1. **BACKGROUND**

Latest data shows that 47 million Indian children are stunted (low height-for-age), with children from poor and socially backward households (schedule caste and schedule tribes) worst affected. Stunting is influenced by multiple inter-related underlying factors – one being household food insecurity. Majority of poor rural Indian homes are agrarian and rely on subsistence farming. Hence, agriculture sector can play an important role in ensuring household food security, provided it is nutrition-sensitive.

Agriculture-sector (which includes livestock) can become nutrition-sensitive by– (i) improving the quantity and quality of diets in households by boosting farmers’ agricultural incomes by providing them with loans to undertake agriculture-related and livestock-related investments thus reducing income poverty, (ii) empowering women as income-earners (and hence decision makers), (iii) ensuring investment in nutrition-sensitive policies, agriculture and livestock extension services by including nutrition objectives at the outset.

At the same time agriculture-sector and livestock extension training institutions (MANAGE, Krishi Vidyan Kendra, Extension Training Centre, Community Radio Units, livestock and Dairy sector training cells) can play an important to training households on how to farm certain, livestock feed, crops, fruits and vegetables, as well as animal rearing; access to information on inputs and markets and importantly male sensitization for increasing awareness of the need to support women in their productive and reproductive roles and help men understand their roles as fathers and promoters of good health and nutrition for their family.

In tune with the above need to get various agriculture sector and its related eco sub-systems together for nutrition, UNICEF India in collaboration with National Ministry of Rural development and Panchayati Raj (MoRD&PR), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has started Swabhimaan multi-sector demonstration programme in 2016 across Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha to test an “Integrated multi-sectoral strategy to improve girls’ and women’s nutrition before conception, during pregnancy and after birth in India”.

Swabhimaan programme is being implemented, via NRLM, across five schedule caste and schedule tribe dominated administrative blocks, in these states for three years. The strategy is multi-sectoral and joins various system strengthening and community-based activities. More details about this demonstration programme can be found at RIDIE-STUDY-ID-58261b2f46876: <http://ridie.3ieimpact.org/index.php?r=search/detailView&id=485> and CTRI/2016/11/007482 <http://ctri.nic.in/Clinicaltrials/showallp.php?mid1=16738&EncHid=&userName=swabhimaan>

An integral component of the Swabhimaan demonstration programme is Sustainable Integrated Agriculture and Livestock for Nutrition (Ag4N). Within this following activities are envisaged- (i) *Systems strengthening activities* such as – (a) training of district and block officers agriculture, horticulture and livestock for developing and implementing nutrition-sensitive plans, (b) using Kisan Chaupal (farmers gatherings) for BCC messaging and (b) strengthening capacity of training units of agriculture department/university called Krishi Vidhyan Kendra to create community KVK (nutrition-sensitive farmer field schools). (ii) *Community-based activities* include: (i) quarterly training of village resource persons who engage with Aajeevika women farmer self-help groups on monthly basis to develop and implement integrated sustainable integrated farming and livestock systems plans, for three years at home and at farm (which joins food security, water security, water quality, agriculture, livestock and nutrition) and implement these plans as seed grants for agriculture and livestock activities through cash grants received by the State Rural Livelihood Missions via the Vulnerability Reduction Fund, (ii) integrate agriculture extension service messages in trained community cadres (Poshan Sakhis/Community Resource Persons of Aajeevika) facilitating meetings with women’s self-help groups every month using participatory learning and action cycle, (iii) creation of community resource centres (farmer field school) at cluster level for demonstration and learning local, low cost and innovative techniques for nutrition-sensitive integrated farming systems and replication of these as micronutrient-rich home-stead/backyard kitchen gardens and (iv) male sensitization meetings at farmer club events and via training institutes on supporting women’s access to nutrition, health and WASH public goods and entitlements and their roles as fathers and promoters of good health and nutrition for their family.

For the purpose of implementation of the agriculture&livestock4Nutrition activities under the Swabhimaan demonstration programme, UNICEF seeks services of a capacity building agency who will work in consultation with agriculture stakeholders and UN partners (FAO and IFAD), academia (Krishi Vidhyan Kendra, ATMA and JEEViKA, Extension Training centre of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati raj) and government (Aajeevika and Agriculture and horticulture department, or tribal department, as need be) in the five demonstration sites.

