

Call for Proposals for an Evaluation of the BMZ-funded project in India

The following project is to be evaluated:

Regional Programme for the Promotion of Cooperative Self-Help Groups in Asia – **Sub-Project India** (*Regionalprojekt zur Förderung genossenschaftlicher Selbsthilfeorganisationen in Asien*)

Commissioned by:

DGRV – Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e. V.,
Adenauerallee 121, 53113 Bonn, Germany

1. Background of and motive for the consultancy

DGRV - Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e. V. (German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation reg. assoc.) is the top-level auditing association according to the Cooperative Act. As national apex organisation its main task is the encouragement and development of the cooperative movement and the cooperative audit in Germany. International cooperation, exchange of experience, and knowledge transfer are traditional strengths of the German cooperative sector and constitute an important part of DGRV's consulting activities. For more than 30 years, DGRV is actively engaged in development projects worldwide, working mostly on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). DGRV's international cooperation activities are being organized and monitored by the "International Relations Department" (IRD), based in Bonn. For more details please refer to www.dgrv.de.

In Asia, DGRV operates in several countries within the framework of the "Regional Programme for the Promotion of Cooperative Self-Help Groups in Asia", funded by BMZ. Activities in India are a sub-component of this program.

DGRV has been working together with its partners in India since 2007. The larger part of its engagement since then was to develop a system of so called 'Sector Own Control' (SOC) together with its local partner Mahila Abhivruddhi Society (MAS), formerly known as APMAS¹. The SOC is an approach within the almost nationwide movement of women's self-help group (SHG) development and was implemented in the Kamareddy Cluster in Telangana as a pilot. The self-help groups as well as further institutions based on the groups allow women access to the formal credit market and provide an opportunity to deposit savings. Within this pilot, around 6.300 SHGs with about 10 to 20 members each have been formed. This organization, i.e. the groups and their associations on village and cluster level together with an independent audit and training institution, is guaranteeing self-administration, self-responsibility and self-help and was distinguished as a model for

¹ After the bifurcation of the Federal State of Andhra Pradesh into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, APMAS dropped the affix 'Andhra Pradesh' (AS) from its name, thus remaining MAS.

developing the self-help movement in Andhra Pradesh. For about four years, this model is therefore also used by other organizations which are committed to foster SHGs in other Federal States in India. With the support of DGRV, MAS is acting as a multiplier in this regard.

Objectives of DGRV in India

The model of sector-own control is further consolidated and supports cooperative self-help groups and its affiliates in strengthening their organisational structures. Moreover, essential aspects of the SoC-approach shall be implemented into the strategy for the promotion of agricultural farmer producer groups (FPO).

Furthermore, the awareness of the importance of entrepreneurial cooperatives for a local and regional economic development is increased and strengthened. In the following, experience and knowledge in cooperative system development based on the own national context shall be transferred to other countries in the region as a part of a South-South exchange.

Project Partners

Main project partner in India is the local NGO Mahila Abhivruddhi Society (MAS), based in Hyderabad. MAS also maintains field implementation offices in its project regions in different districts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Further, DGRV is cooperating with GIZ within the framework of the global Green Innovation Centres (GIC) project. In India, this project is targeting the potato and tomato value chains in selected federal states.

Consultancy Motive and Objectives

The current project phase started on 1st of January 2018 and will last until 31st of December 2020. As part of the regional project for Asia, the activities in India have so far been managed remotely from DGRV's International Relations Department in Bonn. As the pilot phase for the SHG-SOC project has successfully been concluded, the further roll-out of the approach, also beyond the SHG movement, has been identified as a main contribution DGRV can make to support the development goals of the Government of India as well as those of the Federal Republic of Germany. As this increases the complexity of the project in India tremendously, the ongoing activities and the current cooperation with DGRV's partners need to be evaluated in order to take decisions on how to further develop the engagement of DGRV in India, particularly in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The consulting mission is supposed to provide key insights and recommendations for the project implementation of the phase 2018-2020 of DGRV's engagement in India. Based on the recommendations, DGRV will develop its project activities further towards the needs of its target group and its partners. Main objective of the consulting mission is therefore the support of the team at DGRV headquarter, but also its local partners, in the strategic planning of its cooperation and its communication towards other stakeholders. This includes the following topics:

- an independent evaluation of the past activities along the DAC criteria
- based on the evaluation, a recommendation of priority settings and activity planning
- an estimate of needed resources for the implementation of the recommendations
- if needed, a proposal for an adjustment of project aims and their indicators (for India only)

2. Tasks

The consultant will evaluate the activities of DGRV and its partners of the past six years (two project phases) according to the objectives of the regional project for Asia and the sub-project for India, and against the DAC criteria.

Further, the consultant will support the DGRV team with adequate recommendations for the strategic development of the ongoing BMZ-funded sub-project in India for the time until 2020.

