafter implement it throughout Project Implementation	PMU and PIUs of KERA

<b>7.2</b>	Prepare Indigenous People Development Plan (IPDP) in accordance with the IPPF consistent with ESS7	To be prepared within 12 months of the Project Effective Date and implemented and monitored throughout the project implementation.	PMU and PIUs of KERA
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
<b>8.1</b>	<b>CHANCE FINDS</b> Implement the chance find procedures described in the ESMF as applicable and consistent with ESS8.	Adopt chance find procedures in the ESMF and implement throughout Project implementation.	PMU, RPMUs and PIUs of KERA
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
<b>9.1</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ESMS)</b>  NABSanrakshan shall Develop, maintain, and implement an ESMS, to identify, assess, manage, and monitor the environmental and social risks and impacts of financing the replantation activity. The system shall include, <i>inter alia</i> , a) Develop eligibility criteria for selection of PFIs with the requisite E&S capacity to assess and manage the E&S risks to be eligible to participate in this program. (b) Exclusion list to identify FI subprojects that are not eligible for financing; (c) clearly defined procedures for identification, assessment and management of the E&S risks and impacts of financing the replantation activity; (d) System for Monitoring and reporting of environmental and social performance of subprojects and the effectiveness of the ESMS.	Prior to the disbursement of replantation loans to plantation farmers	PMU and PIUs of KERA and NABSanrakshan
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
<b>10.1</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b> Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, <i>inter alia</i> , provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner.	Adopt the SEP by Project approval and implement throughout the Project implementation.	PMU and PIUs of KERA,
<b>10.2</b>	<b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b> Establish, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the KERA Project in an efficient and transparent manner without any cost, consistent with the ESS 10.  The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.	Following effectiveness and prior to implementation of project activities.	PMU of KERA
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT</b>			
<b>CS.1</b>	Following training and capacity building activities will be undertaken for project staff, environmental and social experts, PIU nodal persons, consultants, contractors, and community organizations on the	Throughout the project implementation period	PMU of KERA

<p>following themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Occupational and Community health and safety</li><li>2. Labor and Working Conditions</li><li>3. Sub-project specific E&amp;S screening and ESMP preparation.</li><li>4. Implementation of key measures under IPPF</li><li>5. Alternative materials and new technologies in civil construction</li><li>6. Integrated Pest and Nutrition Management (IPNM) Plan</li><li>7. GBV and SEA-SH risk mitigation measures</li><li>8. Stakeholder Engagement</li><li>9. Grievance redressal measures</li></ol>		
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