1. **OBJECTIVE**

To support Agriculture&livestock4Nutrition component of the Swabhimaan multi-sector demonstration programme for a period of three years.

1. **Duty Station And Location**

New Delhi, with visits to Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad on quarterly basis.

1. **SCOPE OF WORK:**

**Creating Knowledge**

1. Creation of an evidence-based programme guidance brief for the study sites on Agriculture4Nutrition approaches/strategies best adopted for the study sites, based on quick field and stakeholder mapping and assessment and meeting with stakeholders. The Agriculture4 Nutrition integrates Agriculture, water security, livestock and sub-ecosystems.
2. Creation of standardized essential Agriculture4Nutrition Actions training tool kit in consultation with diverse stakeholders and UN agencies. This will include step-wise participatory trainers and trainees manual, video material on promising practices, flip charts/book, work book on Agriculture4Nutrition microplanning and related IEC material.
3. Documentation of various indigenous promising practices and entitlements in each block as booklets and integrating the acquired knowledge via Training of the Krishi Vidhyan Kendra and in the tool kit
4. Creation of a design and methodology for operationalization of a micronutrient-rich kitchen gardens/poultry at household level, as part of tool kit, which will be promoted by the women self-help groups during their monthly meetings.

**Imparting Knowledge**

1. Conducting quarterly master trainers’ level trainings at block level for village resource persons (12 quarterly trainings in total) using the tool kit for farmer’s groups at Swabhimaan sites of Bihar (via training of Village Resource Persons of JEEViKA) and civil society organizations (in Odisha and Chhattisgarh) using contextualized tool kit.
2. Creation of methodology and support roll-out for operationalization of a community nutrition-sensitive agriculture demonstration sites (Farmer field schools) to be operational at cluster level (two per block) via Krishi Vidhyan Kendra (KVK) and providing hands-on support to KVK.
3. Training of block, district and state agriculture and horticulture officers in preparing nutrition-sensitive agriculture plans and implementing these plans at block level via KVK (2 programmes per year) and providing 4 resource person for expanding the use of the Agriculture4Nutrition tool kit to other UNICEF states, as applicable (4 trainings envisaged).

**Disseminating Knowledge**

1. Conduct quarter participatory community-driven audit assessments and progress on ground (through pictorial, participatory and video documentation), annual disseminations and provide monthly progress updates on processes and outcomes.
2. **PROPOSED APPROACH:**

The agency can bid independently as a CSO or academic institution or as a consortium with another CSO / academic institution, provided each has a proven track record in designing Agriculture & livestock 4Nutrition interventions in Indian schedule caste/schedule tribe dominated blocks. Senior technical writers/experts from academia can be roped in as needed.

Appropriate multi-disciplinary technical advisory group to be formed to ensure appropriate vetting of methods and camp office/focal points are to be instituted at block level and a dedicated multidisciplinary team at national level, by the agency. Agency will be required to hire their own design agency and caricature artists for the material development.

Knowledge products are to be created and designed with sample of 10 prototypes which can be printed by the UN agency. For the trainings batch will be 40 in Bihar and 20 in Odisha/Chhattisgarh.