In doing so, the recommendations for the strategic development of the sub-project shall consider aspects like

- how to best foster the self-help movement in India building on the experience gained until now in Kamareddy?
- how can DGRV best contribute to developing farmer producer organizations in India into member based organizations that build on cooperative principles?

Main tasks will include but not be limited to

- a review of relevant project documents (e.g. former project proposals, funding application, reports of the current program phase, MoUs of DGRV and MAS, reports from other short term consultants, ToRs for consultancy contracts with GIZ for the GIC in India),
- taking into consideration the results of a short term mission of DGRV activities recently undertaken by Mr. Peter Asmussen²,
- an own analysis of the past two and the current project phase including an assessment of the achievements of the project objectives
- the identification of synergies and added value between the cooperation of DGRV and its project partners,
- a needs assessment of the project partners,
- presenting the results in a debriefing meeting with project partners and relevant stakeholders.

3. Methodology

The assessment should be participatory, inclusive and involve as many relevant stakeholders as possible. Due to the type of program data sources the analysis will primarily be of a qualitative nature.

- accurate revision of the project proposals for 2012-2014, 2015-2017 and 2018-2020 and other relevant project documents
- accurate revision of the progress reports of the above mentioned project proposals
- accurate revision of other relevant project documents, particularly the MoUs with MAS for the mentioned period, and other short term consultant's reports that have been prepared during that time

² The mission was carried out in June 2018 in order to identify the potential for an extended engagement of DGRV in India in preparation for further discussion with BMZ on how to develop the India sub-project.

- meeting with selected DGRV staff and project partners (e. g. MAS, GIZ; more TBD)
 - clarification of expectations of the project partners,
 - discussion of DGRV's achievements in the support of its project partners,
 - discussion of DGRV's perceived role in the development of the self-help movement in India and the development of farmer producer organizations
 - analysis what are the next steps to be taken for a significant impact on cooperative and federation development

4. Expected Outputs

- Consulting mission schedule outlining how the objectives of the assessment as outlined in the ToR shall be achieved
- Presentation of preliminary results for debriefing (incl. pptx)
- Evaluation report outlining the main findings and conclusions derived from the analysis as well as giving qualified recommendations for the further development of DGRV's activities in India for 2018-2020

5. Procedure and Time Table

Up to 22 days are foreseen for the consulting mission which are tentatively scheduled between the first week of January and the beginning of March 2019. The field visit is tentatively scheduled for the second half of January 2019. The final report shall be handed over to DGRV not later than beginning of March 2019.

No	Duties and Responsibilities	Days /Person	Time-frame
1.	Preparation: Kick-off, analysis of relevant documents, development of a consulting mission schedule and an inception report in consultation with DGRV HQ.	3	2 nd week of January 2019
2.	Handover schedule DGRV Bonn. Acceptation of schedule by DGRV within 3 days		
3.	Implementation of consulting mission according to plan	14	2 nd half of January 2019
3a	Field survey (incl. 2 days for international travel)		
3b	Analysis and preparation of draft evaluation report		
3c	Debriefing workshop with DGRV and partners in India		
4.	Finalisation draft proposal in consultation with DGRV HQ	4	
5.	Hand over draft proposal to DGRV Bonn. Feed-back by DGRV within 14 days.		Mid of February 2019
	Finalisation of proposal	1	End of February – Beginning of March 2019
6.	Handover of final report to DGRV		Beginning of March 2019
	TOTAL		

6. Management and Logistical Support

The consulting mission will be managed by DGRV in Bonn. MAS in Hyderabad will provide administrative support for this mission. Additionally it will assist with logistical support (transport, office space, secretarial services etc.) as requested by the consultant.

7. Requirements for the Consultancy

This consulting mission will be conducted in India and focusing on the SHG sector, but also taking the agricultural sector into account. It will therefore require high skilled experts with proven knowledge, skills and experiences in undertaking a similar assignment in the same regional and sectoral context. The specific required skills and experiences of the consultant are:

- Knowledge of evaluation methodologies including quantitative and qualitative techniques
- Relevant developing country experience, preferably in South Asia,
- Knowledge of the cooperative sector, the underlying concepts and pre-requisites,
- Working experience in the fields of micro finance, self-help groups, and agricultural development, especially farmer groups
- Ability to converse, read, and write in English,
- Ability to read in German,
- Knowledge of partnership approaches and models.

Are you interested in this assignment?

Please send your offer including CV and salary expectation by e-mail to:

bewerbung.international@dgrv.de

Subject: Evaluation of the BMZ Project India

DGRV – Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e.V.

Abteilung Internationale Beziehungen

Adenauerallee 121

53113 Bonn

www.dgrv.de/international

Contact for content related questions: Korbinian März, Project Coordinator India / Myanmar
(märz@dgrv.de, Tel. 0228-8861 234)

Deadline: 16th of November 2018