1. **DELIVERABLES :**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Completion Timeline (days) and Month/Year** | **Deliverable** |
| **YEAR 1** | | |
| * 1. Quick desk review and field and stakeholder assessment. | Month 2 | #1.Desk review and field assessment report (3 in no.), as per agreed outline |
| * 1. Programme guidance brief development (3, one per state) | Month 3 | #2.Agr4Nutr programme briefs (3 in number, one per state) designed and finalized |
| * 1. Meeting with block stakeholders and experts on sharing the design, materials and on draft toolkit in Delhi | Month 3 | #3. Meeting held and contents of tool kit finalized |
| * 1. Essential Agriculture & livestock 4Nutrition Actions training tool kit, with design in Hindi (draft) | Month 3 | #4. Draft Tool Kit finalized for trainings in Hindi |
| * 1. Booklet on entitlements included in the tool kit, which captures all related schemes | Month 6 | #5. Booklet on entitlements included in the tool kit |
| * 1. Operational step-wise guide on micronutrient-rich kitchen gardens/poultry at household level, for those with no or minimal land developed | Month 6 | #5. Operational manual micronutrient-rich kitchen gardens/poultry included in the tool kit |
| * 1. Operational guidelines in place for design and modalities of functioning of the farmer field school via the village organizations at cluster level | Month 6 | #6. Operational guidelines on farmer field school in place |
| * 1. Quarterly VRP Bihar training of village resource persons using the tool kit (4 trainings per year, 40 persons per batch) | Month 3, 6, 9 and 12 | #5. 04 Trainings of VRP completed and report of pre-post scores submitted. |
| * 1. Biannual CSO trainings using the tool kit (2 trainings per year, 20 persons per batch) | Month 3 and 9 | #6 02 Trainings of CSOs completed and report of pre-post scores submitted. |
| * 1. 02 Training sessions on entitlements included in the trainings of CSO and CRP | Month 3 and 9 | #7. 02 Training session on entitlement |
| * 1. Biannual Training session how to make a micronutrient-rich kitchen gardens/poultry included in training of VRP | Month 6 and 12 | #8. 02 Training session on how to make a kitchen garden for VRPs in Bihar |
| * 1. Trainings on roll out of farmer field school via the village organizations at cluster level | Month 6, 9 and 12 | #9. 03 trainings conducted on farmer field school |
| * 1. Adapting e-FAO job aid on supporting developing nutrition-sensitive plans with government officers | Month 6 | #10.Job-aid available for quarterly government trainings using FAO module. |
| * 1. Biannual training of block and district and state agriculture and horticulture officers in preparing nutrition-sensitive agriculture plans at district/block level in Swabhimaan sites | Month 6 and 12 | #15. Biannual trainings conducted and follow-up provided for Swabhimaan states |
| * 1. Provide 4 resource person for expanding the use of the Agriculture4Nutrition tool kit | Month 9 and Month 12 | #16. Biannual trainings conducted as envisaged |
| 1.16 Tool developed for participatory assessment and submitted to UNICEF | Month 9 | #17. Participatory tool developed on assessment of progress on Ag4Nutr |
| 1.17 Annual assessments conducted using the participatory assessment tool across the five sites on a sub-sample | Month 10 | #18. Year 1, assessment report |
| 1.18 annual dissemination of findings with the partners and government | Month 12 | #19. Dissemination meeting and report |
| 1.19 Video documentation of the first processes used for AgNutr | Month 5 and 11 | #20. Films on the first processes and participatory methods used. |
| **YEAR 2** | | |
| * 1. Essential Agriculture & livestock 4Nutrition Actions training tool kit, with updated version design in Hindi (draft) with all components of entitlements, farmer field school design, kitchen garden and videos based on promising practices | Month 3 | #1. Draft Tool Kit finalized for trainings in Hindi |
| * 1. Updated Operational guidelines in place for design and modalities of functioning of the farmer field school via the village organizations at cluster level | Month 6 | #2. Operational guidelines on farmer field school in place |
| * 1. Quarterly VRP Bihar training of village resource persons using the tool kit (40 persons per batch) | Month 3, 6, 9 and 12 | #3. 04 Trainings of VRP completed and report of pre-post scores submitted. |
| * 1. Biannual CSO trainings using the tool kit (2 trainings per year, 20 persons per batch) | Month 3 and 9 | #4. 02 Trainings of CSOs completed and report of pre-post scores submitted. |
| * 1. 02 Training sessions on entitlements included in the trainings of CSO and CRP | Month 3 and 9 | #5. 02 Training session on entitlement |
| * 1. Biannual Training session how to make a micronutrient-rich kitchen gardens/poultry included in training of VRP | Month 6 and 12 | #6. 02 Training session on how to make a kitchen garden for VRPs in Bihar |
| * 1. Trainings on farmer field school via the village organizations at cluster level | Month 6, 9 and 12 | #7. 03 trainings conducted on farmer field school |
| * 1. Biannual training of block and district and state agriculture and horticulture officers in preparing nutrition-sensitive agriculture plans at district/block level in Swabhimaan sites | Month 6 and 12 | #8. Biannual trainings conducted and follow-up provided for Swabhimaan states |
| * 1. Provide 4 resource person for expanding the use of the Agriculture4Nutrition tool kit | Month 9 and Month 12 | #9. Biannual trainings conducted as envisaged |
| 2.10 Updated version of tool developed for participatory assessment and submitted to UNICEF | Month 9 | #10 Participatory tool developed on assessment of progress on Ag4Nutr |
| 2.11 Annual assessments conducted using the participatory assessment tool across the five sites on a sub-sample | Month 10 | #11. Year 2, assessment report |
| 2.12 annual dissemination of findings with the partners and government | Month 12 | #12. Dissemination meeting and report |
| **YEAR 3** | | |
| * 1. Finalized version of Essential Agriculture & livestock 4Nutrition Actions training tool kit, with updated version 2 design in Hindi (draft) with NEWER components of entitlements, farmer field school design, kitchen garden and videos based on promising practices | Month 2 | #1. Draft Tool Kit finalized for year 3 trainings in Hindi and English |
| * 1. Finalized Operational guidelines in place for design and modalities of functioning of the farmer field school via the village organizations at cluster level | Month 6 | #2. Operational guidelines on farmer field school in place |
| * 1. Quarterly VRP Bihar training of village resource persons using the tool kit (40 persons per batch) | Month 3, 6, 9 and 12 | #3. 04 Trainings of VRP completed and report of pre-post scores submitted. |
| * 1. Biannual CSO trainings using the tool kit (2 trainings per year, 20 persons per batch) | Month 3 and 9 | #4. 02 Trainings of CSOs completed and report of pre-post scores submitted. |
| * 1. 02 Training sessions on entitlements included in the trainings of CSO and CRP | Month 3 and 9 | #5. 02 Training session on entitlement |
| * 1. Biannual Training session how to make a micronutrient-rich kitchen gardens/poultry included in training of VRP | Month 6 and 12 | #6. 02 Training session on how to make a kitchen garden for VRPs in Bihar |
| * 1. Trainings on farmer field school via the village organizations at cluster level | Month 6, 9 and 12 | #7. 03 trainings conducted on farmer field school |
| * 1. Biannual training of block and district and state agriculture and horticulture officers in preparing nutrition-sensitive agriculture plans at district/block level in Swabhimaan sites | Month 6 and 12 | #8. Biannual trainings conducted and follow-up provided for Swabhimaan states |
| * 1. Provide 4 resource person for expanding the use of the Agriculture4Nutrition tool kit | Month 9 and Month 12 | #9. Biannual trainings conducted as envisaged |
| 3.10 Finalized version of tool developed for participatory assessment and submitted to UNICEF | Month 9 | #10 Participatory tool developed on assessment of progress on Ag4Nutr |
| 3.11 Final assessments conducted using the participatory assessment tool across the five sites on a sub-sample | Month 8-11 | #11. Final assessment report |
| 3.12 Final annual dissemination of findings with the partners and government with tool kit, video documentation and findings | Month 12 | #12. Dissemination meeting and report |

**End products:**

#1.Desk review and field assessment report (3 in no.), as per agreed outline

#2.Agr4Nutr programme briefs (3 in number, one per state)

#3. Agr4Nutr tool kit in English and local language (Hindi)

#4. Quarterly training of village resource persons using the tool kit (total 12 trainings)

#5. Biannual Odisha & Chhattisgarh trainings of the CSO at block level (total 6 trainings)

#6. Training book on nutrition Agr entitlements and how to make a kitchen garden

#7. Operational guidelines for development of a farmer field school and its rollout through 12 trainings.

#8. Quarter-wise one training per block (12 trainings in total)

#9. Training manual and work book on development of a nutrition-sensitive plan by government officers

#10. Participatory tools and two films in place for process documentation coupled with required reports.

1. **Duration of Contract**

Three years. Initial contract upto December 2017.

1. **Official Travel Involved:**

10 days a month minimal across field sites. To economize, appropriate camp offices may be created at block level.

1. **QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES**

* Global health/nutrition agency, which has acclaimed standing in the work around Agriculture-Water Security-Livestock-4-Nutrition.
* Proven record in developing Job-aids, supporting countries in South Asia (including Indian States) on working with farmer clubs and agriculture and horticulture officers.
* Proven record of writing working papers and peer review publications on the subject
* Associated tie-up with an Agriculture unit of a globally recognized nutrition university.
* Knowledge of UN, including UNICEF terminology, language and style an advantage.
* Willingness to travel to India and field sites and establish camp offices in the block study sites.